

2-25-92

Tape #2

- (K.L.) I was asking you, Ted, whether you would be willing to comment on the chair people--they were chairmen in those days--that you had experience with--which one you felt was probably the best of those, or what qualities some of them had that others didn't.
- (T.P.) Well, the different chairmen occupied different eras, as it were, and the needs were different, all the way, from one chairman to the next.
- (K.L.) Uh huh.
- (T.P.) When Patten was chairman, he grew up with Miami as a small teaching school, he did a little research--very little--that he...I know he had gotten a little research money from Clarke Hall at Yale, and I assisted him on that research while I was here, and he did some other, published one or two things, and that was Patten's contribution that way.
- (K.L.) Faculty at that particular time were not deeply engaged in research.
- (T.P.) No. No. Well, for one thing, Karl, they taught fifteen hours.
- (K.L.) I was going to say, did you teach...
- (T.P.) I taught fifteen hours when I came here.
- (K.L.) The teaching load didn't permit too much...
- (T.P.) Fifteen hours of big classes--not huge, but thirty, forty-five people in a class, and I remember Patten assigned me my first year here...he assigned me to teach three classes--Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning at 9:00.
- (K.L.) You were a new one.
- (T.P.) So, I taught from nine till noon Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, plus two hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- (K.L.) That's when we had classes five and half days.
- (T.P.) Yeah. Well, we had 'em up until Saturday noon.
- (K.L.) Right.
- (T.P.) And so that's...I apologized for my low research interest, in part, from the heavy teaching load. I just could not do research and prepare for three different preparations--three different courses.

(K.L.) And a certain responsibility you felt for your students and also a lot that you had to grade.

(T.P.) Much more than I felt later, perhaps, and yes, I enjoyed it. My office hours were well kept. My door was open. And I still look back on my early students with much more fondness than I do my later students. And so that was Patten and his department at that time. It was very small, as I mentioned, and he never outgrew, really, that part. He could not foresee, I think, the growth of the department and the numbers of people that would be coming in; and once we began to grow, I don't think he was a particularly good administrator over that. In fact, there was a lot of dissention in the department and Patten finally retired--got out of it.

(K.L.) Did he leave the chairmanship upon retirement, or had he done it before that?

(T.P.) No. He was chairman until he retired.

(K.L.) In those days, chairmen usually went right to the retirement.

(T.P.) That's right, and he got out of it and Switzer...in those days they didn't have searches, you know, throughout the country, they just...

(K.L.) Inherited.

(T.P.) Inherited...Switzer was next in line, and so he took it over. That was in the 1960s--early 1960s, I think. Yes. And Switzer...you can erase this stuff...remember...these tapes, you only need to copy what you...what you want.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) Switzer was very difficult. He was not overly friendly.

(K.L.) I got the feeling he was not one of everybody's favorites. He was very military in his operation of the...

(T.P.) He was very military. That is correct. And very private.

(K.L.) The dean received? He had him...

(T.P.) He had a lot of interesting other people, I think.

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) And he suffered through several years there as chairman. When Switzer retired, I may have told you this before, Karl, he locked his door, went out and left the office and never came back...never said goodbye to anybody--even myself--I had been there since 1934, and he never said goodbye to anybody.

(K.L.) Isn't that interesting?

(T.P.) The only...I only saw him one other time up in a bank box when he was gettin his box out and I was gettin my box out and he exchanged a couple of little words--pleasantries--and that was it, and he moved to California and died.

(K.L.) Well, I assume he emptied his office before he locked it.

(T.P.) Yeah. He...

(K.L.) I mean, he didn't lock everything in there.

(T.P.) Yeah, but he just moved it all out himself and then he was gone.

(K.L.) Isn't that strange?

(T.P.) Uh huh.

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) That's when he brought in Lex Milton then after that. Well, the people who were the best...I suppose I would say that John Jahnke was the best chairman.

(K.L.) That was in the developmental days of the radical growth of the Psychology Department.

(T.P.) Yeah. John worked awfully hard at it, and he was very, very fair.

(K.L.) I always felt very good at having John as chairman of the department.

(T.P.) I think that people, well, he was very intelligent. He knew his Psychology. He liked to do research. He was a well-rounded person for the spot.

(K.L.) Uh huh. Well, he took the chairmanship twice.

(T.P.) Yeah. He came back into it, didn't he?

(K.L.) Yeah. I think out of love for the department.

(T.P.) Yeah. Something had to be done, so he did it.

