

**The David and Barbara Pryor Center
for
Arkansas Oral and Visual History**

University of Arkansas
1 East Center Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 575-6829

Arkansas Memories Project

Bob Scott

Interviewed by Tom W. Dillard

September 21, 2006

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Objective

Oral history is a collection of an individual's memories and opinions. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using these interviews should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

The Pryor Center's objective is to collect audio and video recordings of interviews along with scanned images of family photographs and documents. These donated materials are carefully preserved, catalogued, and deposited in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. The transcripts, audio files, video highlight clips, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center website at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu>. The Pryor Center recommends that researchers utilize the audio recordings and highlight clips, in addition to the transcripts, to enhance their connection with the interviewee.

Transcript Methodology

The Pryor Center recognizes that we cannot reproduce the spoken word in a written document; however, we strive to produce a transcript that represents the characteristics and unique qualities of the interviewee's speech pattern, style of speech, regional dialect, and personality. For the first twenty minutes of the interview, we attempt to transcribe verbatim all words and utterances that are spoken, such as uhs and ahs, false starts, and repetitions. Some of these elements are omitted after the first twenty minutes to improve readability.

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

- Em dashes separate repeated/false starts and incomplete/redirected sentences.
- Ellipses indicate the interruption of one speaker by another.
- Italics identify foreign words or terms and words emphasized by the speaker.
- Question marks enclose proper nouns for which we cannot verify the spelling and words that we cannot understand with certainty.

- Brackets enclose
 - italicized annotations of nonverbal sounds, such as laughter, and audible sounds, such as a doorbell ringing;
 - annotations for clarification and identification; and
 - standard English spelling of informal words.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.

Citation Information

See the Citation Guide at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu/about.php>.

**Tom W. Dillard interviewed Bob Scott on September 21, 2006,
in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Tom Dillard: I'm Tom Dillard interviewing Bob Scott for the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. Today is September 21, 2006. This interview is being held in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the sep—September the twenty-first, 2006. We will transcribe this interview and make it available for those interested in Arkansas history. We will give you, Bob, the opportunity to review the transcript.

Bob Scott: Okay.

TD: All I need you to [*BS clears throat*] do now is to state your name and indicate that you are willing to give the Center—uh—permission to use the tape and ownership of it.

[00:00:37] BS: My name is Bob Scott, and I'm more than happy to give permission.

TD: Good. We appreciate your being here—uh—to visit with us today. Um—I anticipate this [*audio glitch*] . . .

Trey Marley: Hang on a second.

[Tape stopped]

[00:00:48] TD: Bob, we appreciate very much your being with us

today and just relax and let's just visit . . .

BS: Good.

TD: . . . for a while and talk about—uh—your history and some of the things that you've done in your life. [00:00:58] I'd like to start off by asking you to talk about your family—uh—your birth family and your very early years. Tell me about your parents.

BS: Well, my mother was Jeffa—maiden name Beck. And my father was Kenneth Holmes Scott. Uh—he was killed in a—uh—Harris Baking Company truck wreck. He drove for Harris Baking Company in Rogers. I think it was—uh—September 13 of 1940. And—uh—uh—my—you want my family—my family—but I married—well, I guess I should say that I grew up in Rogers.

TD: Yeah, we wanna talk about that some.

BS: Born in—born in Gravette. But because my father, Kenneth, was the—uh—plant manager for Dyke Lumber Company in Gravette. And then we moved to Little Rock, Clarksville, and back to Rogers. And I grew up—through the eleventh grade, I went to school in Rogers, first through eleven.

TD: Uh—did you have siblings?

BS: Beck. My brother Darrell Beck Scott, was the—uh—next older and my brother James William Scott—Jim Scott and Beck Scott were my two brothers. Jim was the—was the older of the two.

[00:02:19] TD: Good. You—uh—went to elementary school in
Rogers . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . perhaps?

BS: [*Clears throat*] Yes.

TD: Well, when did you loo—move from Gravette? How old were
you?

BS: No, I was—I was less than—uh—two—maybe—maybe earlier. I
don't—I don't have any recollection.

TD: You don't remember Gravette.

BS: No—no recollection of any of those years up until Rogers.

[00:02:38] TD: Kay. Well, tell me about—uh—growing up in Rogers
in the 1940s. What year were you born?

BS: Born in . . .

TD: What is your birth date?

BS: Born October 6, 1933, and—uh—growing up in Rogers was really
special—quite different than it is now.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: Uh—but it was a great place to—to grow up. We . . .

TD: Where did you—uh—what—what—uh—which house do you
remember first? Where do you—what street do you remember
living on first?

BS: Uh—I really don't remember the first one. The one that I s—I spent most of the years in was at—uh—by golly, I believe it was 604 North—or 604 West Persimmon Street, I think.

TD: Persimmon Street.

BS: I'm not [*laughs*]*—yeah, Persimmon Street. We were—we grew up right next to the—uh—Rogers High School football field. It was then the football field. Now it's a post office. Uh—but—uh—that was—Persimmon Street was about six or eight blocks from school. Walked to and from school. No one had—no one had a car that—you know, bicycles, but no au—no autos.*

TD: Mh-hmm. Did you grow up with a telephone in your house?

BS: Yes, 6-0-8-J. [*Laughter*]

[00:03:56] TD: Uh—tell me about your teachers. Let's start off—do you—do you have any—do you—memories of—of elementary teachers who might have had an impact on you?

BS: Uh—Mrs. Holyfield, and I guess the one that would have the most impact would've been—uh—Luffman. Mrs. Luffman, whose family had the Coca-Cola—Coca-Cola Bottling Company in—in Rogers. But—uh . . .

TD: And you went to Rogers High School.



BS: Yes. Never finished high school. In—uh—1950, Dale—my cousin Dale Kelly and I decided to join the National Guard. Lied

about our ages. We were sixteen and—uh—joined the Arkansas National Guard in April of 1950 and went to summer guard camp at—uh—in li—at—uh—North Little Rock—Camp Robinson. And—uh—the unit was mobilized in August of [19]50, so we wound up in Pusan, Korea, in January of [19]51.

TD: Now in January of [19]51, you're in Korea. It's cold. You're fighting an em—enemy that outnumbers you. How old were you in January of nineteen . . .

BS: I was seventeen. I turned—uh—seventeen in October.

TD: So you were sixteen when you joined.

BS: Yes.

[00:05:17] TD: Um—do you recall who your company commander was?

BS: Oh yes—uh—all of 'em. [*Laughter*] There was more than one. Uh—Joe Landers was the last—uh—company commander, and—uh—the battalion commander was William Bush—Bill Bush from Lincoln, Arkansas. One of the best men I've ever known. And—uh—let's see, I believe Claude—uh—or not Claude, but—uh—Dickie Williams was commander for a while. And—uh—let's see, who—oh, there was a—a regular army commander that I've intentionally avoided remembering. It was . . .

TD: The unit that you were in—which unit was it in Rogers?

BS: The Ninth—[clears throat] it was the Ninth—it was C Battery.
Charlie Battery of the 936th Field Artillery Battalion of the 142nd
Group.

TD: Kay. And—uh—the 142nd had—uh—members—uh—probably
from several states, I would imagine.

BS: Um—yes, basically central. Uh—we had a cu—we had a sister
battalion, the 937th—uh—which also had—uh—uh—companies
in, like, Mena, Arkansas—several—uh—cities in Arkansas. They
were—they were a 155—uh—Long Tom. That was a gun.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: Ours was a split-trail 155 howitzer . . .

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: . . . pulled behind a track or a truck. And the—uh—155 Long
Tom of the 937th was self propel.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: They were completely contained. Had a tremendous muzzle
blast, too.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: Much more than we had.

[00:06:57] TD: So you had—uh—basic training. Is that correct?

BS: Well . . .

TD: Did you have full . . .

BS: Uh—not . . .

TD: Did you have active-duty basic training?

BS: No, no. Now this is National Guard era in the [19]50s, and we were theoretically 80 percent trained for combat. We weren't there. And when we got to Korea, we had some pretty powerful senators named McClellan and Fulbright and Congressman Mills and a few other f—and Trimble, who raised so much ruckus with the military that they—they sent us into—uh—uh—central Korea for training for about six weeks before we went into combat . . .

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: . . . uh—because they didn't—you know, the—the—the—uh—officers knew we needed to do some training. But wa—I never went through the—the rigorous basic training . . .

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: . . . that the military would be exposed to.

[00:07:50] TD: How long did you stay in the National Guard?

BS: I stayed in until about 1960 [*clears throat*] after I got out. I stayed in Korea a little over a year and—um—came back and would start at the university in 1952.

TD: As an undergraduate.

BS: Yes, and never got a high school diploma.

TD: I was gonna say . . .

BS: Ever.

TD: . . . it—it—it—you were able to get into school without that high school diploma.

BS: I had both credits and units sufficient to get in without even an exam. So I—I—I started in business administration with a—as a—as a prelaw. I was on the three/three plan. Three pre- and three law and—uh—spent three years in the business college.

[00:08:31] TD: Mh-hmm. Um—can you remember from your law school days—uh—uh—some of the—uh—professors that you had and some of your impressions of them?

BS: Ralph Barnhart was one of the first professors, and he was superb.

TD: What did—uh—he teach?

BS: He—he taught—uh—torts and—uh—let's see, Joe [BS edit: Covington]—oh, what's his name? He was dean of the college—dean—dean of the—uh—law school later. Uh—Joe—I can't think of his last name—taught contracts and—uh—gosh, I hadn't thought along many years about the—the—uh—fellow that taught—uh—personal property, but he was a character.

[00:09:16] TD: What about—uh—Robert Leflar? Did you . . .

BS: He . . .

TD: . . . ever have him in class?

