

California State Archives
State Government Oral History Program

Oral History Interview

with

STANLEY T. TOMLINSON

California State Assemblyman, 1949 - 1954

and

CONSTANCE M. TOMLINSON

February 3, 4, and March 10, 1988
Santa Barbara, California

By Carlos Vázquez
Oral History Program
University of California, Los Angeles

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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 process of the state of California. They include members of the legislative and executive branches of the 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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History Department
California State University, Fullerton

Oral History Program
Center for California Studies
California State University, Sacramento

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Claremont Graduate School

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University of California, Los Angeles

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

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INTERVIEW HISTORY

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Interview Time and Place:

February 3, 1988
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson in Santa Barbara,
California
Session of one hour

February 4, 1988
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson in Santa Barbara,
California
Session of one and one-quarter hours

March 10, 1988
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson in Santa Barbara,
California
Session of one hour

Editing

Carlos Vásquez edited the interview. He checked the verbatim transcript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling, and verified proper names. Insertions by the editor have been bracketed. The interviewer also prepared the introductory materials.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson reviewed and approved the edited transcript and returned it to the UCLA Oral History Program with only minor corrections.

Papers

There exist no private papers which the interviewer was able to consult for this interview, although he did have access to well-organized scrapbooks covering the period Mr. Tomlinson served in the state legislature. Moreover, he had access to an oral history conducted with Mr. Tomlinson by the Santa Barbara Historical Society.

Tapes and Interview Records

The original tape recordings of the interview are in the university archives at UCLA along with the records relating to the interview. Master tapes are preserved at the California State Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Stanley T. Tomlinson was born in Santa Barbara, California, on July 9, 1903. His father's family migrated from the Midwest to Santa Barbara and owned the last harness and saddlery business in the city. His uncle, Charles S. Tomlinson, was county assessor from 1920 to 1947.

Tomlinson attended Santa Barbara City College and then earned a B.A. at the University of Oregon. He received his LL.B. from the University of Southern California in 1931. Tomlinson served as a legal officer in the United States Navy during World War II, then returned to Santa Barbara to practice law. He married Constance Mills in 1935, with whom he raised a son, Rodney George, who also became a naval officer.

Tomlinson served in the California Assembly from 1949 to 1954 where he chaired the Committee on Transportation and Commerce as well as of the Joint Committee on Impounded Funds from Tide and Submerged Lands. He also served on the Committee on Municipal and County Government, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Revenue and Taxation. As a Republican member of the Committee on Elections and Reapportionment, he was instrumental in the historic reapportionment of 1951. His legislation included bills on the California highway system and efforts to equitably disburse funds accrued from state tidelands revenues. After leaving the assembly, Tomlinson was elected city attorney of Santa Barbara, where he served until 1972, when he retired from public life.

Constance M. Tomlinson was born near Leicester, England, on October 10, 1910, and migrated to the United States as a young girl. She was educated in Los Angeles, California, and received her A.A. degree from Los Angeles City College. She taught in the Santa Barbara schools before and after World War II. She left teaching when Mr. Tomlinson became an assemblyman and raised their son while offering her husband social and moral support. During the legislative sessions, she accompanied her husband in Sacramento on a regular basis, and became an active member of the PALS Club, an organization comprised of state legislators' wives. Through this network, she met and interacted with many figures prominent in state politics at the time. She became a successful Santa Barbara real estate agent and worked in that field until she retired.

I. LIFE HISTORY

[Session 1, February 3, 1988]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

Family History

VASQUEZ: Mr. Tomlinson, before we get into your political career, I wonder if you might tell us when and where you were born.

S. TOMLINSON: I was born here in Santa Barbara on July 9, 1903. My parents were George W. and Florence Victoria [Trace] Tomlinson. At that time we lived on Santa Barbara Street, which, of course, I knew nothing about.

VASQUEZ: What were your parents' antecedents? Where did they come from?

S. TOMLINSON: Father came from a large family. They were immigrants from England and they lived in Clarinda, Iowa. I really don't know what my grandfather's vocation or profession was, I don't think it was ever discussed. But so far as I was concerned, he was always retired. By

the time I reached the age of intelligence, the family would gather here where my father and grandfather had moved in the 1890s. Four or five of their nine children lived here in Santa Barbara, the others stayed in Clarinda, Iowa. One of the sons was a doctor who lived and practiced in San Francisco. I think he started his practice about 1900. My uncle Charles [S. Tomlinson] lived here, my aunt Emily Morris lived here, and some others. The names don't come to me right at this minute. I was born here, went to elementary schools, high school, and one year of junior college.

VASQUEZ: Where did you go to junior college?

S. TOMLINSON: Here in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara [City] College. It's right up the road aways.

Settling in California

VASQUEZ: Tell me, before you go on with your formal academic career, why did your father and mother decide to stay [in California] to live?

S. TOMLINSON: I think probably because their parents had preceded them. Father and his brother Herbert [A. Tomlinson], some time before I was born, opened a harness and saddlery shop here in

Santa Barbara [at] 714 State Street.

VASQUEZ: What was it called?

S. TOMLINSON: Tomlinson Brothers Harness and Saddlery. They had a thriving business, and I think it's safe to say that they were the leading harness-makers of the city at that time. Remember that Santa Barbara wasn't very big. That continued until the twenties some time. And by that time the automobile had taken over and the harness business was more or less limited to the agriculture [areas] around Santa Barbara. And, of course, I went to the local schools, starting at Washington [Grammar] School, which was walking distance from home, and finished there in due time. Went to Santa Barbara City College after graduation from high school.

Childhood Memories of Santa Barbara

VASQUEZ: What are some of your childhood recollections of things in Santa Barbara that may have changed dramatically?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, one of the biggest changes, of course, is the rather rapid growth. But as a boy, I was always interested in the street railway

system. The streetcars ran up our street on Bath Street to Oak Park. At Victoria Street they branched off, and another branch went off to the [Santa Barbara] Mission. Another branch came off of State Street and went off to Milpas Street on Haley. The terminal was Castillo Street and the boulevard at the bathhouse. That was the general tenor of the town until the earthquake.

The 1925 Earthquake

VASQUEZ: And how did the earthquake change things?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, first it did away with the streetcar system. They went to buses.

VASQUEZ: What year would this be?

S. TOMLINSON: July 29, 1925, a date to be long remembered by anyone who was here. It happened at 6:29 A.M. in the morning. And it pretty well devastated the town, it was really rough. By that time, 1925, the harness and saddlery [business] had been sold out. Herbert had died in the meantime--[my father's] brother and partner--and we still lived on Bath Street. As I say, the devastation was very bad. The Arlington Hotel was demolished, the Ambassador Hotel at

the beach was badly wrecked, and many of the businesses, especially two-story buildings on State Street, were demolished.

It was quite an experience. I recall my mother had had a stroke, and I remember vividly father and I getting her out of bed, wrapping her up and getting her down the steps and getting her down on the back lawn where she would be safe. The house wasn't badly damaged, a little bit rough, but we were lucky, we moved right back in.

VASQUEZ: So it was an intense experience for you then?

S. TOMLINSON: Of course, it wrecked the contents pretty badly, chinaware and things like that. It was just another experience, and by that time. . . . Let's see, I was then twenty-two, twenty-three years old, and I rushed around town with my friends, looking at things that had happened.

VASQUEZ: Were you at the university then, or had you finished at the University of Oregon by then?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes.

II. PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Attending Law School

- VASQUEZ: Then you started USC [University of Southern California] in 1926.
- S. TOMLINSON: That's right, I had a year more of academic work and I took one course in constitutional law by suffrance of those that knew me. And then I entered law school about 1926.
- VASQUEZ: Before going on to law school, what was Santa Barbara City College, as it's called now, like when you went there?
- S. TOMLINSON: Well, it was in the same buildings it is now. It was a thriving college, but essentially local.
- VASQUEZ: Why did you go there instead of a four-year institution right away, do you remember?
- S. TOMLINSON: Probably because we couldn't afford it. We did a lot of planning to get me into the University of Oregon.
- VASQUEZ: Why Oregon?
- S. TOMLINSON: Friends were going there. A fellow by the name of Allan [M.] Clark whom I had palled around with in high school days, then one or two of the members of the Stewart family went

up right after I did. We all joined the same fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, up there. There were several other Santa Barbara graduates that came up after we did. I stayed there about three years.

VASQUEZ: What was your experience there, did you like it?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, it was a beautiful place.

VASQUEZ: Were you a good student?

S. TOMLINSON: Fair.

VASQUEZ: What were your favorite topics, do you remember?

S. TOMLINSON: I really don't know.

VASQUEZ: Were you predisposed to the physical sciences, the social sciences?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it was pre-law by then. By that time I had pretty much decided. A friend of mine, Emerson [M.] Wright, the son of a local banker, and I were pretty close friends, and he talked me into pre-law. That was after I got there, so it was somewhat limited in the time that I was in Oregon. I came back from Oregon with Emerson or "Red" Wright, the two of us came back to Santa Barbara together. I

had an uncle, a doctor in San Francisco, he was the favorite member of father's family. As far as I was concerned, he was a good sport.

VASQUEZ: What was his name?

S. TOMLINSON: Frank [Tomlinson]. I've forgotten the middle name. But he practiced during the San Francisco earthquake and was well liked. He was a member of the Olympic Club and other clubs up there. Frank was very loyal and very close to the family down here. He visited once or twice a year, so I got to know him very well. On one of my trips to or from Oregon, I spent the night at his home, and we talked about my future. I told him that both Red Wright and I were interested in the law. When we got back to Santa Barbara, we talked further. I forget who we met that influenced us and where to go, but we ended up at USC.

I had about a year of pre-law left and I took just one course in constitutional law, and the rest were academic subjects, history and so forth, to make up the credits I had to have to enter law school. And from then on I

stayed at USC and studied law night and day; night sometimes and day sometimes, depending on whether I was working. The last three years were all at night school.

VASQUEZ: If you were a fair student at college, how did you get into USC?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, we had good enough grades from Oregon. We were both accepted.

VASQUEZ: Was money a problem, because it must have been expensive at this time . . .

S. TOMLINSON: It wasn't very expensive.

VASQUEZ: Oh, it wasn't?

S. TOMLINSON: No, it ran in the hundreds [of dollars].

VASQUEZ: But you had to live down there, didn't you?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, yes.

VASQUEZ: Did you live on campus in a fraternity house?

S. TOMLINSON: No, close to it though. I joined a law fraternity the first year I was there, Delta Theta Phi, and I lived in their house all the rest of the time I was in law school.

College Jobs

Money being a necessary element, I had to go to work. I've forgotten who got me into it, but I ended up kind of as a "do everything

guy" at the Crocker Company, a stationery concern. I think they are still in business. I worked there for several years. In the meantime, I had gotten into accountancy as part of the pre-law and I ended up with a concern called the Boyd Klein company. They were a fairly new firm in the advertising business. They had their office in what was then known--and, I think, is still known--as the central manufacturing district. It is out at the end of Vernon Avenue.

It was an offshoot of a Chicago firm. By the time I got there, they had a very thriving industrial subdivision going. The Boyd Klein concern was the only advertising agency. They did a lot of advertising, industrial type of advertising.

VASQUEZ: In what, trade magazines, billboards?

S. TOMLINSON: Magazines, never billboards.

VASQUEZ: Not radio, none of the electronic media?

S. TOMLINSON: Letter communications, things like that.

VASQUEZ: And you were what, an accountant?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, and I finally got to be a copywriter. I'd write some of their stuff, and I thoroughly

enjoyed that experience, although it was a long way to go from where I lived. I have forgotten when I got my first car, but it was during that time, because most of the time I was riding the streetcar to work. I lived in a boarding house, had room and board, and with my salary from Boyd Klein, I was in good shape.

Law School Associates in Later Professional Career

VASQUEZ: Did you meet people at USC that became associates or important to your professional and political career later on?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, I'm sure I did.

VASQUEZ: Anybody in particular?

S. TOMLINSON: Laughlin [E.] Waters was a classmate. Of course, he was a big shot because of his brother [Assemblyman Frank J. Waters, Jr.]. He [Laughlin] is now a U.S. district [court] judge in Los Angeles. They were very prominent people down there. Others don't happen to come to my mind now, but I had a good many friends in the law school.

VASQUEZ: Did having gone to law school at USC help you

in your professional career?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I assume it did, because I scored very high in the bar examination which I took six months before I got my degree, my LL.B. So they did a good job on me to prepare me for it. And, of course, I passed the first time I took it.

VASQUEZ: What year was that?

S. TOMLINSON: Good question. Nineteen thirty-one.

Marriage

VASQUEZ: Now, you got married in 1935, is that correct?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: The California Blue Book lists you as getting married in 1937, so we can correct that. How did you meet your wife, can you tell me something about that?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't remember where we met.

VASQUEZ: But you got married in 1935?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right, at home. My mother was aging, and we decided we wouldn't go to a church or a judge or anything like that. We would have the Methodist minister come to the house, and we did that.