(K.L.) Did you sense Lex was one who wanted to move on to larger fields as quickly as possible?

(T.P.) I think so.

(K.L.) He was going to do everything he could for his department. He was a very demanding chairman, as far as the Dean was concerned.

(T.P.) Well, of course, I couldn't see that, really...how demanding he was, I didn't know, but...

(K.L.) He was demanding for his faculty. I mean from the Dean's point of view.

(T.P.) Yeah. Yeah. Uh huh. I remember, one thing I resented, when Lex wanted me to cut down my hours of teaching, and I was enjoying teaching, and I...but he wanted me to cut back, so I'd have more time for research, and by that time I was an old so and so--pretty far removed from research. But I'd gotten into this hypnosis area, and so I did do some meaningful research on hypnosis, and it was all right.

(K.L.) What about the presidents under whom you served? You care to comment on any of those?

(T.P.) Well, of course, Hahne was ill most of the time that I was here, and so I really never knew him very well.

(K.L.) Then John...

(T.P.) Of course I worked under [Clarence W.] Kreger.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) I guess he was acting president, wasn't he?

(K.L.) That's right. Yes.

(T.P.) And I'd known Kreger ever since I took Chemistry back in the thirties...not from him, but I had known him,

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) and he had married a woman from Hillsboro, as a matter of fact.

(K.L.) That's right. He did.

(T.P.) And I knew him. He knew me. We got along all right. Although I can still remember when Patten would go over and try to get something out of Kreger when Kreger was Dean.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) Was he Dean?

(K.L.) Well, he was in the Dean's office.

(T.P.) Well, this was when he was acting president, I guess, because Patten would go over, and Patten would come back with his tail between his legs. Kreger would browbeat him, and Patten just couldn't take...Patten was a very meek person, and he just could not take Kreger's dominance.

(K.L.) Uh huh. That was Clarence Kreger's main point. You'd walk in and start to open your mouth and he'd say, "No." Well, if you were at all meek, you'd back away from that.

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) But otherwise, if you stood up for what you wanted and let him know and he understood it, then...

(T.P.) Then he would back down.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) But anyway, he was a difficult one to get along with.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) I got to know Millett pretty well, early, in his tenure here, and I always admired Millett in most ways, I would say. He was a strong man, of course, as everybody knew.

(K.L.) Very decisive.

(T.P.) Very decisive, and no weakness there, and he made some bad decisions...made some terrible decisions...among them his trimester and his quarters and so forth.

(K.L.) Yes. I think he was willing to admit those, though,

(T.P.) Well, I don't know.

(K.L.) after they died.

(T.P.) They were in style at that time.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) And he felt that he wanted to go along with the style, and so he went toward them. They would have worked elsewhere, but Miami...they just didn't work here. Miami was maybe a different type.

(K.L.) Well, I think part of his faculty was beginning to feel...I know students were...there were some that were under three programs before they graduated, and they weren't five-year athletes either; they were four-year students, and they were under three calendars.

(T.P.) That's right. They were.

(K.L.) And faculty, I think, were getting a little tired of trying to revise themselves.

(T.P.) Yeah. Uh huh.

(K.L.) But he was our president for the greatest expansion time of the University, I think.

(T.P.) Yeah. Uh huh. Well, he was known for that.

(K.L.) Did you find Uncle Phil as a good representative, of the presidency?

(T.P.) No. I didn't. I'll be quite frank on this.

(K.L.) Well, that's why I'm asking you these things.

(T.P.) I thought that Uncle Phil was a nice guy and a very good listener and so forth. You could go in and talk with him about anything. His office door was open. But I felt he just wasn't as demanding as he should be, in contrast with Millett.

(K.L.) Well, there was that that makes the two entirely different personalities.

(T.P.) Yeah. And I never forgave Phil for his episode in closing the University. [May 1970] I still didn't think that was necessary. I never did hear the story that required absolutely that we close the University and send the kids home during all the stress, and...

(K.L.) It became more confusion, I think, than...well, I would say more confusion than benefit, because there were students that were staying, and they were to be talked to, and there were those who went on home, and there were those, of course, that weren't students, that were harassing our campus.

