

California State Archives
State Government Oral History Program

Oral History Interview

with

FREDERICK S. FARR

California State Senator, 1955-1967

October 9, 1987
Carmel, California

By Ann Lage
Regional Oral History Office
University of California, Berkeley

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None.

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PREFACE

On September 25, 1985, Governor George Deukmejian signed into law A.B. 2104 (Chapter 965 of the Statutes of 1985). This legislation established, under the administration of the California State Archives, a State Government Oral History Program "to provide through the use of oral history a continuing documentation of state policy development as reflected in California's legislative and executive history."

The following interview is one of a series of oral histories undertaken for inclusion in the state program. These interviews offer insights into the actual workings of both the legislative and executive processes and policy mechanisms. They also offer an increased understanding of the men and women who create legislation and implement state policy. Further, they provide an overview of issue development in California state government and of how both the legislative and executive branches of government deal with issues and problems facing the state.

Interviewees are chosen primarily on the basis of their contributions to and influence on the policy issues of the state of California. They include members of the legislative and executive branches of state government as well as legislative staff, advocates, members of the media, and other people who played significant roles in specific issue areas of major and continuing importance to California.

By authorizing the California State Archives to work cooperatively with oral history units at California colleges and universities to conduct interviews, this program is structured to take advantage of the resources and expertise in oral history available through California's several institutionally based programs.

Participating as cooperating institutions in the State Government Oral History Program are:

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The establishment of the California State Archives State Government Oral History Program marks one of the most significant commitments made by any state toward the preservation and documentation of its governmental history. It supplements the often fragmentary historical written record by adding an organized primary source, enriching the historical information available on given topics and allowing for more thorough historical analysis. As such, the program, through the preservation and publication of interviews such as the one which follows, will be of lasting value to current and future generations of scholars, citizens, and leaders.

John F. Burns
State Archivist

July 27, 1988

This interview is printed on acid-free paper.

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INTERVIEW HISTORY

Interviewer/Editor

Ann Lage

Senior Editor, University of California at Berkeley State Archives
State Government Oral History Program

B.A. University of California, Berkeley (History)

M.A. University of California, Berkeley (History)

Interview Time and Place

October 9, 1987

Office of Fred Farr, Carmel, California

Session of three and one-half hours

Editing

The interviewer/editor checked the verbatim manuscript of the interview against the original tape recordings; edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling; verified proper names and prepared footnotes.

Mr. Farr was sent the edited transcript for his approval. He made a number of corrections and additions, which are noted in the text.

Papers

Mr. Farr has scrapbooks and other records of his service in the state senate.

Tapes and Interview Records

The original tape recordings of the interviews are in The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley. Records relating to the interview are at the Regional Oral History Office. Master tapes are deposited in the California State Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Frederick S. [Fred] Farr was born August 2, 1910, in Piedmont, California, where he attended primary and secondary schools. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1932 and received his law degree from Berkeley's Boalt Hall in 1935.

Mr. Farr was in private law practice in San Francisco from 1937 to 1942. He served with the United States War Shipping Administration during World War II. Following the war he was a labor relations consultant in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1945-1946. Since 1948 he has been in private law practice on the Monterey Peninsula.

In 1955, Mr. Farr was elected to the California State Senate from Monterey County, the first Democrat to represent that county in 43 years. In his twelve years in the senate, he was known for authoring significant environmental and state planning legislation and for his opposition to the death penalty. He is now thought of as perhaps the first environmentalist in the legislature.

After his defeat in the 1967 election, Mr. Farr was for two years the national coordinator of highway beautification in the Lyndon Johnson administration. Following his return to California, he served as commissioner for the California State Coastal Commission (1972-1979) and president of the California Historical Society (1974-1976) and has been active in many civic organizations.

[Session 1, October 9, 1987]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

LAGE: We're going to start with a little bit on personal background, and we're particularly interested in how your early life may have shaped some of your later concerns. That's kind of a difficult question to deal with, maybe. We're going to have the details on this written record . . .

FARR: Sure, yes.

LAGE: . . . but is there a particular part of your life that you see as shaping the interests that you displayed later?

[FARR: Yes, there were three important influences in my life when I was very young: Boy Scouts, high school sports and politics. My parents were divorced when I was about seven years old and my mother died when I was thirteen. My brother and I went to live with our grandparents in Piedmont and my brother Sharon, being eight years older, went off to college in Berkeley.

My grandparents were kind and generous and sort of left me to myself. At age nine the Boy Pioneers, forerunner to the Cub Scouts, became important to me. At age eleven Rowan Gaither recruited me

into Piedmont Boy Scouts Troop 3. His father was scout master, and Rowan was at Piedmont High School, later at [University of California] Berkeley and Boalt Hall [School of Law], and he eventually became president of the Ford Foundation. The Piedmont Boy Scouts had a lot of fine young kids involved. I worked hard and became an Eagle scout, a senior patrol leader and an assistant Scout master.

Sports and high school politics also interested me. I played football and was track captain. I was also student body president. I then went to Berkeley and joined Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. I had gone out for sports and made the freshman team and varsity squad in football. The competition was pretty strong. I was a lineman weighing only 170 pounds and I wasn't very good.]* So anyway, one day a friend of mine asked me if I would consider running for what they called junior men's representative, which was student body secretary of the Associated Students of the University of California. There'd never been anybody from a so-called "big house" that'd won the thing. This fellow was an Irishman named McGrath, from Sigma Nu, and he was really a go-getter. Anyway, he organized the campaign, and much to the amazement of everybody, including myself, I was elected.

LAGE: Your first campaign manager.

FARR: Yes, Harold McGrath, a wonderful Irishman. So it opened my eyes to a lot of things. Particularly, I felt that my university career was so much more meaningful, because I met people from all over the campus--not just in my fraternity house and my classes, but I met people all over the campus, and it was wonderful.

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

LAGE: What year would that have been?

FARR: That would have been 1931. Also that year I was elected to the Order of the Golden Bear, which was composed of all the major campus leaders. And then going out for football, I was able to get on the. . . . They got jobs for people that were on the squad. I got a job with the Oakland Recreation Department. So that put me through law school. One of my fraternity brothers was a truck driver at a drayage service. He and I seemed to hit it off very, very well, and he introduced me to a lot of ideas and to San Francisco. He knew all the back alleys. To me, it was an educational process; it was helpful.

LAGE: Who was he? What was his name?

FARR: His name was Peter Victor Svane.

LAGE: Was he a San Francisco person?

FARR: He was San Francisco, yes. His father had had a drayage company in San Francisco. He worked in the drayage company, and I think he had a great influence on me. As a matter of fact, it was through him I met my wife, and he was my best man.

And then in law school I wasn't very politically active; I was just working hard to get through law school and earn a living. But my first vote--I was born in Piedmont, raised in Piedmont; my family were pretty much Republicans; my mother had been a Republican precinct worker, and I remember, as a child, she took me around--so when I voted the first time, I voted for [President] Herbert Hoover.

[Inaudible]

LAGE: So your background was more of a conservative one and fairly financially secure, it seems.

FARR: Yes, that's right, except not so financially secure, as I had to completely support myself while going to law school. When I got out of law school I worked at various jobs. I finally went to live in San Francisco at a place called the Hotel de France down on Broadway, which was \$30 a month, room and board.

LAGE: I know the woman whose family owned that hotel.

FARR: Marcella [Granger]?

LAGE: Yes.

FARR: You know Marcella?

LAGE: Right. My father went to school with her husband.

FARR: Oh, Granger?

LAGE: Clarence Granger.

FARR: Marcella's parents--I've got a picture of them someplace; wish I had it here. [Germaine] Momma and [Benjamin] Benny Raujol, every weekend they would take--there were about five or six young people from Berkeley who were living there, and the rest of them were gardeners and laundrymen; some of them were shepherders that came down from Nevada, and they'd stay there. We all became great friends. But on the weekend Momma would take out one or two of us with "Baby," as we called her, Marcella. She would take us on these picnics, the League of Henry IV, or French war veterans, or something. And Momma would also get a big jug of wine, and she'd go down to the bakery, and she'd get a lamb and she'd bake it. She would wrap it in a tablecloth and put it in the trunk of the car. Momma and Benny would sit in the front seat; we'd sit in the back seat. Momma always had her eye on the mirror [Laughter] to see if we were behaving with Baby, as we called her.

[Discussion deleted]

LAGE: So you lived in San Francisco. Am I hearing that a lot of things were opened up to you there that had not been part of your background?

FARR: I think so. I lived in a WASP [White Anglo-Saxon Protestant] city, Piedmont. I didn't know any blacks; there were a few orientals who went to school there that were working as servants. But I felt that on the campus, and then in law school and living in San Francisco, that I got to know a lot of people. Then I married--my wife [Janet Haskins] was at Berkeley, and she was a Delta Gamma [sorority member]. In fact, her father's picture is right up there at the top [of that wall]. His name is [Samuel Moody] Sam Haskins. He'd been a graduate of Berkeley, and he played in the Big Game [annual football game with Stanford University]. And he was president of the [University of California] Alumni Association in 1934, something like that.

Janet was a curious person, and we met a lot of people when we first moved to San Francisco. She got involved in the Meiklejohn School of Social Studies, and through that we met a lot of interesting people in San Francisco. That was a school started by Alexander Meiklejohn, who'd been president of University of Wisconsin. It was a school to study social thought. Among the people who went there were [John] Jack Shelley, who was head of the Bakery Drivers Union and later became mayor and congressman; and Martha Gerbode, who was Martha Alexander and became Martha Gerbode, and her husband Frank was--[a prominent heart surgeon]. I can't think of all the people, but there were a lot of interesting people, and I felt that we were exposed to a liberal political point of view of people and their lives.

Our first apartment--we got married in 1938 and we lived at 1950 Jones on Russian Hill. The people living right above us, [William] Bill Plunkert, I think he became director of social welfare administration under [Governor Culbert] Olson. But he carried on with [his interests in social welfare and liberal causes] and he was having all kinds of meetings upstairs. I didn't agree with a lot they said, but I found them to be very interesting. But, you know, once in a while I'd go up and listen to some of the characters come back and forth. It was, I think, a wonderful life in San Francisco. Saw a cross-section of people. We had friends who were friends of Harry Bridges [leader of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union], and we had friends who were in the Junior League group. There was just a whole mix, just a wonderful group.

LAGE: Sounds like an exciting time.

FARR: Yes, well, a great time of one's life.

LAGE: And were you practicing law by this time?

FARR: The first job I got as a lawyer was working for the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, and I was on that staff for two or three years. This was interesting because you got to know--in those days women, if their husbands were separated, in order to get state welfare they had to get a divorce. I was getting about ten divorces a week--you got to know the judges out there. I got active in the Barristers' Club, which was the junior bar association, became president of that in 1939. So that gave me an entree to a lot of the lawyers and judges and political people in San Francisco.

LAGE: Did you have any inkling at that time that you might want to get into politics?

FARR: Well, I remember working on [Governor Edmund G.] Pat Brown's [Sr.] campaign when he ran for district attorney. And I think I worked on a few other campaigns. I was practicing law with my partner, Leo Killion, and with the outbreak of the war we both felt we wanted to help the war effort in some way, so we closed our law office. I don't even like to talk about this part now--but I worked for about four months in the Farm Security Administration. It was during the Japanese relocation, and they wanted some lawyers who would go out into the rural areas where the farmers were all being evacuated, and they were trying to get people who could help them with contracts with people who were going to take over, leasing their farms and leasing their equipment, all of that.

LAGE: Is this the Japanese farmers?

FARR: Yes, and so we were trying to find some kind of people who would give them a fair deal and square deal. None of it was very good.

LAGE: Did you feel the thrust at that time was to find them a square deal? Or was that your thrust?

FARR: Well, let me just back up a little bit. My wife and I were very good friends of--well, it goes back to this thing--American Friends of the Chinese people. Janet was very concerned about the situation with the Japanese. And I think she got this through the Meiklejohn School of Social Studies. We met some Chinese people there, and they were telling us about how the Japanese in China were treating the Chinese so badly. We went to somebody's house in Chinatown to hear the story of the long march, where a university had marched across China, and people were there translating from Mandarin to Cantonese to English. They told us how the whole university--its students, books and

professors--were being pursued by Japanese soldiers. We were impressed by the whole thing, and Janet became active in the group, American Friends of the Chinese People. This group was headed by James Moffit, who was chairman of the board of Crocker Bank. [Newspaper publisher and editor and former state senator] Chester Rowell was on the board. The organization was attempting to get support for an embargo of the shipment of American petroleum products and scrap iron to Japan and a boycott on Japanese silk.

LAGE: They sound like pretty substantial citizens.

FARR: Yes, and there was also a man who was a former marine corps general. But the executive secretary was a Chinese. I guess he turned out to be a communist. Janet did everything she could to boycott Japanese goods. She went down and picketed a Greek ship that was taking scrap iron [from Market Street railway tracks] to Japan, which came back to hit Pearl Harbor. So anyway, we had these very good Chinese friends [Ira and Mickey Lee]. He worked for the Hibernia Bank. He and his wife were Stanford [University] graduates. She was a public health nurse. We saw a lot of them. My grandparents would come up, and we'd all have Chinese dinners together. My grandfather was pretty conservative, and my father was a pretty conservative guy. But we all liked them.

Well, anyway, during the course of this thing--I was then living in Carmel and involved in politics--I ran for the Democratic County Central Committee and got elected as chairman of the district Democratic committee. At the same time [1950] that I was chairman of the district committee and the county committee, there was a young man named Marion Walker, who had gone to Stanford, was very active as a

Methodist, and one of the cleanest-cut people you'll ever meet. Nice family. He was an almond grower down near Oxnard. And we had a congressman by the name of [Ernest] E. K. Bramblett; Bramblett was a very conservative guy. He'd been superintendent of schools in the county. It was the year that [Representative] Helen Gahagan Douglas was in Congress, and he defeated the incumbent congressman, Outland, who had won, I guess it was the year before, the Democratic nomination and lost by a few votes the Republican nomination. So he didn't come out and campaign very hard. A group of people, particularly among grower/shippers and conservative people, decided to go after George Outland, and they went after him with a vengeance. They said that he had the same voting record as [New York congressman] Vito Marcantonio and Helen Gahagan Douglas, and they smeared and defeated him. So in came this man Bramblett, who really was an incompetent person. I guess this was maybe his second or third term, when this thing came up.

LAGE: When you say "this thing," now, we'd better clarify for the tape that you are pointing to a newspaper clipping.

FARR: I am now leading into a libel suit called Farr v. Bramblett.^{*} What happened there was, we were making a strong campaign against Bramblett, and he came out with these advertisements in six daily newspapers. The congressional district at that time consisted of Monterey County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and Ventura County.

LAGE: All in one district?

* Farr v. Bramblett, 132 Ca. 2d 36 (1955).

FARR: All in one district, that's right. It went from the Santa Cruz county line to the Los Angeles line. The first ad, which was inserted in all these papers on November 1, 1950, six days before the election, I'll read right here: "Marion, look behind you. Frederick S. Farr is listed in the eleventh Democratic Congressional district. This is the man who is directing your campaign, who is putting words in your mouth. Is this the same Frederick S. Farr who lived in San Francisco, who was a subscriber to Communist People's World? Is this the same Frederick S. Farr who with his wife was involved in a Communist front organization, the American Friends of the Chinese People, cited twice by the California Un-American Activities Committee? Is this the same Frederick S. Farr who was on the voluntary defense committee for the notorious Raymond Schultz-Betty Morris case of San Francisco 'Peace Poll' Coordinating Council for Peace at the outbreak of the war? Is this the reason why three elected members of the Monterey Democratic Central Committee resigned? Whose advice would you take, Marion, if elected, in fighting Communism and keeping this nation free?" Then, in a box, "Voters, heed Governor Earl Warren's warning: 'May I suggest that you carefully analyze the record of every candidate for public office and determine his background and the identity of his supporters.'" Then underneath the box, "Marion R. Walker, these questions are asked at this date, giving you ample time to make a reply before election day, November 7 [1948]. In the interest of Americanism, we and the public want to know. --Eleventh Congressional District Republican Committee, Reelect E. K. (Ernie) Bramblett to Congress, November 7."

LAGE: Quite an ad.

FARR: That was quite an ad. Now, with respect to this ad, I lived in San Francisco. I didn't subscribe to the People's World. I found out many years later--one of them told me the whole story--they found the People's World was sent to 780 Broadway, which was the Hotel de France. Now, who took it there, I don't know; I didn't. My wife was not the executive secretary, but she kept the minutes and things of the organization [American Friends of the Chinese People]. She contacted Senator Hugh Burns [chairman of the state senate Un-American Activities Committee], whom I didn't know at that time, but later served with for many years in the senate, as to whether or not the American Friends of the Chinese People was cited [by the Un-American Activities Committee]. He sent back that they didn't have any record of American Friends of the Chinese People.

LAGE: So the whole main point was false.

FARR: Right. And then this Raymond Schultz-Betty Morris charge, I don't know what that's all about. I don't have any recollection. This fellow told me the quote from Earl Warren was not Warren's; they just used his name. But the gist of this thing--this came out in all the newspapers, and I really felt very bad about it. And my wife felt bad about it. What happened to her, she'd go to parties and women would just leave the chair next to her vacant. People just wouldn't sit down next to her. And she was getting flak. Of course, she had a lot of friends who backed her, but on the other hand, there were people who were unpleasant to her.

And I remember the kids--they don't have any recollection of this, but I do--coming home and saying, "Kids are calling us reds. Kids are calling us the commies," and things like that. Well, they say they don't

remember it now, but I do, and it hurt me, and I felt it was lousy tactics. This was during the McCarthy years.

So anyway, what we did--I used to feel that an attorney who represents himself has a fool for a client. That's an old saying. So I went to a lawyer in Monterey. His name was John Thompson, Uncle John. Everybody went to Uncle John. He had served as a Superior Court judge pro tem. And John seemed to know all the answers. He was a nice fellow. He gave us some help. We felt the Bramblett committee members as signators of the ad were the publishers, and were responsible for the libelous statements. So we sent a demand for retraction by telegraph to all the publishers, and we sent a copy to all the newspapers. Let's see if the telegram is in here.

[Shuffling through papers]

LAGE: We're looking now at, is this sort of the brief of the law case?

FARR: Yes. These are the pleadings, this is a complaint. It tells who the people are, names all of them. John [V.] Christerson became a pretty good friend later on. Harry Cream became a good friend later on. I think it was Harlow . . .

LAGE: These were all people that you were complaining against, who became good friends later on?

FARR: Well, I wouldn't say all of them. I'll get into that later, but here are the papers that it was published in. It was published in the Salinas Californian, Ventura County Star, the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune, the Santa Barbara News Press, the Santa Paula Chronicle, the Oxnard Press Courier. The Monterey [Peninsula] Herald didn't publish it. And so we sent this.

LAGE: So you demanded a retraction. Was that printed?

FARR: No. We made a demand by telegram. And let's see if I kept it.

[Interruption]

FARR: They had nine attorneys, something like that, and they said they would bleed us to death. They had attorneys in every county. They had one in Monterey, and they had one in Salinas, and they had attorneys in the leading law firms in Santa Barbara and Oxnard and all over the place. They would demur every time we'd come in. The demur was a pleading alleging that we had not stated facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against the defendants. In the law of libel, as it was at that time, there were two things. One was called a libel by innuendo, and one was libel per se. For example, you say that a man is a thief; everyone knows what a thief is. But "that man is a shady character that I would watch." Well, "a shady character I would watch" could mean different things in different places. In Kentucky it might be someone that always ducks under a tree on a hot day. In San Francisco, "a shady character I would watch" might be something else. So "by innuendo" means that the meaning needs explanation. It could be interpreted as defamatory or not. Whereas if you say, "That woman is a known prostitute," it's libel per se. I mean, a known prostitute's a prostitute. A thief is a thief.