Religious Background

VASQUEZ: What was the religious upbringing in your family?

S. TOMLINSON: Mine was Methodist.

VASQUEZ: Was it a very religious home that you were brought up in?

S. TOMLINSON: Not very, but I would say religious.

VASQUEZ: Were you regular churchgoers, did you participate in church functions?

S. TOMLINSON: To a small extent. I was never what you would call a big shot member of the faith. I would go when I felt like it, period.

Influences on Tomlinson's Social Values

VASQUEZ: Who do you think, in your family, during your childhood, had the greatest impact on the way that you put your values together, your social and political values? Who influenced your thinking?

S. TOMLINSON: Mother, I think. Father was quiet and pretty preoccupied with his affairs. While it was a good family and [we] never [had] any problems, I would say it was mother who laid down the law, you know, for the upbringing of a child. I was the only one.

VASQUEZ: Does anyone stick in your mind, either at school or in a social setting, that made you like politics, that made you think politically?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I will have to jump a few years on that, but the person that definitely affected me politically was Alfred W. ["Bob"] Robertson. He was then the assemblyman.

VASQUEZ: How did that happen?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, he was a lawyer, and in those days in the practice of law, lawyers were appointed by judges to represent indigent people. Well, an old Peruvian Indian by the name of Juan Balejo, he drank a lot, rotgut and whiskey that wasn't good for him. But he got into an argument one day with his employer, a man by the name of Cardoso. As I recall, Cardoso took Balejo's bottle of whiskey and proceeded to drink all of it, whereupon Balejo went to his cottage or shack where he lived on a ranch north of Goleta and brought back a gun and shot Mr. Cardoso fatally.

He was promptly arrested, he admitted everything. A few days later, he came up for

arraignment in superior court, and they charged first-degree murder. Judge Atwell [G.] Westwick, whom I had known for years, he was a close friend of Dr. Kent [R.] Wilson, a doctor we mentioned awhile ago. I had a good relationship with Westwick. In those days, they appointed lawyers to serve without compensation in felony cases. Westwick, knowing Robertson as he did, and Robertson, being ten or fifteen years older than I was and with vastly more experience in the law, was appointed along with myself to represent Juan Balejo in superior court in his murder case.

VASQUEZ: What year might that be?

S. TOMLINSON: 'Thirty-two or '33.

VASQUEZ: In your second year of practicing law?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I was young. It could have been '34, but it was early on. We tried the case through to a mistrial, and Judge Atwell Westwick, who was presiding, promptly reset it for a new trial. The first trial ended in a mistrial because the jury couldn't agree. The second trial, with the same witnesses and the same back-

ground and everything, ended up in a verdict of second-degree murder.

VASQUEZ: What changed? Why was the verdict different from one to the next?

S. TOMLINSON: The character of the jury, the people on the jury. As I say, they finally, after a couple of days of deliberation, agreed upon second-degree homicide, and that was it.

VASQUEZ: What was the difference in the makeup of the second jury to the first one, do you remember?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no, I don't. I have no idea who served on it.

VASQUEZ: Go on with your story.

S. TOMLINSON: As I say, he was convicted, and I never saw him again. But about three or four months after he went to San Quentin, he wrote to me in Spanish. He couldn't write any other way. He wanted me to buy and send him a Holy Bible printed in Spanish. So I did, and he wrote back and thanked me, and that's the last I ever heard. He died in San Quentin of old age.

VASQUEZ: And that trial had a big effect on your life?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it was a big trial and got lots of

publicity. They made a big thing of murder in those days.

III. POLITICAL CAREER

Why Tomlinson Became a Republican

VASQUEZ: Tell me why you became a Republican.

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, the influence of my parents and other members of the family. There was never any question about that.

VASQUEZ: Is that right? Just the tradition?

S. TOMLINSON: Never debated, never considered, I just registered Republican the first time I was able to vote.

VASQUEZ: Where would you put your family on the spectrum of Republican politics: conservative, moderate, liberal?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, we didn't think in those terms in those days. But under modern standards, I would call them moderate, in the sense that if a good candidate came along who happened to belong to another party, they could possibly vote for him.

VASQUEZ: Even though you were Republicans? Then it wasn't the party label so much that

[determined] how you voted, but the candidate?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I think the Republican relationship and membership in my party prevailed a majority of the time. But on occasion we would shift, particularly in local elections which were nonpartisan. There would be a shift now and then. I never knew my parents to shift, but I did if I liked the candidate.

VASQUEZ: So you were flexible?

S. TOMLINSON: I was flexible enough to take candidates on their merit. In my opinion, if a Democrat was running for a local position, I would be inclined to vote for him if I liked him or knew him. Chances are I didn't know him.

VASQUEZ: In those days there was still cross-filing.

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes.

VASQUEZ: So the party affiliation didn't mean as much, is that right?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, that's right, that's absolutely correct.

VASQUEZ: Do you think cross-filing was a good thing?

S. TOMLINSON: I sure did at that time. I won both parties' [nominations] in all the primary elections for the legislature.

VASQUEZ: Was Santa Barbara a Republican city when you were practicing law?

S. TOMLINSON: It was considered such.

Appointment as United States Commissioner

VASQUEZ: You practiced law for about ten years before you went into the service, is that correct, before the Second World War came along?

S. TOMLINSON: Let me think.

VASQUEZ: And you were a United States commissioner also. Can you tell me about that?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I was United States commissioner for one year.

VASQUEZ: Nineteen forty to 1941, I believe.

S. TOMLINSON: Something like that.

VASQUEZ: Tell me about that position, how you got it, what you did.

S. TOMLINSON: It was a no-go proposition because there was very little federal criminal activity. We had an FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] here, one or two agents, but appearances before me, a United States commissioner, were rare.

VASQUEZ: You were like a hearing officer?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, it's the preliminary hearing stage of the federal court system.

VASQUEZ: How did you get appointed to that?

S. TOMLINSON: The senior judge of the United States district court called me. I had been recommended by the newspaper publisher [Thomas More Storke] here in Santa Barbara, who was an old friend of my mother's, because she had been a typesetter in the newspaper before she was married.

VASQUEZ: What's the name of the newspaper?

S. TOMLINSON: Santa Barbara Independent, or it was the News Press, I have forgotten when it changed. But it was my mother's connection with T. M. Storke that caused him to call the chief judge and get me this appointment. He called up one day and said, "Stan, do you want to be a judge?" I said, "Sure, where?" And he said, "I'll find out." [Laughter]

Thomas More Storke in Santa Barbara Politics

VASQUEZ: This is probably as good a place as any, tell me about T. M. Storke. He seems to have been prominent in your life.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, he was.

VASQUEZ: He was prominent in Santa Barbara, is that right? In what way? Tell me.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, he was the power, he was it. I mean, politically you just didn't make it if T. M. was against you.

VASQUEZ: How did he get to have that kind of power?

S. TOMLINSON: Personality.

VASQUEZ: Was he wealthy?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, he inherited the **News Press** from his father, Albert Storke. His father was known as the "Old Man" in newspaper articles, and in every other way he was known as the "Old Man." He was quite a character.

VASQUEZ: Was it a conservative newspaper or a liberal newspaper would you say?

S. TOMLINSON: I would say it was conservative. The "Old Man" was very influential and [active with] Civil War veterans, the GAR [Grand Army of the Republic]. He was Mr. Civil War around here. And in those days there were a lot of Civil War veterans still alive. The "Old Man" ruled them with an iron hand. Of course, he is the Storke that started the newspaper and he held it until his death. T. M., his son, took over.

VASQUEZ: What year might that be?

S. TOMLINSON: I'm sorry, I wouldn't try to guess, but it was

in the twenties or thirties, I think Tom was running it at the time of the earthquake.

VASQUEZ: So that would be 1926.

S. TOMLINSON: Something like that.

VASQUEZ: Now, how did T. M. Storke influence your life, apart from getting you an appointment as commissioner?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, he didn't. He never attempted to influence my political actions, but he was certainly influential in deciding that I was going to be his candidate, which happened with regularity. He never turned me down.

VASQUEZ: He was one of your main supporters, was he?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, the supporter.

VASQUEZ: The supporter?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, sure.

VASQUEZ: What role did he play in your campaigns?

S. TOMLINSON: Print good articles and assign good reporters to my affairs.

VASQUEZ: Was he a financial contributor?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't think so. I don't think he ever contributed financially to a campaign.

VASQUEZ: So his influence came from the newspaper and the family tradition, is that it, his

influence in Santa Barbara?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, yes. The "Old Man" being here and having the paper for so long, they were a tradition, there isn't any question about it. [They had] tremendous influence over political affairs and the growth of the city, things like that. Anything with public interest, they were right in the middle of it.

VASQUEZ: How would you characterize your family in Santa Barbara society?

S. TOMLINSON: Moderate, certainly not low class and certainly not high class. After all, the large portion of the society at Santa Barbara was moderate, working people, business people. The millionaires were a class to themselves. The poor people, I mean the poverty section, were off to themselves, that leaving the mercantile community and the retired community as the majority. That influenced me some.

Santa Barbara During the Great Depression

VASQUEZ: Tell me about Santa Barbara during the Depression. How did the Depression affect Santa Barbara, its economy and its politics?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I have thought about it a lot of times

and I don't think I have an answer. It seems to me, looking back at it, that it had less effect than it did in other places like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

VASQUEZ: The bigger cities?

S. TOMLINSON: After all, a small grocery store didn't fold on account of the Depression, other modern businesses didn't change. There was unemployment on account of it, of course, but I never knew anything about that. I wasn't involved in it in any way, one way or another. It didn't affect the practice of law particularly, a few bankruptcies here and there that I handled. Actually, I have to say that Santa Barbara was probably less affected than most communities of its size.

VASQUEZ: Who comprised what you called earlier the poor people that you said were off to themselves? What kind of people were they, what did they work at?

S. TOMLINSON: What I meant to say was that there were classes of people in Santa Barbara. People who were living on county support, people that didn't work, I didn't know much about it.

VASQUEZ: Your clients were primarily from the middle class?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, oh yes.

VASQUEZ: What kind of law did you practice?

S. TOMLINSON: General, just general, a free-for-all in the sense that I was able to do anything that I wanted to do.

Tomlinson's Social Standing in Santa Barbara

VASQUEZ: You are very esteemed here in Santa Barbara. You were recently interviewed by the Santa Barbara Historical Society. Is that owed to your family or to your own doing do you think?

S. TOMLINSON: I can't say. It depends on the age and era of the interrogator. There were not too many people after I became mature that remembered my people, I mean the elders of the family, except my uncle Charles. My father and mother were active in the Methodist church, and father took a great interest in the Masonic fraternity and devoted an awful lot of time to it. He was a past master of his lodge.

VASQUEZ: Were you also in a lodge?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes. He got me in early.

VASQUEZ: At what age, do you remember?

S. TOMLINSON: Twenty-three or twenty-four, something like that. I got my fifty-year pin about three years ago.

VASQUEZ: That's a long time. What other social groups and clubs did you belong to when you were a young attorney here in Santa Barbara? Did you belong to the Lions Club, the Kiwanis and that sort of thing?

S. TOMLINSON: Twenty-Thirty [Club] was one, the Junior Chamber of Commerce was another. And, of course, I joined the Masonic lodge.

VASQUEZ: What was the purpose of joining those organizations or clubs, and did they help you in your business, in your social life?

S. TOMLINSON: A lot of friends, a lot of friends. I don't know if they ever did any good for my business, I didn't join them for that purpose. Because all my buddies were in those clubs. I mean, there was a class of people in Santa Barbara that were my age and we all started out in Santa Barbara and we were all friendly. I belonged to the Junior Chamber of

Commerce. It was a perfectly natural thing and no pressure. It wasn't necessary for me to join anything, I did it because of my friendship with the members.

VASQUEZ: Did the friendships, connections, and networks that were made there, did they help you later on in politics?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, I'm sure they did, but it would be indefinable how. Except by their personal relationships, things like that.

Service in World War II

VASQUEZ: Now, when the Second World War came along, what were you doing?

S. TOMLINSON: Practicing law.

VASQUEZ: Were you still a commissioner?

S. TOMLINSON: I was United States commissioner at the time, yes.

[End Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

VASQUEZ: You were a commissioner when you went into the navy. Why did you decide to go into the navy? Were you drafted?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I wasn't drafted, I was over the age of draft by that time. Just my deep, personal

attachment to the navy. Many friends had gone in. A friend by the name of [Eugene] Gene Harris, who was quite prominent in Santa Barbara legal affairs, had been in the naval reserve for quite a number of years. He was at the San Diego naval training station on duty at least six months before Pearl Harbor.

So, when Pearl Harbor happened, within a few weeks, I was in touch with Harris. He promptly arranged for me to be recruited, not recruited but join up, come down there with him.

VASQUEZ: Did you go in as an officer?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, yes.

VASQUEZ: What was your rank?

S. TOMLINSON: Lieutenant JG [Junior Grade].

VASQUEZ: What was your assignment?