(T.P.) Well, when the students weren't even attending classes--a lot of them--I was still meeting my classes every day, and I was demanding that they be there for my classes. I had no sympathy for the students who were leaders and all the uprising and so forth, or the outsiders who came in here. And I remember...you were at that meeting, I'm sure, down at Benton Hall--old Benton [later Hall Auditorium]--the night that this outsider was there telling what they were gonna do if Miami didn't close, and Miami didn't do this and so forth, and I wanted to get up and point out that always before we've had speakers who were introduced and we know about their abilities, we know what they had done and so forth, and this fellow, just... Shriver allowed him to get up there and hold forth--ranting and raving and so forth, and after that we closed the school. And I thought that should not have taken place. He was too easy on a lot of the faculty. We had our grub users here, we had a terrible faculty, and Phil...very easy on 'em. They should have been fired and kicked out of here right away. And...but that was not his way. He was easy going.

(K.L.) He was a gentle person.

(T.P.) Uh huh. Uh huh. Except at basketball games.

(K.L.) Or football.

(T.P.) Oh yeah. I don't sit in front of him at football, but at basketball I sit right in front of him, so I know what he's thinking there.

(K.L.) Yeah. Well, at football, he and Martha are vocal...maybe even more so, because it's outdoors.

(T.P.) Well, I got to know Millett a whole lot better after I had quit...after I had retired, and he had retired. He was a member of the Janet's [afternoon coffee gathering at Janet's Bakery, 109 West High Street] group and a very loyal member. He was a member of the Saturday morning group at McDonald's--very loyal. He was there right on the dot.

(K.L.) He was a Miami Men's Club member.

(T.P.) And the Miami Men's Club, and he got to be more approachable, I think, in his later years. At least I wasn't so afraid of him as I was earlier.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) And so, and I've gotten to know Shriver too. And I know Shriver, I think, fairly well now. But I would not change my evaluation of him as a president.

(K.L.) As a president. Yeah. You...How many years did you serve under Paul Pearson?

(T.P.) I never served under Paul.

(K.L.) You had retired prior to his arrival.

(T.P.) Yes. Well, let's see. That's not quite right, Karl. I've forgotten the dates. I remember when I gave the Perin room there...seminar room...Paul was President at that time. By golly, I didn't give that money while Shriver was here. I didn't give the money for the Perin Room until after Paul came here.

(K.L.) Uh huh. Yeah. Well, anything about the campus as a whole that you want to comment on...changes over the years that you have seen.

(T.P.) Well, it's still a beautiful campus, as we all know. I don't think they planted...replanted quite enough trees...we've lost too many trees, and they haven't put enough new ones in.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) I ought to complain about it. I think our buying of the Western College was a very important move. We had to do it. I'd hate to think what would have happened to Western if we hadn't.

(K.L.) Yes, what a desolate place that would have been.

(T.P.) Well, it would have made a beautiful development for homes--Cincinnati people could live up here on the Western College Campus and so forth. I don't like what's happened to the Western curriculum. I think that's very unfortunate, but that's another thing.

(K.L.) Well, it was a forward-thinking move.

(T.P.) That was another thing that Shriver did--that Western curriculum. They had their chance to kill it at one time, and didn't.

(K.L.) Yes. It had an abortive beginning over.

(T.P.) Yeah. Uh huh.

(K.L.) Oh, I thought of something else brilliant to ask you, and now I can't think of what it was.

(T.P.) Most of our facilities I like. I think they've done a tremendous job with Millett Assembly Hall down there. I enjoy it every time I go in. Football games--I enjoy our facilities there. We've gone first-class in a good many ways.

(K.L.) I regret...and I shouldn't have said that...I should have asked you, how do you feel about the renovation of old... Benton Hall? [Hall Auditorium]

(T.P.) Benton Hall?

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) Well, I think that's a waste of money. We desperately need a concert hall,

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) and we don't have it, and according to Pearson we're not gonna have it for years and years.

(K.L.) Uh huh. I think this is sort of an abortive attempt to get it.

(T.P.) And...Benton Hall is a very unfortunate thing, I think...Hall Hall, but... Oh, I had some nostalgia for the place, but I'd let it go.

(K.L.) What do you remember about downtown Oxford when you first came?

(T.P.) Of course, I lived downtown for those two years, and knew it very well. I knew a lot of the store people. Well, I liked it. It was very pleasant.

(K.L.) Name some of the stores as you recall them, if you can, coming from the corner of Campus and High--westward on High Street--where the...now is Phi Delta Theta national headquarters and across the street.

(T.P.) Right there was Mosbaugh--had his dental office, if you recall. That was a Carolyn Scott...house there...manor, and Mosbaugh had a dental office there, and Dick Mosbaugh, his son lived there during...

(K.L.) And across the street was Dr....

(T.P.) And across the street was Dr. Munns, was it?

