M Right.

E And there's a Chiles' house that's still owned by my Dad's father's brother's family, which is Joe Chiles and Alfred Chiles, who are the patriarchs of that family now.

M Now, Alfred lives in Bartow, correct?

E Alfred lives in Bartow, and Joe lives in Louisv ille, Kentucky.

M Is Alfred still, how old is Alfred now?

E Oh, Alfred must be 70 something. I think he's a little bit older than Dad, I believe.

M Okay.

E And we see Alfred, I see them, occasionally I see Joe, his brother, and Louise when they come in. I see them somewhat frequently.

M Okay, when you were growing up, and your father was in politics, who were some of the people that you remember that would come around the house a lot that he would associate with in Lakeland, not only politically, but also socially? Who were the folks that he really hung out with in Lakeland the most?

E Well, J. Petersen. Jimmy and Ann Miller were great friends of theirs. Pete Peterson and his wife, they had a bridge group that were great friends. The Travillions. Jim Black and Juanita Black, they were great friends with the Blacks. Burke Kibler. Chesterfield Smith, Bill Ellsworth, of course, all the law partners, George Carr and Anna Lee Carr. The Bronsons, Rick and Becky.

M Now, I'm very much involved with Bill in interviews, long interviews, and also Ned Sinder as well. He lives in Long Boat, right, Ned Sinder?

E Right. Yeah, Ned was, that was later on as I recall that Ned Sinder kind of came into the picture. I mean, you know, when I think of early days, I think of the kind of group that got out of the University of Florida and came back, started practicing law a2(tar)11 1 Tf -0E((v)4(2 11(dg)9(e i)-n(. B nv atd S

M We can get into that in a second. What are some of your worst memories? What were some things that happened during your high school years and middle school years that really were bad? Family tragedies? Anything specific that comes to mind?

E Well, I lost a couple of friends in a tragic car accident in the end of tenth [grade], I think it was the summer after tenth grade because we had played, that was before I went to Bolles. No, I mean, worst memories, tragedies, I really didn't have any that I recall. You know, moving around was hard, maybe going away to some Prep School when Dad moved to Washington, you went to Jacksonville so there was a little bit of just the normal thing of kind of gettin' uprooted, and that was my choice to go there instead of goin' to Washington. But you know life was pretty good in those days.

M Would you say your parents were strict?

E Yeah, they were strict. You know, relatively speaking, yeah, they were pretty strict but not unduly so. We needed somebody to have their hands on us that's for sure, me and my brother, he worse than I. I probably benefited from coming behind him. I'd say he probably might think they were stricter than I would have because I was two years younger than him.

M Now your sister was deaf, is that correct?

E No.

M Your sister was –

E My sister has a sight impairment.

M Sight, I'm sorry, sight impairment. Can you go into that and how that affected the family, or was it just something that people learn to live with?

E Yeah, I mean, Tandy had German measles when she was born, or my mom had German measles, I guess, so she always had, you know, thick glasses, but she could see and it didn't keep her from going to school or anything like that.

M Okay. Now she was in the middle of you and Bud?

E No, she was the oldest.

M She was the oldest, okay.

E Right, and she had, there was a car accident with Tandy, she got run over, gosh, I must have been four and I don't really remember that –

M So she's how much older than you?

E That was a family crisis certainly.

M How much older is she than you?

E Tandy is three years older than I am.

EI haven't seen Eddie in a while. He, you know, is just one of the all -time great guys. And

M Now, was it a “pork chopper” versus the young Turks issue or did people divide differently on that?

E I think they were divided a little bit differently on that, but Mallory Horne would give you the chapter and verse on it, I’m sure.

M Okay, looking back on things, they won the battle, they won that fight, do you think your dad really scored some political capital on that or do you think it damaged him? How do you think that played?

E Oh no, I don’t think it damaged him at all, and I would assume that he probably, you know maybe, did he rise in stature a little bit on that? I don’t know. I didn’t really look at it in those terms and I don’t think he did, but maybe he did. You know, he was already, let’s see, that was in the House, yeah that was in the House, so that was probably his last, it might have been his last session in the House, so you know, maybe that was part of him moving up to the Senate. I think it’s just part of his journey.