S. TOMLINSON: Assistant legal officer.

VASQUEZ: Can you tell me about that? Where were you first stationed?

S. TOMLINSON: San Diego, for basic training.

VASQUEZ: And then where did you go? You were in the South Pacific, weren't you?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I served there three years. After I was

transferred to the South Pacific, I went to Nouméa first. I was assistant legal officer there for, oh, seems to me nearly a year. And finally, a spot became open at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides Islands for a legal officer. I went up there as assistant legal officer for a few months. When the legal officer retired and came back to the states, I took over as legal officer. It was all under Admiral [William F.] Halsey's command in the South Pacific. He was at Nouméa all the time I was there.

VASQUEZ: You came back to Santa Barbara after the war?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: And you proceeded to do what? Practice law again?

S. TOMLINSON: Now, let me think a few minutes what I did do. I went into the [Theodore H.] Canfield office, not as a partner but as an associate, and practiced with them and got myself back into the swing of handling the law.

Post-World War II Santa Barbara

VASQUEZ: Tell me about post-World War II Santa Barbara. How did the war change Santa

Barbara?

S. TOMLINSON: I can't think of any way that it changed it, except the attitude of the people.

IV. LEGISLATIVE CAREER

First Race for the Assembly

VASQUEZ: What made you decide to run for the state assembly?

S. TOMLINSON: Bob Robertson again. He told me one day that he was going to quit at the end of the term, and knowing it was open, I got the notion that I might try it. So, I spoke to a few friends about it, and they all encouraged it. That was the way it was.

VASQUEZ: Tell me about the district that you represented, that you came to represent.

S. TOMLINSON: Santa Barbara County.

VASQUEZ: All of it?

S. TOMLINSON: At that time, all of it.

VASQUEZ: And San Luis Obispo too at that time?

S. TOMLINSON: No, that was later. That was the reapportionment of 1950, I think.

VASQUEZ: In 1951, in which you participated, and we will talk about that later on. Your first

election, you won the primary by cross-filing. You defeated A. Douglas Harmer, who also ran under both the Republican and Democratic tickets. Do you remember who he was?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, he was a member of a family that went back many, many years in Santa Barbara.

VASQUEZ: What business was he in?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't know, I don't think he had any. He was employed some place, but I don't know where it was.

VASQUEZ: How about William Hayes? He was a Republican, he ran only as a Republican.

S. TOMLINSON: I don't recall the man.

VASQUEZ: Okay. How about Albert Levitt?

S. TOMLINSON: I recall him. We didn't get along at all.

VASQUEZ: What were the differences that you had with him?

S. TOMLINSON: Personal.

VASQUEZ: Oh, personal were they? Do you remember what the issues were in this primary?

S. TOMLINSON: I haven't the remotest idea.

VASQUEZ: David [L.] Patton of the Independent Progressive party ran against you in the

general election.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, because of his party.

VASQUEZ: But he did not make a very good showing. You beat him 26,000 to 3,000. To what do you attribute your victory?

S. TOMLINSON: It had to be. . . . Well, let me put it this way. My uncle Charles had been county assessor for, I think, seventeen or twenty years [1920-1947], and he had been on the county ballot every four years.

VASQUEZ: What was his name again?

S. TOMLINSON: Charles S. Tomlinson, as a matter of fact, Charles Stanley Tomlinson. Yes, I must have been named after him.

VASQUEZ: So, you think name recognition, people knew your name already?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, there's no question about it, no question about it. It was admitted by Tom Storke and everybody else.

VASQUEZ: As what? A civic servant? As what?

S. TOMLINSON: No, just name recognition. I don't think half the people knew what I did.

VASQUEZ: They probably thought it was still your uncle, do you think that?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, Tom Storke always thought that a lot of people thought I was my uncle.

The Election Campaign

VASQUEZ: How did you campaign for that office, did you speak to groups?

S. TOMLINSON: I went to groups and walked up and down the street.

VASQUEZ: You walked precincts?

S. TOMLINSON: Some.

VASQUEZ: Did you have much of an organization? Did you have volunteers?

S. TOMLINSON: A few. A small committee.

VASQUEZ: Where did they come from?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, all friends of mine.

VASQUEZ: Friends, contemporary friends?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: And did you take out newspaper ads?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes. Oh, sure, I went through the whole routine. Of course, you've got to remember the Republican [County] Central Committee helped with financing and the usual Sacramento type contributions. I call them Sacramento types because lobbyists cover the territory like a carpet.

VASQUEZ: What was the process by which the Republican party gave you its approval, its support?

S. TOMLINSON: Their advertising joined me up with Clarence C. Ward. He had been state senator for one or two terms and a former district attorney, so he was well known, and my name association with him certainly had something to do with it. And, of course, I represented the Republican organization.

VASQUEZ: Were you on the [Republican] County Central Committee?

S. TOMLINSON: I was until that time. I had to resign when I ran. Two or four years, something like that, no particular time or incidents that I can remember.

VASQUEZ: Had you ever been involved in a political campaign before your own?

S. TOMLINSON: No. No.

VASQUEZ: Who was your campaign manager, did you have one?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I did. His name was [Joseph] Joe Meyers. He never ran for office himself, but he helped a lot of people.

VASQUEZ: What was Mr. Storke's role in your campaign?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, just support, editorial support. I was on the list of the group that he endorsed in that particular election.

VASQUEZ: Whom did you consider your main constituents when you were running for office here? What were the interests and who were constituents that you felt you had to serve?

S. TOMLINSON: There was no special group that I relied on or that was active as an organization in helping me. But a large membership, of course, I knew them. Santa Barbara organizations seldom-- civic organizations, like chamber of commerce-- never did participate actively, financially or any other way, in politics. It just wasn't in the cards. They didn't do it, but their members did. Naturally, there were businessmen. They knew me and my background, and I just assumed that I had their support.

The First Term

VASQUEZ: What do you remember being your primary concerns that were on your mind when you went up to Sacramento as a freshman assemblyman?

S. TOMLINSON: I just can't remember any particular issues, I don't think there were any. The highway I

think came later, and I don't think it was an issue in the first campaign.

VASQUEZ: Was oil of any importance? Had the tidelands revenues debate begun to pick up, was it a concern?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't believe so in that election. It did later on.

VASQUEZ: So, you had a pretty easy first election then, it sounds like.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, but I worked awfully hard and I had a good committee.

VASQUEZ: What did you feel you were going to represent in Sacramento?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, follow Robertson's example, I guess. I can't think of anything else, I can't remember any issues that differed from anybody else's. It was a very tame election I thought.

VASQUEZ: Well, by this time Republicans had a pretty good hold on all major positions in government. They had Earl Warren, a popular governor.

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: What were your relationships with the Warren administration as a legislator?

S. TOMLINSON: Before the election?

VASQUEZ: No, as a result of being an assemblyman.

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, very good. Very good.

VASQUEZ: Whom did you know when you got to Sacramento?
People that were already in some kind of
legislative position? Did you know anyone at
all?

S. TOMLINSON: I can't recall anybody that I knew except
Clarence Ward, who had already been there for
at least one term, maybe two.

VASQUEZ: What do you remember about getting to
Sacramento and having to learn the ropes?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I took it as a matter of course. There
were maybe twenty-five new members, I got
acquainted with them. We had a little group
that met for lunch once or twice a month.

VASQUEZ: As freshmen?

S. TOMLINSON: I was closer probably to some of them than I
was to anybody else.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember some of their names?

S. TOMLINSON: Not off hand, I would have to dig in the book
here for it.

[End Tape 1, Side B]

[Session 2, February 4, 1988]

[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

The Image of the Lobbyist

VASQUEZ: When you got to the state legislature, what was your impression of the quality of the people that were serving there at that time?

S. TOMLINSON: Mostly good, some I considered not so good.

VASQUEZ: Why?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, things I heard about their outside activity, I mean about the guys I didn't want anything to do with, mostly their association with lobbyists. [Arthur H.] Artie Samish was in the doghouse, and there were certain people that were pretty close to him. I wouldn't mention their names now. But as far as I was concerned, anything connected with Samish was verboten. He held power there too long, and it had fallen apart about the time I got there. That is to say he was pretty discredited. And there were investigations by the grand jury, and quite a lot of things went on concerning his activities. So, I considered it best that I just not have anything to do with him or his ilk or his associates.

VASQUEZ: You were telling me last time that we spoke that there was a group of freshman assemblymen that used to get together on a regular basis. Can you put their names together for me?

S. TOMLINSON: Frankly, no, I can't recall.

Examples of Good Legislators

VASQUEZ: Now, of the people that you thought were good assemblymen, who comes to mind?

S. TOMLINSON: Let me glance at one of these things. John of Riverside.

VASQUEZ: John [D.] Babbage of Riverside?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes. He was very conscientious and a very good man. [Gordon A.] Fleury, I can't think of his first name right at this minute, he was from Sacramento. [Harold K.] Levering. What was his first name? I was never very close to him.

VASQUEZ: How about Sam [L.] Collins, who was the speaker when you were there?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I was very fond of him, we were very close friends.

VASQUEZ: How did you become friends?

S. TOMLINSON: Socially, I guess. And, of course, he was speaker, and his wife, Jody, was a very close

friend of Connie's [Ethel Constance Mills Tomlinson]. We ran around together quite a bit. We went up to Reno in his car one time and had a real good time. He was a good man.

VASQUEZ: How about [Thomas W.] Tom Caldecott, were you close to him?

S. TOMLINSON: Caldecott, he was a good friend of mine from Berkeley.

VASQUEZ: Did you support one another's legislative programs?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, as a matter of fact, we did. We were rather close. He was a Republican.

VASQUEZ: How about Julian Beck, who was a Democrat?

S. TOMLINSON: Jay Beck was always one of my favorites.

VASQUEZ: Why was he?

S. TOMLINSON: Very active and a fine guy to be around with, good drinking buddy.

VASQUEZ: [Charles E.] Charlie Chapel.

S. TOMLINSON: No, I never got very close to him. He was on the wild side. I mean, I don't know, we just weren't the same kind of personality.

VASQUEZ: There seems to have been a difference between the people that would take their wives up there and those who wouldn't or the people

that were bachelors. Some said they got more done because they were out drinking at night, and others said they did too much of that and didn't do as much legislative work as they might have. What is your opinion of that?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it is a true statement. It is hard to pick out now the opinions you made there at that time. But there were those who caroused around a bit.

VASQUEZ: Was this considered par for the course, or was it looked down upon?

S. TOMLINSON: Personal attitude I think governed that. By some yes and by others no. I never paid much attention to it. I went around bars myself, on a minor scale.

The Value of Socializing

VASQUEZ: Was that kind of fraternizing and socializing as important politically as it is today?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it was natural. These people became friends, you know, and on the floor you would talk to them about your legislation or theirs and you would see them socially. I would say by and large everybody was congenial. Some you liked more than others, which I suppose is

a natural thing.

VASQUEZ: Was partisanship very important?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no. I'm glad you mentioned that. In the sense of the [United States] Congress, it really didn't exist, it just didn't exist.

VASQUEZ: So, people's affinities to one another weren't necessarily based on party labels?

S. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: Party affiliation?

S. TOMLINSON: No. Now, that was a very significant social fact, that partisanship just didn't count for a thing, at least as far as I was concerned. It might have been with some of the hard-nosed party people, but you liked the guy because of him and not because of his party affiliation.

VASQUEZ: Were you more likely to support someone's legislation on a friendship, personal basis, than on a political basis?

S. TOMLINSON: No. No.

VASQUEZ: How would you reconcile the two?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, on the outside [of the assembly] you would be very close friends, and inside it was all business. You were either with him or you were against him, and it was very seldom that

anything like a personal attitude or a personal friendship would come up and influence in any way your vote. It just didn't operate that way, at least with me and, I think, with 99 percent of the rest of them. You might have not even known the guy and you would be for him.

VASQUEZ: Because of the validity of his arguments?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, the legislation was the thing.

VASQUEZ: Do you think that people then, the voting public, had a greater awareness of legislation that was being introduced in their name than they do today?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I don't think so. I was never conscious of it.

VASQUEZ: It was pretty much the politician's business?

S. TOMLINSON: It was business. I mean, you would look at bill X and bill Y, and you would make up your own mind. Of course, the lobbyists would very often contact you on something, but you would be polite and never commit yourself.

Relations with Lobbyists

VASQUEZ: Were you ever close to any lobbyists at all?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I think in a way.

VASQUEZ: Who might that have been?

S. TOMLINSON: I will have to think. I can't call up the names now, I just can't. My memory doesn't do it because I haven't seen them since.

VASQUEZ: What kind of people would approach you, what kind of lobbyists, from what particular associations or groups?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, every legislator was open season for any lobbyist. And some you were more polite to or friendly with than others.

VASQUEZ: Were there any lobbyists from Santa Barbara?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no, not unless there were some public issues, county or city, and then the city attorney or the district attorney would come up. Of course, I naturally paid attention to them, but they weren't acting as lobbyists. They weren't registered, I don't think.