LAGE: What did they consider this?

FARR: They considered that many of these things were libel by innuendo and not libel per se. So we pleaded them both libel by innuendo and libel per se, and then they demurred. They would demur every time we came to court. After five years the case went up on appeal on the pleadings--it never came to trial--the appellate court stated unanimously that the

demand for retraction was deficient with respect to some of the publications and sufficient as to others.

[Discussions deleted]

LAGE: It went on for a number of years, didn't it?

FARR: Yes, a number of years. I did my best and various lawyers helped me out. The lawyer next door, Francis Heisler, had been a famous civil rights lawyer. He gave me some help at one time. And finally the superior court judge in Salinas demurred (stated a demur without leading to a mandate), and we took the thing to the district court of appeal. I had never argued a case in a court of appeal. I got [Bernard E.] Bernie Witkin interested. Do you know who he is? Well, Bernie Witkin is probably the best known law writer in California, if not the West, and one of the best in the country. He puts out summaries of California law.* Everybody goes to Witkin.

Anyway, Bernie Witkin got interested in this case, and I used to go and see him. I said, "Gee, Bernie, I've never argued a case in appellate court. I haven't tried too many cases." And he said, "You argue; you argue it yourself."

LAGE: On your own behalf?

FARR: [Witkin said,] "Those judges want to see what you look like. They want to see if you look like a squinty-eyed Communist or you look like a halfway decent human being and a lawyer. You go up there. You take your wife and kids, sit them in the front row." So I went up there with my family, and I did argue the thing, and they reversed [the Monterey County ruling], reversed portions of it. However, by the time

* B. E. Witkin, California Procedure (Lawyers Co-op, 1989).

we were getting ready to go to trial I got elected state senator. So it was a little hard to show damages.

LAGE: That's right, to your career.

FARR: Yes, and that was what the suit was all about. So they did pay me some money, and they did make that retraction. And it also ended up in the law school books. It's a great lesson on how not to plead a libel case. My son went to law school at [University of] Santa Clara. He didn't like law school, and he didn't stay there. But the first case Sam had in procedure class was Farr v. Bramblett.

[What is more is that Congressman Bramblett, during his last term in office, was convicted in the United States District Court in Washington, D.C., on seven counts of padding the payrolls of his congressional office: "kickbacks." He was fined \$5,000 and given probation on a jail sentence, and then faded into the sunset.]*

[End Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

LAGE: But you did win at least part of the case. That's an amusing sidelight. How did you decide to go to law school?

FARR: In college I decided I wanted to go to law school. It was something I felt I always wanted to do.

LAGE: But not necessarily with an eye to politics.

FARR: No, I don't think so.

LAGE: Let's get you from San Francisco down here to Monterey County. Had you as a child had a connection with Carmel?

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

FARR: Yes, I came to school down here. My mother died when I was about seven, and I was shipped around to various relatives. One of my relatives was named Mrs. Florence Sharon Brown; she lived here in Carmel. I came down and lived with her and went to school here for a while. Then I came down here, I guess, a few times in summer in college, and then I came down and spent part of my ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] training at the Monterey presidio. So I had come down here. Then my late wife's family used to come up here frequently. When I started going out with her, we'd come down to Carmel to see them, and they'd come up from Los Angeles. They eventually built a house, and we moved down here in about 1947 or 1948. That's how I happened to come to Carmel.

LAGE: So you settled here with the intent of establishing your law practice.

FARR: Yes. Let me go back--we had these Chinese friends. Somebody called me up and asked me if I'd be interested in working with the Farm Security Administration in the Japanese program. I said, "I don't think so, because I have a prejudice against the Japanese. But I'll go down and look it over." So I went down to San Pedro, and they were evacuating Japanese down there.

[Interruption]

[All persons of Japanese ancestry were subject to relocation. Many who lived on the coast were forced to relocate away from the coast. When they settled in the San Joaquin Valley they were then forced into a second relocation and sent to relocation centers, all of which were located out of California except Manzanar, in the Owens Valley. My job was to help find reliable substitute farmers who would purchase or lease farms and equipment in the San Joaquin Valley. We tried to keep

people from taking advantage of the situation but it was difficult. We became very friendly with many of the Japanese Americans and felt that the whole relocation was most unfair to so many loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. One of the young Japanese American members of our group was an attractive young UCLA graduate who served as an interpreter for the army at the registration centers where we all worked. She, like all of the others, was forced to leave and left on the last train to go to a barbed-wire fenced in, machine-gun towered, guarded encampment center in Arizona or Arkansas. We corresponded a bit during the war and I found out much about the conditions and welfare of the evacuees. Mary is now Mrs. James Michner with whom my wife Dee and I have had dinner on several occasions in St. Michaels, Maryland.

When the registration centers closed, I wanted to work in a relocation camp believing that I could learn Japanese and eventually participate in military and civilian government in Japan following the war's eventual ending.]*

So I applied to the War Relocation Authority, which ran the camps, and never heard from them. I was sitting on my patio in Carmel and got a call from a friend of mine, [Erich Nielson] in Washington. He said, "What are you doing? How would you like to come back and be one of the administrative assistants to Captain [Edward] McCauley? He is in charge of the personnel in the War Shipping Administration, and he's one of the members of the U.S. Maritime Commission." I said, "You're kidding." "No," he says, "you could do the job. He has an

* Mr. Farr revised, clarified, and added the bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

assistant, but he needs two people. I'll send you a telegram tomorrow; you go to San Francisco Tuesday, and I'll see you on the job next Monday." And I went.

LAGE: What did that involve?

FARR: That was exciting. McCauley, briefly, was a San Franciscan who graduated from the Naval Academy. He was the skipper of the ship--I think it was the George Washington--that took [President Woodrow] Wilson to the peace conference in Paris. When Wilson came back from the peace conference, he got on the ship to come home and he couldn't find the skipper, because the skipper was off in Paris with the undersecretary of the navy, Franklin Roosevelt. [Laughter] So when FDR became governor, he used to come to San Francisco and he always stayed with the McCauleys. When he became president, he asked McCauley to serve on the Maritime Commission, and then on the War Shipping [Administration].

[The War Shipping Administration was in charge of all merchant seamen personnel matters including recruitment of officers and merchant sailors, training, maritime schools, and labor relations. The Maritime Commission financed and directed the building of the wartime merchant fleet, and the War Shipping Administration operated the ships making the private steamship companies government agents.

As Captain McCauley's administrative assistant I would review agenda for the weekly Maritime Commission meeting, making suggestions that seemed appropriate. Many important people in and out of government would come to see my boss and would frequently brief me before seeing the captain. Answering great volumes of mail for the White House and lecturing at the various maritime academies

FARR: around the country as to government involvement in maritime personnel matters were among my duties.

One issue of great excitement and importance in the war effort was the non-discrimination policy in the recruitment, training and manning of merchant ships and the integration of black deck and engine officers, including captains of merchant ships. Captain McCauley played a vital role in this effort as the liberty ships Booker T. Washington and Frederick Douglass, both named after noted black leaders, were launched with black skippers and integrated crews. I was in Captain McCauley's office when this courageous and far-seeing program was initiated and carried out. The first of these ships, the Booker T. Washington, was christened by Marian Anderson. Hugh Mulzac was named the first black captain in our wartime merchant fleet. Many others followed.

After a year in Captain McCauley's office I wanted to move into something else in the wartime shipping area, and I joined the staff of Hubert Wyckoff in the War Shipping Administration. Wyckoff, a San Francisco lawyer, served as labor relations director under Captain McCauley. He had developed a fine staff of lawyers, most of whom were from San Francisco, including my old friend Erich Nielsen. Wyckoff's job was a big one in getting uniform collective bargaining agreements covering all personnel on American merchant ships sailing from the Atlantic, Gulf, and west coast ports. This was a herculean problem dealing with many different maritime unions, and vast differences in wage scales from coast to coast. The steamship companies were now all governmental agents worrying about post-war effects of these labor agreements.

FARR: After a few months with Hubert Wyckoff I went to New York to become the War Shipping Administration's labor relations representative in the Port of New York. We lived in Chappagua and I would commute daily to the Battery near the New York waterfront. My work involved attempting to settle on the spot many disputes between unions and ship operators. A labor dispute on a merchant ship could be a serious problem if it caused the ship to miss its military convoy and so delayed arrival of essential troop supplies in Europe.

As the war in Europe was ending, Janet and I moved with our two children to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where I was under contract as the labor relations consultant to the Puerto Rico Development Company in Operation Boot Strap. The company had undergone a very costly strike in its glass bottling plant prior to my arrival. Operation Boot Strap was the beginning of the new industrial climate for attracting American industries to Puerto Rico. The Governor was Rexford Guy Tugwell, a former New Dealer and close friend of President Roosevelt. The political leader of Puerto Rico was [Luis] Munoz Marin, a Puerto Rican from a distinguished family and a Michigan State [University] graduate who had just won a sweeping victory in the Puerto Rican legislative election with his party's popular slogan, "Pan, Tierra y Libertad," meaning Bread, Land and Liberty. He swept out a corrupt coalition of Socialist-Republican Puerto Rican politicians. My job involved working with Puerto Rican labor leaders in three plants: a cement factory, a glass bottling plant, and a cardboard container plant. I was trying to instill in management a respect for the duly elected labor leaders and support for the democratization of trade unions. I encouraged trade union and worker education programs using examples from the

International Ladies Garment Workers [Union] of New York. I was worried about both what appeared to be a strong communist influence of Cuban labor leaders who came to Puerto Rico frequently, and the anti-labor sentiments of New York personnel advisors to the Puerto Rico Development Company.

Teodore Moscoso, president of the Puerto Rico Development Company, was my boss. He was a charming, able and inspiring leader and later became the director of the Alliance for Progress for Latin America and then served as ambassador to Venezuela.

So anyway, we returned from Puerto Rico to San Francisco in 1946 and I went to work for a short time in the law firm of Bronson, Bronson and McKinnon. My work was in personal injury insurance defense work, but my heart was not in this type of practice. We moved to Carmel in 1948 with our two small children.]^{*} I looked for a job as a lawyer and I couldn't find any job, so I went to work in the plastics business out in Seaside with a fellow named Guthrie Courvoisier. He invented these black trays that have these coins in them. At that time we were making picture frames. There was a big demand for them, but you couldn't mold them more than about a foot and a half.

LAGE: Plastics was kind of a new thing at that time.

FARR: Right. I went up to see my friend who got me the job in Washington, and on the way up, a light bulb went on in my head: why don't I open a law office in Seaside? Which I did. I must have practiced by the seat of my pants, but anyway [Laughter] it was fun. I practiced law there for about four or five years. I got involved in the chamber of

* Mr. Farr revised, clarified, and added the bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

commerce, and involved in the Rotary Club, and I got involved in one or two very exciting cases out there. [One of them involved representing two young boys--David and Jerry Edgemon, ages eleven and twelve--whose family lived in a war surplus tent on Del Monte Heights. They were from Oklahoma. The two brothers picked up a dud shell at Ford Ord. Not knowing what it was, they planned to take it to school the next day. One of the boys dropped the shell which exploded, blowing off the older boy's legs above the knee. Jerry, the younger Edgemon boy, received many shrapnel wounds from the dud shell. I was able to get an immediate preliminary investigation of the case, and associated James Freeman, an Oakland attorney who had been a classmate of mine at Boalt Hall. Freeman had had much experience in the Federal court while I had very little. Freeman sent down a Southern Pacific Railroad investigator who conducted the investigation and turned up a marvelous witness, an unfortunate young man named Richard Rheems who was involved in a previous Fort Ord dud shell explosion. His brother was killed and he, Richard Rheems, lost both legs above the ankle.

We filed the Edgemon case against the army. We tried it in San Francisco District Court and received a judgment in which the army was found to be negligent in not posting, protecting or guarding the artillery practice area from visitors. The judgment included an award of damages reported to have been the highest award up to that time in a tort. Unfortunately, in early 1942, when the Rheems losses occurred, there was no statute in existence permitting the federal government to be sued for negligence.

My cousin, John Sharon, a young lawyer in Washington with the George Ball law firm, was friendly with the chief counsel to the Armed Services Committee. After much effort a bill was enacted by Congress giving special jurisdiction in the United States District Court in San Francisco to hear and try the Rheems case, in which another substantial judgment was awarded under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

This case received wide publicity in the Monterey Herald, and it helped me to be better known, particularly among the diverse groups in Seaside. In 1950, while I was serving as chairman of the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee and chairman of the Eleventh Congressional District Committee, I ran for Carmel City Council. Carmel was not exactly a Democratic stronghold, and practicing law in Seaside did not help me particularly in Carmel. Needless to say, I was defeated.]*

LAGE: Let's talk about how it happened [that you got involved in politics].

FARR: Somebody suggested I run for the Monterey County Central Committee. Although I didn't know anybody, I put down my name as an attorney.

LAGE: By this time you were a Democrat?

FARR: Yes. I guess I became a Democrat just after I got married. I was elected to the County Committee, and I got active in that. Then I became chairman of the [Eleventh Congressional] District Committee and got on the State Committee. This was an interesting thing in politics--the speaker of the state assembly was named James Silliman. Silliman came from an old and highly regarded family in Salinas. I think he's related to the Silliman of the Silliman Library at Yale. Jim

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was speaker of the assembly. He was among the group--[Caspar] Cap Weinberger was there--that kind of led to the downfall of Artie Samish, the famous lobbyist, when Earl Warren was governor of California, and [Goodwin J.] Goodie Knight was lieutenant governor of California. [President Dwight D.] Eisenhower appointed Warren as chief justice, and therefore Goodie Knight became governor of California. At that time the successor to the office of lieutenant governor, in event of a vacancy, was the president pro tem of the senate. The president pro tem of the senate is elected by the majority of the members of the senate--at least at that time they were. If the Democrats were in the majority with a Democratic majority leader, the president pro tem. . . .and vice versa. [Harold J.] Butch Powers was a cowboy from Eagleville in Modoc County, and very nice; everybody liked him. Butch had a wonderful personality. He became lieutenant governor. And for some strange reason Jim Silliman, speaker of the assembly, decided he wanted to run for lieutenant governor; he wanted to be lieutenant governor rather than speaker--who hears about the lieutenant governor? [Laughter]

LAGE: That's right.

FARR: So his assembly seat became open. By that time I'd been president of the County Tuberculosis and Health Association, and I'd been active in a lot of things around the county. So I thought, well, I'm going to run for the assembly. There was a young man named Alan Pattee who lived over in Salinas. He'd gone to dancing school with my wife in southern California [Laughter]. He'd gone to one of the good boys' schools--Harvard [University], or wherever he went. Alan was a very

nice guy, and we ran a campaign. It was a rough campaign for the state assembly, for the seat of Jim Silliman.

LAGE: How does Alan Pattee fit in? Were you running against him?

FARR: Yes. It was an open seat, so we were both running for it. I thought I had a pretty good chance; I thought I'd moved around the county quite a bit. He beat me by 600 votes [in the 1954 general election]. I said, that's the end of my political career. I'd run for city council of Carmel, and I'd run. . .

LAGE: Had you lost that?

FARR: Lost that race, which was back in 1952. I said, this is it.

That was in November, and about February or March of the following year, 1955, the state senator, whose name was Fred Weybret, from Salinas, who had various newspapers--he was kind of a quiet fellow, didn't hear much about him, and pretty conservative--he died. So Jim Silliman announced that he was going to run for that seat. There was going to be a special election. There was also a former senator by the name of [Edward H.] Ed Tickle--in fact, there's a place next to the Highlands Inn called Tickle Pink that was named after Ed Tickle. Tickle had been a very conservative senator. My colleagues up there who knew him used to say Tickle will always vote [Shouts] "No!" [Laughter]

Anyway, a lot of people in the senate didn't like Jim Silliman for one reason or another. They didn't like the fact that he took on Butch Powers. They were going to beat him.

LAGE: He had lost to Butch Powers, I take it, or he wouldn't have been running.

FARR: That's right, he lost to Butch Powers, but they didn't like it that he'd taken on Butch Powers. They didn't want Jim over in the senate. So the forces gathered. They didn't know me from a mosquito in Hawaii. And I didn't want to run; I called up ten Democrats I knew and asked, "Why don't you run? You're better known, you have a chance to run, here's a chance for a Democrat to win it." I called and pleaded with them. I couldn't get anybody to run. Finally the filing week came up and a couple of friends of mine twisted my arm, and I ran. Because I figured, well, if Tickle's going to run, and Silliman's going to run, they're two Republicans and maybe there'll be a chance. As soon as I announced, got into the thing, why Tickle dropped out, but not with a favorable remark about Jim Silliman.

So somebody discovered in the Democratic party that there was a race down here. I think I went over to a California Democratic Council meeting in Fresno, and [Assemblywoman] Dorothy Donahue, who was from Kern County. . . . Dorothy was a woman who had had only a high school education but she was wonderful on education. She was very active in professional women's clubs, and she was an assemblywoman. Dorothy got up and made a pitch and said, here's a chance to pick up a seat. [Daniel] Dan Kimball was secretary of the navy, and he put in a hundred bucks; Pat Brown put in a hundred bucks. All of a sudden they said, "There's a campaign down there; let's go down." They brought down Pierre Salinger [San Francisco newsman at the time], and Elizabeth Smith [Rudel] Gatov [Democratic party leader], and [Richard] Dick Tuck--the famous Dick Tuck [Democratic party activist]-- [Laughter] came down, and [Donald] Don Bradley [San Francisco Democrat] came down. Don was secretary of the. . . . I guess he did

some work for Dianne Feinstein. They all came down and worked on my campaign.

LAGE: So you got a lot of Democratic party support.

FARR: I got a lot of Democratic help. [Assemblyman Phillip] Phil Burton met me and got me some support from the elevator operators in Eureka, and the embalmers from Los Gatos; the checks would come in [Laughter], and we had this campaign . . .

LAGE: Was it an important race in terms of balance in the senate?

FARR: No, but the Democrats were starting to pick up--I think we'd won one or two previous special elections. But there was a lot of help. This was the only thing going on, and [I got] a lot of help. Dick Tuck got a great idea. We drove over to Fresno in a little old car he had. I didn't want to go over to Fresno. But we came home from Fresno with about eight hundred bucks. I said, "Tuck, you're wonderful." He said, "Let's do this: this is a special election. Let's get a card and send it out to people, and tell them where their voting place is: "This is a special election; you live at so-and-so, your voting place is 'boom'." And my picture on there, "Compliments of Fred Farr for state senate."

By golly--it went out with a letter; I had a post office box in King City, a post office box in Gonzales. Each one went out with a kind of a personal touch from that community. The first group that arrived, arrived in Carmel. A woman called up and said, "Janet, you damned Democrats. I knew you were going to screw up this race; you gave everybody the wrong address." It was one precinct--[Laughter], one precinct only. Anyway, we won the race. That was kind of fun.

LAGE: This was just Monterey County?

FARR: Yes.

LAGE: But it takes in quite an area.

FARR: It goes from Pajaro to Camp Roberts, and goes from the Big Sur coast down to the San Caporjio River, up to Prunedale in the north.

LAGE: And how far inland?

FARR: Inland it goes over to San Benito County. It's a very diverse county, interesting people--the people in Big Sur, the people in the Watsonville area, the people in the San Ardo-King City area, where people call up in the morning and the first question is not, "How are you," but, "How much rain did you get?"