M Well, let’s go back to Lake Hollingsworth where, was it you and your mom, was your dad and your mom there at the time that he said that he was going to run for the Senate?

E We were all there. Anytime there was a discussion about what was going to happen, he would bring the family together and we would all talk about it. So he included everybody. When he did, I remember being down in Fort Lauderdale when he did the Ten Dollar Campaign and he laid that one on us. Nobody was very happy about that, not Bud or I, that’s for sure. So that’s the way he did it. He would bring everybody in and everybody was around the table.

M Who would have been the people in town, in Lakeland, that would’ve been some of the first people he called to tell people he was going to run for the Senate? Who would have been the first two or three people that he would have enlisted for their support?

E In Lakeland, who would he have called then?

M Well we can go to Lakeland then we can go other places.

E Well, I suppose his law partners, you know, like Jay and George. There might have been other partners, but it wasn’t as important to get their help; you would need the support of some of his major key law partners, so J. Petersen and George Carr. And he ended up being in practice with Jay. He was in practice with George from the time that he got out of Law School. Ellsworth by then, I think he’d probably be talking to Ellsworth a lot but Ellsworth by then was making a lot of money and doing his own thing –

M Real estate?

E Yeah, a lot of real estate. Ellsworth was really, really active in his first campaign. I mean Ellsworth would bring the maps over every day ‘here’s what streets you’re gonna run’ and he

E Oh absolutely, Burke Kibler would've been one, yeah, sure.

M Chesterfield?

E Bartow, sure, absolutely.

M Okay, let's branch out beyond Lakeland, maybe even beyond Tampa Bay. Would there be anybody in Tampa Bay?

E Oh absolutely! Boyd, you know and, gosh lots of people in Tampa. I remember those meetings with Victor Martinez and Elvin Martinez and former State's Attorney over there –

M E.J. Salcines?

E E.J. Salcines, and you know, there was the whole Latin contingent and there was the old Tampa contingent and there was the legislative bunch and, he was, from the time of being in Key Club, he was very good at –

M Okay, let's branch out to Miami and, say, Alachua County and Duval County. Who were some of his closest supports up there?

E Well Alachua County, it's C.B. Daniels and C.B. Daniels worked for, I'm trying to think of the fella that he worked for for a long time before C.B. took it over and was kind of the head banker, but there was another fella up there. Oh gosh, Mike, you know those names just don't come to me. There were a lot of 'em. All the University of Florida people, the old Law School contacts, you know in Miami, all of his legislative compatriots. He had quite a network.

M Did he tell you the time at your house on Lake Hollingsworth, that he was going to do the walk, or was it just 'I'm running for the Senate'? Did he already have the walk in mind by that time?

E No, that was what he, we knew that he was talking about running for the Senate for quite a while, but the walk was the way he was going to do that, and that was because he didn't do anything that he and my mother didn't agree that they were going to go do.

M Well let's talk about your mother some in that. How do you think your mom was involved in that decision?

E They made that –

M It might have been her idea, you know!

E In the walk?

M Yeah.

E Well they made decisions jointly, and a lot of the ideas, the creative ideas, came from my mother, absolutely. I mean she was his 'number one' person in politics. First and foremost from the 1959 race when she walked on one side of the street and he walked on the other

and she fashioned the campaign buttons and scripted a lot of the stuff, until the later campaigns. And she wasn't as involved in some of the later campaigns but, say, some of the second and third Senate campaigns maybe, but still involved, but not anywhere near like the old days. She was certainly very involved in the Governor's campaign, the first Governor's campaign, intimately involved, had the headquarters at the house for a while, set up all the computer programs, handled all the money so there was no problem with the money, and that was when we were doing the hundred-dollar thing and it was flying and it was not easy

M All of a sudden, it just hit me, what would Claude Kirk be doing on that day? Probably nothing.