The Social Status of a Legislator

VASQUEZ: Tell me, did you notice a significant change in your social stature as a result of becoming the assemblyman for Santa Barbara County here at home?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, sure.

VASQUEZ: How did that express itself, how did you feel it?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, people I had never known before would call me "Assemblyman" and ask about something, ask a question or what goes on with such-and-such an item of legislation. And with a town this size, a lot of people know about things you know, so I encountered people that I had never known before.

VASQUEZ: Do you think that the social stature of a California assemblyman has gone up or down since the time you were there?

S. TOMLINSON: I have no idea. I don't think it has gone down very much. Bear in mind, the abolition of cross-filing, I think, had an effect.

VASQUEZ: In the quality of people?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, it had an effect on the quality and also the attitude.

VASQUEZ: How so?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I think under the old system where you ran on both parties, you knew more people, you weren't expected to be partisan. Of course, there was very little partisan activity up there when I was there, very little. We met, sure. The Republicans would meet for lunch, or Democrats would meet for lunch, but in a

mixed gathering, say, for a gin rummy game, you would expect anybody, and everybody was welcome.

VASQUEZ: And has that changed dramatically?

S. TOMLINSON: Not that I know of. I don't know, I'm not acquainted with any of the assemblymen.

Leaving the Assembly

VASQUEZ: Once you left Sacramento politics, did you keep up with that level of politics?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, for the first few years I watched it. [James L.] Holmes succeeded me, Jim Holmes, who is now dead. I watched his activity, naturally, because he was a Republican.

VASQUEZ: Why did you decide to leave the assembly?

S. TOMLINSON: Economics. I wanted to get back to the practice of law. They only paid \$300 a month, you know, and you can't do much on that. I was associated with a group that furnished, that I could refer clients to and so forth. So I made all right. But it was close and nip and tuck most of the time.

Economics, I think, was the principal reason I decided not to run again. I had a reason to regret it, particularly by the way

things were handled by the man who succeeded me [James Holmes], I think.

Governor Warren's Medical Insurance Program

VASQUEZ: When you were in the assembly, did you see yourself as supporting Earl Warren's social program?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I think so.

VASQUEZ: How about what they called socialized medicine then?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, that was a big problem.

VASQUEZ: Yes, it was.

S. TOMLINSON: It was a big one, and I was intrinsically against it. On certain preliminary votes, I think I voted against it. But I ended up by voting for the bill because it was inevitable.

VASQUEZ: Why did you change your mind and why did you think it looked inevitable?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't know now.

VASQUEZ: Last time we talked, you were telling me about Earl Warren's personal upbringing and his personal experiences. His father, I believe, worked for the [Southern] Pacific Railroad, and you were telling me that as a boy he had some really bad experiences in trying to get

medical attention and that you thought it had a lot to do with the way he viewed the need for medicine.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, that's true. What was the. . . . We called it socialized medicine, but I guess it must have been--what is it?--California Medical Program.

VASQUEZ: State medical insurance.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I was against it in the beginning. I thought, I agreed that it was. . . . I felt the state should not be in the medical business, and I remember Earl Warren talked to me about it one day and he told me a little bit about his own background.

VASQUEZ: Can you relate that to me?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't recall very much of it. It was a personal conversation and, as I say, went in one ear and out the other. I don't recall it, I shouldn't quote something I don't recall.
Why Earl Warren was a Good Governor

VASQUEZ: Some Republicans thought that Earl Warren was just too liberal.

S. TOMLINSON: That's true.

VASQUEZ: Were you in that camp?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no. I never had that feeling about Earl. I felt that his pragmatism and practical approach to things had a tendency to overcome whatever I might not have liked about his policies.

VASQUEZ: He was pretty good at getting consensus among people?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, he seemed to be. I always thought he was extremely practical and pragmatic. He could see through things that other people might not have seen through or seen clearly. I thought Goodwin [J.] Knight was one of the best governors I served under.

VASQUEZ: Why did you think he was good?

S. TOMLINSON: Just his attitude and his professional way of handling politics.

The 1958 Knowland-Knight "Switch"

VASQUEZ: Were you involved in the discussions in Republican circles when it was decided in 1958 to have [William F.] Knowland and Knight switch the offices that they would run for?

S. TOMLINSON: I vaguely remember it, and, of course, it was obviously discussed. But I don't remember the details. It was a big deal.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember how the sides broke down among Republicans, those that were for it and those that thought it was a mistake?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I don't remember.

Tomlinson's Committee Assignments

VASQUEZ: Okay, now in the three terms that you served in assembly, what do you consider to have been your most important committee assignments? Which were most important to you?

S. TOMLINSON: Judiciary, Transportation, and Commerce. I enjoyed them, I did not enjoy Education.

VASQUEZ: Why?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, the personalities involved, and the lobbyists, I thought, were high-handed.

VASQUEZ: Which lobbyists? Teacher groups?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't know. I have forgotten their names. But I supported education, of course. Naturally, you have to. But they were picay-unish with things. They had good lobbyists, but as I say, I think education was probably my weakest interest when I was up there. Finally, in my last term, I was on the committee.

The 1951 Reapportionment

- VASQUEZ: What about reapportionment, you served in the 1951 assembly reapportionment committee that was chaired by Laughlin Waters?
- S. TOMLINSON: Well, I may have made a mistake in that thing because I consented to and voted for the bill that put part of San Luis Obispo County in my district.
- VASQUEZ: Why do you think that was a mistake?
- S. TOMLINSON: Well, because everybody raised hell about it. Bob Robertson, my predecessor, gave me hell. It was always Santa Barbara County to him. Of course, my first two terms it was Santa Barbara County alone, but the third term I think it was that thing came about, and I campaigned in San Luis and won up there. But I'm not sure that I enjoyed it. I didn't know anybody up there, I wasn't at home in San Luis County, put it that way.
- VASQUEZ: Did it mean more work, did it mean a different kind of representation?
- S. TOMLINSON: Not necessarily, a little bit more traveling.
- VASQUEZ: So, you think it was a mistake because of the kind of flack you caught from your friends.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, but I never had any particular affinity for San Luis Obispo, personally. And I didn't pay too much attention to it. I shared it with an assemblyman by the name of [James W.] Silliman.

VASQUEZ: James Silliman who became the speaker later on?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes. But I never got upset about reapportionment. As I say, certain people here in town resented the broadening of the district.

[End Tape 2, Side A]

V. POST-LEGISLATIVE CAREER

[Session 3, March 10, 1988]

[Begin Tape 3, Side A]

Tomlinson's Career After Leaving the Assembly

VASQUEZ: When we last spoke, we were going over your career in the state assembly, and we had talked a little bit about some of the legislation that you were interested in. But before we get into that, can we trace your career after you left the assembly?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I declined to run in 1955. I felt that I wanted to get back to the practice of law. I had neglected it, of course, and I had to because of the legislature. I aspired to getting back into a solo practice, and that's the way it turned out. At the time of the election in 1955, I just declined to run. That was documented by that tremendous [newspaper] headline you saw.

VASQUEZ: That's right, it caught a lot of attention here in this area. Tell me, in the three sessions you served, how much time would you spend in Sacramento during the regular sessions?

S. TOMLINSON: At that time, until some time after I left, the sessions were controlled by the constitution. It amounted to a thirty-day spring session, which was usually--as I recall, I could be mistaken--in February and the first few days of March, maybe. The general session would start in August, the end of August, as I remember.

VASQUEZ: What I was trying to get at, would you stay there for the whole session or would you travel back and forth?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, I would come back and forth.

VASQUEZ: But you would still neglect your own business or your own profession.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I didn't have time to do anything with that, or very much. My name was on the door someplace, and at the Canfield office, actually, so that people could at least find people I was associated with and keep things alive.

VASQUEZ: What was the exact name of that firm? Did it have a name?

S. TOMLINSON: T. H. Canfield.

VASQUEZ: T. H. Canfield Associates or just T. H. Canfield?

- S. TOMLINSON: I think it was just T. H. Canfield. It later became Canfield & Westwick.
- VASQUEZ: Judge [John] Westick was part of that firm?
- S. TOMLINSON: Yes.
- VASQUEZ: So, after you left the assembly, what did you do besides practice law? How did you?
- S. TOMLINSON: Well, I'm not sure I remember. I went back into that firm. I wasn't a member of the firm, although I called myself an associate. We just had a general practice, we did everything--criminal law, civil law, probate--just a little bit of everything.
- VASQUEZ: Did your years in the assembly help you to identify clients and bring clients to the firm?
- S. TOMLINSON: To some extent. I couldn't identify it now or get specific.
- VASQUEZ: So, how long did you practice law before you went back into politics? And why did you decide to run for city attorney?
- S. TOMLINSON: In 1957. In other words, I was on my own for two years. Of course, when I established my own office, I was alone for most of the time.

Running for City Attorney

VASQUEZ: How did you decide to or why did you decide to run for city attorney?

S. TOMLINSON: A fellow by the name of Newman, Robert [C.] Newman, announced his retirement in winter [1957] sometime, in anticipation of the city election. I talked to Bob and made a decision almost on the spot to go for his office when he left it.

VASQUEZ: What was attractive to you about being city attorney?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, by that time I was pretty well taken with public law and I knew most of the people in city government, including the mayor and council and other department heads. I was personally acquainted with most of them. So I felt that I would be at home in city hall, and that's the way it turned out.

VASQUEZ: How much did your years in the assembly prepare you for that position and also prepare you to be able to launch a successful campaign?

S. TOMLINSON: A small extent.

VASQUEZ: Oh, really.

S. TOMLINSON: For instance there was no lobbying. I went up to

Sacramento a few times on behalf of the city, but I don't recall ever going on behalf of anybody else.

VASQUEZ: Did you go as a lobbyist for the city?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I acted as a lobbyist when I was city attorney in matters affecting city government.

VASQUEZ: How long were you city attorney?

S. TOMLINSON: Until 1972.

VASQUEZ: Do you want to tell me something about that, about your tenure as city attorney? What do you think were your most important accomplishments when you were there?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I would have to think a long time about that.

VASQUEZ: I remember you talking to me one time about . . .

S. TOMLINSON: We had many issues, but an awful lot of the work was routine. You see, the city attorney represents the city council and all the departments.

Annexation of the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport

VASQUEZ: You were involved in the annexation of the Santa Barbara [Municipal] Airport, were you not?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes.

VASQUEZ: Can you tell me about that, the role that you played and how you were able to move that through the state legislature?

S. TOMLINSON: The airport had been in existence under private ownership for quite a number of years. I have forgotten the movement started to bring it into the city, but we had to cope with the problem of annexation and the problem of contiguity with the city and the annexed territory.¹

VASQUEZ: The airport was then located in what was known as Goleta?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right. About twelve, thirteen, fourteen miles away.

VASQUEZ: Outside the city limits.

S. TOMLINSON: So, a former city attorney and I were talking about it one day. We knew that it had been previously decided that it was quite impractical to run a three-hundred-foot-wide strip from the west end of Santa Barbara through to the airport because it went through inhabited territory, and with the diverse

¹. Santa Barbara City Council Resolution 5071, August 8, 1961.

interests, we felt that a public vote on the issue would be some kind of a disaster.

Ultimately, we came to the conclusion, through suggestions made by friends, that we go to the sea, that is, straight out from what we call Arroyo Burro, which is an adjunct to the city, the city's southwest end. We developed this L-shaped strip, three hundred feet wide, went out to sea with it, took it into the airport, then ballooned it around the airport so that in effect it looked like a great big pipe stem, a crooked pipe stem. I've forgotten, I don't believe that went to the electorate. I think it was done by the city council with the consent of the state. The State Lands Commission had to approve that.

VASQUEZ: Did you have any problems getting it approved?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no. I went up to Sacramento and spoke to the people on the State Lands Commission about it, and they didn't seem to object, so we went ahead with it and adopted the ordinance.

VASQUEZ: Was there opposition to it? Was there opposition to that?

S. TOMLINSON: Not locally. Apparently, there was some in Sacramento.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember from whom?

S. TOMLINSON: The following year the annexation act was amended in terms that effectively prohibited this type of activity that would provide an annexation. I remember it would be like annexing some town like San Fernando to the city of Los Angeles before the city itself went out that way. There would have to be some kind of a strip organized to connect it, and it wasn't feasible. The legislature didn't like the idea. They thought it was circumvention of the law. Some of them did.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember any of the names of the people that were opposed?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I do not.

VASQUEZ: In what house was the opposition in? The assembly?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I think essentially. But I really wasn't there at the time, so I really have no way of remembering.

VASQUEZ: But you did trigger the legislature to pass an act to circumvent that kind of activity in the

future.¹

S. TOMLINSON: That's right, and they did so.

VASQUEZ: What other highlights might you want to discuss or tell me about in your city attorney position? As city attorney, what other occasions did you have to work with the legislature?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't recall any, but there obviously were some. Small annexations, of course, went up there and other things of city interest that required state law.