(K.L.) No. Who?

(T.P.) Munns.

(K.L.) Uh huh. Munns.

(T.P.) Dr. Munns in the Fiji building there, and then there were the SAE's had a house on that north side of the street up a little bit.

(K.L.) They did?

(T.P.) Yeah. The SAE house was there before it was built down where it is now.

(K.L.) Was it razed?

(T.P.) This was the 1930's.

(K.L.) Was it razed?

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) It's not there.

(T.P.) No. There's nothing...I would guess it was about where...

(K.L.) Co-op is? Miami Co-op?

(T.P.) East of there. Where that other...Taco Bell was and all those things.

(K.L.) Oh yes. Yes.

(T.P.) I guess it was right around in there.

(K.L.) Right in there. Oh.

(T.P.) Cause the Co-op is where the Spinning Wheel was.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) And then the...

(K.L.) Tell me about the Spinning Wheel. Remind me more about that particular building.

(T.P.) I never knew a whole lot about it. I knew there was a place to eat there.

(K.L.) Wasn't that the Dirty Duck?

(T.P.) John Venn had an eating place there. I never went to this place.

(K.L.) Known as the White Swan Restaurant...

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) it was called the Dirty Duck.

(T.P.) Yeah, the Dirty Duck, yeah. The White Swan was the Dirty Duck.

(K.L.) Then there was the something that looked like it might be apartment rooms over there...a hotel?

(T.P.) Well, there were apartments in there.

(K.L.) Yeah. And then on the south side was the city building.

(T.P.) On the south side was the Miami Co-op, of course.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) And there were apartments in that big building where the bus station later moved. [Campus Gates Manor]

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) And there was an old City Hall that was replaced by the new City Hall. Then there was...I was here when the Miami-Western Theater was being built.

(K.L.) Oh, you were? This is when you were a student?

(T.P.) I remember that was...I was a student here at that time.

(K.L.) Do you remember they got a water witch there to find water for the air conditioning for it, and he d/fowsed around there and said, "Drill here."

(T.P.) I wasn't aware of that.

(K.L.) They got a hole full of dust.

(T.P.) That was the water, huh?

(K.L.) Yeah. Well, anything else you'd like to say, Ted?

(T.P.) No.

(K.L.) Oh, you spoke of one son. Let's talk about the rest of your family.

(T.P.) Well, Nancy came along in 1950, I think it was, I'd been here since '47, and Nancy was born down at Ft. Hamilton Hospital, in, I believe, 1950.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) She might correct me and say it was 1951, but I'm not sure.

(K.L.) Now, where's Nancy?

(T.P.) Nancy is now down at Cincinnati. She lives in Wyoming, has a home there, is married, has a little boy that's just the delight of our years, and she works at Central Trust downtown, where she's an Assistant Vice-...

(K.L.) And you became grandparents when?

(T.P.) She's an Assistant Vice-president at Central Trust.

(K.L.) You became grandparents...

(T.P.) We became grandparents...a beautiful child.

(K.L.) A year ago?

(T.P.) Two years ago.

(K.L.) Two years ago.

(T.P.) Two years old.

(K.L.) Really?

(T.P.) Yes. Uh huh.

(K.L.) And Charles?

(T.P.) And Charles is married, living in Washington, out at...what's that place that's on the north side of Washington, in Maryland? Well, anyway, he lives there. He works at the Mapping Service...The National Defense Mapping Service, in Washington, where he does deep sea analysis...

(K.L.) Oh. Is that analysis...

(T.P.) of the ocean. No. His office is just a short distance from his home...he lives in Bethesda, just off of Massachusetts Avenue, and his office is within a walk.

(K.L.) Oh, is that right. Wonderful.

(T.P.) Uh huh, a long walk.

(K.L.) Any grandchildren in that family yet?

(T.P.) No. No.

(K.L.) Well, I can't think of anything...

(T.P.) Charlie's main concern right now is how long he is going to have that job with the decrease in Defense Department people and so forth...he doesn't know...

(K.L.) Well, that could be of some concern, yes.

(T.P.) Oh, don't worry.

(K.L.) There'll be something else come along.

(T.P.) Oh, yeah.

(K.L.) I can't think of anything else to add...ask.

(T.P.) Well, there's quite a lot there.

(K.L.) I know.

(T.P.) Nothing of any consequence, I'll tell you that.

(K.L.) I'm very impressed by it all, and I thank you.

(T.P.) Now, what do you do?

(End of Interview)