BS: Outstanding instructor. Phew.

TD: He is—uh—something of an icon over in the law school . . .

BS: Oh well . . .

TD: . . . even today.

BS: It's well deserved.



[00:09:29] TD: Yeah. Um—you finished—uh—uh—law school in what year?

BS: In 1958 [*TD clears throat*] and was admitted to the bar on my birthday in 1958—October 6 of [19]58.

TD: And you went into practice.

BS: Yes. Um—I woke up with a law degree and no job, so I opened an office in Rogers.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: And I can remember my first month in practice. I think my income was \$268.50. [*Laughs*]

TD: But you managed to stay with it.

BS: Oh yes. I had a—a—a lawyer by the name of—of Claude Duty, who really took me under wing. I—I—prior to that, I was—kinda been—uh—under the wing of Claude Williams Sr.—he—who was also Mr. Republican in Benton County. But when I came out to—uh—of law school and had no place to—to go but to—to—to start practice, Claude Duty took me under his wing. He had

offices . . .

TD: Is that *D-U-T-Y*?

BS: *D-U-T-Y*.

TD: Okay.

BS: Um—uh—a firm, Duty & Duty, was Claude and Jeff Duty—well-recognized—uh—lawyers in northwest Arkansas. And he had offices above the—uh—uh—drugstore on the corner of Second and Walnut, and—uh—by takin' me under the wing, I'm—I—what I'm talking about is the—he—I told him I didn't have much money. He said, "That would be all right, Bob. It'd be all right." Said, "We'll—we'll work out a deal where you can have this—the two-room—have a private office and a reception, and you can have that for the first three months for nothing, and the next three months for five dollars a month, and the next three months for ten dollars a month, and the next three for fifteen, and then we'll renegotiate. [*Laughter*]

[00:11:21] TD: Well, it sounds like it—that . . .

BS: Yeah.

TD: . . . he was a—uh—very supportive person . . .

BS: He was.

TD: . . . ?that? helped you get goin'.

BS: He really did. He told me when I started practice that any time I

had a question, don't hesitate to come on in, and—and he would have—let me interrupt—even if he were in a conference with the—with the Felkers, who were—who owned Rogers.

[*TD laughs*] And his secretary didn't like that very much. But every time I'd come in the office and ask—ask if I'd see him, and he'd hear me ask her, and he'd just yell, "Come on in, Bob. Come on"—even if—even if—uh—Felker was sittin' there—make any difference. He was a character.

[00:11:56] TD: Who were some of your early clients or . . .

BS: Um . . .

TD: . . . some of your clients in general?



BS: Well, the most significant client I had was the one that really made a—a name for me was Mary Louise Chandler, who was the wife of the son of the Chandlers who owned the Chrysler agency in Rogers.

TD: In Rogers?

BS: In Rogers. Very prominent family and wealthy, obviously. And Edgar had about three years before—maybe four—had—in violation of a custody order—picked up their t—their two daughters. They were divorced, and in the process, she got custody. He had picked up their two daughters, and they hadn't heard from him since. So—and she had been to lawyers in

Rogers and Bentonville and Fayetteville and all over and couldn't find him. And—uh—I was—uh—[*laughs*] I—I had a—had a friend, a—a military friend, in the post office, and—um—he knew I was representing Mary Louise and knew the—and, course, the whole town was—was really irritated about Edgar takin' the kids and runnin' off. They were just . . .

TD: Right.

BS: . . . anxious to see him found and brought back or the kids brought back. And this friend of mine in the post office said, "Well, I don't have any idea where—where Edgar is. But if I were lookin' for him, I'd look around—uh—Portland, Oregon—around Vancouver." And of course, it doesn't take but a few phone calls to the school system to find the kids in school, and—uh—Mary Louise and I flew up with—uh—with orders from the Chancery Court to retake custody. Resulted in a long battle, though. Uh—they got—got a law firm in—in Vancouver and—uh—and—uh—Jeff Duty, my—across the hall [*laughs*] from me represented—uh—Edgar Chandler, and it was a long process. But finally got the kids back.

[00:13:49] TD: So you had to be careful—uh—with your—uh—opposing counsel across the hallway. You had to be careful to make sure that—uh [*laughs*]*—uh—everything was in—uh . . .*

BS: Yeah, but that . . .

TD: . . . confidence.

BS: Yeah, but that—in that era, there wasn't any problem with any of that. We didn't—we didn't have any—any—uh—one mining the telephone records. [*Laughs*]

TD: Yeah.

BS: At least if we—if I know—if—uh—as far as I know, we didn't have anybody mining the telephone records.

[00:14:14] TD: When did you become active in—uh—politics?



BS: My—uh [*clears throat*]*—high school years I was always very active—kept up—and primarily because of the influence of Claude Williams, who was Mr. Republican of Benton County. He was also a—a Church of Christ lay preacher. Even though he was practicing law, he preached at—uh—small communities in—uh—oh, up in Missouri, for example, Jane, Missouri, and—and—uh—around Arkansas—northern—northern Arkansas—northwest. And as—uh—his influence, of course, my family was all Democratic—both sides. My grandparents, my parents, everybody was Democratic. Solid yellow dog Democrats.*

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: Uh—but when my father was killed, my mother went to work for Claude Williams as his secretary, and—uh—course, it wasn't long

till I was full-fledged conservative Republican. [*Laughter*]

[00:15:07] TD: Well, tell us about Claude Williams. Um . . .

BS: He was an outstanding individual. Um . . .

TD: Where did he live?

BS: He lived on—uh—uh—well, it—they call it . . .

TD: Now, in Rogers?

BS: Yes, he lived in Rogers on the—the road down to Lake Atalanta.

It's Electric Street. And—uh—and he was—you know, he'd been in practice for years—had been there for years. His—he was . . .

TD: He was elderly by this point.

BS: Yes, he—well, what I thought was very old, but now I don't

[*laughs*]*—*I don't rea—I now realize he wasn't that old at all.

Uh—but—uh—he was—uh—well, just Mr. Republican. You know, there weren't over three or four that were really admitted Republicans around . . .

TD: Even in Benton County.

BS: Hmm, all over—especially—uh—the only place you could find any Republicans were a few in Rogers, and—and the rest of the county was all solid Democratic. It was solid Democratic when I started practice law, too. And for a Republican lawyer goin' before Democratic judges, sometimes that—that—uh—made it difficult.

TD: Do you recall any particular—uh—cases where you had to—uh—deal with that kind of—uh—problem?

[00:16:17] BS: Well yes. I remember the first one that I had coming outta law school. I had—uh—under the tutelage of Claude Williams. My brother-in-law, who was Bill Ragsdale, had bought a car from—from Newt Hailey—Hailey Motor Company, which was a prominent family in Rogers. And—uh—uh—he—he—they couldn't perfect titles, so we rescinded the contract—took the car back and asked for their money back, and they refused to pay it. So we had to sue 'em, but it was—the suit was filed—I prepared it, but Claude Williams filed it on—for me before I got outta law school. But that was the first case I had after I got outta law school, and it was in Tom Butt's Chancery Court and—uh—I'd—and—and—uh—Newt had—uh—uh—well, I'll think of his name in a minute—he was a state legislator. I ran against him. Hardy Croxton. I ran against him in—uh—later for—uh—state representative. But anyway, he was representing Newt Hailey, and I knew that I was gonna have a tough time on that one if I didn't pull some special strings, so I did. I—I—I'd joined—joined forces with—uh—uh—Tom Butt's niece's husband, "Doc" Irwin, who was also in my class in—in college in the law school. So he—he and I tried that together, and ironically, we

won it. [*Laughter*]

[00:17:52] TD: Um—at some point along the way—uh—you had gotten married. Why don't you tell me . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . about your [*BS clears throat*] marriage and children and family?

BS: Okay. I met—uh—Annice Embrey—uh—when I came back from—uh—from the service in [19]52.

TD: Did—is that spelled . . .

BS: *E-M-B-R-E-Y*.

TD: *E-M-B-R-E-Y*. And her—her given name is . . .

BS: *A-A-N-N-I-C-E*. [*Clears throat*]

TD: *A-N-N-I-C-E*.

BS: She was an—she was an—a red—an identical twin, and her sister's name was Anita. She was the one that married to Bill Ragsdale that . . .

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: . . . we had handled the car case. And we were married in—uh—[19]54—let's see, I—I should be able to remember that date, but I—but it was in—I know it was in—uh—uh—June when it was pretty warm, and we honeymooned at—uh—Taneycomo in Missouri. And now that was before air-conditioning.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: And that was a—that was a hot, humid time of the year [*laughs*] for us to get married. Uh—and we had three daughters. Beverly Ann is the—was the first—oldest of the three. Um—Debbie—Deborah Lynn was the second, and the youngest is Sheryl Kay.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: And—uh—two of them, Sheryl and Debbie, live in Little Rock and—uh—Beverly is living in El Dorado right now, but they're in the process of—uh—as soon as their son gets outta high school, they'll be in—uh—Hot Springs. Her husband is a golf pro.

[00:19:29] TD: Mh-hmm. And I believe you told me that—uh—you and your wife were divorced later.

BS: Yes, we [*beeping sound*] divorced in [19]91.

TD: Mh-hmm.

BS: Um—and we were living in Little Rock at the time. I left—I left here—left Rogers in [19]67 and moved to Little Rock with—with, as you well know, the Rockefeller administration. And—uh—I stayed there until [19]91.

TD: So—uh—your—you really raised your children—uh—pretty much in Little Rock . . .

BS: Well . . .

TD: . . . or to . . .

BS: . . . Rogers . . .

TD: . . . to some degree.

BS: You know, from—from [19]55 when Beverly was born until
[19]67, they were in school here, and . . .