I don't recall any in particular, but I made numerous trips to Sacramento to appear before committees and on behalf of some legislation that originated here in Santa Barbara. I don't recall, I can't recall right this minute what they were.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember if your familiarity with the processes in Sacramento helped you at all?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh yes, oh yes. And I had friends that served while I was there that were still there.

¹. S.B. 861, 1963 Leg. Sess., Cal. Stat. 1810 (1963).

VASQUEZ: Like who?

S. TOMLINSON: Quite a number of them.

VASQUEZ: I see. So, then you retired as city attorney in 1972. Have you been involved in politics at all since?

S. TOMLINSON: No, no. Wait a minute. Yes, I ran for the legislature. Wait a minute. Let me get this straight.

VASQUEZ: You ran for the state legislature again.

S. TOMLINSON: What is the question again?

VASQUEZ: We were talking about after you retired in 1972 from the city attorney position. Did you get back into politics?

S. TOMLINSON: On two occasions I ran for municipal judge and I was narrowly defeated. And I ran for state senate. I was defeated by [John J.] Jack Hollister [Jr.]¹

VASQUEZ: Do you remember what the campaign was like or what some of the issues might have been?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I don't, other than he was my opponent, was inexperienced in politics, and I had been up there. I apparently rode on that pretty

1. Special election, November 8, 1955.

heavily. It didn't work.

VASQUEZ: Didn't work, huh? So, that was the last time you ran for office?

S. TOMLINSON: I have forgotten whether the judge came first or not.

More on Tomlinson's Committee Assignments and Legislation

VASQUEZ: The last time we were talking about your legislative career, we were getting your impressions about leadership in the assembly and the relations between the two houses, the assembly and the senate, some of the experience that you had as a freshman assemblyman, but one that seemed to rise through the ranks rather quickly. You were on some important committees.

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I was. I remember I was. I have forgotten what they were, do you have them?

VASQUEZ: Yes. You were chairman in 1953 of the Committee on Transportation and Commerce.
The California Highway System and Tidelands Oil

S. TOMLINSON: Nineteen fifty-three? That was at the time we developed and adopted or enacted the new state

highway system and the taxation for it. I was in on that.¹

VASQUEZ: What role did you play on that?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, just the usual thing as a member of a committee, whatever it was.

VASQUEZ: The freeway act had been quite an issue in the '47 session, so it carried on to the '49 session when you were there. You also served as chairman of the Joint Committee on Impounded Funds from Tide and Submerged Lands.

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: Tell me about that.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, after discussing it a little with the legislators, it was decided that we needed a control on the funds from impounded tidelands. The federal government had released those funds to the state. I think it was \$52 or \$53 million. Everybody in the place had an idea of how to spend it. That's what I was looking at this morning in that, in this book.

VASQUEZ: Your [newspaper] scrapbook?

S. TOMLINSON: It was decided we would have a committee set

1. A.B. 3492 and A.C.A. 38, 1953 Leg. Sess.

up especially to deal with this fifty-three million bucks that the government had turned over to the state. Because, after all, everybody and his brother wanted a new city hall or this or that or the other thing. There had to be a control of some kind.

VASQUEZ: I was going to ask you what kind of ideas were being proposed to spend it.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, buildings, parks, you name it, it was there. Because every legislator had a pet idea. We had to control that sort of thing somehow. There was a 30/70 percent disbursement or division of the funds. I have forgotten how it works to confirm it. As I recall, 30 percent went to the general fund which was uncontrolled by any other committee except the Committee on Ways and Means; the other 70 percent went to the Division of Beaches and Parks.

VASQUEZ: I imagine all the beach cities were really scrambling to get that.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, that was a problem we had to avoid, discriminating against inland counties. And I guess we did because it turned out all your

life. It just wouldn't have been equitable for the beach areas to get all of that money, because they didn't earn it, the oil was there and they enjoyed income from it. It was my idea that it should be a statewide fund and distributed in the counties under some formula. I think we worked that out. I have forgotten how now.

VASQUEZ: But you did work out a formula for that as chairman of that committee?

S. TOMLINSON: Not as chairman, but the whole committee.

VASQUEZ: Right, but you were chairman of the joint committee, right?

S. TOMLINSON: It was a joint committee.

VASQUEZ: Right. Can you remember some of the people on that committee and any of the deliberations?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, they are all right there. Charles Chapel, I believe, was a member; man by the name of [George R.] Butters. I have forgotten the others. They are all there in the early part of the first few pages.

More on the 1951 Reapportionment

VASQUEZ: You were also involved in the 1951 reapportionment, were you not?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh.

VASQUEZ: You were on the committee, the reapportionment committee that Laughlin Waters chaired.

S. TOMLINSON: If I was, I have forgotten it.

VASQUEZ: Then you don't remember much about any of the deliberations or some of the fights that came out of that?¹

S. TOMLINSON: No, I don't. I took it as a matter of routine, and Santa Barbara County didn't have anything to gain or lose. They ended up by acquiring San Luis Obispo County in the district, I think the Thirty-sixth Assembly District. I was criticized for that, for permitting that. But the fact remains, I wouldn't have been successful in opposing it.

VASQUEZ: You were in the state legislature six years.

1. The committee's deliberations produced A.B. 41, which reapportioned the assembly; A.B. 42, which reapportioned the state senate; and A.B. 141, which reapportioned congressional districts.

In those six years, what was your biggest frustration in trying to legislate?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, the obvious frustration would be the failure to get support for an idea or have something important knocked down by a committee. I can't recall those details.

VASQUEZ: What do you think was your greatest accomplishment, or is that an unfair question to ask you?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I think the Tidelands Act.¹

VASQUEZ: The Tidelands Act.

S. TOMLINSON: 'Fifty-three.

The Amateur versus the Professional Lawmaker

VASQUEZ: When you served in the assembly, there were nonprofessional politicians who were in the assembly for the most part . . .

S. TOMLINSON: That's true, that's true.

VASQUEZ: . . . that were in the assembly with the notion of the amateur lawmaker. Whereas you know now we have a much higher salary range for lawmakers and a lot of accoutrements of office.

¹. A.B. 1418, 1953 Leg. Sess., Cal. Stat. 1560, 1953.

S. TOMLINSON: That's right.

VASQUEZ: Which of the two systems do you think produces better legislators, the amateur or the professional legislator, somebody who does it full time?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, of course, I'm prejudiced in favor of the amateur system.

VASQUEZ: Why?

S. TOMLINSON: You get men that are dedicated not to a salary or pay but to the job itself. With the amount they are getting now, their income is around \$60,000. And I wouldn't be surprised if an awful lot of candidates didn't run on the basis of anticipation of earning \$60,000 a year in that job. But in our day, money was no consideration because we got \$300 a month, period.

VASQUEZ: In your day too, the cost of running for office was not as great as it is now. What do you think that has done to California politics, the cost of elections?

S. TOMLINSON: I'm sorry, I really don't know. I'd have to think about that a long time to give a conscientious answer. I think it would have

to be a split decision. There are many new benefits and there are some detriments.

It costs more now to run. I think on the amateur legislative angle, the amateur went there to do a job and he had to have some support on the outside to live. He was dividing his time, his energies, and his intellect between his personal interests and the job to be done in Sacramento. Since he had to live there or be close by, close enough to get there from home on a daily basis, his private business just couldn't be conducted up there. Maybe some people did, but I didn't know of any. I certainly couldn't.

So, to answer your basic question, "Do you think the new system is an improvement with professionals," without knowing this to be a fact, I would assume that these people that pull in this large salary as a legislator might be a little more dedicated and give it more effort than they did in my time. I'm only speculating when I talk about that, because I don't know.

VASQUEZ: Well, there are arguments on both sides.

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, yes.

VASQUEZ: On one side, some people argue that it costs so much to run for office that very few people can muster up that kind of financial support.

S. TOMLINSON: That may well be. I'm not acquainted with the facts. Never, never having been forced to raise a large amount of money for a campaign, I wouldn't know what it is like.

Tomlinson's Campaign Costs

VASQUEZ: Do you have any idea, a ballpark figure of how much you used to spend on campaigns?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, probably around \$2,500 or \$3,000. Nearly all of it newspaper advertising.

VASQUEZ: Newspaper advertising?

S. TOMLINSON: Nearly all of it. And travel, which didn't amount to much.

Relations Between the Legislative and the Executive Branches

VASQUEZ: When you were in the state assembly, what was your impression of the division of powers and the way that the legislature worked with the executive branch of government? Was it contentious, was it one of give and take, was it compromise, how would you characterize it?

S. TOMLINSON: I think it was a question of compromise.

There obviously were disputes between the executive and the legislative branches, but by and large they were not determinative of much. The legislatures just voted the way they felt it should go, period, or possibly yielded to some pressure from the outside by lobbyists or attitudes and opinions in their district.

In other words, it was a pretty cut-and-dry proposition, that it tried to please the voters so that you could get their support with the least amount of expenditure, make your name known, period.

The Success of Republicans in California

VASQUEZ: Well, the Republicans had a pretty good standing. You had the governor's seat and you had a pretty sizable majority in the state legislature. Now, how did the 1952 initiative that mandated listing of party affiliation on the ballot affect nonpartisanship in California politics?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I don't recall that that happened in 1953, I thought it happened in 1955.

VASQUEZ: In '52, I believe, the initiative was passed,

and '54 was the first time that party affiliations were listed on the ballot.¹

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, I don't recall that.

VASQUEZ: Because the first time you ran, you would have cross-filed.

S. TOMLINSON: I still ran. I know the last time I ran in '53, I won both the Democratic and the Republican nominations.

VASQUEZ: California has been Republican for much of this century. Republicans, even though they are outnumbered by registered Democrats, have held office longer. Why do you think that is?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, a great deal of it had to do with the quality of the individual running. Take Earl Warren as an example. He was extremely popular and liked here in Santa Barbara with the Democratic press. They were very close to Earl Warren, and he was close to them, the powers that be here in Santa Barbara. So, actually, the '53 election was as nonpartisan as the others were, as far as I can remember.

1. Proposition 7 on the general election ballot of 1952.

I know I didn't make any change in candidacy policy, I did things the same way I had done them before.

VASQUEZ: Do you think over time the process of listing the party and then running in only one primary brought up partisanship more?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I don't think that was a factor. The parties did what they had to do, and that was it. Sometimes it affected the results, sometimes it didn't.

VASQUEZ: Why is it that Republicans seem to be able to tow a common line or discipline themselves, stick together more than the Democrats? Why do you think that is?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it probably, in fact, had better leadership because they had been so active. Now, whether you believe it or not, Earl Warren was a very strong leader. But he didn't emphasize his party affiliation, he ran as Earl Warren, period. And it was the same with Goodwin Knight, who, I believe, was more partisan than Earl Warren.

VASQUEZ: In what lay Earl Warren's strength? You said he was a strong leader.

S. TOMLINSON: Personal popularity, getting around a great deal, you couldn't help but like him. He didn't seem to be overbearing, and yet he usually got his way.

VASQUEZ: How did he do that?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't know.

VASQUEZ: Some people say by compromise. Do you agree with that?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't, I can't speak to that. Personal popularity, I think, was the big factor.

VASQUEZ: How would you compare him to Goodwin Knight?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, they were both excellent governors, but their personal characteristics were quite far apart. And people apparently liked both because they certainly got elected.

VASQUEZ: So you think both were strong leaders. What has been the history of Republican party strength here in Santa Barbara?

S. TOMLINSON: I would say it has been for many years quite consistent.

VASQUEZ: To what is that owed, to what do the Republicans owe that consistent success?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, to use a cliché, "Born into a Republican family, a Republican forever," would apply.

VASQUEZ: And that has been pretty much of it?

S. TOMLINSON: Whereas Santa Barbara never has had the growth of, say, Los Angeles, where people came from other places with different political persuasions. Santa Barbara has always been quite stable. The children of old-time Republicans became Republicans. In other words, Santa Barbara has been quite stable in that connection, although I'm sure it has elected many Democratic candidates.

Changes in Santa Barbara Politics

VASQUEZ: How does national politics affect local politics here? How has it in the last, say, thirty-four years?

S. TOMLINSON: Minimal, in my opinion.

VASQUEZ: Why is that? Is Santa Barbara that self-contained?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it is such a small community that it doesn't have any political weight nationally. And, as I say, I think it is an inherent situation that has existed for many years and just nothing has happened to make it change. That's all I can think of.

VASQUEZ: Do you see any changes recently in Santa

Barbara politics? In recent years there has been a marked growth, a very obvious growth of population and expansion.

S. TOMLINSON: You mean in Santa Barbara?

VASQUEZ: In Santa Barbara. Has that affected the political character at all?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't think so. It hasn't occurred to me that it has. I haven't noticed it. People on the central committees might have different answers, but I would say it is politically quite a stable community.