[The date of the special election to fill the vacant state seat of the late Senator Weybret was May 3, 1955. A lot of statewide interest was building up as election day neared, due to the fact that Jim Silliman had been speaker of the assembly and also that prominent Democrats had come into the county to work on my campaign.

The election results see-sawed back and forth with Silliman leading early on. But as the evening progressed the picture changed, and at about 10:30 p.m. I was declared winner by about 1400 votes, being the first Democrat elected from that district to the state senate in 43 years.

I was sworn to complete the unexpired term of Senator Weybret a few weeks prior to the adjournment of the 1955 session of the legislature. Fortunately I was assigned a seat next to Senator Stephen Teale, a new but able senator from West Point who represented three mother lode counties in the Sierra foothills. My legislative ambitions in the few remaining days of the session were twofold. One was to have Governor Goodwin Knight, a Republican, reappoint to the Monterey County Fair board Corum Jackson, chairman of the Republican Central Committee, a fine man and a good friend. That, I thought, would be

as easy as falling off a log. It wasn't; Knight refused to reappoint Jackson, much to the consternation of my assemblyman Alan Pattee, the Monterey County Republicans, and the community as a whole.

My other legislative effort was to get Asilomar in Pacific Grove into the state park system. Knight agreed to give his support for the purchase from the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association], if the legislature gave its approval. After the legislature approved the bill the governor vetoed it. So my initial effort was a strike out on both counts in the 1955 session. My association with Alan Pattee was most cooperative and helpful after the governor's veto. All the friends of Asilomar went to work to change Governor Knight's mind. Joseph A. Knowland, chairman of the State Park Commission and editor of the Oakland Tribune, put a lot of pressure on the governor, who finally succumbed and agreed to the purchase of Asilomar in 1966.]*

Shortly after I got in the senate, there was a problem because the California sports fishermen wanted to put a moratorium on anchovies. The Monterey fishermen had lost all their sardines so they were using anchovies, and anchovies were used for dog food and stuff like that. Also some anchovies were being dried and frozen and things like that. It was very important to the [local fishermen] . . .

LAGE: So you had two constituent groups with different. . . .

FARR: The sportsmen were hunters and everything else, but the statewide sportsmen had taken a very strong stand to put a moratorium on anchovies.

LAGE: Why would that be?

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

FARR: Because they wanted them for bait for ocean sport fishing.

LAGE: I see; they were afraid they would be fished out.

FARR: The biologists in the [Department of] Fish and Game said you could take a hundred thousand tons without really hurting them. But anyway, they were very powerful. They would go down to meetings, and they had me hanged in effigy. A silver platter came in one day before a hearing in Los Angeles with one anchovy on it. It said, "This is all that will be left."

I didn't want my southern California sportsmen to go along with the statewide sportsmen, so we took a bunch of fishermen down to King City one night for dinner. A lot of the fishermen were Italian, and a lot of the sportsmen were Italian Swiss. They got along like peas in a pod. We came back to Monterey, and we went down to the Big Sur, and we formed a thing called the Buckeye Club. We just had our thirty-eighth anniversary two weeks ago.

LAGE: How was it resolved, then?

FARR: Well, we got these people together. We kept on fighting; we went on for years down there. We'd always get the biologist at the Fish and Game to come along with us, and the Fish and Game Commission would not put on a statewide moratorium. They had a limitation as to the amount of tonnage that could be taken, but it would always give the Monterey fishermen a break.

So I got interested in their cause, and they came to me one day and said, "You know, we're a maligned group of California workers who are forgotten, neglected. We can go out there on a boat and work our tails off for five days and come back, and we don't get any unemployment insurance. Anybody in a shoreside plant does." So after

much effort we got a bill through on unemployment insurance, which was helpful. But anyway, that's only a diversion.

LAGE: We've discussed this a little bit, but in terms of comparing this first election with later ones, do you remember the kind of budget you had?

FARR: Yes. The second election . . .

LAGE: That would have been just a year later, in '56.

FARR: I think that was the election where two people ran on the Republican party against me. One of them, a lawyer [John Shephard], started off-- and the other fellow was a businessman--and said, "Look, he just became a citizen. He's lived here for twenty years and he was a Canadian citizen up to two years ago; did he change his citizenship just to run for the senate? What kind of an American is he?" [Laughter] The other said, "I'm pretty good, but we go to look for you and you're always in a bar."

LAGE: So they defeated each other.

FARR: They defeated each other. [There was crossfiling then, and] I won the Republican nomination and the Democratic nomination.

LAGE: So you won both.

FARR: Yes.

LAGE: When you were elected you were the first Democrat to be elected to that seat.

FARR: In fifty-five years, to the senate from Monterey County.

LAGE: But when I looked at the registration figures, it is a Democratic county in registration.

FARR: It's a Democratic county, but not Democratic voting. We had a Democratic assemblyman [Fred Emlay] for a little while; he lived over

in Salinas, and later drove a taxicab. Then we got a Democratic congressman in George Outland, but not in the state senate.

Anyway, that was '60, and in '64 I had a fellow named [William] Bill Bryan running against me. I had four elections ['60, '62, '64, '66] . . .

[Interruption]

LAGE: In these early campaigns, '55 and '56, were there particular issues that concerned the county that you focused on? What was your agenda as you went to Sacramento?

FARR: The biggest thing I got involved in was environmental things.

LAGE: Was that brought to your attention by constituents?

FARR: It was brought to my attention, and I did have an interest in it. I guess my interest in that started way back. When I was in San Francisco I served on the board of this thing called San Francisco Planning and Housing Association, which later turned into SPUR [San Francisco Planning and Urban Renewal Association]. I have quite a few friends who are architects. Then, when I came down here, I think it was in 1953, I got interested in planning. I was worried and concerned about what was going on in planning here. So I got together a group and called it a Community Planning Conference. We got a lot of people to come down here. There was Vernon DeMars, and there was Corwin Mocine from Berkeley.

LAGE: Was there concern about growth? I notice in this little brochure on your election to the city council . . .

FARR: Yes, we were concerned about growth and what was happening here. We had this three-day event, which started at the Monterey fairgrounds. I think we must have had about sixty participants. The editor of the

newspaper [the Monterey Peninsula Herald], Allen Griffin, gave us very good editorial support, and we got a lot of local architects in the thing. We divided up into panels to discuss these various things and bring back their findings. We came back on Sunday morning and decided where we should go from here, and we decided to form the Monterey County Planning Advisory, which we formed. But unfortunately there wasn't a great deal of follow-up on that. But then I got involved in a thing with an architect by the name of [William] Will Shaw, who was a very close friend of mine. He formed an organization called the Foundation for Environmental Design. I served on the board of that. That board had on it Ansel Adams [photographer, conservationist]; [Nathaniel] Nat Owings [architect, conservationist]; Remsen Bird, who was the former president of Occidental College; a chap from Seattle, Langdon Simons; Will Shaw's then-wife, Virginia, was the executive secretary; and myself.

LAGE: Was it confined to local issues?

FARR: No, it was local issues and some state issues, and they made some examples of highways and things that they took to planning conferences around the state, showed them and talked about it, and got involved. They started talking about the Big Sur, and they started talking about freeways and highways and design in general. It was a good group of people.

LAGE: Was this before you were in the senate?

FARR: Yes.

LAGE: So this was background. When you went to the senate you . . .

FARR: One of my first committee assignments was to the Senate Natural Resources Committee. About that time I got to know Nat Owings, the

architect, and Nicholas Roosevelt, whose father was Teddy Roosevelt's nephew. Nat and Nick lived down the Big Sur coast. Well, in the California freeway system you had Big Sur as one of the segments, so one of my first things was to get that out. Nick Roosevelt and Nat talked to me about the Big Sur, what a great highway it was and how we ought to somehow preserve the scenic highway corridor. We'd go down, and we'd talk about it. I talked a little bit about having a national parkway, like they have the George Washington Parkway that goes out to Mt. Vernon. The federal government purchases the corridor in order to protect the scenic beauty for the pleasure and enjoyment of the motorist. We brought some of the highway people down [to Big Sur]. In those days it was wonderful: I'd call up the commanding general at Fort Ord and say, "I've got some important people from Sacramento and they want to go down the coast. Can we use a helicopter?" "How many do you need, Senator?" [Laughter] Not today!

Anyway, we'd go down there to the Owings house and have lunch, and then we'd go up and see Nick Roosevelt. They came up with the idea that our county supervisor, [Thomas] Tom Hudson, who was a friend of mine. . . . but Tom had his views about that; he was a pretty feisty guy. He said no, a parkway would take too much land off the tax rolls. So then we came up with the idea for the scenic highway. A scenic highway had to qualify by doing certain things, and one thing was to ban billboards.

LAGE: Did we already have a scenic highway bill designation?

FARR: No, that came on later; I got the legislation. We talked about a scenic highway, what the scenic highway should have. And I think somebody

else was talking a little bit about scenic highways. But the thing that really came along about that time was that they wanted to put a freeway through Monterey up to the top of the Carmel hill. I had a picture from the highway department showing what the new freeway intersection would look like at the Santa Catalina school. It was put down over the present existing roadway. Well, it looked like a can of worms. I gave it to the assistant editor of the Monterey Herald, Ed Kennedy--Ed Kennedy's the guy who broke the news about the end of World War II. Ed took the thing and he blew it up and put it in the Monterey Herald, and called it "The Can of Worms." Boy, that thing hit the papers all over California. And people started in on a petition against freeways. But a petition against freeways is kind of silly, because freeways are the safest thing we've got. But they didn't like freeways. Anyway, it engendered enough steam that we went to Sacramento, and a fellow by the name of [William] Bill Hudson down the Big Sur coast . . .

[Interruption]

LAGE: I just want to make sure we connected here, after going into the other room.

FARR: The connection is that a resident of Big Sur named Bill Hudson was born and raised in Monterey. His father was mayor of Monterey. He graduated from Stanford, he was a lawyer, and he was head of US Leasing. He was a very well-to-do man and had a beautiful house down the coast. This highway department was going to take out a highway bridge on his property and put a big iron culvert in. He was very upset about it, because he said that wildlife wanted to get down to the sea, and it was ugly, and to cover the creeks up and put a

culvert in was just destroying part of the nature of the Big Sur, and he was very indignant about it. So he got a helicopter and took pictures of the coastline, the creeks, and the bridges. He took them to Sacramento with Nat Owings and we all had a meeting with the governor.

LAGE: Governor Brown at that time?

FARR: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. We talked at that time about a scenic highway system from Canada to the Mexican border.

LAGE: Was Brown responsive to that?

FARR: He was responsive to it. He said to the director of transportation [Robert Bradford], "Why can't we do it?" "Well, Governor, it's going to cost us so much more money," and this, that, and the other thing. "Anyway," he said, "I want a bridge back in there."

[End Tape 1, Side B]

[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

LAGE: We may have missed that you won the fight.

FARR: Yes, we killed the culvert idea and a new attractive bridge was built at Dolan Creek Canyon. The other thing that was kind of interesting at that time was the fact that the freeway from Fort Ord to the top of the Carmel hill had this interchange at the Santa Catalina school, and the whole thing was rather an ugly freeway. Again, Owings and I went to San Francisco. Bradford was then head of public works, and Owings said to Bradford, "You can draw all the plans you want on paper. I'm an architect; you put them in a model." So they finally agreed on what they had, and they put it in a model. [Paul B.] Red Fay was undersecretary of the navy, and his daughter went to Santa Catalina;

Kathleen Brown went to Santa Catalina; my daughter, Nancy, went to Catalina. So the three lobbyists were really after their fathers [Laughter]. Red Fay held the card; he said to the navy, "Don't settle with the California Division of Highways until Sister Kieran at Santa Catalina is happy with what goes on there."

LAGE: That's wonderful--how decisions are made!

FARR: So anyway, the group of architects walked from the top of the Carmel hill to Fort Ord and they said, you can slope these and plant trees in here and design this--it's a very good intersection, that's a very good freeway. And it was done because of the people around here caring.

Some time subsequent to that, [following an intensive study and report by the State Highway Department, I introduced in the senate the bill to create a scenic highway system for California. The State Department of Transportation had completed its year long study of our scenic highway concept, using Monterey County and the Big Sur Master Plan as prototypes for the study. The department recommended a 5000 mile network of billboard-free scenic highways for California, from the Oregon line to the Mexican border. Based on this report I introduced the Scenic Highway Senate Bill 1467 to create the California Scenic Highway System and Monterey County gave its support. The Board of Supervisors recommended that counties also be authorized to designate certain county roads as county scenic highways. The scenic highway aims to protect the scenic corridor by regulation of land use and intensity, careful site planning, control of outdoor advertising, control of earthmoving, landscaping and design and appearance. I had also introduced Senate Bill 1123 to control the indiscriminate location of billboards adjacent to state highways. These bills were referred to the

senate transportation of which I was a member and Senator Randolph Collier, the father of the California freeway system, was chairman. Collier was known as the "Father of the 12,000-mile California Freeway Plan." He was the senior member of the legislature in years of service and was nicknamed "the Sage of the Siskiyou," from which he came. My bill would ban billboards within 880 feet of the highway except for those giving useful instructions to motorists and would allow billboards in commercially zoned areas. The bill went before the Senate Transportation Committee. It was unopposed by the large billboard operators whose signs were primarily in commercial or industrial areas. The opposition was from three rural billboard operators whose signs were cluttering up the rural scenic highways. The bill had lots of support from the governor, the California Roadside Council, and many other groups.

The Scenic Highway Bill was referred to the Transportation Committee. I presented the bill before Collier's committee and the Transportation Department gave it strong support. The bill was approved by the committee and re-referred to the Senate Finance Committee where it was also approved, and then sent to the senate floor for third reading and final passage. And then a little incident happened that brought me into a mortal clash with Senator Collier.]*

I was up in the Education Committee. The senate was in session, but it was near the end of the 1963 session and we had to get the bills out of committee to get on the floor. My colleague and good friend, [Alvin] Al Weingand from Santa Barbara, said, "Fred, while you were

* Mr. Farr revised, clarified, and added the bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

up in Education Randy Collier moved your bill on scenic highways back to the Senate Finance Committee." I said, "The hell he did. It's already been heard in the Senate Finance Committee." So I went to [Senate President pro tem] Hugh Burns, and I said, "Hugh, what goes on here?" And he said, "Well, Randy, you know, he's the chairman of the Transportation [Committee]. . . ." I said, "Yes, I'm on Transportation, and the bill was heard and approved by Transportation."

LAGE: Approved by Transportation already?

FARR: Yes. And he said, "Well, Randy had some trouble with the radiator in his car and he couldn't get here for the hearing." I said, "That doesn't excuse it." He said, "Well, it's going to be up there today." And he said, "Fred, why do you have all these damned posey-pluckin' bills anyway?" I really got pretty mad. I went up to my office, and just before the hearing I said to my secretary [Gladys Kurdis], "Take this letter: Dear Governor Brown, I resign as a California state senator." I said, "I want this typed when I get back. I'm not going to sit in the senate."

So I came back, and she said, "Let's see what happened down on the senate floor." We went down there, and Burns came over to me and said, "You know, that bill was moved up to the senate"--well, it went to the Senate Finance Committee, and I think it was held in committee or something--and Burns said, "we moved that bill up there, and we shouldn't have done it when you were off the floor. We want to play fair with you, so Randy Collier's going to move that the bill comes back to the senate floor from the Finance Committee, and we want your support on it." I said, "Hell, no. If you're going to defeat me, let's do it, let's do it. I'm going to vote against it, I'm going to

speak against it." So anyway, they made the motion, and I argued against it, and behind me . . .

LAGE: When you argue against it, do you bring out . . . ?

FARR: You see, I argued that the bill was on the floor and should not go back to the Senate Finance Committee; it was heard in the Senate Finance Committee, and the only reason for sending it back there was to defeat it. So there it was.

LAGE: So you brought out the real reasons for the move.

FARR: Yes. [Edwin J.] Ed Regan, sitting behind me, said, "I don't know if this bill is any good. I don't know if I like it or not, but I want to hear what it's all about." And so we had a hearing on the bill.

LAGE: You won your point there?

FARR: Well, we won the point, but then it was on third reading, and it was up for passes, then and there. Collier got up and argued against it, and I got up and argued for it. Finally I said, "Well, I'll put a two-year moratorium on it." In other words, we'll try it for two years, and if it's going to cost a lot--it's been heard by the Senate Finance Committee and by Alan Post, the legislative analyst, who said it's not going to cost the state very much. They're going to have a committee of scenic highways that meets and considers various highways to be in the scenic category. Of course, the billboard people were very much against it.

He got the moratorium on the bill--the two-year time limit, and it got over to the assembly. No, here's what happened. I promised to put the moratorium in on the assembly side. I said, "If the bill goes out, you can take my word I'll put it in the assembly side." So Collier figured putting the bill on the assembly side would be different than the senate bill, and you have to have a conference committee, and in a

conference committee he'd kill it. It got on the assembly side, and it went before the assembly committee on natural resources. [Edwin] Ed Z'berg was the chairman. He said, "Your amendments are not accepted."

LAGE: You did try to carry out your end of the bargain.

FARR: I did. It got on the assembly floor, and [assemblyman] Jesse Unruh said, "This bill is on the consent calendar." So there was no vote on it. So it never got back to the senate, and Collier was furious.

LAGE: So it passed without a change, and there was never a conference committee.¹

FARR: Yes.

LAGE: Where was Collier coming from, that he was so opposed to this type of thing?

FARR: Randy was an interesting guy. He ran the Senate Transportation Committee. Until [Senator] Peter Behr came in, there was no roll call vote in the committee; there would be a voice vote, but no tally vote. You'd ask for a roll call, and he'd say, "I'm sorry, the bill's out," or "The bill's in the committee." He absolutely ran the committee. Peter Behr . . .

LAGE: He didn't allow any dissent, or didn't record dissent?

FARR: No: "All in favor, aye; opposed, no. Ayes have it; bill's out. All further aye; opposed, no. Bill's at committee." And, you know, you were dead. Somehow or other he let the bill get out of the committee, and he was mad because he did let it get out of the committee.

But Peter Behr changed that whole thing when he got up in the senate. Collier was a pretty iron-handed guy, and he did get the

1. S.B. 1467, 1963 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch 1788.

But Peter Behr changed that whole thing when he got up in the senate. Collier was a pretty iron-handed guy, and he did get the California freeway system through. You've got to hand it to him for that. But he was a tough guy to cross, and he didn't like these conservation bills . . .

LAGE: These "posey-plucking" things.

FARR: That's exactly what they were called. Also we got through a bill that gave the State Park Commission some veto over putting freeways through state parks, which was another thing he didn't like because up in the redwood country, the loggers were his pals.

LAGE: He was from that area.

FARR: Sure he was [from Yreka]. People represented their areas.

LAGE: Was the scenic highway bill modeled on a federal system, or other states?

FARR: I think we just gathered some ideas. The main concept of the thing was that it had to have outstanding scenic quality, and it had to be controlled as far as outdoor advertisement was concerned--billboards--and it was approved by a scenic highway advisory committee working with the department which is now Caltrans, but which was the Division of Transportation. There'd be meetings up there, and they'd consider this highway and that highway, consider the quality, and if they approved the thing they got a big plaque that said "Scenic Highway." There are still some around the state.

LAGE: Big Sur was made a scenic highway.