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:03] TD: In Rogers

BS: Yes, and they really didn't want to go, but once they got there,
of course, they didn't wanna come back. Typical.

TD: And in 1969, you moved to Little Rock to work . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . with the Winthrop Rockefeller administration.

BS: Correct.

TD: He had just—that would've been in his second term.

BS: First term.

TD: First term.

BS: He was elected in [19]66—went in—inaugurated in January 10 of
[19]67.

TD: And you moved down there in . . .

BS: And I moved down there in mid-[19]67. I commuted . . .

TD: Okay.

BS: For the first six months or so, I commuted while we located a
place in Little Rock.

TD: Okay, so you moved to Little Rock in [19]67 . . .

BS: [Nineteen] sixty-seven.

TD: . . . with the beginning of the Rockefeller . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . administration, not in [19]69, as I had said.

BS: No, I started with Governor Rockefeller as legal aide/advisor on prison affairs and commuted the first six or seven months, I guess it was. And that was during the—you know, the prison thing was a hot potato from the time we started.



[00:21:06] TD: If my memory is correct, Governor Rockefeller's staff found a memo in a file cabinet relative to a study that had been done of the state prisons and portrayed a rather shocking . . .

BS: Very shocking.

TD: . . . set of problems.

BS: Very shocking.

TD: Tell me what you inherited when you went to rock—to work with Winthrop Rockefeller—what you found in the area of the prisons.

BS: Well, I guess the best [*clears throat*] illustration of the difference between then and now is that Cummins Prison, which is located down at Grady, had three thousand—approximately—inmates with, I believe it was twenty-eight employees—free-world employees. Tucker, which was theoretically supposed to be the

first-offender unit, but also had death row and was over at—oh,
I can't think of the name of that . . .

TD: Grady.

BS: Grady. No, the—Grady's the Cummins unit. No, it's over on—
across the river. I'll think of it in a minute. And they had about
three hundred inmates and five employees. And the first thing
that I—really caught my eye was that none of the gun-carrying
capacity was by free world. It was all trusties. There were no
guns carried by anyone other than trusties.

[00:22:38] TD: Tell us what trusties were.

BS: Trusties are the ones that the administration had, through
experience, learned to trust, and that's the reason they're called
trusties. And they were—they wore—the lower rank wore white,
and they wore a green or a—maybe a—might've been olive
drab—but they were dressed differently. And the—I think the
best illustration of what was happening then is the first time that
Governor Rockefeller went to Cummins, and what was the
sheriff's name that used to be in Fayetteville? It was his driver.
Anyway . . .

TD: McKee.

BS: McKee, yeah. Ken McKee.

TD: Kenneth McKee.

BS: Ken McKee. And when they went through the—you know, the—there was a gate—well, it's really not a gate, it's just a bar at Cummins Unit, and when they drove up to it, Ken had to take his pistol out and hand it to this trusty, and as he drove off, he said, "Now, Governor, that fellow I arrested for murder on the street just about ten years ago." [*Laughter*] So it kinda made an impression about where we were goin' and what we were into.

TD: I recall that Winthrop Rockefeller never forgot that and . . .

BS: No.

TD: . . . would make reference to it.

BS: He did, frequently.

TD: Frequently.

BS: Yes. Course, that was incon—in context of his desire to convert the gun carrying from trusty to free world.

TD: Right.

BS: Which meant increasing taxes for prisons, and the other thing that bothered most of the legislators is that up until that point, the prisons were self supporting—not only self supporting, they returned revenue to the treasury every year from the farming operation. [00:24:31] And it was a massive farming operation. Very efficient farming operation. But that was a bone of contention about—with the legislature, especially—the idea of

losing the revenue and hiring people to do what inmates were doing was just repulsive to most of 'em.

[00:24:55] TD: Tell us some of the information that you gathered in looking into the prisons—some of the problems . . .

BS: Hmm.

TD: . . . that had to be dealt with. You've mentioned already the lack of staff.

BS: Yes.

TD: That was notorious.

BS: Oh yes.

TD: The prisons were run by the prisoners . . .

BS: Absolutely.

TD: . . . basically. What was the food situation? Was there corruption involved?

BS: Always, and . . .

TD: Violence?

BS: Oh yes.

TD: Abuse?

BS: Yes. But of course, the violence and the abuse was consistent with the philosophy of the administration, which was punitive. Before Rockefeller, it was—I think you may recall Tom Murton exposed—Tom Murton was the fellow that we hired as director of

correction a few years later. [*Laughs*]

TD: Yes. [*BS laughs*] I wanna get to Tom Murton, but I don't wanna get to him just yet.

[00:25:46] BS: Okay. Well anyway, the prisoners were subjected to the hide or the belt. Now to most people, the belt would be something that—like this—?anything? [*unclear words*] the belt or hide was about four to six inches wide and maybe ten or twelve feet long. And the punishment would consist of putting the inmate on a concrete floor and over the head and whop him on the back or on the butt with that kind—and that was the—that was accepted punishment until the federal court stopped it.

TD: Do you remember how many lashes they were likely to apply?

BS: Ten was not unusual. It was usually ten. And of course, I had heard about this, but I had never witnessed it until I got down there as advisor on prison affairs, so I went in to find out what it was. You know, you—it's kinda difficult to talk about something you've never seen and don't know much about. But I was absolutely amazed at layin' that inmate on the concrete and then hitting him to the point that the body would come off the concrete floor. And you know, it was just an unbelievably punitive, calloused attitude—just insensitive to pain. Insensitive to wha—how you were treating—not just the pain, but how you

treat people.

[00:27:07] TD: Mh-hmm. Did you go undercover to do investigating?

BS: Well, I did one time. We had a lotta reports about the free-world dentist and it—again, to find out for sure, I posed—I went down on a—sometime during the week and let my beard—you know, let all my beard grow. I didn't shave for a week, and then I was introduced to the free-world dentist as the new assistant who was a trusty and—to see for myself what had been going on and make sure that I saw what they were telling me was happening. And you just couldn't believe—again, it's consistent with that philosophy of the time that we were trying to change—the insensitivity of that dentist for pain was just phenomenal. He might have ten or twelve individuals waiting for treatment, and what he would do—would inject them with Novocain and send 'em out for it to take effect and then inject another one. But most of the time he didn't bother to change the needle. It—you know, it's stuff like that that you just couldn't imagine that was going on. And—but the one that—the worst one, for me, though, was when you had an inmate come in who had been given Novocain, and he started to pull a tooth—a wisdom tooth, I think it was, or a—one of the large teeth on

the side—and as he started to cut around to—that inmate flinched and screamed, you know, yelled. Well, it was—obviously wasn't deadened. This dentist picked up a syringe that was empty and pretended that he was givin' him more Novocain. Pretended.

[00:28:55] TD: You were watching that.

BS: Oh yeah, I was—I'm observing that firsthand. The most disappointing thing about that is I tried my best to get the dental society to take action on that dentist and no dice. It was all political. It was all political.

TD: Well . . .

BS: Now if I had to do over, I would've filmed it. But at that time, we weren't that—nearly that sophisticated. But it should have been filmed.

TD: You were reporting back to the governor—Governor Rockefeller.

BS: Yes.

TD: Regularly.

BS: Oh yes.

TD: And he took a very serious interest in this. Could you talk about Winthrop Rockefeller's ability to empathize with people in—for even prisoners?



BS: Yes. I don't know if I've ever met anybody like that. And it—

and the one thing that was the most amazing to me is we also handled clemency petitions. And the governor's routine was he usually stayed at the office until nine or ten o'clock and would go either over to the Old Line—what was that insurance company?

TD: The National Line.

BS: The National Old Line building, where they had a residence on the top while they were remodeling the Mansion—or after—later, then, over to the Mansion—to work clemency petitions at night and—that usually—the routine would be we'd usually get there about ten or so and then have something to eat. His evening meal was usually about eleven. And then we'd start through petitions, and we'd go straight through till probably six in the morning, working clemency petitions—going over clemency petitions. But the most amazing thing about Winthrop was his ability to recall. He had a phenomenal memory.

TD: Really?

BS: Oh my word! I . . .

[00:30:53] TD: You know, I don't know that I've ever had anyone talk . . .

BS: Whew.

TD: . . . about that . . .

BS: Phenomenal.

TD: . . . before.

BS: I could—I had him recall detailed facts on clemency petitions that may—had been handled six months or a year before. And I couldn't even recall the names, let alone the detailed facts. My guess is—and I'm no—not trained medically—my guess is that that was the compensating factor for the dyslexia. I would guess that's what that is. But it was phenomenal memory.

[00:31:26] TD: Did he—in order to get through those long nights and everything, did he stoke himself with liquor?

BS: Oh, occasionally. Now Winthrop had an unusual pattern. He would go for maybe six months and not be loaded, but he would drink heavily. And then he'd go for six months without a drop. And that was kinda the routine. He had—but I'll tell you what I'd rather have—I'd rather him—have him [*laughs*] deciding my fate drunk [*laughter*] than most of 'em that I've dealt with sober.

TD: Because I believe what you're harkening to there is his innate decency.

BS: Yes, and compassion—empathy—that very few people have.

TD: Mh-hmm. Were you ever around his son, Winthrop Paul?

BS: Oh yes. Yeah, Winthrop Paul was, course, just a kid at the time, but he was very interested in riding with the state police and interested in, you know, the guns and sirens and all that stuff.

He was . . .

TD: He never outgrow that—outgrew that.

BS: No, no, he—I think he kept that till the day he died.

TD: Yeah. What about Governor Rockefeller and his relationship with his wife, Jeannette. You know, it fell apart—started falling apart before he left office.

BS: Yes.

TD: And then they were divorced after he left office. Do you have any insight about Jeannette Edris Rockefeller?