VASQUEZ: Has the party traditionally had a strong apparatus, the central committees and the different organizations of clubs? Have the membership and the organization traditionally been strong?

S. TOMLINSON: I'd say fairly strong. Not powerful, no bosses, nothing like that.

VASQUEZ: How would you compare it with other cities, other parts of the state, as a Republican?

S. TOMLINSON: I don't. I'm not familiar enough to address that.

VASQUEZ: But you feel that the consistency comes in part from the stable community?

S. TOMLINSON: You take Los Angeles. You never know what is going to happen, and the unexpected usually does.

VASQUEZ: You think that's owed to the diversity and the changes that take place in Los Angeles.

S. TOMLINSON: I think so. I think that's a big factor.

The Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument

VASQUEZ: There were a couple of other items that I wanted to ask you about. One had to do with the Hearst Castle properties becoming a public park. You were involved in that, were you not?

S. TOMLINSON: Very much so.

VASQUEZ: Could you tell me about that?

S. TOMLINSON: A man by the name of [Ross] Marshall was the lobbyist for the Hearst papers and Hearst interests. Since at that time Cayucos--which is the post office for the castle, I believe, or San Simeon--was in my district, I was approached by the Hearst people as to what I thought about the Hearst Castle and the property as a gift to the state.

Well, it didn't take long for me to make up my mind on that. I was all for it, and

there had to be a resolution of acceptance after they made their offer. I, of course, was very much interested in that. I'm not sure that that happened during my time.

VASQUEZ: As a legislator?

S. TOMLINSON: As a legislator. I thought it came afterwards.

VASQUEZ: When you were city attorney?

S. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: Well, you would have had to have been in office to affect it, right?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, it must have happened about the time just before I left. John B. Long was the partner of this. . . . I think his name was Ross Marshall. He and Long were very close, went around together, lobbied together. Long represented the California Newspaper Publishers Association, and Marshall represented, as I remember, the Hearst interests and the Los Angeles Examiner, San Francisco Examiner. So, the question of the castle came up after William Randolph Hearst passed away.

VASQUEZ: Was there much opposition to this?

S. TOMLINSON: No, there wasn't. I don't recall any, as a

matter of fact. I have been told since by a member of the legislature that I was visiting here in Santa Barbara that he recalled my activity in acquiring it for the state and said, "Stan, you know, with all the activities of the state Division of Beaches and Parks, that one project is the one that shows the profit." He was very much amused by that, because they have tremendous visitation up there, just tremendous, spectacular.

[End Tape 3, Side A]

[Begin Tape 3, Side B]

VASQUEZ: You were also involved, were you not, in the establishment of University of California campus here in Santa Barbara. What role did you play in that?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I was interested naturally, but I was sort of on the sidelines because the university had its own lobbyist. I have forgotten who did it.

VASQUEZ: Yeah, I have got his name. Don't worry.

S. TOMLINSON: I worked with whoever it was in establishing it in the state park system.

VASQUEZ: What were the . . .

S. TOMLINSON: I'm hazy on the time that it occurred. It has been a long time.

VASQUEZ: You don't remember any conflicts or any trading that had to go on to get the campus here. Was anybody opposed here to the campus in Santa Barbara, do you remember? Everybody was pretty much?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, no, it was a local matter, and local matters seldom become controversial.

Tomlinson's Political Philosophy

VASQUEZ: Over the years in public life, you must have developed a philosophy of politics, a philosophy of public service. Would you share that with us?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I suppose I had obviously my policies. They are too high-sounding to repeat, but I try to adhere to them. I don't want this quoted, but it should be handled however you can. But be careful with it. One day I was engaged in conversation in front of the News Press building when T. M. Storke came along and joined the conversation. Tom made the remark, he said that, "Well, one thing about Stan, he is the only legislator I have ever

known or heard of that came out of the legislature with less money than [when] he went into it." I don't know how to handle that.

VASQUEZ: Did you have a feeling at the time that you served that there were some shenanigans that went on and people came back from Sacramento with more money?

S. TOMLINSON: Was and had been.

VASQUEZ: But you managed to keep yourself pretty clean?

S. TOMLINSON: I just tried to follow a tight line.

VASQUEZ: What was your sense of the role of government? Was government to be involved in different social programs and concerns, or was your idea that the government should . . .

S. TOMLINSON: I think it is inevitable, I think it is inevitable. If it affects all the people of a large class, such as welfare and things like that, it is a matter of statewide concern. It can't be handled locally or get out of line with the other communities, it has got to be handled at the state level.

VASQUEZ: And government you think is the best agency to take care of that?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, that's right, federal and state.

VASQUEZ: Tell me, did you ever participate in Republican politics at the national level or even at the state level?

S. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: You were pretty much local?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes. I have never been to a national convention.

VASQUEZ: How about a statewide convention?

S. TOMLINSON: I went to all of them.

VASQUEZ: As a delegate?

S. TOMLINSON: Automatic. The members of the legislature are automatically voting members of the state organizations. People in office.

VASQUEZ: Did you still participate when you were not in office?

S. TOMLINSON: No, I declined rather rapidly. I had other interests and I just didn't. I have never been a manager of a campaign in my life for anybody.

VASQUEZ: I remember you telling me the first campaign you worked on was your own campaign.

S. TOMLINSON: I think so.

VASQUEZ: Some people argue that Republicans in California in recent years have become too

ideological, too political, and that this is going to hurt Republicans. The partisanship or the very ideological direction in which some Republicans seem to be going, especially conservatives, that that's going to hurt the party in the long run.

S. TOMLINSON: No, I have never given that a thought. I haven't concerned myself with it. No, I haven't noticed any great change in ideology, I just sort of tended to mind my own business and let others who were active do it.

Lessons of a Legislative Career

VASQUEZ: For those who read this oral history, researchers and historians, what insights would you like to share or put on the record about your experience in the state legislature? Anything in particular?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, I think the best qualified candidates for the legislatures should have some background in the law or business or medicine and have had some professional experience that would qualify them for dealing with the tremendous problems that they are going to see when they get into the legislature.

It isn't always the case that that type of an ideal person is elected. You do have mavericks, and they are sometimes elected. But the mavericks are more likely to botch things up than people with some professional experience.

VASQUEZ: In general, do you feel that the quality of our legislatures is declining or getting better?

S. TOMLINSON: I think it is the same as it has always been, except for individual, specific cases.

VASQUEZ: Do you think the people that have been in office in recent years have adapted to the high salary and the fund-raising?

S. TOMLINSON: I think the circumstances of the environment of the legislature just bring you around to where you have to be on the team. You can't be a maverick and hop around all over the place. People have tried it and they haven't succeeded.

VASQUEZ: So you see it as playing on a collective body, being part of a collective body and not just an individual representing his district. There's a dynamic that takes place among

colleagues there?

S. TOMLINSON: Well, in most cases, I would say the majority of a legislator's activity is statewide rather than local. They have to take care of their local problems, of course, but they are minimal compared to the overall picture.

VASQUEZ: In your day, did compromise and nonpartisanship all add up to this kind of success in the legislature?

S. TOMLINSON: That's right, that's right.

VASQUEZ: Do you feel it is pretty much the same now, or do you feel it's different?

S. TOMLINSON: I believe so, although I'm not very well informed on the activities. I would want a couple of weeks to sit in the back row or in the visitors area and watch how things go on. But I have a feeling I would come away [thinking] they haven't changed very much.

VASQUEZ: I find it interesting that a lot of people who have served in the legislature, after they leave office, never go back to Sacramento unless they have to. In your case, you seem to have kept contact. You had a reason for going as city attorney, but you seemed to have

maintained relationships with people serving in the legislature.

S. TOMLINSON: Well, that was a matter of necessity. City business [which] depended on state action, of course, became my problem.

VASQUEZ: Apart from city business, were you ever asked to go to Sacramento to give guidance or assistance on any particular problems, say tidelands oil and highways, anything like that?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, things like that, yes. Never on personal business.

VASQUEZ: But you were asked to go up and testify or help out on some legislation, were you?

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, on things of general interest to the community or the county.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember anything in particular?

S. TOMLINSON: What's that?

VASQUEZ: Do you remember anything in particular?

S. TOMLINSON: Oh, I was up there for the tidelands legislation. I can't recall.

VASQUEZ: Were you at all involved in the Shell-Cunningham tidelands legislation or later on

in the Tidelands Leasing Act?¹

S. TOMLINSON: Yes, I attended the committee meetings that were held here in Santa Barbara, and I was quite friendly with [Joseph C.] Joe Shell. He and I talked a great deal about different things. In other words, my background qualified me to discuss things with those people.

[End Tape 3, Side B]

1. Cunningham-Shell Tidelands Act. A.B. 3402, 1955, 2d Sess., Cal. Stat. 1724 (1955); Tidelands Oil Leasing Act. A.B. 80, 1957 Leg. Sess., Cal. Stat. 1087 (1957).

I. LIFE HISTORY

[Session 1, February 4, 1988]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

Family History

VASQUEZ: Mrs. Tomlinson, could you tell me a little about your background, where you were born, where you come from, how you got to Santa Barbara?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, my name was Ethel Constance Mills, and I was born a few miles from Leicester, England, in a little village called Ratby. I don't know why; it's not a very good name. I was born in 1910, October 20, and at three years of age, my father [George A. Mills] decided that he wanted to come to America. So, he came over in October of 1913, and in December of 1913, my mother [Margaret E. Mills] and I came over. That's when I was telling you about the ship.

VASQUEZ: Would you tell me about that now?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, we came over not too far from Ellis Island [New York]. But it was midnight, and all of a sudden the ship's lights all went out, and no one knew why. Of course, a lot of

us were asleep, but they made a complete right turn and went up to Saint John's on the Newfoundland coast. We found out the next morning that a submarine, a German submarine, had been firing at the ship, missed it, and then we came on up north. Then Mother and I got out, and they put us on another one across to . . .

VASQUEZ: Saint Lawrence.

C. TOMLINSON: Yeah, we came down the Saint Lawrence River and came to the Sault locks [Sault-Sainte-Marie Canals] in Michigan. [We] got out at the Sault locks and got onto a train that brought us to Canton, South Dakota, to meet Father.

VASQUEZ: What was he doing at the time?

C. TOMLINSON: He was a baker, as his father was. He didn't particularly want to stay in the baking business, but it was the only thing he could do. He was brought up under his father's [guidance] and he knew all about baking, so he decided that he would work for a bakery in Canton, South Dakota. At that time it was mostly settled by Germans. He had come over

to his uncle, Frank Duffy. He was a barber, and both families decided they weren't going to stay very long. They would have to make money to leave.

VASQUEZ: And go where?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, the Duffys went to Oregon and we came to California.

Coming to California

VASQUEZ: So, South Dakota was seen as an entry point but not someplace to stay?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, we stayed there until I was about eight [years old], five years, and it was terrible. Forty [degrees] below zero, very cold, and the Indian summer was terrible. It was a miserable place. Mother coming from a beautiful little village in England was just very unhappy and very sad. Finally, all of the sudden, Father said one day, "Well, we are going to leave in the morning. We'll just pack our little car." This was in 1918, and I was about eight years old. We packed the little car, little old Ford, with the canvas side [panels] to put up [against] the rain. I remember coming across the Rockies [Rocky Mountains], and I

think we had a flat tire every twenty-five miles. I remember the odor of the patches that went on when he had to stop and fix the . . .

VASQUEZ: Inner tube.

C. TOMLINSON: Inner tube. Then we finally made it to San Bernardino.

VASQUEZ: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

C. TOMLINSON: I had none.

Los Angeles in 1918

VASQUEZ: You were an only child?

C. TOMLINSON: Only child. We came to San Bernardino, and it was beautiful there. We saw oranges on trees and things for the first time. It was very exciting, and we almost decided to stay there, but Dad said, "No." He wanted to go on to Los Angeles. We just stayed, I think, a week and then came on to Los Angeles. There were no motels at that time, there was nothing that a person could go and stay at, especially people that had very little money. And there were "tent cities," they called them at that time.

VASQUEZ: Made up of what kind of people?

C. TOMLINSON: Well . . .

VASQUEZ: Unemployed people, people on the move?

C. TOMLINSON: People that came from everywhere to look for work.

VASQUEZ: You [could] already sense that California was growing?

C. TOMLINSON: Oh, it was terrific, it was terrific.

VASQUEZ: This is 1918?

C. TOMLINSON: Nineteen eighteen. We came to this little place off of North Broadway [Avenue] in Los Angeles and we found out that there was a little "campground," as they called them. We came in and rented a tent. We lived in that for, I think, about a year.

VASQUEZ: Today you would be called "homeless."

C. TOMLINSON: Probably. Probably homeless, but Dad right away got into a baking position. And, of course, he was a very good baker, [made] very elaborate cookies, pies, and cakes and things, you know, fancy delicacies. We never had any trouble, except that he didn't like baking at all. He wanted to get out of it. He tried so many things but he'd always end up there. We stayed there in that little place not far from [Abraham] Lincoln High School, and I went to

Gates Street Grammar School for two, three years. When I went to high school, I guess I was about fourteen, thirteen.