FARR: Yes, State Highway One from Carmel to Cambria, having been the prototype on which many scenic highway concepts were based, was designated as the first official state scenic highway. [At the southerly

end of the Big Sur Highway in San Luis Obispo there is the Hearst Castle at San Simeon. The Hearst interests had decided to give the castle to the State of California for inclusion in the state park system. In October of 1957 the State Bar convention was being held in Monterey. In attendance would be legislative members of the Joint Judiciary Committee of the Administration of Justice. Believing that it would help move forward the acquisition of this marvelous property by the state if prominent legislators could visit the castle, I arranged with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hearst family and the commanding general of Fort Ord for a helicopter trip from Monterey to Hearst Castle and return. Included in our group was Joseph R. Knowland, then the chairman of the State Park Commission. The army was most generous and cooperative in supplying three helicopters for our trip, each carrying eight passengers. The Hearst family provided a magnificent tour of the castle and a reception prior to our leaving for the flight back to Monterey. Our trip was marred only by the helicopter in which I was a passenger with Joseph Knowland having mid-air engine trouble over the Hunter Liggett Military Reserve. All of the helicopters landed at Hunter Liggett for gas both going and coming from the castle. Of the three helicopters, ours was the last to leave for the flight home. Shortly after being airborne at a height of several hundred feet the aircraft rocked and the engine sputtered. We fell to the ground and bounced around a bit but no one was hurt.

Back in Carmel guests were arriving at our home, as Janet and I were hosting a buffet dinner for members of the Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Brown, several supreme court justices and local lawyers, and bar association officials. All of them arrived at our house

before we could get word of our whereabouts, and there being no telephone available, it was several hours before our whereabouts were known.

In retrospect I like to think that taking the legislators to Hearst Castle by helicopter, and having Joseph Knowland present, was an event that they would not forget, and perhaps the trip, in some small way, helped to push along the support for Senator Alfred Erhat's bill for the state to accept the Hearst family's gift of San Simeon. The bill was successfully concluded by approval of both houses and signature of the governor.]*

Then something wonderful happened, as far as I was concerned: I got a telegram one day in the state senate, and it said, "You are cordially invited to the First Lady's tour of scenic highways and historical places. Meet at the such-and-such gate of the White House on such-and-such a day," signed by Lady Bird Johnson [wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson]. I thought somebody was making this thing up. But, I thought, I don't know, maybe the thing is genuine. I'm the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and I'm going to go.

LAGE: This was later on in your career?

FARR: Yes. This was the spring of 1962. So I got there, and I didn't know anybody except [Secretary of Agriculture] Orville Freeman. I knew him when he was attorney general of Minnesota. He came to our house in Carmel one day, and I had met him again when I represented Governor Brown at a governors' civil rights conference in Detroit. He was with

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

his wife, Jane. They were very hospitable and introduced me to everybody. All the people on the tour were wives of cabinet members; there were no legislators--no congressmen, no senators. Here we are [points to photograph], going down to Virginia. This is Rex Whitten, who is the director of the Bureau of Public Roads; this is Laurance Rockefeller, and here is his wife; this is Lady Bird, and this is Muriel Humphrey [wife of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey]. This is the highway, and they want to demonstrate how the scenic highways would look. Then we went down to . . .

LAGE: How long a tour was that?

FARR: Oh, we stopped at a couple of places and went to Monticello for lunch, and then we came home. They went down to see some play.

Before we went on that bus tour I talked to the people in the highway department, and I talked to some people in the state printing office. I talked to Bernice Brown [wife of Governor Pat Brown]. I told them all I was going on this trip, and could I make up something that would show what Highway 1 would look like? We'll get some pictures and put it together in sort of a book form, and maybe I'll have a chance to talk to Mrs. Johnson. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get her out here? Bernice Brown said, "Get her out here, and we'll take her down to Big Sur and down to Hearst Castle."

On the trip, everybody was invited to sit with Mrs. Johnson. So when my turn came I went over and sat down and talked to her about it, showed her the book and everything. I didn't know what reaction she had, but [Elizabeth] Liz Carpenter, who was her gal [press secretary], was very encouraging. The next thing I knew, I was invited to be on the President's Task Force on Natural Beauty, which was

wonderful. We met at the White House, and we met at Laurance Rockefeller's office in New York. We had about eight or nine meetings. That thing had. . . I think there was [] Ed Bacon, who was planning director of Philadelphia; and there was [] Jack Dextron, who just died recently and was at one time head of the department of design at Berkeley; and we had the director of the natural resources of the state of Pennsylvania; and we had William Holly White, who was a writer in New York; and [Secretary of the Interior] Stewart Udall. Anyway, it was an interesting group of nine people, and we'd meet and talk about. . . I did the paper on highways. They gave us a little money, and I had Harold Gilliam [environmentalist] help me on that.

[Interruption]

Then the White House Conference on Natural Beauty was called, and Laurance Rockefeller at the beginning of it said, "You're the chairman of the committee on scenic roads and highways. There's going to be four people reporting to the White House." There was going to be the president of the League of Women Voters, William Holly White, Ed Bacon (I think it was), and myself. We were going to report the trappings of the three-day conference, which was kind of wonderful.

LAGE: When did this take place?

FARR: This was in 1965. Then in 1966 we wrote Mrs. Johnson, and she said yes, she'd come. So she came to Monterey, and went down to Big Sur. We took her down to the Owings' house. We dedicated--that picture right there [points to photograph], that's Stewart Udall, here's Pat Brown, Bernice Brown, and me, the mayor of Monterey, and Nat Owings. A funny thing happened on this event. We were in the car--

there was the governor and his wife, and the driver, which was, I guess, a California state police or secret service, and myself. Just a few minutes before the car got there--they were very worried because the Vietnam war was on; they had telephone lines stretched down there, because they figured someone could damage the president's wife because a lot of people hated LBJ [President Lyndon Baines Johnson] because of the war. So this fellow came up, he had big, bushy hair and a camera under his arm, and a big hat. They said, "Grab him! Grab him!" [refers to photograph] That's the man.

LAGE: Oh, no, Ansel Adams!

FARR: Who'd been at the White House to see the Johnsons, to see the Kennedys, and every president alive. [Laughter]

So anyway, she came down that evening and we went to Hearst Castle, and that was a great thing. Fred Dutton, who had been secretary of the cabinet under Kennedy, was mad as the devil. He was mad because, he said, that was a foolish way for Pat Brown to spend his day. By taking Mrs. Johnson to Los Angeles he could have seen 200,000 people; in Monterey County and the Big Sur they'd be lucky if they'd see 5,000 people. In a way he was right, but anyway they went down and had a . . .

LAGE: I'm sure she enjoyed it more.

FARR: I think she enjoyed it, and they had a wonderful dinner with Danny Kaye [actor] as master of ceremonies at Hearst Castle. It was great. And she dedicated the highway as California's first scenic highway.

LAGE: We're getting way ahead of our story, but did this lead to your appointment, was it in '66, [as federal highway beautification coordinator]?

FARR: Yes, I think so. In '64 I was elected again, around that time, against a fellow named Steve Magyar. He was a pretty popular guy in this county. I was reelected for a four-year term, which would end in '68. However, the big case came down on the Supreme Court and--one man, one vote. So we had a reapportionment of the state senate the year of '66, I guess it was. I had to run for reelection as a Democrat, and there were two Republicans.

This new reapportioned district included San Luis Obispo, San Benito and Monterey counties, and I think part of Santa Barbara County. So a senator by the name of [Vernon] Verne Sturgeon, commonly called Virgin Sturgeon, from San Luis Obispo, ran in the primary against [Donald] Don Grunsky, who was the senator from Santa Cruz County. Don had been in the assembly, been in the senate, been there a long time; I think he was an able senator. He was pretty illiberal politically, but I have to give him credit; he did a great many things in education, and lots of good legislation. Don was somewhat of a loner in the senate, and his great fun was to come home and take a deposition on Friday or Saturday. He's practiced law all his life, he's a trial lawyer and a defense lawyer, and he got more fun out of the law than even serving in the senate.

So anyway, we had a contest. That was the year that Ronald Reagan came in as governor and Pat Brown went out, and a lot of us went out. That ended my political life, I thought. Then I got a letter from Washington to come back and consider being coordinator of highway beautification.

So I went back. I didn't know just what to do. I'd had kind of a tragic year that year. My wife had died in January of cancer, and my

youngest daughter, Nancy, got killed in a horseback accident down in Colombia where my son was in the Peace Corps. So it was kind of rough. And then the campaign, you know . . .

LAGE: What a terrible year to go through.

FARR: I went down to Mexico to see my good friend Tony [Fulton] Freeman. (That picture there is my daughter, Francesca, who was living in Mexico, and that was at the embassy. Tony Freeman was our ambassador, and this is Lady Bird down at the embassy. I wasn't there at that time.) Anyway, Francesca was in the wedding of his daughter, and I went down over Christmas. He talked to me for a long time. I wanted to go into the Peace Corps. He said, "Don't go into the Peace Corps. You take that job in Washington. You've got to get a new life. Take that job and you'll meet all kinds of interesting people."

So I did. I went back to Washington. I served as coordinator of highway beautification for a couple of years. Then the assemblyman, Alan Pattee, died, and [Richard M.] Nixon came in as president. I didn't know how much longer we were going to get any support for that program; once the Johnsons left town, the support wasn't there.

LAGE: But you were still coordinator?

FARR: I was still coordinator, yes. I got a call from Pat Brown and Jesse Unruh and everybody, and they said, "Look this is the key seat in the assembly. This one vote is going to give the Democrats or the Republicans control." Pattee had been killed on the highway. Everybody urged me to come back. So I said, "Well, I ought to go home." I came back, and I ran for state assembly [1969]. Whereas I'd won the thing two years ago for the senate--I won Monterey County, and this was just Monterey County--I was badly beaten.

- LAGE: Let's talk about that a little bit--what the campaign was like. It was a very key campaign, I understand.
- FARR: Here's one of the things I wanted to show you [sorts through papers]. We're looking at the assembly campaign.
- LAGE: This says '63, Farr v. Wood. I think this is the campaign, you just have it dated wrong. You're showing me ads that took place in the '69 campaign. Reagan took an active part in the campaign. This was the key election for control of the state assembly . . .
- FARR: Yes. We were trying to control the assembly.
- LAGE: How did the papers . . .?
- FARR: Here are the papers. I had run these ads, [showing editorials] which they had put in two years before, in '66, supporting me. And they all came out against me [in 1969] because Reagan had called up all these papers.
- LAGE: So the media played a key role.
- FARR: Yes.
- LAGE: They supported you in '66 . . .
- FARR: And turned against me in '69.
- LAGE: What reasons did they give?
- FARR: Because I was a carpetbagger [Laughter]. Well, I'll show you the ads here. Here is a very strong Californian endorsement.
- LAGE: The Salinas Californian, the Rustler, and the Monterey Peninsula Herald all endorsed you in '66.
- FARR: Right. It was strong. [Searches through papers, but cannot find ads] One ad showed that I was not against campus riots. They showed the Campanile of the University of California, and the Black Muslims with bandoliers and tommy guns performing around the Campanile there.

One of the ads was welfare frauds, and it showed Mexican women, chicano women, with shawls and whatnot, standing in line on welfare. Another was secondary boycotts, "Strike, strike, huelga, huelga." The fourth one was "soft on narcotics," and big hypodermic needles shooting into the arm. They were big ads, and they published them again, and again, and again.

LAGE: What did they draw on in terms of facts for this?

FARR: Well, when you were in the senate, in the legislature, for eleven and a half years, you vote on an awful lot of bills. I think the thing on campus riots was [a bill that said] that they had to have some kind of a reasonable cause to stop a person, arrest him, and throw him off the campus, something like that. Welfare frauds, that might have been [my opposition to] a bill that permitted people to go in the middle of the night and knock on doors and find out if there were illegitimate children or something.

LAGE: I remember those issues.

FARR: My seatmate, [James A.] Jim Cobey, had the bill; and my friend [Joseph] Joe Rattigan, his initial bill was on that one that Cobey [inaudible]. We still talk about it and laugh about it. We're old friends. In fact, we all had dinner about two months ago, and still talk about that famous bill.

The secondary boycotts, I've forgotten what the legislation was, except that I had strong labor support.

LAGE: But there was some kind of minor legislation . . .

FARR: Yes. I mean, I had the support of growers and shippers before that, in previous elections. But this was a key seat, and Ronald Reagan was governor. Ronald Reagan came down here, and Ronald Reagan sent a

letter to everybody just before the election: it was important to him, important to California, and important to the legislature to have Bob Wood up there. Wood was a very nice man; he was an apricot grower in Greenfield, and had been chairman of the board of supervisors, and I was a carpetbagger who had gone to Washington--you know.

That was the best thing that ever happened to me, that I didn't win.

LAGE: Was there a lot of money spent on the campaign?

FARR: I think so. Yes, there was.

LAGE: How about your own fund raising?

FARR: I think we raised more than we had ever raised. I think we probably raised about \$80,000, which was a lot, and I think they exceeded \$100,000. Today that's peanuts.

LAGE: But it was probably high for what you'd gone through before.

FARR: Yes, I think so.

LAGE: What about your support from the Democrats?

FARR: I got good support. I would say a few Democrats turned against me in the county.

LAGE: Somewhere I came across a mention that you didn't want some of the Democratic figures to come down and campaign. Some newspaper said you resisted the help of big-name Democrats.

FARR: I think I did, but maybe some of them did come down. They [Republicans] were bringing down Ronald Reagan and all these people from out of town, and I said we could win it with our local people. I think by and large we did use our local people; there may have been one or two that came in.

LAGE: It sounds like such a different atmosphere from the previous years.

FARR: Well, it was a change. I mean, Governor Reagan was in and Governor Brown was out. A lot of my good friends in the Salinas Valley, particularly, who had always supported me, didn't support me then. It was just one of those things in life.

LAGE: It was a time of campus unrest and agricultural labor issues.

FARR: That's right. And the braceros were about to be taken off, you know. The growers contended that the people that were sent to them were just a bunch of winos and drunks and they couldn't work in the fields. And the first years that the braceros didn't come, the growers made money and people were making twenty-five dollars a day in the fields. Things change around. But at the time I think they thought they were going to get the braceros back. And the Berkeley riots were certainly on the minds of a lot of people. In fact, the fellow who had run against me the previous year--the riots were in '62 or '63 . . .

LAGE: The FSM [Free Speech Movement] was in '64, and then there was continuing unrest.

FARR: I ran in one campaign against a fellow named [William] Bill Bryan who was an attorney from Salinas. Bill Bryan used movies from the campus riots--showed them in Salinas. I thought they were going to be devastating. I was there, but it didn't make such a big effect. But it did later on, there were media guys . . .

LAGE: Reagan made this a big issue, and he fired Clark Kerr [president of the University of California].

FARR: Sure he did. That's right. Reagan made it a big issue, Clark Kerr went out as president of the University. So it won. It won down here.

LAGE: In that '64 campaign, the Rumford bill was a big issue. Was that locally an issue?*

FARR: Yes, you bet it was. I've got some statistics on the Rumford; it was defeated here. That was a very interesting thing here, because the people that stood up against--well, the Rumford bill passed, and there was the Francis initiative amendment** to the California constitution that said that the legislature could no longer deal in civil rights as it applied to housing, which passed in California. Of course, the California Realtors Association supported it, and we were against it. I was very proud of the fellow who was the president of the Del Monte Properties Company. That's the Pebble Beach company over here. He came out against the Francis amendment. That took a lot of guts. His father-in-law was [Samuel F. B.] Sam Morse who has been a life-long Republican and started the Pebble Beach corporation. And Dick Osborne came out against it. I thought it was very courageous.

LAGE: You won that election, and you had voted in favor of the Rumford Act.

FARR: I had voted for the Rumford Act and worked hard against the Francis amendment. It went to the California Supreme Court and was declared unconstitutional, and went to the United States Supreme Court. I was in Washington at the time. I wasn't practicing law. I got a call from a lawyer named Malcolm Weintraub from Sacramento saying, "Would you move my admission to the United States Supreme Court?" I said I had never moved anybody's admission; I'd just got admitted myself many

* A.B. 1240, 1963 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1853.

** Proposition 14 (1964).

years ago, but I'd certainly be glad to do it. So I went up and found out what you do to move somebody's admission.

I went to the Supreme Court, and it was the day the Francis amendment decision on appeal from the California Supreme Court was being announced. We got there, and first the senators are admitted to the court, and next the congressmen, and the high officials, and then they come down the line to the general run of lawyers, alphabetically. Weintraub was there, and the chief justice looked at him and said, "Senator Farr, do you have somebody you wish to admit?" I didn't know the chief justice had remembered me. He said, "I wish you and Mr. Weintraub would come to my chambers after it's over." So the decision was to sustain the California Supreme Court on the Francis amendment, which was really a great thrill, and put to rest for a long time. . . . it was one of the biggest things that ever happened to civil rights, Rumford's fair housing and Unruh's fair economic practices act.

LAGE: Did we have Earl Warren as [U.S.] Supreme Court chief justice then?

FARR: Yes, Earl Warren.

LAGE: You met with him later?

FARR: This is a diversion, but the [Robert] Bork nomination [interviews took place during Senate consideration of Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court]--Max Radin is one of the great law professors at the University of California at Berkeley. He was known throughout Europe as one of the great law professors of the world, particularly in legal history. He was nominated to the California Supreme Court by Culbert Olson. There was a committee on judicial appointments, a three-man committee. His admission to the supreme court was denied by the vote of one man, the attorney general of California, Earl Warren. [Laughter]

[End Tape 2, Side A]

[Begin Tape 2, Side B]

LAGE: I want to go back and talk about the senate--how it was organized, some of the leadership on committees--in a systematic way. So let's go back to when you first went to the legislature. At that time, I think Ben Hulse was president pro tem.

FARR: Yes, Ben Hulse was president pro tem. He was a Republican, and he was from Imperial County.

LAGE: Is there a way to characterize his leadership? He was only president for a short time.

FARR: He was a pretty conservative fellow. However, we all [Senator Jim Cobey from Merced, Senator Robert McCarthy from San Francisco, and I] went down there one day to some kind of a testimonial dinner he had--I've forgotten whose campaign it was. I've kept this little book on it; it was in '55, so we'll look and see who was there. The Democrats took control of the senate.

LAGE: Hugh Burns came in in '57. That was the first time the Democrats had taken control for a long time. Did that make a big change in the way the senate functioned?

FARR: Sure, it did. I mean, it meant--as they used to say around the senate--any time you don't like the way it runs, just get twenty-one votes. And we had twenty-one votes. What you do, you have a caucus the night before, and at that caucus you decide who you want as pro tem. At that time we had very few Democratic caucuses. But we had a caucus to organize, and when we decided who we wanted, the Republicans as

a rule would come along with you, because they knew they didn't have the votes.

LAGE: Apparently it wasn't as partisan, from what I've read. There wasn't as much concern about party.

FARR: That's right. You didn't have caucus leaders, you didn't have assistant caucus leaders, and we didn't have any caucus staff.

LAGE: You didn't have people coming down and saying, "Vote the Democratic line."

FARR: When I went in we did have a group we called the Birdwatchers. The Birdwatchers were a group of Democratic senators who would meet over at the Sutter Club for breakfast. I think they were probably formed by Senator Robert McCarthy, who was a Democrat from San Francisco, whose brother, [John F.] Jack McCarthy, was a Republican from Marin. They were both in the senate at the same time. We would meet, and we would go over what was coming up during the week, and inform each other and talk about the bills. I think that was the nearest thing to it. We didn't have all Democrats, though.

LAGE: Were they Democrats of a certain persuasion, or from a certain area?

FARR: I would think they were Democrats of pretty liberal persuasion, not as liberal, probably, as they're called today. But we certainly wanted to get support behind Rumford's fair housing and many other things.

LAGE: You weren't the Hugh Burns brand of Democrats.