BS: The only thing I [*clears throat*] would have would be that she had—she could turn the air blue. [*Laughs*] I mean, she could teach a sailor somehow to . . .

TD: She could be profane.

BS: She could talk the sailor language better than they could. And—but now I never witnessed anything that would indicate anything about the relationship between the two of them. It was always very . . .

TD: Cordial.

BS: . . . cordial and formal.

[00:33:32] TD: Mh-hmm. At some point along the way, Governor Rockefeller decided—and you, I'm sure, were very much inter—involved in that—to bring in a new prisons director.

BS: Yes.

TD: It seems like the old director might have been a guy named Stevens.

BS: No, it was Bishop.

TD: Okay.

[00:33:52] BS: Bishop. He was a former sheriff of Union County.

And contrary to what a lot of Republicans wanted to conclude at the time, he was really a decent fellow. He had a tough job and—oh, maybe the one you're talkin' bout is Bruton, who was the prison . . .

TD: He was . . .

BS: . . . head of the prison at Tucker. But Bishop was head of the prison system. And he was the one at Cummins. And I think Bishop would've been just as good—just as effective and just as good as anybody we've ever had, had he been in a different time.

TD: Was he a Faubus holdover?

BS: He was, and of course, I—we didn't have any confidence in anybody that was a Faubus holdover. You know, we were kinda like the Bush Administration now. Anything that was Clinton, he was gonna be against, and we were against anything that had anything to do with Faubus. But Bishop was one that we should

have cultivated and stayed with.

TD: Especially in light of bringing in Tom Murton.

BS: Well, Tom was an outstanding . . .

[00:35:10] TD: Let's talk about turm—Tom Murton.



BS: Well, Tom Murton was an outstanding—he was—he had been fired in a couple of jobs. I think Alaska was the last one. And now I didn't have a lot to do with the hiring. I sat in on some of the discussions, but he was—had outstanding academic qualifications and just a really intelligent individual and made some phenomenal changes in the prison systems—system. The only problem with Tom was that he never took responsibility for anything that went wrong. There was always somebody that was at fault. And he started off as the warden, I guess you'd call it—warden or the head of the prison at Tucker. And his condition was that he wouldn't be under Bishop, who was at Cummins, and we agreed to that. That was part of his employment. And it was without—in no time, there was major conflict between Bishop and Murton—Tom Murton, and Tom always said that Bishop was sabotaging his Cummins unit. Doin' all kinds of things that were sabotaging his efforts at Tucker and that he would not—never be able to succeed with Bishop. So we proceeded to manipulate the removal of Bishop. John Haley was

the Republican appointee to the prison board.

TD: He's an attorney in Little Rock.

[00:36:49] BS: Yes, John Haley—and top quality. Very, very well qualified and very efficient—very knowledgeable. Anyway, we manipulated—the—we had four members of the board that were Democrats—Faibus appointees—all Faibus appointees, of course—and I have forgotten now how John Haley did that, but he manipulated the change on Bishop and put cumm—put Tom Murton in as the director of correction over both prisons. Over the entire prison system. And it wasn't long after that that—I—and of course, I was working closely with Tom Murton. Not long after that, I started hearing from Tom that—well, the problem with his success—the—he couldn't really accomplish what he wanted to accomplish because the board stood in the way. The board wasn't cooperating. And so John Haley and I manipulated the resignation of all [*laughs*] the board and got that changed. They were—you know, they were all Rockefeller appointees.

TD: The new ones.

BS: The new ones. So he couldn't blame them for anything.

[00:38:04] TD: How did you manage to get four—or how many ever commissioners there were—how did you manage to get those Faibus appointees to resign?

BS: That's—basically, John Haley managed that, and it was through a quirk of the law and had to do with Bishop's resignation. And you know, it's been so long ago, I can't even remember now what—remember the details. But—oh, I do remember one discussion that I think is kinda significant. When they were discussing corporal punishment, John Haley was tryin' to—is advocating eliminating all corporal punishment. And I think his name was Jeter—said, "Why, that's the only way you're gonna be able to control the prison. You can't control a prison without corporal punishment." And John Haley kept advocating, "Well, that's inhumane. That's not a humane way to treat men." And course, Jeter was—"Oh, nothing wrong with a little butt-beatin'." I mean, I—that was the attitude. In that same meeting, Haley was advocating—we had a lot of cattle loss—losing cattle very frequently. So Haley . . .

[00:39:26] TD: Perhaps to theft?

BS: Yes. And Haley was suggesting that we brand the cattle, "AP1, AP2." Arkansas Prison one. AP2. And the minute he suggested that, Mr. Jeter said, "Oh, not about to brand cattle. That's inhuman." [*Laughter*] But he didn't mind beatin' the hell outta the kids, it was brandin' the cattle that was inhuman. But it had to do with—that was one of the things that was—it was disputes

like that—and somehow there was a—Bishop resigned in the heat of passion, and then they tried to revert—revoked that and get him back on the staff. But the law was written in such a way that the governor had to appoint him to get him back on, and he wouldn't appoint him—would not reappoint him. And as a result, the four members of the board just revolted and said, "Well, we're not gonna continue." So they resigned over that. And of course, that was when Tom Murton was brought in.

[00:40:34] TD: Can you recall some of the changes that Tom mur—made?

BS: Oh . . .

TD: Such as—did he deal with the blood program down there?

BS: Yes. And . . .

TD: Seems like I remember there was a lot of abuse of the selling of prisoner blood.

BS: There was, and in fact, he changed the—removed the company that was handling it. Now he was working in concert with Ed Barron, who was the . . .

TD: State health . . .

BS: . . . free-world doctor. No, he was the free-world doctor that we hired. Ed flew down there in his own plane on—under contract. I think one—two days—two times a day—or two days a week, I

believe it was. He was a good friend of John Haley's, and the two of them managed to get the—whoever was handling that program—it did have lots of problems. Now I wasn't that familiar with the details of the program because Haley and Ed Barron were handling that. But Tom Murton was revolutionary—just absolute revolutionary. You know, the idea of just completely eliminating all corporal punishment. His philosophy was if you treat a man like a man, he'll respond like a man. If you treat him like an animal, he'll respond like an animal. And such things as taking the death-row personnel out of their cells and letting them exercise outside—you know, have ball games and things like that. They had a rodeo.

TD: They started a chapel.

[00:42:16] BS: A chapel. Just many things like that that—well, for example [*laughs*], he had a—even had a Saturday night dance that got us in all kinds of trouble. [*Laughter*] Can you imagine goin' down to the Cummins unit and dancing with a death-row inmate? That one didn't get—that one didn't carry with the legislature. That one got us in a lotta trouble.

TD: I'll bet.

BS: Oh, man. [*Laughs*]

TD: Eventually, Tom Murton went over the edge . . .

BS: Yeah, and I'll tell you . . .

TD: . . . and started digging . . .

BS: . . . how he went over the edge.

TD: . . . up bodies.

BS: Well, I had somethin' to do with that. That was when I was—I start—I was tellin' you about Tom—keep blaming somebody else for his problems. First it was Bishop, then it was the board, then it was Haley. And when he finally ran out of subjects, he jumped on rou—Rockefeller. [00:43:15] If you remember the incident when Rockefeller was in the re-election campaign, and it wasn't unusual for Winthrop to have his hair cut in New York or California. With the Falcon Jet, of course, he was all over the country. There wasn't any—he wasn't restricted to Arkansas. And I can't remember what the issue was, but something that the press was challenging Murton on and asked him if he— "Before you did this"—before—it may have been the—I guess it was the grave deal—asked if he had cleared that with Rockefeller—with the governor—and Murton said, "I didn't know he was in the state." And that didn't set well with [*laughs*] the Rockefellers, and especially the PR people, because that was a major political issue—the fact that he was outta state too much. And—but Murton's, you know, snide remark—"Well, I didn't

know he was in the state" really got him in trouble. But the thing that really busted Murton's bubble was the grave divving—digging. And I had heard from Tom Murton that he had had reports from inmates that there were many murdered inmates buried on Cummins Prison Farm. [00:44:24] And I said, "Well, it doesn't do us a bit of good to go public with any of that unless you've got proof. You got to have a body. You got to have something." And as naive as I was, I was thinking about, you know, a skeleton in a box in the field. Well, unknown to me, Murton was digging all over the damn farm. I mean, he was diggin' every time you turned around. There was inmates out there. They just knew they were gonna prove these murdered inmates. And they—he came up with—had called me one day and said that he had the proof, that he had the body. He had dug it up, and he had the body and—no, he said that he knew there was a murdered inmate here because he had—the inmates were telling this is where they buried one. And I did tell him to go ahead and dig it up, you know. "If you're sure that's a murdered inmate, dig it up and let's get a forensic. Let's find out." Now what he didn't tell me was that he had a CBS News TV camera there to film it. And of course, that is not something you do. You don't conduct an investigation under the glaring

lights of a CBS News—I believe it was CBS. And of course, that made worldwide news because they did bring up a body. And the reason it all fell through in the final analysis was that he was digging in what was commonly known as "Bodiesburg," which is where all of the destitute—the inmates who had no family and no money were buried. Without any—you know, without anything. But that was a field in which there were a lot of depressions, and you know, if he had just let me know that he—of course, I didn't know about Bodiesburg. I didn't know beans about it. And that resulted in a grand jury investigation in—what's the name of that little county? Anyway, I had to testify in that grand jury. Joe—well, I'll think of his name in a minute—he was a prosecutor at the time, and I refused to answer his questions until I got permission from the governor because he wanted to know what I advised the governor. And I said, "Well, I'll be glad to tell you anything I've advised him once he authorizes me to do so, but I won't unless." And he was [*laughs*] gonna put me in jail, but—Joe Holmes. He and I are good friends now, but that was . . .