E Well he was doing whatever it was he did, and doing it with style.

M When was it that you thought your dad really had a chance in this thing? When did it kind of hit you that 'my dad might actually get the –

E Oh I thought he had a chance all along –

M From the very beginning?

E Yeah, 'cause I just had seen him win so many races and he never had lost a race, you know, literally. In the first race, he ran against a guy that, you know, 'you're crazy, you'll never beat him!', Roy Surles. And then he won every other race, so I always thought he had a shot at it. I remember when Nixon came down and they had the big convention or big rally, I think it was in St. Pete, and golly, thousands of people, Nixon booming, and the cameras going and everything else, and my mom and a bunch of people at the house and 'oh, this is it', or something like that.

M I guess this was after the primary, right?

E This was after the primary, yeah, and I remember the talk in there and it kind of freaking me out and me running out of the house saying 'no, no, you can't lose! This can't be it' and being very upset and calling him from a phone booth and he said 'you know, don't you worry about that, that's a bunch of turkeys, they don't scare me or anything else', so I went home and I was alright. But he was great. He was fearless, you know. Even if he was maybe at times concerned, he didn't show it. My father had an incredible ability that he really taught himself, to see things that weren't as if they were. I mean, that probably is one of his greatest strengths, and it was something that was learned, that he worked at. He was a person that –

M You mean an upbeat, positive attitude? Is that what you mean?

E Well, I mean envisioning something that was not as if it was. If there was something that he wanted to change about himself, if there was something that he wanted to obtain, if there was something, a trait, that he wanted to have, if there was a way that he wanted to be and something that he wanted reflected in his life, man the power of positive thinking, the Emmett Fox stuff, he studied that, he envisioned things, he spent time in meditation and literally made great changes in his life by doing that. And I think the Senate was that kind of a thing. He just saw it. He saw it all along.

M If we go back, just one more thing on the primary, your dad actually had a pretty good relationship with Farris, didn't he? Farris Bryant?

E Well my dad was his floor manager in the House.

M Yeah, that's what I've heard.

E Yeah, and Farris told him he wasn't going to run. And then Dad probably wouldn't have probably gotten in, I guess, I don't know. I know Dad kind of looked at him and then Farris

Fred. I'm not sure, and I would think Fred had it then, and if he didn't have it then he certainly had it afterwards. And I think they were good friends afterwards.

E He was a very good competitor, that's for sure.

M Do you remember what election night was like? Do you remember election night?

E Yeah.

M Where were you on election night?

E At the headquarters.

M Which was in –

E Lakeland. South Florida Avenue.

M South Florida Avenue.

E Mm -hmm. Just south of the Polk Theatre. It was incredible. Dad was standing Tandyng up on a car. I remember what I was wearing. I remember who was there. I remember the room where they were in there doing the counts. I remember all the attention and the trucks and the, absolutely, remember it vividly. What an incredible night!

M So what did you do the next day?

E Oh I think he just kind of basked in it, you know. Dad would always say 'just give me a little time before I do anything else to just sit here and enjoy it', you know, "the moment". So I think we all probably did that.

M What did you do the next couple of days, do you remember?

E He took some time off. I don't know how quick, but I remember he took, he and my mom, and maybe all of us, I'm not sure where he went then. He didn't go to the woods I don't believe, but that was in November. We probably went to the woods pretty quick, yeah. But I think he and Mom probably had some time and it may have been Miami or somewhere, who knows? I'm sure there were all kinds of offers waiting for them to take a little time off. We went huntin' after that, I know that.

M So did you decide after the election, did your family decide for you two boys to go to Bolles High School?

E No, Bud was already in school at, where was Bud then? Bud was finishing at Hill, I guess. I had gone up and looked at that. I didn't want to be that far away. I didn't want to go to Washington, so it was 'find a school in Florida' and I found Bolles. Chesterfield Smith's son was going there. He showed me around the place, Chet, great guy, great friend. So I ended up in Bolles.

M Okay. How many years were you there, the whole time?