FARR: Hugh was pretty conservative. The conservative Democrats were Burns and [Charles] Charlie Brown [and Randy Collier when he switched parties and joined the majority Democratic party. He was the only

party switcher in my eleven and a half years in the senate.]* Charlie Brown represented the counties of [looking at the legislative handbook] Alpine, Inyo, and Mono. He had been a driver of a forty-mule, twenty-mule team borax wagon at one time. He lived over in Shoshone. The telephone numbers were Shoshone one, two, and three. Shoshone one was the gas station; number two was the bar; and number three was the motel. And Charlie owned them all. He was a Southern Democrat, a pretty conservative man.

[F. Presley] Press Abshire was from up in Geyserville. He was a Republican, and he lost an arm in a threshing machine or something. He drove us in his car one time up by Jenner-by-the-Sea, and he was driving with a hook, turning around and telling us how he lost the arm. [Laughter]

Arthur Breed, whose father had been a state senator, was from Oakland, a real estate man and a Republican. [James E.] Jim Busch was a Republican from Lake County, and Mendocino; had been a district attorney up there. Jim Cobey, my seatmate, a very bright guy from Merced/Madera counties. Randy Collier represented at that time Del Norte/Siskiyou. Let's see what he was [looks in handbook]--he was an R/D, a Republican/Democrat. I don't know what he was.

LAGE: He won in the primary, probably.

FARR: He changed his registration a couple of times when he was in the senate. [Nathan] Nate Coombs was from Napa County. He was the uncle of [Senator John F.] Dunlap who served quite a few years and was beaten by John Doolittle. Nate Coombs was a fine old gentleman.

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

[James E., Sr.] Jim Cunningham was from San Bernardino, later became a superior court judge. Nelson Dilworth was an interesting character. I think he'd been a postal employee. He was a dry, never drank, and he didn't fraternize very much. He was known as Pistol Pete. He came from Hemet. Hugh Donnelly was chairman of the Education Committee. He got approval for a state college--at that time it was pretty political, before we got the master plan for higher education approved. He got what they called "Turkey Tech at Turlock."
[Laughter]

LAGE: Is Turlock State still in existence?

FARR: There's something over there. [Stanislaus State College] Jess [R.] Dorsey had worked on the assembly desk before the turn of the century. When he came to the senate he was so big they had to build a special chair for him. He told me this wonderful story that he was once prosecuted down there for fraud or something. He defended himself, and he said, "Members of the jury, you're not only going to acquit me of this thing, but this incompetent rascal that represents the people of Kern County, the district attorney, you're going to turn him out and elect me as district attorney." And he was, according to Dorsey.

Ben Hulse of Imperial County--just Imperial County--a Republican, cattle rancher. [] Ed [C.] Johnson was Yuba County--there were two Johnsons--and [Harold T.] Bizz Johnson represented Sierra, Placer, and Nevada counties. He worked for the Fruit Express Company.

LAGE: Did you know him well?

FARR: Yes. His defeat [after serving in House of Representatives 1954-1981] as a congressman was absolutely amazing. He was head of the Public

Works Committee, and that's a very potent committee. You've got a lot of friends, and incumbents don't get beat. I don't know what happened to Bizz.

[James J.] Jim McBride was a character from San Diego County. Fred [H.] Kraft was a former pharmacist's mate in the navy who represented San Diego County.

You look now at these people and it's interesting what their educational backgrounds were. Burns, I think, had gone to the California School of Mortuary Science, and they called him Digger Burns [Laughter]--he'd been an undertaker.

LAGE: The legislature didn't have all the lawyers that we think of today.

FARR: Not so many. Louis [G.] Sutton from up in Tehama County was a farmer and a warehouseman. He represented Tehama County. Don't say I said so, but he waddled like a duck.

[Stephen P.] Steve Teale came up to West Point, and he was an osteopathic physician. He came up on a vacation, and somebody up there had a child who was very sick. Steve and his wife, who were both osteopaths, took care of this child and saved its life. The family was so impressed, they said, "Why don't you get out of Los Angeles and come up here?" So they helped him open an office in--there was a big lumber mill somewhere near there, and Steve and his wife used to take care of everybody. He used to fly a plane from Mariposa down to Sacramento. I remember one day he grabbed the telephone and said, "Jesus Christ, Fred, go back and get me excused; I've got a son of a gun up there with a leg off." You know, he was going up there and doing that kind of stuff and flying back. A big state computer center building

was named after Steve Teale. Steve lost his wife and two children in a car accident, and was particularly helpful to me.

LAGE: Most people were part-time legislators then. Is that correct?

FARR: Yes, I'd say so. I think that you went up there, and as time went on. . . . near the end you were spending more and more time. I seemed to spend most of my time the last couple of years as a state senator on legislative duties of some kind or other. Weybret was retired when he was in the senate.

LAGE: Also, you had so many rurally-based senators.

FARR: We used to look upon it that the assembly was controlled by southern California urban areas, and the senate by northern California rural areas. So bills that were detrimental to the rural areas would not get through the senate, and some things that were detrimental to the urban areas wouldn't get through the assembly, by and large. Then we'd look back, and we'd think of the legislation that got through; there was some pretty liberal legislation, and a lot of it did. Of course, in those days we had a committee called the GE--Government Efficiency Committee--and you didn't like a bill going in there because that's where they considered it to be a turkey. You see, the bills were always assigned out by the president pro tem of the senate; he'd assign the bill to the committee. It was important what committee your bill went to as to whether or not you were going to get your bill. If it went to GE, the GE would meet the night before up at the hotel across the street and decide on the bills. There were a lot of things that were not right or democratic in those days.

LAGE: This was all behind closed doors.

FARR: Sure.

LAGE: So that was sort of referred to as a graveyard for bills.

FARR: Yes, that was the graveyard committee.

LAGE: As a fellow senator, was there anything you could do about that, if you saw one of your bills headed that way?

FARR: What you'd do--sometimes they'd send a bill over there, and you'd have a friend on the committee, and you'd go over and work on him. Maybe you'd get together for a meeting and talk about it, and perhaps be invited to the dinner, and sometimes you'd get them out of there. But most of the time you didn't.

There was a sort of a group in the senate, and we had a meeting once of a group of our freshmen senators, down in Santa Barbara. Here was a senator, [Richard] Dick Richards of Los Angeles County, who represented five million people, and he did not have enough seniority to get on the Senate Finance Committee. He represented the entire county of Los Angeles, where they now have something like ten senators, and he carried all the assembly bills except those that he didn't believe in or had some reason for not carrying. But he'd carry the majority of the bills for his thirty or so assemblymen. I carried bills for my one assemblyman.

So the senate was different. We got together one time down in Santa Barbara to sort of see what we could do about getting a little better committee assignments and whatnot. News got out to the control [Laughter] and for a little while things didn't go so well. But as time worked on--I became chairman of Natural Resources, which I really liked, but it took quite a while.

LAGE: Just to be more specific: you say that word got out about this meeting--to Hugh Burns?

FARR: No, he wasn't there.

LAGE: Who were the powers that be that came down on you?

FARR: I'd say Hugh and the rest of them. We just didn't get on the Rules Committee; we didn't have anybody on the Rules Committee. Some breaks were happening for the younger--the newer senators were getting some of the better committees, and some of the others weren't. It worked out in time.

LAGE: They didn't like you to make waves.

FARR: They didn't like it.

LAGE: What about your own staff, as a freshman senator and through the years?

FARR: When I went to the senate, I was pretty naive. I thought, "I don't want to get somebody that's been around there a long time; I want to get somebody that's fresh and not entangled." So I had a friend, Roy Stevens, who had worked for the state personnel board, and the first day I was up there he took me all around. The senate adjourned, and he took me around to all the departments and introduced me to the department heads. He took me out to the home of a man named [Samuel] Sam Hanson, Sam and Emmy Lou. Sam Hanson was head of the California State Employees [Association], and they had a wonderful dinner that night for a lot of people there interested in public administration. I met many department heads and people, and it was a wonderful event.

I said to Roy Stevens, "You worked for state personnel once, can you get me a secretary?" Oh, no problem. So I went home, didn't think much about it, and came back in January. He called me up about three or four days before the session and I said, "Gee, do you

have a secretary for me?" He said, "Well, I have this gal, and she used to be in the League of Women Voters. She was the secretary and she'd take the minutes, and my wife thinks she's all right."

What the hell am I getting into? I walked in there, and here was this gal. Her name was Gladys Kerdis, and she turned out to be absolutely terrific. She was a terrific secretary. She could take all my letters and read them; she'd find out what was happening to the bill. She'd write the letter back on the bill, that such-and-such was happening; I'd sign it and it would go out. She was tremendous. In fact, she was so good that when I left the senate she went to work for the Senate Rules Committee. She was put in charge of all the gals in the senate.

LAGE: She stayed with you the whole time?

FARR: Yes. She was a wonderful person.

LAGE: Did you have other staff?

FARR: I had other staff. I became chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and had an administrative assistant, whose name was Ford B. Ford, who later became acting secretary of labor when [Secretary of Labor Raymond J.] Donovan left Reagan's cabinet.

LAGE: Just recently.

FARR: Yes, I guess he still is . . .

LAGE: Wasn't he also in the Reagan administration in California, in the Resources Agency?

FARR: Yes, he was. Ford was great. We had a staff of three on the Natural Resources Committee, and [] Chris Kockinis was the secretary. Gladys was with us, and then I had a secretary [Mickey Allen] here in my Monterey office.

LAGE: Were these all funded by the senate?

FARR: Yes, they were. Jesse Unruh started getting staff for the assembly. The senate was slow to move onto it, but eventually the senate got staff. We didn't have any research committees in the senate, or anything like that.

LAGE: It was a fairly minimal staff, it seems.

FARR: That's right.

[Interruption]

LAGE: Just before we broke for lunch we talked about staff. I wanted you to mention the people who were your administrative assistants, because you didn't mention any names.

FARR: The first one was John Zierold, who later became the lobbyist for the Sierra Club. Prior to the time he came on the staff he had been the public information officer for the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. He was very much interested in learning Portuguese, and he used to carry around little cards in his pocket that he'd fish out every few minutes that had some vocabulary, and he would memorize five or ten words of Portuguese every day. John was a very interesting and fascinating and a good administrative assistant.

LAGE: How old was he at that time?

FARR: I don't know, maybe thirty-seven or thirty-eight.

Ford B. Ford was one of my administrative assistants; and I'd had Paul Halvonik, who was a young lawyer, a graduate of Boalt Hall. He later became the first public defender of California, and then a member of the court of appeals. Then, through certain circumstances, he went back into private practice.

LAGE: Enough said. At lunch you were telling me what kind of day you had in Sacramento, the kind of social relationships between the legislators, which I thought was really interesting.

FARR: I look back on the days when I was in the legislature, between the years 1955 and the end of 1966. At that time the majority of legislators did not have their families in Sacramento--at least I'm speaking of the members of the senate. Maybe some of the older senators who had retired may have had their wives living in a hotel. But I'd say of the group of young men--we weren't so young, but the senate was a lot older then than it is today.

LAGE: So you were a young group within the senate.

FARR: We were considered a young group within the senate. Most of us had teenage children that were growing up, and it was very hard for our wives to leave home and come up there with the children. So we would live in hotels or apartment houses.

We used to run the senate, as a rule, Mondays through Thursdays, sometimes Fridays. Living in Carmel, I would come home Thursday afternoons and return Sunday nights or Monday mornings. I used to like to get up there Sunday night so I could get started early Monday with various activities. At that time the Third House, lobbyists, were quite active, as they are today in a little different way, and they would entertain legislators at lunch and dinner.

A typical day might be for a group of us--the senators sort of hung around together, and the assemblymen together. Sometimes I would have dinner with my assemblyman, who was a Republican but a good friend of mine, but by and large we senators would hang around together. A lot of them would like to play cards, go to the Senator

Hotel to play cards. I used to go to my motel and relax a while and maybe read my mail and phone my family, and then go over and meet with someone. We'd go down to a place like Frank Fat's, which was sort of a hangout--and still is--of the legislature. We'd see other legislators down there, and there'd be a Third House fellow. Maybe earlier that day he'd said, "How about having dinner down there?" or other places, and we'd have dinner there. Then maybe we'd go over to a couple of bars and check them out [Laughter], go back to the El Mirador, and then go home.

The next morning we'd get up and maybe have a breakfast with somebody who'd want to talk about a certain bill. Certain days of the week we had a little group called the Birdwatchers, and we'd meet for breakfast down at the Sutter Club. A group of about seven or eight Democratic senators would go down there, and we'd talk about the bills coming up during the week and what we think about them, what we want to support, who we could get to support these bills. It was kind of a camaraderie. We didn't have Democratic caucuses very often up there, or Republican caucuses, as they do today. I don't recall anybody being a caucus chairman. We'd meet to elect the president pro tem of the senate every year, to get organized. Once in a while we would have--but not very often, not the way it is today.

That was our day. Then our constituents would come up; Monterey County being fairly close by, I had quite a few constituents come up, and I'd frequently have dinner with constituents. A lot of the schoolchildren came up at that time, and I made it a point and my assemblyman made it a point to meet with these schoolchildren and talk to them. They'd come into our office and sit in our chairs and

FARR: look at our bills. Then we'd go into a committee room and talk to them, and take them into a committee, or bring them onto the floor of the assembly or the floor of the senate, and have their names introduced into the journal. The children seemed to like that, and they seemed to remember it. Then we had a wonderful big seal of the State of California which we'd sign and send to them. Years later children or their parents would say, "Oh, I've got that great seal," with a picture of Sacramento. Anyway, it was fun, and it was good politics; because if they remembered it, their parents remembered it, and you'd go around campaigning and they'd say, "Yes, my child was in Sacramento."

The typical day was--you got to see your fellow legislator a lot more frequently. There'd be one luncheon given by one group, and another luncheon would be given by another group. You might want to go to one group, and you'd see somebody that probably socially you wouldn't see or politically you wouldn't be very close to. I had lunch once every week or two weeks with John Schmitz, who was a Bircher [John Birch Society member], not so much because I wanted to have lunch particularly with John Schmitz, but he was invited to the same luncheon. So you got to agree on things like Mothers Day resolutions and things like that. But we knew each other, and I think, by and large, we were--among the Democrats in the senate, I would say there were some who were very conservative, but I'd say the majority of them were pretty liberal Democrats, as liberals went in those days, perhaps different than what you would call liberals of this day.

We also had our district to protect and our interests to protect. By and large, as I look back on the legislature in the days in which I served, it seemed to me that southern California and the urban areas

were protected in the assembly, as the majority of the assemblymen were from the urban areas. The majority of the senators were from rural areas, and the majority of the senators were from northern California. For example, in southern California, [Senator] Richard Richards had all of the County of Los Angeles, which was about five million people, and I think he had something like thirty assemblymen in his district. He carried the legislation for those thirty assemblymen; yet, when he first came to the senate, he didn't have enough seniority to get on the senate Finance Committee.

LAGE: You mentioned a lot of social outings, shall we say, with the Third House, the lobbyists. What role did this kind of socialization play in your decisions, with the lobbyists wining and dining you?

FARR: Well, you got to know them. You look back--I've been out of the legislature for twenty-one or twenty-two years--and who are the people you remember? You remember your colleagues in the legislature, you remember people who worked in state government, you remember people in the Third House, you remember the newspaper people. And all of them were part and parcel of a great experience.

The lobbyists were interesting. Some of them you had great respect for, and some of them you had very little respect for. Their approach to legislators was interesting. All of them wanted to be able to get in and talk to you about their bills. One of them took out every single legislator for lunch or dinner during the session, no matter how inconspicuous. Nobody was inconspicuous, but some legislators were much more prominent, had greater qualities of leadership, and people were going to follow them. I remember one particular legislator, whose name I won't mention--he was a rather inconspicuous fellow. But this

lobbyist remembered, "I may need that one vote on that one committee or on the floor, and that fellow will remember I took him out." Others would play up to key men in the legislature or with key committees, and they would give them a great deal of time of day; others they would have less time for.

LAGE: Would they talk business on these social occasions?

FARR: Sure they would.

LAGE: So they'd be putting their point of view across.

FARR: They'd have access to your office. At that time the legislature didn't have many people doing research, the way they do today. So the lobbyists for the California Bankers Association were going to give you the California bankers' point of view. Somebody else was going to give you the consumers' point of view, the State Department of Banking was going to give you its point of view. You as a legislator would take into consideration what you heard and you had to make up your own mind.

LAGE: You depended on them as a source of information?

FARR: Of course, you could always have the legislative analyst give you an analysis of the bill and the financial implication of the bill. And although many legislators were attorneys, you still had the legislative counsel that would draft all the bills. You could go down and ask them. The legislative counsel treated each legislator as if they were an individual client. If I had asked for an opinion, and my seat mate or somebody else down the hall had asked for an opinion, he wasn't going to tell me that someone else wanted the same opinion, but they treated you all as individual clients. They were extremely helpful. They would draft a bill, and you'd go down, "I've got this kind of a problem. How would we shape some legislation?" It was all part of the process.

The governor's office was accessible to us, too. During the years when Pat Brown was there, I think we felt that if we had something to go down and see him about, it wasn't hard.

LAGE: What was the communication with the governor's office? When would you go to the governor's office? Or would the governor's office come to you?

FARR: The governor's office would come to me, and I'd go to the governor's office if I wanted to see him about something; or, "There's somebody I'd like you to meet." I remember a lady who was very active in the Filipino community in Salinas, and I wanted her to meet the governor. I had just come from a civil rights meeting, representing the governor in Detroit, and they presented me with an American flag with forty-nine stars. So I had her do it. I said, "Give this flag to the governor." You know, her picture was taken, and she remembered it. But Pat Brown was easily accessible. You wouldn't bother him with trivial things, but this was a quiet day.

LAGE: Did he work with you on legislation? Would his office bring you a bill that he . . .?

FARR: Sure, there'd be certain legislators. But it wouldn't be primarily through the governor's office; it would be through departments, as a rule. But the governor would talk to you about the bill. The capital punishment bill, the governor got very involved, and I'll want to talk to you about that.

LAGE: I think capital punishment might be a good subject to go to next. First, as a general way of leading into it, since I assume [your work on this issue] grew out of your role on the Judiciary Committee, how did you get committee appointments?

FARR: You're appointed by the president pro tem and the Rules Committee, who decide on the committees.

LAGE: Did you express an interest in particular things?

FARR: I was a lawyer, so I was put on the Judiciary Committee when I went to the senate. All the lawyers who wanted to be on the Judiciary Committee were on the Judiciary Committee, and I think all the lawyers were on the Judiciary Committee. And I got on the Education Committee because I was interested in that. Then I got committees like [Military and] Veterans' Affairs--I think I was made the vice chairman when I first went on, and I think I became chairman of that.

LAGE: Were you interested in that because of Fort Ord?

FARR: Well, a little bit, yes, and the number of veterans who lived in my district. Then I served on the Elections Committee . . .

[End Tape 2, Side B]

[Begin Tape 3, Side A]

LAGE: Was there a method for you to express an interest in a particular committee?

FARR: Yes. You'd ask. You'd put in your preferences to the Rules Committee, and sometimes you'd get them, and sometimes you wouldn't.

LAGE: And who was it who appointed--?

FARR: The Rules Committee. The Rules Committee was made up of five members, I believe; the majority had three and the minority had two. So you'd make a request, and then the committee assignments would come out. Sometimes you'd get what you want, and sometimes you didn't.

LAGE: Depending on how well you pleased the powers that be?

FARR: To a certain. . . . also it had a bit to do with seniority, when I first came down; I mentioned Richards not being able to get on the Finance Committee because he didn't have the seniority. So seniority counted. But later on seniority was somewhat disregarded.

LAGE: Let's talk about the Judiciary Committee, and particularly about this issue of capital punishment. How did you get interested?