TD: Joe Holmes was the prosecutor at that time.

BS: Joe Holmes was the prosecutor. But that was a little tense time.

[00:47:31] TD: Later on Murton published a book, a memoir called

Accomplices to the Crime.

BS: Yes.

TD: And the accomplices in the title he's referring to there was probably you and the governor and . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . everybody who disagreed with him.

BS: Yes.

TD: You read that book, probably . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . at the time. What—do you recall what kinda reaction you had to it?

[00:47:55] BS: Well, Murton was really good at taking a little fact and creating a major conclusion that didn't fit all the facts. He was smart as he could be—just as intelligent as you can be. And he also collaborated on the film—on the movie . . .

TD: *Brubaker.*

BS: . . . *Brubaker.*

TD: So he was an advisor on that.

BS: I saw that one. Yes. Yes, it was his book that was the origin, and he was a consultant or advisor on the film. And you know, it's—it had a lot of fact in it, but a lot of conclusions that weren't—just didn't stand up when you got 'em subjected to a

little objective examination.

[00:48:43] TD: I was at a meeting one time where I really wished you had been present. Fortunately, John Haley was there. It was a meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association back in the early [19]70s.

BS: Uh-huh.

TD: Not too long after *Accomplices to the Crime* had come out. And Tom Murton was on this panel, and we were discussing the history of the Arkansas . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . state prisons [*BS sniffs*] and more recent history. And Tom Murton got up and stated that he would repeat his offer of ten thousand dollars to anybody who could demonstrate that that was an actual cemetery [*BS laughs*]*—*that it was not a field of the murdered.

BS: Uh-huh.

TD: And all of a sudden in the back of the room, the hand goes up, and a little gentleman is recognized, and he stands up, and he says his name is Dr. Snow and that . . .

BS: Oh yes, yes.

TD: . . . and that he is a forensic pathologist.

BS: [*Laughs*] Yes.

TD: And that he has been working on the supposed bodies . . .

BS: The three . . .

TD: . . . the supposed murdered . . .

BS: The three inmat—the three bodies that he found.

TD: Right. And you probably know this, but he basically discovered the circumstances of all those three . . .

BS: Oh yes.

TD: . . . remains and how they had died.

BS: Uh-huh.

TD: All being—I think one of them was an accident, perhaps . . .

BS: Yeah.

[00:49:58] TD: But he had gone to great lengths to demonstrate all this.

BS: Yes.

TD: Murton was speechless.

BS: Oh yeah.

TD: He did not write a check for ten thousand dollars. But you're aware of the work that Snow later did.

BS: Yes, yes, he was the one that did all of the technical examination. And not only did he establish what had happened, but he also established the date of death, which predated everything that—all of the facts that were—the so-called facts

that had been compiled as to when these inmates were murdered. You know, there's—they started off with the inmates' stories about when this happened, and they established dates and times, and not one of the three fit the—you know, the technical evaluation of the remains indicated they were long before that.

[00:50:49] TD: And I believe he even found the files on these . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . various inmates and, you know, knew them by name and . . .

BS: Yeah.

TD: . . . even found some of the files on their original trials and some of the evidence that was used . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . in their original trials many, many years ago. The *Brubaker* film, of course, had a profound impact on the way people—probably the way Arkansans viewed their own prison history. Dr. Snow's findings never got into the public domain.

BS: Yes.

TD: So there are many people around . . .

BS: Yeah.

TD: . . . to this day thinking that *Accomplices to the Crime* is an

actual book of historical investigation.

BS: It's a lot easier to claim than it is to disprove. Once those things go public, it's really hard to change the public image.

TD: After Murton, Tom—Thomas Sarver—Tom . . .

BS: Not Tom, Bob Sarver.

TD: Bob Sarver . . .

BS: Robert Sarver. Bob Sarver.

TD: . . . was brought in to be head of the prison system.

BS: Yes.

TD: You've had dealings with him, too.

BS: Yes, very well. In fact, we were partners in the practice of law after Bumpers defeated Rockefeller.



[00:52:08] TD: You stayed with Rockefeller through the entire four years.

BS: Yes, until—well, no, I had to resign. This was in 1970, when—that was . . .

TD: That was his last year in office.

BS: Last year in office.

TD: He's running for reelection.

BS: Running for reelection, and I became a political issue because I made a trip to Phoenix, Arizona, to testify before the Phoenix—Arizona Racing Commission about the Mafia—so-called Mafia

connection between the Jacobs family, who owned the concessions at all these racetracks, and the Mafia. And that all started with a political hack named Jim—oh, I—the first thing to go are names, then faces, [*TD laughs*] and then you forget to zip it up, and then you forget to zip it down. So [*laughter*] . . .

TD: I'm glad you trust us to give you editing . . .

BS: No, I don't care.

TD: . . . rights.

BS: I don't care. I don't care. It's—I tell that every time I get a chance. I've got another one I won't tell on the camera, but anyway [*clears throat*], I—Jim—dammit—he was the head of security at the revenue department. When I went over to the revenue department, as commir—commissioner of revenue.

And . . .

[00:53:43] TD: Oh, so you left the . . .

BS: In [19]69 . . .

TD: . . . your position as . . .

BS: . . . as . . .

TD: . . . liaison for prisons, and you went over as commissioner of revenue.

BS: Commissioner of revenue . . .

TD: Revenue.

BS: . . . in [19]69. And this was in the early part of [19]70, and we're right in the—you know—well, mid—maybe mid-1970. I can't remember now when I had to resign. But anyway, Jim—well, it's almost there. Anyway, Jim was the one that caused this multimillion-dollar investigation on the Jacobs family—forced them to defend themselves worldwide on a completely fictitious claim of Mafia connection.

[00:54:25] TD: And based upon this state revenue manager.

BS: That—this—the head of security for the Arkansas revenue department. And I felt so—I was empathetic with the Jacobs family because we really soaked them good with that false allegation that Jim made. [TD coughs] So I [clears throat]—and Alston Jennings was representing the Jacobs family, and he asked if I would go to Arizona to testify before the racing commission because we had completely exonerated the Jacobs family in Arkansas, and we acknowledged publicly that this was a phony deal by Jim.

TD: And . . .

BS: And I will think of his name.

TD: . . . when you think of that name, we'll edit . . .

BS: Okay.

TD: . . . it and stick it in there.

[00:55:08] BS: Okay. And so I flew down there [*clears throat*] with Alston Jennings and Jeremy Jacobs in a Learjet owned by or leased by the Jacobs family, of course, and that became a major political issue. I remember having to face the press on it, and they wanted to know why I didn't go down there on my own. And I—my flip response was, you know, that the state couldn't afford it. They—now this was something for Arizona, and I said, you know, I just couldn't understand why there was anything wrong with me, but there was. But of course, you know, there wasn't anything wrong with me goin' down there, and just because I went down in a plane with Alston Jennings and Jeremy Jacobs didn't mean anything. Now, I did testify before the commission that there was no merit to the Jacobs allegation, that it was caused by Jim [*laughs*], and that we were really—we really regretted what we had caused the family. Result, of course, that all—everything all over the world was dismissed—everybody dismissed their charges once they finally got on the objective evaluation on what that was. But that became such a hot political issue. You know, there I was, characterized as being in the mafi—joining the Mafia with—going down there with Jeremy Jacobs and Alston Jennings, so I had to resign—which I did.

[00:56:41] TD: This good Republican Church of Christ member was
[*BS laughs*] in the Mafia.

BS: Yeah. Yeah. Was accommodating the Mafia or maybe participating—become—had become a member of the Mafia.
[*Clears throat*] Golly, that's just buggin' the heck outta me that I can't think of Jim's last name. But anyway . . .

TD: We'll look it up later.



BS: Okay. Anyway, that—well, I tell you another thing that's interesting about that experience at the revenue department. The day that I went over to the revenue department, I had Jerry—oh, what—the last names are gettin' me—anyway, had the comptroller for the revenue department come to me and tellin' me that Jim was padding his expense account. And then another one was doing something improper. And I had someone go down the—I started with Jim first and had some go—someone go down and check his car to get the mileage on his car and then pull all the mileage records and tell me what he had been paid for on mileage reimbursement. And it wound up that he had been paid for something like eighty thousand miles, and his car had about twenty-two thousand on it. [00:57:56] So I called him in and fired him. That was an interesting story, too. I told him that I didn't want him to go back to the office. I

wanted his keys. I wanted his gun. I wanted his badge and do—"You're not allowed to go back to the office." And he didn't like that. But I got 'em, and he didn't go back. And the next day—maybe that day—I got a call from Bob Faulkner, who was executive secretary for Winthrop, tellin' me that, "Bob, the governor doesn't want Jim Best fired."

TD: Jim Best was a Rockefeller partisan.

BS: Yeah, oh absolutely. Staunch.

TD: Yeah.

[00:58:38] BS: One of the long-standing—way back. Said, "The governor doesn't want Jim Best fired." And I said, "Well, Bob, I'll tell you what. I'm gonna find out if the governor meant what he said because when he appointed—said he was gonna appoint me to the revenue, he was going to hold me responsible for the revenue department, and he would give me the concomitant authority to go with it." And I said, "As long as I'm the revenue—the head of the revenue department, Jim Best is not gonna be an employee, and you can hire him any other place in the state of—government—state government you want, but he will not be employed in the revenue department." You know, I never heard another word about that. Didn't even bother to ask the governor about it. But I—it wasn't long before it was quite

obvious—Gene Young was the bodyguard and driver for the governor, and he and Jim Best were the best of friends. They were buddies. And that's where that came from. Jim—Gene Young tells Bob Faulkner, "You know, the governor doesn't want"—and that's the way the system works.