E No, I was there the second half of my tenth grade year after he went to Washington. I went into Yorktown, Virginia, to Yorktown High School, then Arlington, Virginia, my junior year, then came back and finished at Bowles my senior year.

M Did your mom and the whole family move up to Washington?

family and had the kind of griswald to go to Washington. So she, I think, started working on that pretty quickly and they, somebody bought it out from under 'em and then they ended up having to pay a premium, which turned out to be kind of chicken feed in the scope of things, relatively speaking in today's prices not too long after that and certainly today. And that was another one of those things she was going to do and by gosh she did it.

M Did you have a chance to meet any of your dad's Senate colleagues, interact with them?

E All of 'em. Yeah, all of 'em.

M Yeah. Did you go hunting with them, or did you do things –

E Hunted with some of 'em, yeah, we'd go on some trips and hunt with them or we'd just go, some of 'em would come down here. Not only his colleagues but people like Jim Baker who he was close to, and do a lot of stuff with Nunn, Pete Dominici, Dale from Arkansas, Dale –

M Bumpers?

E Dale Bumpers.

M So they would come here?

disciplined about his exercise, and so he went and got checked, and his heart was all clogged up and they said 'we're gonna bypass ya' and that was 1978 maybe? 1980? No, no. It wasn't –

M '82 is what I thought.

E Yeah, maybe it was '82.

M I just had that down here. Did he have that done in Lakeland?

E Had it done in Lakeland.

M What do you think your dad liked the best about being a senator?

E I think he liked the legislative, the collegiality of the legislative process was something that he liked, and it was something that he was really disappointed when that started to fragment and fall apart. And it was something that ultimately caused him to want to leave the Senate, part of all of that when he got so "turned off", literally depressed, the whole budget process, the deficits, being at the pinnacle of his career too was critical. So I think that collegiality of the legislative process was something he enjoyed. He loved the battle, the process of the battle, the struggle of putting it together.

M Presenting it?

E Bringing it all, getting it hemmed in. You know the "herding cattle" kind of, you've got, one of 'em's out here, you gotta go round 'im up and you gotta go round up another one, you gotta keep 'em all together. I know he would always love the process in the budget where he would think he had the budget done to that time, I don't know after where he got all, every Democratic senator to vote for it. And that was one of those very sweet times that he said 'you've gotta just stop and leave me alone for a little bit, just give me a little bit of time to savor this', so I think he enjoyed that process a lot.

M By the '80s, he challenged Robert Byrd –

E That's right.

M For the leadership, is that correct?

E Yep.

M Was that '86? '84, '85, something like that?

E Well, maybe '84, I mean he was out in '88, so it could've been '86, could've been '84.

M Okay, before that, though, can you point to, if he was sitting here today, could you point to a time or an event, or maybe even the election of Ronald Reagan, or whatever, where that collegiality really began to rupture? Was there an event, or a time, or an election –

E No, I don't think there was an event that happened. I think it was, it probably, if there was a cause, I think he would say that maybe it was the money in politics, how expensive it got a8o0ve i,t bherD

already coming in, and then you were getting attacked like crazy from the right or you were attacked from the left, and you had all of these people raising this money and pouring money

E Well he was a cracker.

M Sure.

E And that's who he was, but yet he was progressive.

M Well I think we're moving along real well here. And I don't have my watch, so you let me know when you need to cut with this.

E Yeah, I'm okay.

M Would you say that challenge for the leadership was really kind of a crescendo of your dad's, or a climax of your dad's thinking in the Senate? Not too long afterwards, do you think he began to think 'well I've done pretty much all I can do here'?

E No, not if that was '82 or '84.

M Yeah.

E No , I think that only happened, 'I've pretty much done all I can do here', it escalated pretty quickly. I mean he didn't go through more than about a year of that.

M Okay, well let's go back then to the leadership on the Budget Committee. He was certainly instrumental in trying to hold back the tide of spending.

E Yep.

M And that must have been mighty frustrating.