II. EDUCATION

Attending Abraham Lincoln High School

VASQUEZ: What high school did you attend?

C. TOMLINSON: [Abraham] Lincoln High School, off of North Broadway.

VASQUEZ: Yes, I know it.

C. TOMLINSON: And there were a few Spanish, a few Mexicans, a few Negroes, but mostly all white. Now I don't think there is anything but black.

VASQUEZ: No, at Lincoln High it is mostly Asian and Mexican.

C. TOMLINSON: Yeah, and [Robert] Bob Young was there. He was a senior. Robert Young in the movies, you know.

VASQUEZ: The actor?

C. TOMLINSON: The actor. And Anna May Wong and Fidel La Barba, who later became a fighter. There were quite a few very wonderful people that came out of the high school. I can't remember all of them now.

VASQUEZ: What year did you graduate?

C. TOMLINSON: One year, I had to leave Lincoln High School. I was training for a tennis championship when I was about in my sophomore year, and we were getting all ready to take it. In fact, my partner was Dan DeLuce, who later became quite a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times. He went over to Germany during the Second World War and did a lot of work for that. But I became ill and had a burst appendix, so I was out of my tournament.

Then after that, the doctor said, "No more walking up and downstairs." See, there were about a hundred steps going up and down to Lincoln. He said, "You are going to have to take one year off and go to Polytechnic High School," which I did. After the year off, I came back to Lincoln and graduated. I think it was the winter of '28, and luckily at that time. That was a bad year too, because '29 was the big year, the bad year of all time, I guess, at that time.

One day, my English teacher, Mrs. Harold [M.] Turney, said to me, "What are you going

to do when you graduate from high school?" I said, "I haven't any idea what I am going to do." And she said, "You are not going on to college?" I said, "Oh, no, I couldn't afford that."

Attending Los Angeles City College

Well, Los Angeles City College had just opened up, and that was on Vermont Avenue. So, she said, "Well, those are two-year courses; they are better than nothing. You can live at our house. We would be delighted to have you." Her husband was a drama professor at Los Angeles City College, and she was an English teacher at Lincoln High School. So, that was a great opportunity for me.

VASQUEZ: What did you study at City College?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, I took a general program. I was there three years instead of two, because the first year they hadn't come out with the new recreational department. I was very much interested in sports and recreation and so forth. So, the first year, I just took general things thinking that maybe I could go on. We didn't know. She [Mrs. Turney] said, "Well, prepare

to go on to another university and finish up if you possibly can."

Well, the second year, this new two-year program came on. She said, "Well, you can spend another year with us." So, I stayed three years with the Turneys, graduated from Los Angeles City College with just an A.A. [Associate of Arts] degree, and I drove over on the bus to see the new UCLA [University of California, Los Angeles] campus. It had not even been finished yet, you know, just all dirt roads and everything else. And I tried very much to get into that. I could have gotten in scholastically, but moneywise I couldn't.

VASQUEZ: Where did you live at the time? Still off Broadway?

C. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: In Lincoln Heights?

C. TOMLINSON: I was with the Turneys until I graduated from there [Los Angeles City College], and then after I found I couldn't go over to UCLA, transfer. My folks had, in the meantime, moved to San Diego. Dad had a very good

business down there with another baker. They opened up a bigger bakery business. So, I went down there and just took one or two jobs. I think I worked in a See's Candy [Shops] store for a year. Nobody could find jobs in 1929. But I would come back and visit Los Angeles because I didn't like San Diego. I came back to visit, I would travel back and forth, but [I] always had a little job and lived at home.

Then, when I was about twenty-two, I came back to visit the teachers at the old L.A. City College. Mrs. [Katherine A.] Page was the head of the physical education department; [she] always liked me very much. She's the one that helped me get into the recreational department, and I made very good grades in that. She said to me, "Well, what are you doing, Connie?" And I said, "Not much of anything, just any kind of a job." I said, "I don't know what to do." Then she said, "Well, give me your phone number and your address. Something may come up."

Moving to Santa Barbara

Well then, I think about six months

later, I got a phone call from her. She said, "Have you ever been to Santa Barbara?" I said, "No." "Well," she said, "I have a very good friend that's the principal of a grammar school up there, [Warren] Harding Grammar School." She said, "She was just telling me that"--this was in the early summer--"one of the kindergarten teachers who also teaches first, second, and third grades at different times of the day, is pregnant. She's going to have to give up her teaching for a year or so."

She said, "I talked to her." Mrs. Page had talked to this principal up here and said that, "We have a gal here that did very well with the recreation department. It's something brand new, and you have no recreation department in Santa Barbara. I think you should have one because it's a growing city. She could put on little plays with children and she could teach swimming. She has graduated with all these things."

So, I drove up. That was on a Friday, and school had started, I think. . . . I'm not

quite sure. But, anyway, they asked me if I could start on Monday at this grammar school. So, I stayed with a friend of mine that I had met in Los Angeles that had driven me up. "Well," she said, "let's go over to my aunt's house and stay over the weekend. We will run down and get your clothes and things and come back Monday morning." So, I was there then teaching at Harding Grammar School until I met Stan in 1935.

VASQUEZ: Tell me how that happened.

C. TOMLINSON: Well, going back and forth from the school, I didn't have a car. It was on the west side of Santa Barbara, and my folks in the meantime had come up to Santa Barbara.

VASQUEZ: To live?

C. TOMLINSON: To live.

VASQUEZ: Oh, really? Were they retired?

C. TOMLINSON: They were semiretired. Dad said, "Well, we don't like San Diego very well," and they came up to visit. They liked Santa Barbara. Of course, Dad immediately started scouting the bakeries, you know, and he found this one place that. . . . I forget his name. Bob. I

can't remember. It's out of business now anyway. But it was a very fancy baking establishment. And Dad said, "We might as well come up here and live too."

II. THE WIFE OF A LEGISLATOR

Meeting Stanley Tomlinson

They found a little house on Nopal Street, right near the high school here. It was just two bedrooms, one bath, but it was just right for the three of us. So, I lived with them, and I lived with them right up until the time I met Stan.

We only knew each other three months. He had been going with a girl by the name of Ethel Ford. He said, "What's your middle name?" And I said, "Constance." He said, "Oh, let's take Constance, I like that so much better [than Ethel]." And, of course, we never thought we were going to be married at that time. So, he started calling me Connie. Well, everybody [did] where we went, where he took me. He knew everybody in town.

VASQUEZ: Oh, really?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, sure. He was a young attorney, he had come back and just started his own business. So, every place we went it was "Connie Mills, Connie Mills." I felt kind of funny at first, because once in a while friends would come by from Los Angeles and they would say, "Ethel, how are you?" People would say, "Well . . . "

Marrying Stanley Tomlinson

VASQUEZ: That's how you started using Constance?

C. TOMLINSON: That's it. I just changed it over. When we were married, why, I wrote Constance. I dropped the Ethel entirely and took the middle initial Mills, my maiden name, Constance Mills Tomlinson. So, that was the change of name.

But I met him in '35, and we were married on September 28, 1935. I worked for a little while at the school. But his mother was quite ill. She had quite a big house on Bath Street that she had built herself. She was one of the first career women in Santa Barbara, you know.

Florence Trace Tomlinson

VASQUEZ: Oh, really? Tell me about that. What was your mother-in-law's name again?

C. TOMLINSON: Florence Trace. She later married George Tomlinson. But she was working for the News Press under T. M. Storke and she was a typesetter. We had a picture here of her--the historical society had it, and I'm quite sure they brought it back, but I couldn't find it last night, I looked all over for it--standing there with a great big sign, and it said, "Re," something, "Read the Independent." It looked kind of like a commie sort of a thing, but she was a very attractive woman, tall, thin. She had been in an accident and she was very crippled. So, we rented a place for just about a month or so, but she couldn't get along without somebody being there anymore.

It was such a big house, we decided we would move in with her. And we did, we moved in with her. I gave up my teaching at that time for a while. Oh, let's see, taking care of her took about most of our time, and so forth. Then, three years later, Rod arrived. That took all my time with her. She adored the ground he walked on.

VASQUEZ: This is your son, Rod Tomlinson?

C. TOMLINSON: Rodney George. He is now a political science professor at the [United States] Naval Academy. So we were busy then. Then she passed away in. . . . What year, do you remember?

S. TOMLINSON: Who?

C. TOMLINSON: Your mother, she passed away when Rod was three. Oh, I can't remember.

S. TOMLINSON: She died in '40.

C. TOMLINSON: We stayed in that house because it was a big house and very nice. It was the upper west side of town instead of the upper east side, which is supposed to be better but it was way up in town. Then the war came along, 1941, and Stan went right away. He enlisted and off he went to San Diego.

World War II

VASQUEZ: Did you stay here in Santa Barbara?

C. TOMLINSON: Just for a while. He was a legal officer in San Diego and he wanted me to come down. Many of our friends from here went down there. Not so many, but a couple of very close friends, lawyers. We were in a guest cottage that was very lovely, up on top of the hill above the

naval training station. We stayed there for When did you go overseas, dear? 'Forty-three. Then I came back to Santa Barbara, and we rented a little place, Rod and I.

Then I went back into the recreation department again and started teaching and took over Oak Park playground. They had a swimming pool, and I taught little swimmers and story-telling and playacting and all of that sort of thing, until he came back.

Then when he came back, which was in '44, we moved into a larger place up here on the Riviera and rented it. And then he. . . . Let's see, did you go in with Canfield then right after you came back? I can't remember either, except there were four of them. Judge Westwick wasn't a judge then. John Westwick, he's still living too. He was one of the partners, I think. And then [Thomas] Cornwall.

VASQUEZ: Cornwall's first name was again?

C. TOMLINSON: Thomas.

VASQUEZ: Canfield, what was his first name?

C. TOMLINSON: Ted, Theodore. And they were busy for a

couple of years, then all of the sudden. . . .
 Who was it that was in the assembly before
 you? [Alfred W. "Bob"] Robertson. Was it
 Robertson that was in the assembly and then
 retired?

Role in Political Campaigns

VASQUEZ: What role did you play in the campaign, the
 election campaign, if any?

C. TOMLINSON: The only thing I did was go from door to door
 and hand out pamphlets. I used to take
 different areas with these girls out in the
 north end and all over town and hand out
 pamphlets. I had never done it before. It
 was kind of interesting.

VASQUEZ: How did your life change as a result of his
 going into the legislature?

C. TOMLINSON: Quite a bit, quite a bit.

VASQUEZ: Tell me about that.

C. TOMLINSON: Especially socially. Very much so, because I
 was dramatic enough. I always wanted to be able
 to get with people that were interesting. I
 hadn't been able to do too much of that because
 of the war, but I met some very lovely people
 in San Diego. However, going up to Sacramento

was an entirely different change for me.

The Impact of Being an Assemblyman's Wife

VASQUEZ: Did you go up there to stay with him during the sessions?

C. TOMLINSON: No, I went every two weeks. Luckily, we had an aunt, Minnie Young. It was his aunt, and bless her heart, she was a widow. We had just built a new house out in San Rogue Park. After Stan came home and entered the Canfield office. We built this new home with three bedrooms, three baths, which we had never had before. And the minute I wanted to go up, I would phone her and she would pack her little bag and be right over there to take care of Rod. Rod was about nine or ten, and his grammar school was across the street.

So, she would come and just love to cook for all these boys. Well, he had a house full every afternoon after school. She was cooking like mad for him. So, I would take a car. We had a brand new Buick at that time. It was always fascinating to me, because I had never been in anything where people would say, "Oh, there's this and that and the other." We had

an A-36 license plate. Every cop on the way up to Sacramento knew me and knew I was Stan's wife. Every time I passed . . .

VASQUEZ: A-36 stood for what, assembly?

C. TOMLINSON: [Thirty-sixth] Assembly District. Now it's what, thirty-two or something, the district. They changed the district from thirty-six to something now. I don't remember.

VASQUEZ: But that was your license plate number and people would recognize it?

C. TOMLINSON: So, I drove up the coast, and it would take me about eight hours. I would get Aunt Minnie over--I had everything packed and in the car--and I would get up at about two o'clock after a few good hours sleep and I would just start out.

In those days, it was nothing to go at night. I would drive with a brand new Buick, which was great, I would drive right through to San Luis Obispo. And when I would stop at San Luis Obispo--this was a routine that I followed all the six years--and about four times from here to San Luis Obispo, a cop would drive by in his motorcycle. They had

motorcycles in those days too. They would toot-toot-toot the horn, so I would toot the horn.

Lots of times they would stop in San Luis, and I always stopped at the coffee shop there and had a good big breakfast, they would sit and talk. Lots of times, little things they would say I got used to. I never realized it until after I got up there. "You tell your husband to do this and do that and we need this and we need that." [Laughter]

VASQUEZ: They figured they had an in by talking to you, did they?