TD: Yeah.

[00:59:42] BS: It's amazing. Jim Best and Jerry—oh, I fired three of 'em. But I'm—terrible time with names. The comptroller that came in and told me about Jim Best—we found about an eight-thousand-dollar loss in the federal fund that he was—and I called him in—David Jones—called David in and told him that he was fired and that I was not going to report the deficiency. I'd give him an opportunity to get time to put the money back in. But just as sure as we got an audit by the feds, that was gonna be discovered, and I would not cover it. I won't conceal it, but I won't volun—I won't initiate an audit or initiate an investigation. David never refunded—never got the money back in and wound up goin' to prison because of that one. And Jerry Sutterfield, I believe his name was the other one who was—and I've forgotten—I can't even remember now what his involvement was, but it had somethin' to do with expense-account abuse. And after he learned that I'd fired David, he came in and asked

for David's job [*laughs*], and that's when I told him he was fired.
[*Laughter*] Hello, that's—I had forgotten all about it, and I
hadn't thought about that in years about that episode with Bob
Faulkner callin' me and tellin' me the governor doesn't want Jim
Best fired. Uh-um. He's a longtime supporter, and we gotta
stay with our folks. But that's not the way it works.

[Tape stopped]

[01:01:30] TD: Bob, we're gonna resume now, and we're gonna pick
up . . .

BS: Kay.

TD: . . . where we left off. We've got Bob Sarver come—has . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . come in as head of the state prisons.

BS: Yes.

TD: But you're no longer with the prisons at that point, or shortly
thereafter, you leave the prisons.

BS: No, I was outta the prison and into the revenue when Bob came.
We were good friends, even though we had some pretty heated
debates. Well . . .

[01:02:00] TD: Tell me about some of those . . .

BS: Well, I remember one where we had an inmate that spat upon
a—on a guard—free-world guard—and I think the free-world

guard slapped him or something—hit him or something. And I was debating with Bob that, you know, you just can't respond like that when you hold the power of life and death—when you are armed with a gun, or you're—or you have the power to take life, that you just cannot respond when an inmate curses you or spits on you something. And Bob was just adamant. "That son of a bitch spit on me. I'm gonna knock him"—[TD laughs] But he was just adamant. We had—that's the last major debate that we had.

[01:02:50] TD: Did you ever talk with John Haley—we're skipping ahead here a long way now.

BS: Okay.

TD: Did you ever talk with John while he was under investigation—the Ken Starr investigation with the—over Governor Tucker's indictment?

BS: No, I . . .

TD: Did you ever talk with John Haley during that time?

BS: Never did so intentionally 'cause I knew that—you know, he—there's no way that he could talk with anybody about that but what Jim—but what Ken Starr would have another witness before the grand jury. A tragic, tragic episode in Arkansas history is the Ken Starr abuse.



TD: Yeah.

BS: The worst abuse of any political appointee that I have ever seen.
Whew.

[01:03:43] TD: Did you have other friends and associates who were caught up in that?

BS: Yes, David Hale is a friend—was and is a friend of mine, but David really did get used to—just because he's tryin' to save his own butt—regrettably. You know, that's just terrible to see what happens to people when they're convinced that it's either lie or go to jail. Boy, that deprivation of liberty is a strong motivator. Whew. But look at the number of people that Ken Starr destroyed in a absolutely useless venture. There was not any lawyer that's passed the first semester of law school that didn't understand that lying under oath does not equate perjury—that it takes something more than just lying under oath. And that the other thing that any politician—anybody with any exposure to politics at all understands the American system in impeachment. There was no way they're gonna get sixty-six votes in the senate. That wasn't in the realm of possibility, let alone probability. So you subject an entire nation to a trauma that lasted how many years and destroyed the lives of how many people? All for nothing.

TD: Yeah.

[01:05:19] BS: Except an attempt to get appointed to the US Supreme Court, and that's what Starr was doing. That's one of the—one thing that I really admire—what's the girl's—the gal's name that bucked him?

TD: Oh, McDougal. Susan McDougal.

BS: McDougal. Susan McDougal. I went to one of her book reviews, and one of the speeches she had made down here at—I guess it was down here at the university. And I made a point to compliment her—as the probably only Republican in the crowd [*laughs*]*—*that I wanted to let her—I said, "I want you and everybody to know that you alone were responsible for Ken Starr never getting appointed to the US Supreme Court, [*TD laughs*] and you have saved all of us a lot of headaches."

TD: Yeah, imagine the damage he could've done on the court.

BS: Whew. My God. Wow! That gal has guts that very few people had—have or had. She was an amazing personality.

[01:06:30] TD: Of course, the third district congressman, Asa Hutchinson who, of course, is now running for governor . . .

BS: Yeah.

TD: . . . was on the committee.

BS: He was . . .

TD: The impeachment committee.

BS: He was a manager. Yes.

[01:06:43] TD: Can you—do you have any thoughts on
Representative Hutchins?

BS: Yes, I have let . . .

TD: Hutchinson, I should say.

BS: I have let Asa know that—normally, I am voting a straight
Republican ticket and that I would—the only condition under
which I would vote for Asa for anything is if he at least said—
now, see, I don't remember if he was in the House at the time of
that vote. Yeah, he was. He voted in favor of that—in favor of
the impeachment . . .

TD: Yes, he did.

BS: . . . bill. And I said, "Now the only way that I would ever
consider voting for you is if you told me that if you knew then
what you know now, you would not have voted for that."

TD: What did he say?

BS: Nah.

TD: He wouldn't answer?

BS: He'd—well sure, he thought it was worthwhile. He . . .

TD: He defended it.

BS: Oh yeah, defended it. That's the way I am on George Bush.

Anybody that is asking me to vote for them who voted for that war, and they don't tell me that they have—that if they had a—had known then what they know now, they would've voted just the opposite. They're not about to convince me that they're entitled to my vote.



[01:07:56] TD: Obviously, you are not happy with the modern Republican Party.

BS: Very unhappy. Unhappy with the administration. Unhappy with what's happened to the Republican Party—for example, in Benton County, the Taliban Republicans have just absolute taken over. It does not resemble the party I grew up in.

TD: You referred to them as the Taliban Republicans. I hear that Governor Huckabee refers to them as the *[BS laughs]* Shiite Republicans. *[BS laughs]* Tell me . . .

BS: He . . .

TD: Tell me what you mean when you say that, for example, in Benton County, the party has changed so dramatically.

BS: They're not interested in solving problems. They're not interested in helping anybody do anything other than get elected and holding control. The part that has really bothered me about—well, the Bush Administration—that's typical of this group up here as well as the Bush people—is the certitude with which

they go about making decisions. And having grown up in the Church of Christ, I've been exposed to a lotta people just like that who are absolutely certain that what they believe is truth, and that's just a hundred and eighty degrees off. But, boy, they don't think it's off. They are absolutely, positively sure that what they have done or what they have accepted as truth is God's honest truth. And there's a corollary with the politicians and the religious community in that certitude thing. That that's the reason George Bush has gotten reelected—got reelected last time. It wasn't what he had—his philosophy. It wasn't—had nothing to do—well, the divisive issues, of course, contribute to it, but the main thing is George Bush makes it appear that he has got the truth in the palm of his hand and he knows exactly where to go and how to get there. And anybody that disagrees with any part of that is a damn traitor.

TD: Yeah.

[01:10:09] BS: And that—but you know, I voted for him in 2000 because he convinced me that he was—number one, he convinced me he was a uniter, not a divider, and that if there's anything that we needed in 2000, it was a uniter. Had enough dividers. And he also convinced me that he understood the concept of separation of church and state. And now what did he

do as soon as he got elected? A faith-based initiative with cabinet level. Well, you know, that was the end game for me. I was off of him right then, and I knew we were headed for trouble with—of course, had no idea about 9/11, but my gosh, anybody that claims to be a uniter, not a divider, and understands the separation of church and state—and the minute he gets in office, this—tries to—he goes about establishing a faith-based initiative. Which . . .

[01:11:09] TD: Well, many of the old-time progressive Republicans have been purged. Bob Hightower you've ment . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: Not Bob Hightower—yeah, Rockefeller's chief of staff.

BS: No, Bob . . .

TD: Bob Faulkner.

BS: Faulkner.

TD: Bob Faulkner ran for Congress a few years ago . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . and was defeated by one of the neocons.

BS: Yes.

TD: Many of the old-timers in the party have been shuffled to the back.

BS: Yeah.

TD: Have you had also a—you mentioned that you grew up in the Church of Christ.

BS: Yes.

TD: And when I knew you, you were in the Church of Christ.

BS: Yes.

TD: Are you still in the Church of Christ?

BS: No, no. I'm—all three of my girls got wise before I did. [TD *laughs*] But it took me—you know, that—that's family tradition, and that loyalty to my grandmother and grandfather and the whole family, you know, was Church of Christ. [*beeping sound*] And that was really tough, but that's not the only part. It—it's tough breaking from what you have believed is really solid truth all your life. And that's a traumatic change. And in fact, that's the one question that I have for every politician that I get a chance to question now. And in fact, I asked the four candidates for—which one is Holt running for—lieutenant governor?

TD: Lieutenant governor.

[01:12:37] BS: It must be the—must've been the attorney generals, then. Yeah, it was the four attorney generals—candidates at the political action committee meeting—the Political Animals meet. And I said, "What I would like for each of you to do is to tell me something in your adult life that you've believed in solidly, but

you have now made a hundred-and-eighty-degree shift. Now I don't care whether it's religion or politics or—I just don't want you to tell me you once believed in Santa Claus." And you know, they just can't do that.

TD: It throws them.

BS: Well, because they've got to admit they've made a mistake. They were wrong.

TD: Yeah.