E Well it was. And it was also, it would concern everybody in his, I mean when you talked to Rick Farrell, talk to Rick about that, the concern about Dad getting on the Sunday news shows and talking about putting caps on Social Security, changing the COLA, Cost of Living Adjustment, or changing the age and things, about that. God, it would just send 'em into apoplexy. They could just see the campaign commercials. You know? That was heresy for a Democrat to say that. But yet it was what needed to happen. Medicaid, you had to make some changes. I mean he knew where the major issues were, that were eatin' our lunch and that were growing much faster than our ability to maintain them, and he was frank about talking about 'em.

M Now, did he ever talk to you about, by that time, you were pretty old, did he ever talk to you about his opinion of Ronald Reagan?

E Yeah. He was no fan of Ronald Reagan. I mean I think he appreciated his ability to communicate, but you know he abhorred his arithmetic. I mean Dad and Domenici worked very, very close together. Dad and Domenici were great, great friends and stayed great friends, through some tough times, because when it was Pete running the committee, Dad was doing everything he could to help him, and when Dad was running the committee, Pete wasn't doing much to help him, in fact not helping him at all in a lot of those things. And that's the way the Republicans lined up. Well Dad saw that as what it was, and I think it

going to make me earn a paycheck. I thought about coming over here, doing something in real estate, and he talked to me. He had a good friend in Washington that was a restaurateur. They played tennis together all the time. He talked to me about did I want to do something in the restaurant business. Dad had done the first four Red Lobsters. That's what really allowed him to be in the Senate, was the money that he made.

M Did Bill Ellsworth pull a lot of that together for him?

E Bill Ellsworth and Dad did that, yeah. Dad was initially very, very involved in it, and then Ellsworth ran it from the time that Dad got into the Senate. Dad didn't do anything but just cash the checks. Ellsworth did all the –

M And the first restaurants were in –

E Lakeland, Daytona, St. Pete, and Tampa are the four stores, I believe.

M Okay.

E And that was an exciting time. Again that goes to Dad as a risk -taker, just like his political career was about risks. He was a heck of a businessman for a lawyer. He was not afraid of risk. He never was afraid of risk. And they stepped out on that and were the first ones that were done. They were not the operators. They were dealing with the guys from Gary's Duck Inn –

M I grew up in Orlando so I know -

E Woodsby's, and Joe Lee and those guys. So they did the first four, built one at a time. I remember he borrowed money from my maid to do it, as well as everybody else. I think he had, I don't know, five thousand dollars in it or something in cash.

M Was that '68, '69 when that came along?

E That was '68, yes. I think they were building the first one in '68 and if you look back in that brochure from that one, they're sitting out on the car with plans and that was one of the pictures in the campaign brochure. So he had always thought about being more vertically integrated into the business. You know, everybody would like to own a restaurant. So he talked to me about it. He had talked to his restaurant friend about it. This is where we had grown up. This was the area we were looking at. His restaurant friend said 'hey, send him to work for a year in a restaurant. If he still wants to do it after that then we'll talk about it. I'm not going to take any chance on some wet-behind-the-ears kid'.

M So you did it.

E So I went to Joe's, had a great experience at Joe's, just loved it, still have friends down there that are still there working in the kitchen. And came up here.

M Now Joe's?

E Joe' s Stone Crab in Miami.

M Oh, no kidding? Oh yeah. Oh wow!

M You mean the upcoming campaign, the ’88 campaign?

EThe upcoming campaign, the ’88 campaign. Here he was, the pinnacle of power, and ‘how could you let this go’ and ‘you’re so important to Florida’ and ‘you’re so important to the nation’ and I think he knew inside that that was a bunch of hooey.

M

M You would have been on the cusp of that water thing -

E Oh, we'd have been early.

M That was about the time that all of that just –

E Yeah, like Zephyrhills water. Yeah, we would've been early. And we had all the, of course the connections and everything else, but we had the springs. We could've done that and we probably wouldn't have to work anymore. You know Dad too, when he got out, he was going to look into doing some things in Latin America. That was a big specialty of his in the Senate.