C. TOMLINSON: Yes. So, I would tell Stan, and he would laugh and never say very much about it. But I got up there and I would go right to the Senator Hotel, because Stan was living there. By that time, it was eight o'clock in the morning. He would be gone, long gone, and I would phone him over at the assembly and tell him I just got in, I'm going right to bed. And he would say, "Fine." He said, "See you at noon then." So, I would go right to bed and have a good sleep, [then] go on over to the assembly.

VASQUEZ: What would you do there?

C. TOMLINSON: I would meet these wonderful wives. They were just delightful. There were a few that were very political, but most of them--I would say two-thirds--were not. I mean, they were about the same as I was, you know.

VASQUEZ: Supportive?

C. TOMLINSON: Supportive.

VASQUEZ: Of the man?

An Experience with a Lobbyist

C. TOMLINSON: Of the man. And, of course, the men would talk to us when we got home and all of that, but actually not too much. Stan never discussed things too much with me except once in a while. But I had only been there about two weeks when I got there one day, they seemed to find out my routine. I was arriving at eight o'clock, and I would call Stan and say I was going to take my nap.

Immediately afterwards, somebody knocked on the door. This man came to the door and said, "This is for Mr. Tomlinson, but you must sign for it." And I said, "Well, I had better not. Take it over to the assembly." He said,

"No, this is for you." And he opened it up. There were I don't know how many hundred-dollar bills.

VASQUEZ: Do you remember this man's name?

C. TOMLINSON: No, I have no idea

VASQUEZ: You know who he was?

C. TOMLINSON: That month in the . . . I think it was Collier's [Magazine] at that time. There was a great big picture of [Arthur H.] Artie Samish. He was the big lobbyist, and his name all of the sudden was just down. Stan had been talking about that sort of a thing to me. I had read the article before I went up there.

VASQUEZ: I marked it in the scrapbook.

C. TOMLINSON: Oh, really? So, I was very conscious of that sort of thing because I had seen it. It happened to me. So, when I went over [to the assembly chamber], I told Stan about it, and he says, "Well, that's it." So, he says, "Just remember it's happening, and it will happen."

VASQUEZ: You feel this was an attempt to compromise your husband?

C. TOMLINSON: Oh, very much. Oh, very much.

VASQUEZ: He had been very critical in the press of Artie Samish by name.

C. TOMLINSON: Evidently, there was some lobbyist that he was against. Or Stan didn't want to vote that way, and they wanted him to, and they thought if I had the money, all of this money to spend, you know, why, he would go ahead.

Socializing with Legislators' Wives

VASQUEZ: What would the wives do together while the legislators were in session?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, we would come in around ten o'clock sometimes. At that time--what was her name?-- Jody Collins, [her husband] Sam [L.] Collins was speaker of the house. They have both passed away now. She was a dynamo of a person with a terrific personality, and she always saw and picked out the people she liked among the wives. We became very close and very good friends. She would always plan something, like a big luncheon some place here, there, or another place, and so we'd all get together.

There were a lot of knitters there that were always knitting things, very fancy

knitters. In fact, I started knitting up there and made two or three outfits.

VASQUEZ: What was the average age of these women?

C. TOMLINSON: Thirty-five.

VASQUEZ: He was forty-five when you went up.

C. TOMLINSON: Well, I was seven years younger than he was, so probably thirty-five. Most of them were that age. A few of them were older.

VASQUEZ: But there were no real young women there, were there, and no really young legislators?

C. TOMLINSON: Can you remember anybody real young? I can't remember.

VASQUEZ: What do you think was the median age of the legislature when you were there, the average age?

C. TOMLINSON: Oh, I would say fifty.

VASQUEZ: So, the wives were also in the forties.

C. TOMLINSON: Forties.

VASQUEZ: So, you would have these social get-togethers.

C. TOMLINSON: Yes. And there would always be something planned ahead of time, especially during the two weeks that I was up there. Jody Collins knew I was coming those two weeks, and some other wives would plan to come at that time,

so we got to have kind of a group where,
"Well, if you're coming up in two weeks, I'll
be here, I might as well come too."

Then we had this one group, especially of
our age group. Some of the older women didn't
care too much about it. One day we would go
shopping together. "They are having a big
sale some place." Then we'd get back just in
time for the legislature to let out. Some
would be there if they knew their husbands
were going to speak. They would stay, you
know. It was partying for most of us, you
know, and always lunches and big dinners in
the evenings.

VASQUEZ: Those women that were political, how did they
express their political interests?

C. TOMLINSON: Well, not to us. I mean, we knew that they
were. They would stay at the legislature more
than come with us.

VASQUEZ: And what kind of things would they do? Do you
know?

C. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: Would they try to lobby?

C. TOMLINSON: I don't know. Could be.

The PALS Club

- VASQUEZ: Now, there was some effort by some of these women to keep the group together and to communicate. In fact, there was a newsletter?
- C. TOMLINSON: The PALS Club.
- VASQUEZ: What did "PALS" stand for? Was it an acronym or just a name?
- C. TOMLINSON: I think it was just a name that was given.
- VASQUEZ: Who started it? Tell me about that. Do you know?
- C. TOMLINSON: I wouldn't know. It was started long before I got there, probably ten years before I got there.
- VASQUEZ: How did you hear about that?
- C. TOMLINSON: Oh, the minute you get there you are invited.
- VASQUEZ: By?
- C. TOMLINSON: Speaker's wife, Jody Collins. And we just joined right then.
- VASQUEZ: What kinds of activities or what kinds of things did you do?
- C. TOMLINSON: Oh, they had barbecues on Saturdays and Sundays and things like that. And we would go . . .
- VASQUEZ: For both men and women?
- C. TOMLINSON: Men and women, and if the men weren't too busy

they would go along. We even went over to. . . .
Columbia is the name of the town where we used
to go, kind of an old-fashioned type of a
town. We would go there and drive in different
cars, take cars and pile them in, you know,
not too much of anything particular, but just
certain things like that.

VASQUEZ: How long did you stay affiliated with the PALS
Club?

C. TOMLINSON: Up until about last year.

VASQUEZ: After he left the legislature?

C. TOMLINSON: The man that used to write [the newsletter]
had passed away.

VASQUEZ: You remember his name?

C. TOMLINSON: I haven't any [newsletters] left any more.
They were just like little personal things
about "So-and-so was ill last week," or "So-
and-so passed away," something like that.
Then, finally, the last letter said, "This may
be our last PALS Club letter." As far as I
know now, maybe it has been picked up again.
I have no idea what has happened in the last
few years.

VASQUEZ: But as far as you know, it really was the

project of one or two people for all that time?

C. TOMLINSON: That's right. I can't remember his name. I don't know. The one that wrote the PALS Club?

VASQUEZ: Now, this newsletter, it served to keep people in touch with one another, did it?

C. TOMLINSON: That's all, nothing political, just all friendly and family matters.

VASQUEZ: Was there ever a time when the women all came together to do something political in support of one of their husbands?

C. TOMLINSON: No, no.

VASQUEZ: Strictly social?

C. TOMLINSON: Strictly social. I don't remember. Yes, I guess I do remember. A few wives worked, and they were secretaries. But I didn't see them very much. I only saw the people that were like me.

VASQUEZ: Now, that was during the sessions that you would go up there for a couple of weeks?

C. TOMLINSON: Yeah, right. I would never go up any other time.

How Being a Legislator's Wife Changed Home
Life

VASQUEZ: Here at home, how did his being a legislator change your life?

C. TOMLINSON: Very much. It changed because I met women that I had never known before, who were very political. The minute I got back, I would have phone calls inviting me to lunch at different places, but never talking about politics, just all friendly. Most of these women were interested in politics, but they would just bring me in because I was the assemblyman's wife.

VASQUEZ: When you say, "interested in politics," interested in party politics or particular issues of their own?

C. TOMLINSON: We never talked about that at these meetings that I went to. I think there were other Republican committees that had their meetings, but they knew I was not political and there was no use in my trying to be political. I was the social type entirely.

VASQUEZ: Now, all of these people that you associated with, were they mostly Republicans, or all Republicans?

C. TOMLINSON: Mostly Republicans, I guess. I don't know. They were all mixed because we never talked about it one way or another. I didn't.

VASQUEZ: Now, what did you do at this time? Did you work?

C. TOMLINSON: No.

VASQUEZ: What did you do?

C. TOMLINSON: No, I would be home and our son was going to school. I took care of him. Then I would just be getting ready for the next two weeks going up.

Going into Real Estate

VASQUEZ: When did you get into real estate?

C. TOMLINSON: Nineteen fifty-five.

VASQUEZ: So, it was after he got out of the state legislature?

C. TOMLINSON: Yes. In fact, one of the women up there was a broker, and that's what got me started. She came in one day, and I had never heard of a woman being in real estate. She came in and she said, "Boy, I made it." She showed me this \$5,000 check she had just received for her commission.

I said, "What in the world did you do?"

She laughed and she said, "I just sold a house up in the hills here, and this is my commission." But she said, "This is a tough one. I worked hard for it." And I said, "You really mean that you're in real estate?" She said, "Yes, I've been in it about three or four years."

When I came back, I thought. . . . Well, that fascinated me. All the time that I talked to her, I got more interested. So, when I came home the next time, I checked to see about the real estate business here in Santa Barbara. I went down to the realtor's office, and they said, "Well, here's the book. Read and study it. Then you have to go to Los Angeles and pass your exam. Then come back and wait for your license. See whether you pass or not, and then you can just start in."

So, I did. I got the book and I studied it. It was all foreign to me because I had never done anything like that. But I enjoyed it. During the time I was waiting for my license, I would go to open houses on Sunday

and just look around and listen to people talking and so forth.

So, when I got my license, I started in a very small office with somebody I don't even remember now. He didn't stay here very long, but there were three or four of us girls that had just passed our tests, and we started then.

VASQUEZ: Your own agency?

C. TOMLINSON: No, I never had an agency. I always went into a big office. I didn't want to get too involved, because when Stan was home we went out quite a bit socially, because after he came home, he ran for city attorney.

Wife of a City Attorney

Of course, when he became city attorney, that really helped me. People were dubious, because there were only three women in Santa Barbara who were realtors. I was one of them, all the rest were men. Lots of times, men and women that came to check on houses, they'd look at me like, "You don't know much." Then something would come up about, "What does your husband do?" And I would say, "Well, he's the

city attorney." From then on, they believed me. They knew I couldn't do anything wrong or I could be sued or whatever. So, actually, his work helped me a lot, and I really became quite good in real estate.

VASQUEZ: Would you say that your experience in going up to the legislature, knowing people and interacting with people that were active in politics, helped you in your own development?

C. TOMLINSON: Oh, yes, very much so. I became more interested politically after I got up there. Well, you just had to, because you were hearing it all the time and you got excited about who was running and who was doing this and who was doing that.

I think the one that I met the most was [Congressman Robert J.] Lagomarsino. We became very good friends. Whenever he had a big meeting in town we were always there. Even now, to this day. . . . Our son had quite a nice talk with him not very long ago from Annapolis [Maryland]. He is going to Washington to see him, just to have a talk, because he knew him ever since he was twelve years old.

The Tomlinsons' Son as a Legislative Page

VASQUEZ: Tell me about your son. He was a page, wasn't he, in the legislature?

C. TOMLINSON: He was a page during the Easter vacations, and he would always take a friend up. We always rented a little apartment during the two weeks that he was up there so that he could go and come as he pleased. He just loved that page business and getting paid for it, and his friend would do it too, then off they would go shopping.

VASQUEZ: Did that have an impact on him, do you know?

C. TOMLINSON: I think it did. I think it made him conscious of things.

VASQUEZ: What was the downside, what were the negative parts of being a legislative wife?

C. TOMLINSON: I can't think of anything.

[End Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

C. TOMLINSON: It was always very good, as far as I was concerned, because everybody knew me then. And, of course, it helped me greatly in my real estate [business], right straight through. I met lots and lots of people that

way. I always enjoyed it, and then I enjoyed his becoming city attorney.

How She Supported Her Husband

- VASQUEZ: What did you feel your role was in supporting your husband as legislator, and how did you try to do that?
- C. TOMLINSON: I think only socially. Whenever I would go and they would have these big, big parties, you would meet all of these people. I knew the wives. I mean, I began knowing the wives, and that was it. I know that I never helped him politically. It was socially.
- VASQUEZ: Well, is there anything else you would want to say for the record on your experience being married to a state legislator in the late forties and early fifties?
- C. TOMLINSON: I was always very proud of it. I still am. I'm very proud of him. I never realized that he could speak so beautifully, I never realized he had such a terrific vocabulary. Being an attorney, he would get up and speak, and it was very fascinating, because I never would have known it.
- I know he misses that now. But we have

some wonderful memories of being in the legislature, and especially when the Hearst Castle was up for a vote. We went up there and spent the night and ate lunch at the castle, which you have already covered. Many things like that that were interesting, that we wouldn't have had otherwise. So, it did help a lot.

[End Tape 1, Side B]