BS: And a politician just can't say, "I was wrong." Cannot do it.

[01:13:29] TD: Yeah. So it's not been a happy—this has—politically speaking, this has not been a—the turn of the last fifteen or twenty years has not been a positive thing for you.

BS: Well, I'll have to admit now that—you know, that's somewhat true, but I have never enjoyed in all these—see, I started voting for president in [19]52 for Eisenhower, and solid Republican through Nixon—went through that Nixon debacle. That's when I decided I wasn't gonna allow that to happen to me again, but it did. The—you know, it isn't all bad after Bush's reelection in 2004, because I've often commented that I've never enjoyed having lost a damn vote like I have on Bush [*TD laughs*] 'cause I have thoroughly enjoyed putting the needle in the Bush lovers, Bushy—I call 'em the "Bushy lovers"—and all my Republican

friends, and I've got 'em by the droves. However, I've got an awful lot of 'em who no longer defend him.

TD: Yeah.

BS: It is a changing world.

[01:14:45] TD: Yeah. How do you—putting your political acumen to the test here—what do you see in the future happening in Arkansas, politically speaking, as far as the parties are concerned and general directions and that sorta thing?

BS: Boy, it's—I think it's dismal as long as the Republican Party is so split over this Taliban/Shiite approach. And it—you know, the tough part is that stuff sells with people that are not gonna bother to think through something—just like abortion. Flag burning. Those issues are just divisive issues and—well, I'll give you an—a personal example. When I was in the—coming outta the military and Truman fired MacArthur—I thought that was the worst thing I'd ever heard of my in my life, and I wanted Truman impeached for firing MacArthur. And it—you know, it didn't take me long when I got into university and started studying a little about—a little bit about the difference in military control and civilian control, and I finally realized that Truman had no option. In fact, he probably should've done it earlier. But, see, the difference in the way I viewed that when I got some insight into

the relationship between the civilian and the military—decision-making process—for example, I couldn't stand Truman. He called Korea a police action. Well, those of us that were there didn't call that a police action. That was not—that didn't set well. And then firing MacArthur—but now—see, another change—I think probably Truman will come down years later as among the top four or five presidents in history. He is—he was exceptional. And I also know where George Bush is gonna rank—the other end of the spectrum. [TD laughs] I just hope he's not last. [01:17:06] But it's what changes—you know, I'm more interested—I'm not as much interested in what somebody thinks and what they believe; I'm more interested in "What have you changed [laughs] your mind on? What have you changed in your life? How have you grown?" I ran as the conservative Republican candidate for the Arkansas House in 1962. I was city attorney at Rogers in 1960 and ran for the Arkansas House against Hardy Croxton. He was the liberal Democrat; I was the conserve—I had conservative on my—everything I printed had conservative on it. And of course, my view of conservatism at that time was fiscal. And I was. I still am a conser—I'm a Goldwater conservative in that sense, and—as well as the Goldwater conservative about government keepin' outta the

damn lives of everybody, you know. You know, keep government off our back. That kinda stuff. But this idea of deceiving people into voting for you because of the flag burning or abortion—homosexuality—you know, all of that garbage that is so common in the Republican Party now, it just makes me sick at my stomach.

TD: Have you thought about running for office . . .

BS: Nah.

TD: . . . again?

BS: Nah, I'm a has-been. I'm way over [*laughs*] the line.

TD: But you're still practicin' law.

BS: Yes. Yeah, I go in every day, and I [*TD clears throat*] kinda choose and pick, but I go in every day.

[01:18:43] TD: So you are practicing, but you're practicing at your own pace.

BS: Yeah, but I keep getting—going faster and taking on more than I really should. I've got a desk that looks like a pigpen [*TD laughs*] that I keep—yeah, I've got my do-later stacks. They're—whew—terrible. Course, lawyers by nature are procrastinators.

TD: You think so?

BS: Ooh my God, yes. Whew. Terrible. Terrible procrastinators.

TD: Is there anything else you would like to add at this point?

BS: Well, I can't think of . . .

TD: Things that we might have given short shrift.

BS: I—offhand, I can't think of anything. It has been a—an interesting political years, though—oh, I did mention—forgot to mention one thing about Bush in the—you know, during the Clinton years, I never fully understood the degree of hatred that was so common. I mean, it was all over the US. Well, now I can relate to that hatred because that's exactly how I feel about George. Even though I voted for him in 2000. But I now understand that hatred, and I guess it has to do with the belief that he—that—they didn't believe Clinton was—should've been elected. He should not have won. Well of course, I don't think George won the election. That's common. And—man, I tell you what, though, one thing about Clinton—I've never seen a—never known of a smarter, wiser—in fact, why in the hell don't we get somebody to give George a blow job so we can impeach him? [Laughter] That's what I wanna know. Talk about Clinton, though—I've sat in meetings . . .

[01:20:55] TD: Let's talk about Clinton.

BS: I've sat in meetings where Clinton was talking to the most conservative member of the house and senate and the most

liberal member of the house and senate about a very controversial issue that was before the house and senate.

TD: This is when he was . . .

BS: Governor.

TD: . . . governor.

BS: And the—I—the amazing thing about that—you can come out with both of 'em, and both of 'em come outta that meeting saying, "Boy, Bill's with us on this thing. [*TD laughs*] Bill's with us." [*Laughs*] And that is a—that's an ability that very few people have, and it isn't—it's not deceptive.

TD: You think he really believed every word he said and . . .

BS: No. Now I didn't go that far. [*Laughter*] But I mean, he's—he is—he does tell it like he thinks it ought to be, but he—I don't know how you do it—how you cloak it in that language that the hearer hears what they want to hear. But it's not him lying to 'em. He's not tellin' 'em that it's black when it's white. But he's—uses language that the hearer hears what he came in there with.

[01:22:04] TD: It's part of those—probably those listening skills that he has . . .

BS: Yeah, and boy, does he have it . . .

TD: And then . . .

BS: . . . down pat.

TD: And then after—you know, having such great listening skills . . .

BS: Oh . . .

TD: . . . then perhaps that translates into great communication skills
in answer to those . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . those comments.

BS: It's just—it's amazing. I just wish Hillary had some of that
capability.

TD: Do you know Hillary?

BS: Yes.

TD: What do you think about Hillary Clinton?

BS: Extremely intelligent. Very competent. And I don't really
understand the hostility toward Hillary. Boy, that's amazing—
the hostility that—I suspicion, maybe, the women resent Hillary
staying with Bill. I think the women vicariously wanted that son
of a bitch punished [*TD laughs*] because they want—they
couldn't do it to their husband. They couldn't punish him, but
they'd like to see her punish him. I don't know. I'm not
enough—not trained in the psychiatric field—psychology—to
understand that. But . . .

[01:23:10] TD: Did you—Hillary Clinton was in Rogers recently . . .

BS: Yes.

TD: . . . for an event.

BS: I was there.

TD: Did you go to that?

BS: I was there. Probably the only Republican in the [*laughs*] crowd.

But . . .

TD: My suspicion is that you're the only Republican in a number of crowds these days.

BS: Yeah. Well, what's amazing about it—see, I'm—I've got my—all of my Republican friends yelling—calling me a RINO—Republican In Name Only—and wanting me to get the hell outta the Republican Party and get in the Democratic Party. And I got all my Democratic friends saying, "Come on over. Hell, get outta that du—get outta that snake pit!" And I don't want to. I wanna stay—well, number one, I wanna stay there where I can jab 'em from the inside. [*Laughter*] They don't like that. They don't like that pitch that—"Here's somebody who has"—you know, I've got some pretty substantial Republican credentials. [01:24:06] State committeeman from Benton County. Young Republicans state chairman. Let's see, the [19]50s, I was in Benton County. In the [19]60s, I was Young Republican chairman and, of course, remember the Rockefeller administration—the commissioner of

revenue. And after that, I was chairman of the Pulaski County Republican Committee. Which is the largest county in the state and then, in addition to that, I was general counsel to the Arkansas Republican Party. And for someone to tell me that I'm not a Republican—that I'm a Democrat—they better get a hold of their ass now. [*Laughter*] I've earned my stripes, and I'd be willin' to challenge anybody that says that I'm a RINO [*TD laughs*] even though I don't give a hoot about being called a RINO. I don't—you know, I don't have the same attitude I used to have about Democrat and Republican and why we—well, I said used to—no, the fact is I used to have the ad—the concept of adversaries. But with this Taliban and Shiite stuff, it's become enemy relationships. And I guess the Democrats have contributed that, too. It's not all just the Shiites and the Taliban. But my gosh, if we don't do something—you know, I'm really, really concerned about the two-party system, and I am thoroughly convinced that the two parties are essential in our system of government. And by that, I'm talkin' bout real competition between the two parties, and that's really diminished in the last several years.

[01:25:54] TD: What do you see—what impact do you see—term limits having on the Arkansas legislature?

BS: Horrible. Absolute mistake. Terrible mistake. And yet, I also see the problem in how you compensate for incumbent power—how you keep incumbents from just perpetuating themselves. But my gosh, if there's ever been a failure, it's term limit.

TD: Yeah.

BS: And yet, we have it on the president.

TD: We have what?

BS: We have it on the president. The president's term limited. Two terms, and he's out. He or she's out. And that—I can't really say that's failed. But man alive, the quality of legislation and the quality of political leadership has just gone to the bottom of the barrel. [01:26:48] And I think that term limits has some—has contributed to that, along with this divisiveness that's going on with the flag burn.

TD: Yeah.

BS: And abortion. Homosexuality. I use one of—who was it? James Carville? I used one of his phrases in one of my letters to the editor that—I don't know why all this flak about homosexuals getting married. My God, I think they deserve to be just as miserable as we are. [*Laughter*]

TD: On that happy note, I . . .