M Yeah, Bill, Bill Ellsworth talked about that a little bit.

E Yea h. He liked it. He was very well respected down there.

M Talk about that a little bit.

E Well he made Latin America his specialty. When he went in the Senate, he wanted to have a specialty and Latin America was going to be his. He studied Spanish, he had a tutor, and he traveled a lot there, and he just became a student of it, and the developing democracies down there, and he saw the burgeoning market, how that populace was coming along and how the economies were coming along and how important they would be to Florida and to the country. So that was what he carved out –

M Where did he enjoy traveling most in Latin America? Did he have connections down there?

E I know we went to Panama after he died and they gave him, posthumously gave him a big medal and all the people talked about what he had done down there supporting the forces against Noriega and how important he'd been. Costa Rica I think he liked a lot. You know he was in Honduras where he got shot down with a helicopter with Bennett Johnston from Louisiana. So I think that Central America, Latin America, some in South America, Venezuela –

M Now what was his attitude on Cuba? Was it pretty much mainstream? Or do you think he was –

E Yeah, I think it was pretty much mainstr eam.

M Do you think he would have been –

E He thought Cuba was going to turn during his governorship and that would've been, god, how much fun that would've been.

M So would you say he was as hard-line on Cuba as Graham would've been or a little less hard-line?

E No, I think he was probably very similar.

M About the same?

E Yeah.

M Okay. So he left the Senate. Did he come back here to live?

E He left the Senate and came back here to live, yep. And he goes and takes the Leroy Collins Center at the University of Florida, teaches in Gainesville. We bought a plane, Bud and I and he, together. I did it basically because of them and him; it moved him around, a little Malibu that flew him around. And yeah, he was happy and we had time and hunted and enjoyed ourselves and yeah, I think it was a good time.

M Now before he decided not to run again, the Republicans had already put up –

E Connie Mack.

M Connie Mack, correct. Do you remember anything that came up in that campaign in the pre-campaign, kind of conflicts or controversies that may have been unsettling to him?

E Well, the marijuana issue was right around there.

M Yeah, can we talk about that a little bit?

E Oh yeah, I was in the room you know when the question got asked 'cause it got asked to somebody. It started somewhere else, you know, and then it, so it was fair game.

M Where was this?

E We were in Washington.

M In Washington.

E We were in Washington. And I knew he'd smoked marijuana 'cause he told me about it, I think like twice or something. And I said 'you didn't smoke marijuana. You ain't sayin' you smoked marijuana? You didn't get high? You don't get high the first couple times you smoke? You didn't do it', alright, 'look at me! You didn't do it. You're not gonna say you did it. You didn't. It ain't a lie', 'they're makin' you lie' you know. They just beat on him. And he said 'no, I did it and I'm not lying about it' and I said 'yeah you are', you know 'yes you are! You're not gonna allow them to use this' tada tada tada. Every –

M So you knew, you knew this was coming.

E Every good rational normal reason.

M In other words you knew this was coming.

E Oh I was there. I was there in the room. And he said, to his credit 'screw it, I did it, I'm not lying about it, if they ask me if I did it, I'm telling them I did it'. Well I was just beside myself. You know **I** smoke marijuana, you know, I know about marijuana. You don't know nothing about marijuana. And he did it. God bless him, you know. He did it. He did the right thing.

M Now help me remember, isn't it true that they had gotten on Mack about that, Connie Mack about that?

E Well afterwards.

M Isn't that how it happened? I mean, somebody had asked Connie Mack -

E Oh maybe it was. Maybe Connie was, yeah, first. And that was even more reason to say that he didn't do it, you know.

M Yeah.

E Maybe it was.

M And so that was –

E I thought it had happened somewhere else first.

M And so your dad coming along, basically –

E That's exactly what it was.

M It was an issue breaker.

E No, that's exactly right.

E No, that's exactly right. I was thinking it started somewhere else, and it may have started somewhere else and then went to Connie, but I guess it went to Connie; maybe it started with Connie.