FARR: I guess I got interested in capital punishment because in college one of the courses I took at Berkeley was under August Vollmer, who was former chief of police at Berkeley. He gave a course in--well, I guess it was criminology and police administration; I believe it was one of the first ones given at Berkeley. Every meeting was just August Vollmer reminiscing about his days--he had the first mounted policemen in America: he put them on bicycles! He said that what we all ought to do was go over to San Quentin someday. So we went over and had lunch with Clinton Duffy, who was the warden of San Quentin. I was very much impressed by that. I think he showed us all around. I don't know whether they had a gas chamber at that time [or still hanged people then]; I've forgotten.

But somehow or other I got interested in that, and then later on as a lawyer when I first started practicing I had a few murder cases. [One of them was a notorious case where a Filipino waiter killed five of his co-workers in a gambling game; we saved his life.] And I got interested in this subject. The Judiciary Committee could see these problems coming. I'd felt for a long time that capital punishment accomplished very little; I felt it was not a deterrent and was the taking of a life by the government. Other states handled it differently and their murder rates didn't go up. I got studying the thing as a member

of the committee, and then I got onto a committee on local detention facilities. I went around and saw what was going on in county jails. I felt that people in state prisons were better off than in county jails--at least at that time. I'm not talking about prisons today, but at that time they had lots of programs for them, and the people in county jails were just doing dead time. The jail conditions were very bad and were very conducive to increasing crime.

I also got on the committee on narcotics and saw a little bit about that. I went back to the National Institute of Health and visited the big public health hospital at Lexington. So I got concerned with these things and became chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Narcotics. I had a capital punishment bill early on in the senate, which got out of the Judiciary Committee and actually got on the floor of the senate, which I think was about the first time in fifty years. Later on, at the time of the [Caryl] Chessman situation, I put in a bill* again for the abolition of capital punishment. The hearing was before the Senate Judiciary Committee . . .

LAGE: Wasn't this the special session called by Governor Brown?

FARR: Yes, it was a special session; I think it was Senate Bill One session.

There was a great deal of interest because of Caryl Chessman. The governor was a strong believer in the abolition of capital punishment. He'd been the attorney general of California and the district attorney of San Francisco, but he just did not believe in capital punishment. I talked to him a great deal about it. I went back to see the penitentiary in Jackson, Michigan, which was the largest physical penitentiary in the

* S.B. 1, 1960 Second Ex. Sess. (1960).

United States. There they had abolished capital punishment, and I talked to some of the people in the penitentiary, from the standpoint of both the guards and the inmates who were doing life--many who said they would rather be in California and get the death sentence than spend the rest of their life in the penitentiary.

The more I studied the thing, the more I talked to people that were administering penitentiaries. . . . and I went over one day to see an execution at San Quentin. Fortunately, I had been prepared for it, because the Department of Corrections had a training film, and it showed you just exactly how the whole thing happened and how it worked, which was a good thing. Because just to go in there cold and not realize what the process was, it would be very, very hard. It was, nevertheless, difficult.

Before that, I had gone to death row and interviewed all the people on death row that I could talk to; one or two were asleep, and I didn't want to wake them up. Caryl Chessman wanted to tell me all about his problems. He said I didn't need to interview the rest of them, because he could tell me about all of them. I said, "Well, no thank you; you're pretty busy typing up something very important, and I won't take too much of your time." But it was interesting to see people--one person there was almost a vegetable; and one man who had been in the post office department, who had a very difficult situation between his wife and himself, took out a gun and killed her one day when she had done all kinds of things to him. The court said that the man had never had any criminal record before and was the kind of person who could be rehabilitated, and obviously it was the kind of thing that the governor ought to consider. The jury had a right

to find premeditation, and therefore the sentence would stand, but the governor could think about commuting the sentence or something like that. I tried to talk to the governor's office and was unsuccessful; it was Governor Knight.

All of this got me interested in the field of capital punishment.

LAGE: You really had a long history of studying it and becoming very involved.

FARR: At that time I studied it. [During the special session of the legislature in 1960] people came out from various penitentiaries in the East and testified. Clinton Duffy, the warden of San Quentin, testified against it, and we had judges and various people who had been in the criminal field who testified that they felt that capital punishment was not accomplishing anything as far as a deterrent was concerned. We had examples of people who were innocent, who had been convicted. We didn't have anybody in California who had been innocent and been executed, but there had been other states and other factors. It seemed that the wheel of chance would spin, for so many executions in California, so many homicides--there would be twenty homicides and one person would get the death penalty, and who was the person who got the death penalty? He probably didn't get the same kind of representation. All these factors went into it. For that reason we had a hearing in Sacramento. It was a very much publicized and observed hearing by the press and by television; in fact, parts of it were broadcast nationally. The district attorney of Marin County [William Weissich] came in and told about some killings within the prison by inmates of guards, and opened a sack on the table and out came all the

weapons that had been taken from prisoners in the searching of cells.
[Weissich was later murdered by an ex-con he had prosecuted.]

LAGE: Which side was he on?

FARR: He was the district attorney; he wanted the retention of capital punishment. The vote finally came, and it stayed in the Judiciary Committee; the bill didn't come out. I don't think one has gotten out since, and I would say the climate today is such in California that to mention the fact that you were for the abolition of capital punishment does not bring you . . .

LAGE: You wouldn't get elected today.

FARR: Not in this county [Laughter].

LAGE: At that time, do you recall if you felt there was a chance you'd get it out and get it passed? As I read about it now, it seems that it was a lost cause from the beginning.

FARR: Well, at that time I think we had some hopes. We thought we had enough logic and persuasion, that it was going to be close, we felt.

LAGE: What about your fellow legislators? Were there negative feelings about having a special session?

FARR: I think it was pretty hard on the governor. He went up to Squaw Valley to the opening of the Winter Olympics. Richard Nixon, the vice president, had just been introduced, and given a great cheer. Then Pat Brown was introduced--this was just after Chessman--and he was booed by the crowds up there.

LAGE: The Chessman case itself was highly emotional.

FARR: Yes. Because everybody thought the governor wouldn't commute the sentence, and he said, "Oh, I want to commute the sentence and give the legislature an opportunity to act upon it."

LAGE: He didn't really commute it; he gave a moratorium.

FARR: You're correct, he didn't commute it, he gave a moratorium on the execution.

LAGE: What did you think about the Chessman case? You had a chance to talk to him, and I'm sure you must have looked at it. Did it seem like a case where his sentence should have been commuted? Or should he not have been convicted?

FARR: I want to go back to refresh my memory before answering that.

LAGE: It's been a long time. There's an interview in our office of Hugh Burns. He calls this effort to abolish capital punishment, the special session, "a hullabaloo and trivia." Does that surprise you that he would have expressed that kind of thing?

FARR: No, because I think Hugh Burns was very much for capital punishment, and I think my colleague, the one who defeated me, Don Grunsky in Santa Cruz County was certainly for it. So was [Edwin] Ed Meese, who represented the California District Attorneys Association about that time.

LAGE: Did that have an effect on you in your district?

FARR: Oh! What we did in the district--we had a little quid pro quo. Each year there'd be a law enforcement day in Sacramento, and with my assemblyman we'd invite all the Monterey County law enforcement officers and they'd come to Sacramento. They used to go up the night before and play a little poker at the El Rancho Hotel, and the next day they'd come over to the legislature. We both insisted that they do something for the good of Monterey County, so they'd either go out to Folsom Prison, or to the department of corrections, or the highway patrol academy, or they'd do something connected with law

enforcement so they would be a little better informed about what they were doing, so it wasn't just a junket for them. Then I'd have them come to a meeting of the committee of the senate and see that, and attend a session of the senate and the assembly. So they got a little bit to see what Sacramento was all about, and we had them meet as many people as we could. I used to take them down to the governor's office, and the governor would talk to them, "Why are you guys so strongly in favor of capital punishment?" I thought that was great, that Pat would talk to these fellows who obviously disagreed with him.

That night, being the chairman of Natural Resources, I would get a boat, and Alan Pattee would get refreshments, and we'd take them down the Sacramento River to a place called Al's in the town of Locke. We'd all have dinner down there, and it was a trip they never forgot. We had all these law enforcement people, and some of the lobbyists. After dinner we'd say, "Gee, the fellow took the boat back to Stockton, and we're trying to get some cabs for you." Locke was down below the levee; it's a little street that's one block long and has wooden balconies and wooden sidewalks. It used to be an old Chinatown, a very picturesque place. So we get up on the highway and say, "Well, I don't know whether those cabs are coming; let's wait a few minutes." Just about that time, up would come a bus. The bus was a Department of Corrections bus, used for the inter-institutional transfer of prisoners from San Quentin to Folsom to Soledad. All the law enforcement guys would get in there, and they'd lock the doors and take them back to Sacramento. [Laughter] These fellows would get back, and say, "Well, that Farr, he's crazy on capital punishment, but he can't be such a bad guy because we remember that trip to Sacramento."

LAGE: So you had ways of making them happy, too.

FARR: That's right.

LAGE: Did your stand come up in your later elections? Was it brought out by Grunsky, for instance, when you ran against him?

FARR: From time to time, yes.

LAGE: Because I guess it wasn't a popular issue then.

FARR: It wasn't very popular at any time.

LAGE: You mentioned to me on the phone about probation officer legislation.

FARR: I worked on committee, and I was trying to get higher standards for probation officers and lower case loads. My feeling was that if they could detect people, particularly children, when they started to have their first problems, then they could concentrate on their abnormal behavior. And also young adults, if they started to get into problems in municipal court, and family problems, and other things, by having well-trained probation officers getting an adequate amount of time, it might cut down and help them on recidivism and other things. I felt that the cost of keeping people in prison was very high, and the cost of good probation officers and lighter case loads was relatively less expensive and would pay better dividends. I think it led to getting some better probation standards.

LAGE: Were these controversial matters, or things you had to draw on the governor's office for help with?

FARR: You'd have to get support there, and I think the governor by and large was sympathetic, but the question was a matter of budget, whether you wanted to put in this place or someplace else. You get all these demands for money. But having visited a lot of jails and talked to a lot of probation officers, I felt that by and large the standards could be

improved and the caseloads could be lightened, and that would pay dividends. But a lot of people didn't believe that.

LAGE: Were there other judiciary committee issues that you wanted to talk about? You mentioned the uniform commercial code.

FARR: Yes. I was appointed as a member, about 1957, to the California Commission on Uniform State Laws. I didn't know much about it, but they were having a conference in Los Angeles and I went down there. I ran into one of the greatest groups of men, and lawyers, and whatever I had ever run into in my life. Each state has a commission on uniform state laws, and the purpose of the National Conference of Commissioners is to try to make uniform state laws. For example, the best-known one is the Uniform Reciprocal Support Act. If a man leaves California and goes to Massachusetts, why, the wife can go to court here, and that court makes an order, and he has a hearing back in Massachusetts, and he's ordered to pay up. It was a question of making uniform interstate laws.

One of the things was the commercial code--that dealing throughout the United States in commercial transactions, there was not uniformity; there were all kinds of decisions made in various courts according to the banking laws or the commercial laws of the state. So the National Conference of Commissioners drafted the uniform commercial code. I worked on that and was the author of the code in the California senate. We got a committee made up of the state bar, and it was lawyers and bankers and other commercial interests who worked on the thing for three or four years. [California adopted the uniform commercial code that was contained in my bill. It was the

most significant commercial legislation ever adopted by the legislature up to that time.]*

The Conference of Commissioners was made up of lawyers, judges, law school professors, legislative counsel, and legislators. I was chairman of the legislative committee of the national conference, and we had about ten of the commissioners who were legislators or who had been legislators. The important thing was not only to draft the uniform state law, but to get it enacted by the states. The way you get it enacted is by getting legislators interested in uniform laws. So that's what that was all about.

LAGE: It sounds like a far-reaching thing.

FARR: It was.

LAGE: Not an issue that hits the paper very often.

FARR: The people that ran it--there was one judge [Sterry Waterman] who was on the second circuit of the United States Circuit Court; he was on the same court that Learned Hand had been on. People like that, and then the deans of various law schools--they were just a wonderful bunch of people. One year I got them to come to Monterey and they met there, and twenty-five years later they came back to Monterey; that was three years ago. I have some great associations and friendships made that way.

LAGE: We mentioned the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee that you chaired from '59 to '61. You mentioned in connection with that the Cal Vet [California Veterans'] benefits for Japanese.

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

FARR: Yes, I had a bill* there that. . . . California residents during the Japanese evacuation were evacuated first to internment centers and then to relocation centers. And then many of them went into the military service from there. Under Cal Vet, in order to get a California veterans' loan, you had to be a California resident at the time you entered the military. Many of these people were residents of where they went in from, so their residency was outside the state. We corrected that to take care of the Japanese who had been relocated due to the war effort and the Japanese evacuation.

LAGE: How would something like this come up? How did that move originate?

FARR: I think some veterans of Japanese ancestry went to apply for a Cal Vet loan and found out they couldn't get it because they hadn't entered the military service from California. See, some of these people went out [of state] and they were going to college or medical school or something, and then they went into the army or into the navy. So they weren't eligible for a Cal Vet loan because of the provisional law. So it amended the law.

LAGE: Was there a group that brought it to your attention?

FARR: I think it was brought to my attention, either by the Bureau of Veterans' Affairs or by some of the Japanese-American groups.

LAGE: Let's go on to some of the natural resources issues, which we had talked about a little bit, but there are many more of them. When I talked to John Zierold, he described you as being the first

* S.B. 52, 1961 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 282.

environmental legislator in California. And he also mentioned that you were "swimming against the tide" a good deal of the time.

FARR: Well, I would say it was difficult. I wouldn't say I was the first environmental legislator, but I spent a lot of my time in the field of environment, I think because I came from a beautiful area that I wanted to see protected. And I had been interested in planning, and I had a lot of friends that were architects. I had people in the governor's office that were interested in this field, and we talked from time to time about it.

LAGE: Do you remember any names?

FARR: Just a minute and I'll give you some. [William Lipman and Elton Andrews] I talked to Nat Owings and Nick Roosevelt, and we had a planning conference in Monterey in 1950, which I helped organize and was chairman of. We brought all these people down from Berkeley, and we started talking about planning. Then [Edgar] Ed Wayburn was trying to get the Redwood National Park, and we went up with some people from the Sierra Club to Eureka and drove down through the area and saw all of that. And the question of the Big Sur highway being on the masterplan of freeways of California bothered us, and then the freeway in Monterey, and all these things.

Then I got talking about the question of open space land. There was no provision for cities or counties to accept open space, so I had this legislation which permitted the cities and counties to accept open space. William Holly White later on gave a talk in Monterey, and he said that the legislation was pioneer legislation, which was followed by eight other states. It was really the first open space legislation, which is common everywhere today.

LAGE: Right. Would that have been brought up by a planning group?

FARR: I think that was brought to my attention. . . . I'll tell you the gentleman's name in just a minute. Then the state planning act-- planning was done here and there; there was no coordination of state planning. So we got a bill together that created the state Office of Planning in the state Department of Finance, and set up a director of planning. The important thing was to coordinate planning in California and to coordinate with the departments. There was overlapping of what freeways were doing and parks were doing; they were putting freeways through state parks.

A great thing that we studied, but which unfortunately didn't get into action. . . . I had a study made of Interstate 5. They were going to build Interstate 5 down in the San Joaquin Valley, and obviously people would want places to stop, so why not coordinate parks and recreation with highways; and when you're doing the acquisition of land, why not buy land that would be used for--they could have a powerful thing, a reservoir here, and someplace for people to stop and fish and people could get out, and maybe camping areas and recreation, parks, and such things. The study was made, but unfortunately it was not carried out. There are some of those places today, but if this had been coordinated from the beginning it would have been. . . . If they would have thought a little bit about the highway, Interstate 5 is a boring highway because it's just a straight line; [they could have] started curving the lines and making it a pleasant highway so people don't fall asleep on the road. All these things were taken into consideration--highway design and the scenic corridor, and things of that type.

Then we got into Highway 1 in Monterey County, and the question was of preserving that. It was a brainchild of Nat Owings and Nick Roosevelt.

LAGE: I think we talked about that earlier. Did you have connections with the highway department and other state departments as you worked on these things?

FARR: I served on the Transportation Committee, and all their bills would come before that committee, so I got to know all those people pretty well. I think I told you I was invited to go on a trip to Washington on the First Lady's tour of scenic highways, and then served on the president's task force on natural beauty, and then later being the chairman of the scenic roads and highways at the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, and later becoming coordinator of highway beautification after I left the legislature.

LAGE: What was the name of the person in the governor's office?

FARR: I'll think of his name. [[] Bill Lidman] He was a bright young fellow, and he was very much interested in planning. We talked by the hour about these things, and I think he was the brainchild of a good deal of this legislation, particularly the one on state planning. I have the bill; that was rather significant, because it really not only called for the coordination of state departments, but it called for working with regional governments, local government, county government. It really kind of set up the process of planning.

LAGE: And that was a successful bill, that passed.

FARR: That was a successful bill.

LAGE: Was it one that you had a lot of opposition to?

FARR: I don't recall having a great deal of opposition to it. I don't think people understood much about planning in the state so they didn't care very much about it. [Laughter]

LAGE: Did that go through Natural Resources Committee or some other committee?

FARR: I'd have to look at the reference. [It went to Transportation Committee and then the Finance Committee]

LAGE: We can fill in the name of this person later.

Let's talk about wildlife a little bit. Several things fit under that, and one of them is the mountain lion. I know you were involved with bounty removal.

FARR: I think due largely to Margaret Owings's interest in bounty removal, preserving the sea lions and the mountain lion as well. At that time there was a bounty on mountain lions; they paid fifty dollars a skin for mountain lion pelts that were brought in, I guess, to rangers. Margaret thought we better start someplace--why give people fifty dollars to kill these animals of which there were relatively few? At that time we had some difficulty because the cattlemen and sheepmen were saying their cattle and sheep were being destroyed. So we got the Department of Fish and Game to come over to the hearing of the bill to remove the bounty, to tell the amount of bounty paid from county to county.

Some of the counties where the rural senators were most outspoken against the bill to remove the bounty, we'd ask how many mountain lions were killed in that district. One of these senators was saying that fellows would go out there, and they'd need the fifty dollars, and the mountain lion was destroying all the cattle, and this, that, and the other. We'd ask the gentleman from the Fish and Game

Commission how many bounties were paid in that county, and he'd say, "One." The chairman of the commission [[] Ron Cameron] remarked, "Yes, don't you remember, Senator, that was the one that escaped from the circus." The point was that in many of the rural counties the bounty wasn't as high as expected.

The bounty was removed. Margaret Owings had [A.] Starker Leopold there, who read a book about there having been no persons ever killed by a mountain lion in the United States. I took the book home that night and read that they did find one boy missing up in Montana, a child about ten or eleven, who was never found, and later a mountain lion was found and was shot. They made an autopsy of the mountain lion and cut open his stomach, and there was the boy's blue jeans and his pocket knife, and some hair, and many things that belonged to him. That still doesn't mean the mountain lion killed him; he could well have fallen off a cliff.

LAGE: Following that bounty removal, there was a move to prohibit hunting mountain lions altogether.

FARR: Yes, prohibit the hunting of mountain lions, and it finally got on the list where it was a protected animal until last year, when the bill passed the legislature to continue the moratorium on protection of mountain lions, which was vetoed by the governor. Every newspaper in California came out for the protection of the mountain lion, all the major newspapers up and down the coast. Nevertheless the Fish and Game Commission (I think they got something like ninety thousand letters) decided to open the season and have a lottery, which would have taken place this month had the superior court in San Francisco-- the judge issued an opinion to the effect that the Fish and Game

Commission did not take into consideration that they didn't have adequate figures on their land population to grant a statewide permit. So they said it should go back to the Fish and Game Commission. So the expected mountain lion shooting season did not occur this month. What's going to happen . . .