BS: Okay. [*Laughs*]

TD: . . . think we'll call it quits unless . . .

BS: Okay.

TD: . . . you have something else you wanna bring up.

BS: I can't think of anything else.

TD: Well, it's been a . . .

BS: I've enjoyed it.

TD: It's been good.

BS: I've enjoyed it.

TD: Been good and I . . .

BS: It's made me try to remember names that I haven't been tryin'
to remember in some time.

TD: Well, it also is going to give future generations a look at things
from the perspective that is not represented in . . .

BS: Yeah.

TD: . . . the general record.

BS: Yeah.

TD: You know.

BS: Yeah.

[01:27:52 End of interview]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]

**Upon review of the transcript, Mr. Scott provided the following
information, which has been included as an addendum.**

April 18, 2014

I have just reviewed the transcript of my interview on September 21, 2006, and realized that we did not cover the contributions of the Rockefeller administration, including my own contributions, to advance race relations. I grew up in Benton County in the [19]30s, [19]40s, and [19]50s, never being exposed firsthand to the black community. However, that was not the term commonly used to refer to the black community. The "n" word was commonly used, including within my family. My maternal grandfather, Jim Beck, could quote verses from the Bible that he believed proved blacks were not human.

My first exposure to the racial problem was in 1950 at Fort Carson, Colorado, with the 936th Field Artillery Battalion, preparing for deployment overseas, which turned out to be Korea. We had eight vacancies in the 936th, and the army sent us eight blacks. Our battalion commander at the time was a distinguished lawyer from Rogers, J. Wesley Sampier, the classical Southern gentleman, who raised so much hell the army removed them and replaced them with white men. The army also fired J. Wesley and sent him home. We went overseas solid white. I did not even know the military was desegregated in 1949 by President Truman. The first replacements when we started returning home a little over a year later were also black, and not a voice was raised.

My first visual exposure to segregation was when we landed to refuel a four-passenger Cessna 172 at an airport in Georgia or Alabama and saw waiting rooms, water fountains, and bathrooms marked White and Black. At the time, I was chairman of the Arkansas Young Republicans, attending the national convention in the Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida. We bought several gallons of white lightning for our hospitality room just for those Yankees. The hotel manager told me the next day they had never had so many guests sleeping in the halls.

With that background, race relations was really brought home to me when, serving as advisor on prison affairs to Governor Rockefeller, I had a request from the Black Ministerial Alliance in Helena to meet with them regarding a young inmate at Tucker who had been convicted of rape of a white woman. His name was Irvin or Irwin Lacy, a young teen at the time of his conviction. The individuals requesting the meeting did not believe he was guilty of any crime, let alone rape. I asked a young black parolee by the name of Charles Dolphus to go with me, believing it would be somewhat more comfortable for the group. We got to Helena at lunchtime and went into a restaurant, buffet style. I got my tray, and Charles got his tray immediately behind me when the owner came up and said, "Boy, you go around the back of the building and eat." I said, "But you do not

understand; he is with me." The owner said, "I don't give a damn. He ain't eating in here." I handed him my identification and said he had a decision to make: "He either eats with me, or you will be closed tomorrow." In short order, he decided for us to eat together. When we sat down, there were two or three tables immediately getting up and leaving.

My next exposure was when a group of black ministers in Central Arkansas requested a meeting when I was serving as the commissioner of revenue for Governor Rockefeller to discuss the ratio of black/white employees in the revenue department, which was less than 3 percent of roughly five hundred employees statewide, all working in a custodial function. After more than an hour or two discussing the issues, I promised to hire any qualified black they would recommend, even over a better-qualified white applicant. I did not realize at the time the department had no requirement of a diploma even from high school, let alone a college degree. When I resigned as commissioner of revenue, the ratio was 11 percent +/-, and we hired several precedent-breaking employees, particularly as county revenue agents, holding college degrees, one a master's in administration and at least two or three with bachelor's degrees.

When a vacancy occurred in the revenue office at Helena, Phillips County, the local Republicans asked Governor Rockefeller to intervene,

which resulted in a meeting with several members of the Republican party from Phillips County, all of whom were adamant that I just could not hire a black as there had never been a black employee in that office. After a lot of debate and discussion, I proposed two alternatives which would not violate my pledge to the black community: either accept the new black employee or leave the position vacant. They chose to leave the position vacant, which I honored.

I believe it is also significant that on none of these occasions did I check with Governor Rockefeller prior to making the decision, including the trip to Phoenix, Arizona, with Alston Jennings and Jeremy Jacobs to testify before the Arizona Racing Commission. At the time, I was not sophisticated about "deniability," meaning avoiding communicating with Governor Rockefeller about planned actions which might prove to be embarrassing politically, but just as a matter of common sense. I did not "clear" any decision with Governor Rockefeller or, for that matter, any other advisor or staff member of the administration. As a result, when the media learned about my trip to Phoenix and questioned Governor Rockefeller, he could honestly say he knew nothing about it. This experience evolved into an understanding of "deniability" and "deniability clause," which played an important part in my questioning George W. Bush's famous sixteen words in the 2003

State of the Union. When I heard the phrase "the British intelligence has reported," I recognized it as a "deniability clause," did a quick Internet check, found Bush was forced to remove that statement from a speech to be delivered in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 7, 2002. The NSA and CIA insisted that information was based on a proven forged letter, which even misspelled the name of the president of Niger. I believe I was the first to expose that lie in Bush's 2003 State of the Union in a letter to the editor of the *Arkansas-Democrat Gazette*, which the editor refused to publish.

This should explain why I have reached a conclusion regarding Governor Chris Christie's debacles in New Jersey without a single fact clearly tying Christie to the decisions, which gave Christie deniability. The Christie administration was known as a bullying culture, where ours was known as a nondiscriminatory culture, and discrimination, including against a white family like the Jacobs family by Jim Best, the security chief for the Arkansas Revenue Department, was not allowed to continue damaging the family. Since we had initiated the rumor about mafia influence through Jim Best, I felt obligated to do what I could to minimize the damage.

I doubt many Arkansawyers realize why Arkansas was probably the only state in the solid South that had no racial conflict or riot following the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis,

Tennessee. In my judgment, the standing of Governor Rockefeller, hand in hand with the members of the black community in Little Rock on the Capitol steps, singing "We Shall Overcome" was the catalyst for that response in Arkansas by the black community statewide. The empathy for the black community by Governor Rockefeller and the entire Rockefeller family was real.

On a personal aside, following WR's election, Marion Burton, who was my closest member of the administration to WR, came by my office and told me that WR wanted me to serve as legal aide/advisor on prison affairs and that WR would supplement my state salary of \$6,700 up to \$10,000 per year, which happened to be the same amount WR received as governor. I told Marion I would accept with or without the supplement and commuted to Little Rock for several months, then moved the family to Little Rock. When selected as the commissioner of revenue, my state salary was \$15,000, which was still less than a third of my private-practice income, but we had already made a substantial adjustment in our lifestyle. None of our girls wanted to move to Little Rock, but when Bumpers defeated WR, they all wanted to stay in Little Rock. Twenty years later, after divorce, I returned to Rogers. In the interim, Benton County had changed from solid Democratic to solid Republican. When I left in [19]67, there was not a single Republican holding office in Benton County, and when I

returned there was not a single Democrat.

There was an additional area omitted regarding my Republican background not covered in the initial interview, which I believe is even more relevant today. I grew up under the tutelage of Claude M. Williams Sr., a well-respected lawyer, lay minister of the Church of Christ, known as Mr. Republican of Benton County. There were very few acknowledged Republicans in Benton County at the time, and Claude was later I came to realize was a "post office" Republican who insisted on filling every county office with a candidate, none of whom won. The county was solid Democratic. Even though I did not understand why he insisted on filling every position, when I followed him as Republican party leader in the late [19]50s, it became obvious to me that the object of filling every position was to convince that national leadership he was doing his job. As a result, every time there was a vacancy in the postmaster in the county, Claude was asked for a recommendation, and that recommendation was then appointed postmaster. After succeeding Claude, the first visit was from Jack Musteen seeking the appointment as postmaster, which would be open if RMN won, and he offered a \$3,000 contribution to the party, which I deposited to my escrow account. When JFK won the presidency in 1960, the \$3,000 was refunded to Jack. Had Nixon won, the Benton County Republican Party would have started with a \$3,000 head start.

After succeeding Claude as Republican leader, it became obvious we were making no headway in the battle to create competition for public office, and we stopped filling positions routinely. In fact, we ultimately decided to determine the most vulnerable Democrat in county office, select the most attractive candidate to run against that Democrat, and concentrate all funding and effort behind that candidate. My brother, Beck Scott, and our good friend, Rex Spivey, continued that plan after I went to Little Rock with the Rockefeller administration in 1967, with them doing the groundwork in Benton County, and I was wining and dining the prospect in Little Rock on my WR credit card. In 1968, we, primarily Beck and Rex, selected the dean of the Arkansas Senate, a thirty-two-year member of the Arkansas Senate, a well-known lawyer from Siloam Springs, Russell Elrod. Our reasoning was that anyone in office for thirty-two years had to have created many enemies and disappointed constituents, plus he was from the west side of the county. We selected Jim Caldwell, who happened to be Beck and my minister of the Southside Church of Christ in Rogers, which took advantage of the east side/west side division in Benton County. With WR's help in raising funds, the campaign was adequately funded. Jim was an excellent speaker and had a great personality. The day after the election, the most surprised resident in Benton County was Russell

Elrod. The only issue in Jim's campaign was that politics needed competition, a two-party system, which had also been a major issue in WR's victory in 1966. Both WR and Jim were the first Republicans elected as governor and senator since the Reconstruction.