M Now did your dad have any role at all, play any role in Buddy MacKay's campaign against Connie Mack? Do you remember if your dad campaigned for Buddy?

E Oh hell yeah. He played a role. He worked like hell for Buddy. Yeah. Went up in those condos and went all around for him. You bet he did.

M Did you go with him? Did you help too?

E Very little. Very little.

M Well that was a heartbreaker for Buddy MacKay, that's for sure.

E Heartbreaker. Buddy had a couple of heartbreakers. Well that was "the" heartbreaker because Buddy, 'you're a Senator', you know. Yeah, that was tough.

M So summarize the two years between leaving the Senate and then, how did it happen?

E Well I think they were refreshing, you know he came out of the Depression, he just got himself really well grounded again, he was enjoying teaching, he enjoyed the stuff at the Collins Center. You know he did a lot of the causes that were still so important to him, the prenatal issues, the maternal health issues, the governmental issues, integrity in government and things like that. Those were things that he got to work on. You know he had time and I think it probably was a very refreshing time for him.

M Now when was it that you heard or found out or intuition told you that he was going to run for Governor?

E He was talking to me right along and I could see it building, and his concern –

M Did people come to him?

E About what was going on? Oh people came to him all the time, but that wasn't, you know, that could never motivate him. That was, 'cause he was the name that could beat Martinez hands down, any poll, you know, Mac Stipanovich would say 'now if you told me

up and you know Martinez had suffered the service tax issue and they just did everything they could to, bless their hearts, you know, to try to run against this guy. They tried to raise money and Dad was doing the hundred dollar thing, and that was, you know, the greatest thing that ever happened because it got you so much involvement with so many people that there were stakeholders and went out and, by God, they'd given you the maximum amount and it was just a grassfire. That '70 campaign and the first Governor's campaigns were the two most exciting campaigns, two of the most exciting campaigns in Florida history, I think, and certainly the two big campaigns in Lawton Chiles' life, and they were fun to be around. I mean it was, those were, a lot of campaigns were tough and grueling. The second Governor's campaign, no fun. The first Governor's campaign, God what a great time that was. How incredible that was. There was spirit behind that campaign.

M When your dad was elected, what were some of the first things that you remember he tried to accomplish and tried to do?

E Well, it was really to change, I think first it was to change the morale of State government. Those people had been beat down and he went and personally visited every single one of the agencies and talked to all the people, and told them that they were valued. And he started with you know 'we're gonna go work at the front end again' and 'we're gonna care about mothers and children' and 'we're gonna be investing in our people'. And now they had the terrible budget situation that he had inherited so it was tough times, very, very tough times, cutting things. And you had to do the cuts before you could come in behind them and try to lay on the stuff, the increases, which they weren't always successful in doing. But they had to make the cuts on the front end. But I think it was about building morale and I think it was about changing the focus, very much about changing the focus, and I think they pretty successfully did that.

M In 1992, the big presidential election, the Bill Clinton election, do you remember your dad having any opinions on Bill Clinton? Did they know each other? Did they interact together?

E Yeah, they did. They knew each other as governors and, you know I don't know that Dad was all that impressed with Clinton. I think he worked hard for him, but I know he became very impressed with him, because Clinton was a hell of a President for him. When Florida needed something, Clinton came through every time. You know, when Dad needed him, he got him on the phone in a minute's notice. Clinton always came down. They got very close. And Dad had very high respect for him.

M Now I'm trying to remember, did Clinton run right out of being Governor or would he have been out for a while?

E No he was Governor when he ran, I believe.

M Okay.

E Yeah, that was great. But I think at the same time that was when the Republicans won the Senate, I believe, so you know you had to shift and you weren't able to kind of put through what you wanted to put through anymore, and Ander Crenshaw was running the Senate and was very much kind of anti-tax, conservative, all of that, so you had to work a lot harder to get kind of anything done and they didn't want to give Dad anything 'cause they didn't want him re-elected again, so you had all that political crap that you had to deal with. So, you know, that's just, that was what it was. Dad understood that and he worked with it.