LAGE: . . .the next month, you don't know. Did you personally have a lot of pressure from groups against the bounty, like the cattlemen, the sheep growers?

FARR: Yes, I had a lot of them that wanted to keep it on.

LAGE: Were they your constituents?

FARR: Yes, a certain amount of them.

LAGE: Does that make it difficult for you, when you have two parts of your constituents at each other's . . .?

FARR: It does. At that time you would campaign a lot, and you would get to know people in all parts of your county, and you'd go down and see them. They might be against you because they want the mountain lion killed, but they also want the school bill, or they want a dam--they wanted a bond issue that affected the San Antonio Dam, and I got some money from the state for the San Antonio Dam which helped the county on that; so they remembered this thing. You know, one thing weighs against another when you're a legislator. I often thought that as a legislator you vote your conviction, and if enough of your convictions are so strong that you're not in tune with your constituency, you won't stay there. But there are offsetting things when you're a legislator, and you just have to weigh the whole thing.

LAGE: But you saw your role as being to vote your convictions, rather than to just answer to your constituents?

FARR: I like to think that. Maybe I didn't, but I like to think I did that.

LAGE: We talked about anchovies. Here's another one that seems important: the creation of a sanctuary in Monterey Bay against oil drilling in 1965. Is that something you recall?

FARR: I worked on that. I know we got an underwater park protected around Point Lobos, and I think also around the Hopkins Marine Institute.

LAGE: So there have been a whole range of local things.

FARR: Local things to protect, yes. I believe I also had the bill that set up the Moss Landing Research Laboratory. That was owned by a private individual, and it is now the Moss Landing Marine Station operated as a consortium by five state colleges.

[End Tape 3, Side A]

[Begin Tape 3, Side B]

FARR: . . . Moss Landing, and the state acquired the research institute. It's now operated for the benefit of five state colleges, and ties in with the aquarium, and the navy oceanographic thing at the Navy Postgraduate School, and the marine laboratory at Santa Cruz, and Hopkins Marine Institute. So they all sort of tie in together. When I was on the Coastal Commission, the federal government came to the Coastal Commission and wanted Elkhorn Slough as the first California estuary and reserve, which was approved. So that ties in to the marine laboratory. [I am now a trustee of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, of the University of California at Santa Cruz Foundation, and of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. All these institutions have in common

participation in marine science and foreign language needs.]* All these things tie in on the Monterey Bay, which is very exciting.

LAGE: What about the Humble Oil [Company situation] that we talked about in the car--was that during your tenure?

FARR: Yes, it was. The Humble Oil situation was, I think, one of the great environmental victories in Monterey County. That occurred over in Moss Landing, across the bay, at Elkhorn Slough. Humble Oil wanted to put a refinery there, and the area where they wanted to put a refinery was right near the Kaiser Cement plant. The area was zoned commercial, but they needed a use permit from the planning commission. The planning commission denied the use permit, and the appeal was taken to the board of supervisors. The board of supervisors had a hearing that lasted until about two or three in the morning, and by a vote of three to two they granted the use permit.

But I want to say--before that, there was a man named Charles Kramer in Pacific Grove, and others, who started a committee on clean air. Kramer had come out of Los Angeles, where he had been a businessman--I forget if he worked for an oil company--and a man of some means. He formed this clean air committee, and got the support of the editor of the Monterey Peninsula Herald, Allen Griffin, and the Sierra Club and many groups over here who were worried that if an oil refinery was at Moss Landing, it would pollute the air over here. On the other side of the county was the Salinas Californian, and they were very much in favor of it, as was the Salinas Chamber of Commerce and

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

the Moss Landing yacht harbor. They wanted industry and jobs for people at Moss Landing.

The water in Elkhorn Slough wasn't talked about very much; it was primarily an air problem, rather than a water problem. It was a very bitterly-fought thing. Kramer finally got some farmers in southern Monterey County. The man who was the chief witness was from Los Angeles County, who had been one of the authorities on air pollution in Los Angeles County. He told what this could do in the way of air pollution in the Salinas Valley, by the winds going down the Valley. But nevertheless, as I say, after a long hearing, why, the board of supervisors approved the granting of the use permit.

Kramer and the chairman of the board of supervisors, Tom Hudson, a young man from over here, later a law partner of mine, really fought very diligently about the thing. They went back, and the Sierra Club, and many people. . . . there was a long hearing, and many letters, and many editorials. After the use permit, which had been granted, was approved and the appeal was lost, they still carried on a campaign. Many people tore up their Humble Oil cards and put them in the mail and mailed them to Humble Oil. Others got proxies from stockholders and went back to the stockholders' meeting, and they got up and explained their position and how bitterly they felt about it, and how much harm they felt it would do to Monterey County. And all of a sudden Humble Oil withdrew, and they located a plant up near Benicia. That was one of the greatest environmental battles in Monterey County, in my opinion.

LAGE: I seem to remember Ansel Adams being involved in that.

FARR: Well, Ansel was involved in everything. [Laughter]

LAGE: Tell me how you worked with him, or how you viewed him as a conservationist.

FARR: I was very fortunate to know Ansel quite well. Ansel was fighting for everything around here. He felt strongly about what would happen to the Big Sur. I believe Ansel was back at the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, and he was a friend of the Kennedys, and friends with the Johnsons, and friends with others. He was one of the fighters for the Redwood National Park. He was certainly against Humble Oil locating here. And if there was going to be a freeway in Monterey, he felt it ought to be done with sensitivity toward the environment. And he was for the preservation of Point Lobos.

LAGE: He seems to have been a part of everything that happened.

FARR: Well, I think Ansel was part of all of it. Ansel just stood for conservation and the protection of the environment . . .

LAGE: This picture you have is so pixyish, the expression on his face.

FARR: Ansel had little lines on both sides of his eyes; some people who smile all the time have that, and Ansel had that. He was always such a jovial person, such a positive person: "We can do it; there's a way we're going to do it." There was something about his warmth that just spread out wherever he went.

LAGE: And he was a fighter.

FARR: You bet he was a fighter, a great fighter. Early on in the Sierra Club, I was in his living room one night. We were talking about forming a chapter of the Sierra Club down here, and people said, "Down here? You can't form a chapter down here. You can form a chapter maybe in San Jose or someplace, but down here. . . ." And here's this Ventana chapter of the Sierra Club; it's one of the big and very important

chapters. Of course, the Friends of Photography were formed down here, partly due to Ansel. They've gotten so big and so important that they are moving to San Francisco.

LAGE: You were chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. How did that appointment come about? Did you serve on the committee for a number of years?

FARR: Yes, I served on the committee, and then I got some seniority. I was active in the field, and so I was given the chairmanship of the committee.

LAGE: What kind of power would that bring with it?

FARR: Well, it wasn't a question of power; it was a question of the coverage of the kind of thing. . . . our committee had legislation that was concerned with beaches and parks. During the interim, between sessions, we'd have fish and game. And we had state forestry, recreation, wildlife, and, I would say, everything that was concerned with the resources and a lot of the environment. We were concerned with things that were happening with the highways, when the freeways were going through state parks.

We also got concerned with tidelands oil and Long Beach, and the split of the take between the city of Long Beach and the state. We felt the state ought to get more of it. There was a committee set up, somewhat to the opposition of the president of the senate, who had another committee appointed. But we said that under the rules of the senate, this legislation comes under--we held a hearing, and Burns asked us not to. But we did it anyway, and we brought out some of the things. One of our senators, Virgil O'Sullivan, was very strong on that. We felt that the state of California was not getting their fair

share of the deal, of the tidelands oil money, and more of the revenues needed to come to the state. Our committee had some hearings on it, and later some things were changed--I wouldn't say due to our committee, but it turned around. The percentage on oil royalties that the state received from oil production in state-owned tidelands at Long Beach changed from a 50-50 split with the city of Long Beach to a split more favorable to the state.

LAGE: A lot of interesting legislation came before that committee. What difference did it make to have a person like yourself as chairman of that committee--someone who was concerned and had a background in environmental matters?

FARR: I think if you were chairman of the committee and you were enthusiastic about environmental legislation, you would talk to your colleagues and you'd try to get. . . . well, even if you weren't chairman, but as chairman you preside over the committee. I always tried to be fair; I think every chairman tries to be fair. But you could serve as a witness that everybody got an opportunity to speak and say their part. Maybe you would hear about some bill up there, and you would call so-and-so to come up and be a witness for the bill, or a witness against the bill. I think you played an effective role as an enthusiastic person interested in that committee, both from the standpoint of everybody being given an opportunity to be heard, but also seeing that legislation moved along and that the things that were important to the environment got some support.

Then you'd go down to the governor's office. I mean, you weren't through with the thing when you got it through the committee. If you just got it through the committee, then you had the matter on the floor

of the senate. Then you had to get the thing over in the assembly, and go through a committee in the assembly; and you had to get somebody in the assembly who was sympathetic to the legislation--or against the legislation, depending on the position--but somebody that understood the matter. Fortunately, there was a very good assemblyman over there, who was chairman of the assembly committee, by the name of Ed Z'berg. We worked very closely together. Z'berg also went to the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, and he also was a commissioner on uniform state laws. So we worked together with those two committees.

Then you had to get somebody in the governor's office. The governor wasn't necessarily always for everything just because it was a conservation matter. You had to get somebody down there. Then there was a lot of bad legislation that you wanted to defeat.

LAGE: So the chairman had a shepherding role?

FARR: I think so, in some ways.

LAGE: I'm getting a nice sense of how it all worked.

FARR: I want to talk to you about a different subject. I had a bill that was an interesting one, and I want to tell you how it came about. My late wife one day read in the paper about General [Joseph] Stilwell, whose photograph is right over there. His two daughters and their husbands live in Carmel and are good friends of ours. General Stilwell died in Carmel, and his ashes were scattered over the Carmel Bay, I guess by military plane. There was a fellow, I think his name was Terence O'Sullivan, who wrote a column in the San Francisco Chronicle, and he pointed out that this was wonderful about General Stilwell, but isn't it too bad that you can't scatter ashes, that it's against the law. So I

began looking up the health and safety code, and it was shocking that you couldn't move scattered ashes from one place to another without taking them in a hearse; you couldn't get your grandmother's or somebody's ashes and scatter them. I decided that that was barbaric, in a way.

So I got a bill, I got the thing in committee; I think it went to the committee on [Public] Health and Safety. That was the bill that permitted the scattering of ashes. I got a lot of letters from people. The president pro tem of the senate [Hugh Burns] was not very sympathetic; he'd been a former undertaker. I got a call one day from a fellow who ran a cemetery and columbarium and mortuary. He said, "Senator, won't you come out and see our activity?" It was in Sacramento, so I went out to see it. He said to an attendant, "Waters, would you please bring in Mrs. Jones." I was sitting there, and I didn't know who Waters was or who Mrs. Jones was [Laughter]. But in came this box. Mrs. Jones had been cremated several days before, and there were parts of bone that were perhaps an inch and a half long, and some metal things which may have been fillings of teeth and whatnot. He said, "You can see these are human remains, and we can't show this to anybody, but we'll show it to you." So he took me around, and I looked at the wall. He said these were perpetual care niches, and he told me how much they cost. The wall was about thirty feet long and about twelve feet high. I began to put two and two together, and I said [to myself], this sounds like Wall Street real estate to me. Then he said we would go down and see a cremation taking place, and he opened a little thing and I looked in there. There was a little fire going and a clump of something or other. I thought, if you turned that

up high enough maybe there wouldn't be those [fillings and bone pieces in the ashes].

So I got hold of a coffee grinder. Someone had sent me somebody's remains, and I took them to the Senate Public Health Committee hearing. I said, "I have over here some cigarette ashes, and I want you to look at these; we're going to show you how these remains can look like ashes." So my administrative assistant ground these down in an old-fashioned coffee grinder, and screams of horror went up in the room. The testimony was that if we permitted people to scatter ashes, that people would scatter them out of airplanes, and people would be having a picnic in the park and ashes would come down on the sandwiches; or the ashes would be taken home and the urn would be put on the mantelpiece, and somebody would knock it over and little Willy would ingest it. All these horrible problems!

So the bill went down. As I say, the people who ran columbariums, and undertakers and coroners were all against the bill. Well, in 1965 I introduced the bill again. This time people signed the bill; they wouldn't look at me, they'd just sign it, and the bill went through. My wife had died at that time, so it was a personal matter. But anyway, the bill went through, and it went through with certain . . .

LAGE: Did it go through because of this feeling . . . ?

FARR: I think it went through on kind of a personal thing. They still testified against it, and I think we had some restraints, but at least you could remove the ashes. Jessica Mitford wrote about it in her American Way of Death; she had a page or two about this whole thing. So I felt it was kind of a contribution to. . . and today people think nothing

about it, and there are cremation societies and whatnot. But at the time it was very difficult. The first time it was a hearing that those who were present won't forget. The second time Jesse Unruh put the thing on the consent calendar in the assembly, and maybe on the consent calendar in the senate, and the thing went out.* But my legislation didn't open it up as wide as it is today. Today you can go in and say you want the ashes, and they give them to you; what you're going to do with them is your own damn business. At that time they said you could take the ashes and scatter them over the ocean. But that was the whole thing.

LAGE: That's an interesting sidelight. I want to cover the other committees, and if there is something you particularly want to talk about . . .

FARR: We'll talk a little about the unemployment insurance for fishermen, because I think that was important. One of my constituents and good supporters were the Monterey fishermen. The sardines were no longer caught in Monterey Bay. Nobody knows where the sardines went or why. In fact, there are all kinds of theories. But nevertheless it hit the fishing industry very hard. These people were out catching bottom fish, and catching fish up and down the coast, and they'd go to Alaska for part of the year. So they'd be out fishing, getting anchovies and other things; but when they got home they were not entitled to unemployment insurance, whereas people working on shoreside were. People working in canneries, boatbuilding, and many things allied to the fishing industry were entitled to unemployment insurance, but the fishermen were not. So we got a bill introduced into the senate which

* S.B. 965, 1965 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1421.

provided for unemployment insurance to fishermen, and that was very difficult. But we got it through [with help from the testimony of Ricky Crivello, business agent, and Frank Monaco, president of the fishermen's union], and I think it's been something that has helped fishermen and their families throughout California.*

LAGE: You were involved in the efforts to save the sea otter. Didn't you have some of these fishermen opposed to that? Was that another one of these balancing acts?

FARR: That's right. We had our hearing down at Morro Bay on the sea otters. The fishermen were opposed to that; some of them still are. I had lunch with some of my old fisherman friends about three months ago, and they were still cursing the sea otter. They'll never get reconciled, but the sea otters are something that are here, and I think the people of California and the people of America love to protect the sea otters. They do some harm from time to time, I guess to nets, and they take some abalones. But I think people can live without abalones; and there are still abalones caught and still abalones in restaurants that are expensive. They're just not a common item like they used to be. They used to have a restaurant in Monterey called "Pop Ernst," right at the end of fisherman's wharf, and that was where the abalone was first made popular.

Margaret Owings has The Friends of the Sea Otter, and that organization probably has seven or eight thousand people throughout the United States. Anybody who goes to the Monterey Bay Aquarium looks at the sea otters, which I believe are the first sea otters in

* A.B. 952, 1961 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 2164.

captivity. And there are those at the aquarium who have rescued otters and released them into the wild again. But I think people who keep up with sea otters feel they are very important and were a very threatened species.

LAGE: You didn't really convince the fishermen to go along with saving the sea otters, but you did other things for fishermen. Is that the idea?

FARR: I did what I could for the fishermen. They're still my friends, and I still like them. It's just a question of sea otters being something that. . . Some of these fishermen are now involved in the Alaska fishing, and many of them work in other trades.

LAGE: Is it still a viable industry around here?

FARR: Yes, here there are fishermen. They fish in Monterey, and there are a lot more of them over in Moss Landing. They get various fish up and down the coast--cod, salmon, albacore, and we finally got Fish and Game to allow them to take anchovies for pet food.

LAGE: How about education issues? You were on the Education Committee for a good period of time. Were there any particular education issues you took part in?

FARR: I'm trying to think. I served on the Education Committee and then I got involved in a master plan for higher education. I remember the meeting at the home of [Edwin W.] Ed Pauley in Los Angeles. I think Ed Pauley had become a regent [of the University of California]. He was a great oil man. Dorothy Donahoe and I, as I recall it, presented and talked about a master plan for higher education, of which she was one of the authors. I remember that in particular, and there were some other things that I'll get to.

LAGE: I read that Brown was interested in the Fisher bill on teacher credentialing. Do you recall anything about that?

FARR: Let me refresh my recollections on that.

[Interruption]

LAGE: We've been looking at some scrapbooks, and a few things were brought to both of our minds. One of the things I was going to ask you about is the California Roadside Council. That seems to have been a fairly early conservation group.

FARR: It was headed by a woman named Helen Reynolds in San Francisco, and she was very effective and very much on the scene in Sacramento. She came up there in support of the scenic highway bill when it was introduced, and she was very much in support of protecting parks from highways going through state parks. She was interested in good design and all the things to make for better highways, and particularly in protecting the scenic corridor--how you could drive on a highway and your experience is one of not being able to enjoy it because of what you see on the roadside. Therefore the Redwood National Park was important, and Save the Redwoods was very important. Because you could drive through the redwoods, and although the corridor is relatively narrow, what you see as you're driving by is important. She was very helpful there, and she was very helpful later when I was in Washington. She came back and testified before the House Public Works Committee for the highway beautification, to maintain the highway beautification act and to strengthen the act. Helen was a wonderful, strong conservationist.

LAGE: She also seemed to be one of the early ones who got into environmental lobbying in Sacramento.

FARR: Yes.

LAGE: Were there other conservation groups that you remember?

FARR: Of course there was the Sierra Club. One of my former administrative assistants, John Zierold, did an outstanding job as the Sierra Club lobbyist in Sacramento.

LAGE: Were they much of a presence then? They didn't have their office there at the time.

FARR: Well, they didn't have an office in Sacramento, but they would come up from San Francisco. I remember Ed Wayburn coming up many times--I think he was the president of the Sierra Club--particularly on the Redwood Highway bill, and on many things related to conservation. He was nice enough to tell me that I was an honorary life member of the Sierra Club.

LAGE: Did you have anything to do with the founding of the Planning and Conservation League? Were you in on that?

FARR: No. It was going on and it was very good, but . . .

LAGE: I'm looking through a scrapbook now.

FARR: You asked me about marine land. Here's a bill that says it [reading from scrapbook]: "The bill sets aside a 2.5-mile strip of Pacific coastline from Lighthouse Point to Hopkins Marine Station. Centering a half mile offshore, the area will be known as the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge. There's a provision in the bill prohibiting the taking of all crustaceans, mussels, and abalones, and all fishing except for annual line and pull." That was to protect the area off Hopkins [Marine Institute], and my son Sam, the assemblyman from this district, expanded the boundaries of the refuge with his legislation.

LAGE: I liked your story about this political blackmail. Do you want to tell this one?

FARR: Sure. Let me ask you something: this is twenty-one years ago; will someone kind of check out some of the facts?

LAGE: We'll try.

FARR: All right. I think it was called the League to Save Lake Tahoe, in which [James] Jim McClatchy, brother of C. K. McClatchey [newspaper publishers], and several others (I'll try to think of their names) were interested in the need for a bi-state compact on the protection of Lake Tahoe. It came to our natural resources committee, and we had the approval. And we wanted to get the approval of the Nevada legislature, because a bi-state commission needed to be set up with the legislatures of both states. We appeared in Nevada before the Nevada legislature. I think we appeared before the natural resources and the finance committees of their senate. The bill didn't get any place. There was one member of the Nevada legislature [Ray Niseley] who had some recreation property on the lake and we couldn't seem to get anywhere.

I got an idea one night in the middle of the night: the only way to do it is maybe to bring a little pressure on the state of Nevada. So I introduced a bill to open up gambling on the California side of Lake Tahoe, authorize permit gambling, to encourage Nevada to approve the bi-state commission. As a Nevada assemblyman said, "Farr's threat does not scare anybody, because I don't think California will buy a gambling bill." The Nevada lobbyists were over there, and a Nevada paper said that never had such a blackmail bill ever been introduced in the California legislature. The bill had one purpose, namely to get Nevada

into the bi-state compact. And of course the bill was killed, and they didn't get into the bi-state compact until some time later.

LAGE: Eventually, though, they did.

FARR: Eventually, correct.

LAGE: What about agricultural issues? You were on the agricultural committee.

FARR: One bill that went through--the year before my seatmate, Jim Cobey, had carried it, and he didn't have much luck. He came from Madera/Modesto. The next year I took it up. That was field sanitation. I think it was due largely to the fact that Willard Wirtz had come out here; he was the secretary of labor under Kennedy. It was during the bracero program. He came to Sacramento to the governor's office, and then came down to Monterey County. We went out to see some fields the next day, and I got to talking with this lady out there about field sanitation. I asked what you do if you want to go to the bathroom. She was a Latina, and she said, "It's very embarrassing to me. I have a teenage daughter that works here too, and we have to go down into this row . . ." I asked where she would go if she went to the bathroom. She said, "Well, if I went to a proper bathroom, I'd go down to the end of the row and over the barbed wire fence, and I'd cross another row and under the other barbed wire fence, and go and knock on the farmer's door and say, 'Can I use your bathroom?' But obviously that isn't what we do. It's very embarrassing, but we do what we have to here in the fields. It's particularly humiliating to me on account of my daughter."

I thought about that, and that my seatmate had had the bill the previous year and his growers gave him a bad time. But that year we

got the bill through. It required field lavatories and hand-washing facilities, which is now accepted practice.*

LAGE: Was the big agricultural labor movement with Cesar Chavez coming?

FARR: That was coming in. A good part of that time that I was in we had the bracero program. I had people up from the growers and shippers talking to me about braceros. Some of them would say that some of these fellows were radical, that they wanted a dollar or a dollar and a quarter an hour. The braceros were a very dependable workforce because by and large they wanted to work here, and they were sending money back to Mexico to help their families. Crews could be called out. . . . I mean, they were paid for overtime, but overtime might start after eleven o'clock at night depending on when the regular shift finished. As the program went on, I think the braceros themselves were getting more benefits; they were getting health benefits. But when they first started, from our standard it was pretty rough; from their standard it was really pretty good. There was a great feeling that jobs were being taken away from American workers. The first or second year after the program went out--the first years they said, no, they couldn't get the crops harvested. And the second or third years, why, the crops were harvested and they were making money.

LAGE: So there you are.

FARR: [looks through scrapbook] There was a marine garden reserve at Point Lobos, also. I was made an honorary member of the Sierra Club when I was in the legislature.

LAGE: Was that for a range of activities, or for a particular activity?

* S.B. 767, 1965 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1576.

FARR: No, I think it was for more or less general activities.

LAGE: You mentioned that you wanted to say something about your relationship with Alan Pattee, the Republican assemblyman.

FARR: Yes. I think it was rather unusual. As I say, we worked very well together. [Alan was a strong Republican, but a center-of-the-road Republican. He supported the Rumford fair housing and came out against the Francis amendment. He was an honest, decent, extremely well-liked legislator.]*

LAGE: Did you both have the same territory?

FARR: Part of the time we had the same territory, and part of his term he got Santa Cruz County in addition--which is the county my son has now, and he has just a little part of Monterey County.

We would ride back and forth to Sacramento frequently, and we would attend many events together. The League of Women Voters would want us to come and report on the legislature, and we'd go to other things together, and we'd be at these various functions. Alan had a great way with him.

I'll have to tell you one little story. We were out at the grange hall in Seaside. There was a Dr. John Craig, a Democrat, who was running against him for the assembly. Over the Lincoln's Day holiday, when the Republicans were out making speeches around the state, the assembly was in session, and the Democrats put through, I think it was the oil severance tax. (Somebody got it on reconsideration or something.) It was done, let's say, on a Friday, and Monday the legislature was back in session. Pattee was down in Riverside, and he

* Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

got a ride back on an oil company airplane. So Drew Pearson had an article about it. And this Dr. Craig said to Alan Pattee, "Mr. Pattee, did you not take a ride on an oil company's plane back to Sacramento, an oil company that wants special favors from you and oil concessions and whatnot, and didn't you vote against the oil severance tax bill?"

Alan said, "Dr. Craig, I'm very glad that you asked that question. Yes, I took a ride on that oil company's plane, because in my district I represent what you would like to represent if you were able to defeat me. I have oil workers down in San Ardo, and if that severance tax goes on, these oil workers lose their jobs, and their wives and their children are out on the highway heading south and looking for work in Los Angeles or someplace; and we're going to lose them in Monterey County, and they're going to lose their jobs and be on welfare. You're damn right I did it. I'd take a ride with the devil!"

[End Tape 3, Side B]

[Begin Tape 4, Side A]

LAGE: We're ready to go on with Mr. Pattee. You had mentioned that you would often go out campaigning together.

FARR: This is a little aside, but here is the scrapbook, and here is Ansel Adams. I was the first legislator that ever had a mobile office. I had read in the New Yorker magazine about [John] Lindsay, the mayor of New York, who had a legislative office in a van and would drive around New York. I decided to get this van. My friend, Will Shaw, an architect, designed the interior so that people could come in the van. Here they are on the inside, and here was a map of this county on the top. People would come in, and they would want to talk to you about

something, but their house was full of people. So they'd come out to the van and sit in there and talk. It was kind of fun driving around the county.

Here's Ansel Adams standing by my van, right below his house, right below Point Lobos.

LAGE: The van gave you a lot of visibility, too.

FARR: Yes, it gave pretty good visibility. It was white with blue and red stripes, and the lettering said: Mobile Legislative Office, State Senator Fred S. Farr, "To Better Serve Monterey County."

LAGE: Let's finish with Pattee before we forget where we were.

FARR: Oh, yes, bueno, bueno. People would say that, by and large, the assemblyman and the senator work together, and we'd be returned to Sacramento. I think there were quite a few editorials in the papers here during reelection, endorsing both the assemblyman and the senator. [Searching through scrapbook] I think more so than many other legislators, I would get criticized by my Democratic supporters in this county for not coming out and campaigning against him, and I guess he was criticized to a certain extent. Near the end, when I ran for the senate against Grunsky, he did come out against me.

LAGE: You wouldn't support the Democratic candidate against him?

FARR: I didn't. I just said that I had to serve with this assemblyman, and I'm not going to get out in the campaign and take an active part.

Here's one thing that I got involved in. The Hell's Angels [motorcycle club] came down to Monterey County, and they were terrible. They raped a gal down on the beach at Monterey. I got the attorney general to make the first investigation of the Hell's Angels--you know who they are?

LAGE: Yes.

FARR: I asked [Thomas] Tom Lynch [state attorney general] to act on it.

They came to Monterey and they took over Seaside, and they raped the gal down on the beach. It was very bad, very bad. I got involved in that because the captain of the highway patrol asked me to get interested in it. He also asked me to get interested in requiring senior first aid certificates for ambulance drivers. He was telling me about accidents he'd come to, and these fellows would come up in an ambulance and pull somebody out by the arms or the legs, and they had a broken neck.

LAGE: And now we have the paramedics.

We can come back to state issues if there is something you want to add, but let me ask you what was your relationship with the national Democratic Party? Did you get involved in national politics?

FARR: Yes, I did. I was a delegate to the 1960 and 1964 Democratic conventions.

LAGE: There were some touchy times there.

FARR: I'll tell you what I did: in the '60 convention on the first vote I actually supported [Governor] Adlai Stevenson. Then our whole delegation came to [Senator John F.] Kennedy.

LAGE: I see you have a signed photograph here from Adlai Stevenson, and you have a couple of letters from John Kennedy.

FARR: Yes, that's right. A group of us in the senate went back to President [Dwight D.] Eisenhower's White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1960. Jim Cobey, my seatmate, and I decided, "Look, we're going to be delegates and we have about five or six legislators who are going to be delegates. I think we'd like to meet some of the potential

Democratic nominees, and I think they'd like to meet us." So I wrote letters to all of them. [Hubert] Humphrey was out; we didn't get a chance to see him. And [Stuart] Symington from Missouri was on the floor of the Senate presenting the bill for that big arch in St. Louis, so his son took us to lunch. Then the father came in. We were up in the gallery, and he came up and talked to us for a while. Then we met Lyndon Johnson and talked to him. We talked to Senator [John] Kennedy. He was going either to Minnesota or West Virginia the next day, and for some reason or other he said, "Come over tonight to Georgetown." We said, "Well, you're going out to campaign tomorrow; we think you'd probably want to be with your wife." So for some reason or other we didn't go, which I think is too bad.

LAGE: Did you think at the time that he might be the nominee, or did you think he had a good chance?

FARR: Sure, I did. I kicked myself for not going over. But I did meet him later. He came to Pebble Beach on the way down to the Democratic convention, so I had a chance to talk to him then. And we met him again; on his last trip to California he came up to Redding, and a lot of us went over to see him then. Of course, he was killed shortly thereafter in Texas.

I got to know Paul Butler and a lot of people, being active in the Democratic Party. They'd come to Carmel and I had some of them come to my house. Orville Freeman, who was active in Minnesota politics--here's his picture. There's Hubert Humphrey when he was in the Senate. He came to Monterey, and we took him to the Defense Language Institute, to see that. Stewart Udall and Ambassador [William] Averell Harriman were there too.

Kennedy came here, and we took him to Asilomar; he spoke to the World Affairs Council. I met him at the airport, and I got some people from the Defense Language Institute because I wanted to talk to him, if he became president, about the importance of the Defense Language Institute. The World Affairs Council were very mad at me because they were going to pick up people, but anyway he came with me. I had some people there from the Defense Language Institute, the head of the Russian department and the Japanese department. I wanted to talk to him about the Defense Language Institute. [imitating Kennedy's voice, loudly] "Senator, what's your registration here in this county?" [Laughter] He wanted to talk about politics, not about the Defense Language Institute. He got to Asilomar, and my wife was over there. He came in, and I introduced him to my wife. I had to go someplace and I couldn't stay for his talk, and he said to her, "The men's room is locked." She said, "Well, you go to the lady's room. I'll stand guard." [Laughter]

Anyway, I met him on several occasions, through Democratic politics. Then when I got on this commission on uniform state laws I got very well acquainted with John Bailey, chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He was the one that I think probably worked harder for Kennedy than anybody. The night of the 1960 convention I had the privilege of going up to Adlai Stevenson's room with Louis Kahn from Chicago, who got Adlai Stevenson started in politics. He was an old friend from the Commission on Uniform State Laws. We went up there, and it was a wonderful evening. It was a sad evening, but Adlai knew he wasn't going to win--when he came to the convention he didn't come to the California delegation, and that . . .

Agnes Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post, was there, and she'd had a few drinks. And Marietta Tree was there (she was the gal that Stevenson was with when he died). Anyway, Agnes Meyer was leaving and Stevenson gave her a big smack on the. . . . kissed her goodnight, and said, "Agnes, we've got to get behind John right now; we've got to get Jack Kennedy elected." She pulled her hat over her face and said, "Jesus Christ, Adlai, don't get so holy so soon. Goodnight." [Laughter]

Then we went down to the party that John Bailey was having for JFK.

Phew! You must be exhausted.

LAGE: I think you're exhausted and I've really pushed your endurance. Is there anything that you think we've missed? We didn't mention the state coastal commission [California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission]. I think we should at least mention that you were on it. It's really a topic of its own.

FARR: I sat on it for seven years, from the date of its inception until 1967. It was a fascinating experience, and it was important because here was a commission that was really given planning jurisdiction over the coast of California within a thousand feet of the coastline. Proposition 20 charged the commission with the responsibility of making a study as to the areas that would be affected by development on the coast. The line [to include areas under jurisdiction of the coastal commission] should be drawn by the legislature, and the line was drawn, in many places on the recommendation of the coastal commission. The coastal commission had more hearings on the coastal plan than on any other legislation I can think of in California. Hearings were held up and

down the state, from Eureka to San Diego, and even inland over to Fresno because they were worried that maybe the atomic plants would come over to Fresno and take their water away from them. The study of the commission at the public hearings--it was determined that the line should be drawn in places like Santa Cruz County up at the top of the ridge. The feeling was that what was done higher up could affect the coastline activities. That's why the line varies. Whereas down in parts of Los Angeles the boundary line might be two blocks from the ocean, because it's all developed anyway and you wouldn't have that same effect on the resources.

LAGE: So they had the flexibility to draw that line . . .

FARR: Yes, and some people said that the original commission only had the jurisdiction for a thousand feet; why did they go inland? But I also felt that when the first people came before the commission--many lawyers who came there would bring court reporters and they would get up and argue the constitutionality of it. We had counsel from the attorney general's office representing us, and I think we as commissioners were probably sued a hundred times in our lives by aggrieved parties naming the commission in various lawsuits, and by and large the coastal commission won the lawsuits and established itself. I think that over a period of time people began to recognize what they were doing was not only saving the coast for California, but for people from all over the United States who came to the coast. And, as Nat Owings would say, "Good design pays dividends." You were seeing a new quality in many proposed developments, and in many of the things people were paying more attention to the amenities. The programs and applications that came before the commission, considerations were starting to be given to

environmental considerations. It was a great experience, and I think someday people are going to say, "Thank God there was a coastal commission in California." I read just recently that in the state of New Jersey the governor has called for a coastal commission to protect the New Jersey coast from the blight that is happening there that is going to ruin it forever.

LAGE: You also mentioned [Melvin] Mel Lane. I thought that was a nice comment.

FARR: Mel Lane was the chairman--he retired from the commission before I left. I think he was there about five or six of the seven years I served. Of all the different organizations of which I've been a part of or attended or been a member of, I've never seen anybody that served as a better chairman. Mel Lane had a sense of humor, and he had a sense of duty, and he was able to handle the problems that came before the commission. You had some people who would get very outraged about it, and some people that were on the edge of. . . . sometimes some people were about to blow up, you know, and you kind of worried about what would happen. He handled them all very well, and I think everybody that came before the commission had respect for Mel Lane; we as commissioners did, and I think that applicants and organizations also did. Many conservation organizations appeared, and many people appeared as applicants and many people appeared with various matters. Also, the coastal commission was the first group I had been to where the public at every meeting was given an opportunity not only to say something about applications for permits that were before the commission, but also something about the way the commission was

operating or procedural rules. Mel was a very fair and, I think, a very wonderful person.

LAGE: How much time did the coastal commission take?

FARR: I think we met about twice a month. We'd meet in northern California and then in southern California. The coastal commissioners went all the way from the Tijuana River to the Smith River up on the Oregon border. We had field trips, so these areas we were making decisions upon we had at least visited. A good part of the coast became very familiar, and some parts of the coast that you couldn't get to, we flew over sometimes.

I might say that the success of the coastal commission, in my opinion, was due to two things. One was Mel Lane, and the other was [Joseph] Joe Bodovitz. Mel had been the chairman of BCDC, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the executive director of that was Joe Bodovitz. When Mel came to Sacramento and we elected him as the chairman, he said he wanted Joe Bodovitz to be the executive director. Joe was the executive director, and Joe was wonderful. He went on from there to the Public Utilities Commission. And now Mel and [Richard] Rich Wilson and a group have set up a California Conservation Foundation, of which Joe Bodovitz has been the executive director. He left the Utilities Commission and went there. Now he and Mel Lane are working on San Francisco Bay Area 2000.

Also the group that's concentrating on saving the coast came out of the coastal commission hearings. It's interesting what's happened to the people. One of the attorneys for the state commission became the C.E.O. for the Los Angeles Department of Water Resources, I believe.

These young lawyers that came there--one of the young lawyers I remember was voluntarily representing conservation groups that had no money, and he was just out of law school. He'd had some tough cases and he later became one of a big developer's environmental lawyers in southern California. A very able person.

The important thing was to have lawyers who understood the coastal process. You'd get people who came there who had never read the bill, had very little idea, and all they could think of was that the government was taking away people's God-given rights; we were taking everybody's property away. People who understood and had read the bill and knew what the legislation was all about made it a lot easier.

LAGE: You wouldn't have to fight the same battle time and again.

FARR: Yes. It's like two lawyers, both in the field of commercial law or malpractice, or probate--at least they're in there talking the same language.

LAGE: Let's mention the presidency of the California Historical Society, because I think that's interesting in view of this historical project here.

FARR: That came about in a very strange way. I don't know exactly how it happened, but I got a call one day from [Putnam] Put Livermore, who is former chairman of Republican State Central Committee. He said, "Fred, I'm not calling up to talk about politics, but I want to ask you if you would consider going on the board of the California Historical Society." I said I was highly honored and would really appreciate it. I'd been a member of the Monterey History and Art Association for some time.

So I was on the board and served I think two years, and then I was elected president and served for two years as president of the

California Historical Society [1974-1976]. Again, there was a great group of people from all over the state. We had one of the Bixbys, Katherine Bixby Hotchkiss, whose brother Fred was a fraternity brother of mine in the Deke [Delta Kappa Epsilon] house at Berkeley, and his father had been involved in Signal Hill down in Long Beach. Katherine was a great director and a great supporter of C.H.S. She wrote some books, Christmas at Los Alamos, and many others, about her father and her family, and Long Beach in the early days. The man who owned the Nut Tree [Bill Powers] was very much interested in the historical society. He was of the opinion that Sir Francis Drake sailed in the Golden Gate, so I would hear about that. When I was studying for the bar examination, I worked at Chickering and Gregory, a law firm in San Francisco. Mr. Chickering's son, Alan, was a fraternity brother of mine, and I'd known him as a boy in Piedmont; we lived in the same neighborhood. Mr. Chickering--Alan Chickering Sr.--wanted everybody brought into his office, all the secretaries and everybody. He had a brown paper bag, and he took out of it Drake's plate of brass. That was the first time it had ever been seen. I think that got me very excited. My family had some connections with old San Francisco, which I won't get into--Senator [William] Sharon [United States senator from Nevada, 1875-1881] and all that.

Anyway, it was a privilege and an honor to be on the board of the historical society. I got a fellow named North Baker interested. North Baker said, "I don't have to raise any money, do I?" I said no. He'd been on the board of SPUR [San Francisco Planning and Urban Renewal], and the president of the Florence Crittendon Home. North

became one of the greatest presidents they ever had. He expanded the board and brought in all kinds of money, and all sorts of talent.

[Dr. James Holliday became executive secretary in 1970. He was a dynamic, imaginative director, raised a lot of money, wrote frequent scholarly articles for "California History," and paid his own travel expenses when our treasury was low.

One of the things that made me very happy on the board was our publication of "Executive Order 9066" [an exhibit and accompanying booklet]. It brought to the attention of the public the hardship imposed on Japanese Americans sent off to camps in World War II.]*

It was an interesting period of time. I think my reading of California history hadn't been very much, and when I got off I got very much interested in California history and have been reading a lot of it since. I think it's a great story.

*. Mr. Farr added the preceding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.