M Now in '94, you just mentioned that '94 was a bad, bad scene all the way around. The '94 campaign.

E Well it was a tough campaign.

M John Ellis was out there. John Ellis. Bush is out there. What did your dad think of Jeb Bush?

E He thought he was a neophyte. Thought he could get up and talk about everything but he had really no real idea of what the situation was in Florida –

M And very little experience.

E Very little experience. You know, he was running on name, hadn't earned it, didn't have the political background, didn't have the public service background, didn't have any you know, hadn't been anything, hadn't been elected anything.

M The '94 campaign would've been a campaign where the switchover issue and everything turned Republican in Florida would've been really tough in that campaign, even in that sweep seems to me really would've been pervasive.

E Well he was the only Governor left at the end of that. You lost California to Wilson. You lost Texas with Richardson. You lost New York with Cuomo to Patakie, so when you looked out at the big redwoods, every one of 'em fell, except Florida, and that was pretty amazing. I mean that what we were fighting was this incredible shift and the reaction to the, you know you lost the Congress. I mean that was the –

M '94 was the worst –

E One of the largest turnovers ever, if not "the" largest. Clinton was devastated. I mean, you remember the days after that, devastated. And the fact that Dad pulled that out, now that was probably the greatest victory. Worst campaign but the greatest victory.

M What did you think when you heard your dad's he-coon comment in the debate? What did you think?

E Well I'd been on the debate preparation team for, with him.

M Were you there?

E Oh I was there. I'd spent, I don't know two weeks with him before that and they had all of these people. They were gonna do all of this preparation and you know, and I'm kind of in charge of it 'cause I'm the one person that can tell him what he doesn't want to hear and

dadadadada. And it was a joke, because he's gonna do it like he wants to do it and he ended up kind of writing out his stuff longhand. I remember when Ron Sachs had this guy, a great guy, great media guy, brought him into the Capitol Hill, Dad wouldn't even come down from the Residence. The guy just, we sat around for an hour and a half and waited for him to come down and finally 'he ain't comin' down'. If he wanted to play possum, he would play possum.

M So they got the press but he didn't really care about the press.

E So he really, yeah, he prepared himself. He was not really able to prepare him that way. That's not who he was. He was kind of from a different time or whatever, and you weren't going to get him in front of there and coach him and try to package him, and I guess he innately knew that that was not what he should do. And everybody believed, 'cause that's "the conventional thing to do", 'well that's what we need to be doing'. Well that wasn't what we needed to be doing. And he wouldn't scream and holler at us, he would just very quietly not do it. And it was frustrating. It was damn frustrating. And then we went down to –

M So you were thinking that they might've been right and he might've been wrong.

E Oh! I was thinking he needed the coaching! Because we weren't doing well in this, and the first debate didn't go well. And you know 'let's try that!'. Sure, 'let's get your talking points when you're up there and you're ready and you've got the answers for these things', absolutely! And then we went down to Tampa to the Marriott for the last two days and we sat in that room there and Krog and I, and I guess Peeples came in and it was very guarded and Dad would stay in the back bedroom and sleep, and wouldn't come out, to do what we thought we were kind of to do then. We'd kind of send stuff in and I remember he was back there with legal pads and he would write. He would just write out things. Write out kind of the way he felt about things. And what he was doing was, in his inimitable style, he was building his righteous indignation about, you know, 'how dare you come on without a –

M This kid, this rich kid –

E Slogan eering and your, you know, shallow perceptions and ideas and pandering and all that and 'how dare you?' and that's what he built up.

M And that came through in the debate.

E And that's what came through in the debate. When we came in that second debate, there was never any coaching about 'come out in front of the podium'. There was never any, you know, 'move around' or do that. That was all Lawton Chiles. Nobody else. Not a bit of me or a coach or anything else. It was just him. And then when he came out with the he-coon thing, I was sitting right next to Buddy on the front row. I remember going in. I remember every bit of it. I remember rmemberf(I-g(y)TJ 0 -1/en w)2(ppcae c)aeing his siyppcae cough ing r