

Interview with: Susanne Wilson
Interview by: Danelle Moon
Transcriber: Daniel Jarvis
[Interview #3]
[Wilson Interview 3.wav]

[120:37] at beginning {start at [00:00]}

Moon:

My name is Danelle Moon. I'm the director of San Jose State University Special Collections and Archives, and today I am interviewing Susie Wilson. Uh, this is our third interview, today's date is July 5, 2006 and we are um, at her home in San Jose, California. Ok, that will be better for picking up sound. Ok, well so um Susie I'm so glad we're continuing this conversation this a lot of...actually a lot of fun and this is giving me some great um, ideas for the um, bigger research paper that I'm going to be writing on this-

Wilson:

Good.

Moon:

-and so I think that um you certainly will a central figure in part of my, you know analysis of this, and so it has been great to talk to you about some of these things. But to start with, I've been looking back at the, the 1977 -78 scrapbook -I, that was great, and um, it really helps fill in some of the- the questions that I had or- or actually helped me just learn a little bit more about the politics during that time period, um, locally. And so there were three people that came up in that particular year, one was Ted Tedesco, the other one was David [Runyun?] and [Ivan (ph) Zoobow?..]. So why don't you te-tell me a little bit about what happened with Ted and wha- um how- it- it seemed like you were one of the only council members supporting him at the end of his tenure and that there was some sort of conflict that took place, could you describe that a bit?

Wilson:

Yes. The -it happened in the summer of 1977. I was running for the board of supervisors. And the [first four?] uh council members, uh, were ganging up on Ted as city manager because they considered him slow growth and they wanted more growth and they didn't like his policies. So that they uh, were called the Fearsome

Foursome, cause they uh, voted to, uh oust him as city manager. The three who did not vote to oust him were myself, Janet Grey Hayes the- and the mayor who was Janet Gray Hayes and [Jim [(ph) Self?]] So we were the minority, um that uh [hold dispute?] Uh, frankly it uh saved me because when I ran decided to run for supervisor in February of 1977, the first really big controversy over gay pride day occurred...

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And uh during that spring I think I told you before [I had a door slam in my face?]

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

And I barely made it into the runoff. There had been sixteen candidates in that race...

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And so [the?] runoff occurred in June. And the runoff is between myself and Ivan [Zoobow?] [a] south county developer real estate man.

Moon:

Right

Wilson:

And Ivan was known to cut corners, uh in terms of development and find ways to take the acreage and it was called "four-by-fouring"...

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And it was illegal, become illegal at the state level, uh, to do that, so he would take a ten acre parcel...

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

No, twentys, twenty acre parcel, and first divide it into- into two-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and would uh [with] some fake corporations, and um it was really still all-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-his land eventually, and so then after he got the two then he turn around and divide the ten acre parcel into five-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And the other ten acre parcel into five. So he got uh illegal uh four parcels out of that twenty acre parcel...

Moon:

Oh, ok.

Wilson:

And so that was my campaign issue with him in the runoff [alright?]. The uh I was barely I think I had about 23 percent of the vote and he had 22 percent of the vote and that was astonishing...

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

...because uh [day?] before the gay pride day I had been clearly the frontrunner...

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And uh because of the controversy, I had lost votes. But, after the election in June, the four council members who uh were going to oust Ted, uh, called the Fearsome Foursome and got a lot of bad publicity, and so the voters, when I knock on their doors in the summer time, they'd say, 'Are you part of the fearsome foursome?' and I would say "No, I want to keep Ted Tedesco as our city manager. 'Good!' " they'd forgotten all about gay pride.

Moon:

Oh really?

Wilson:

And, so I became their favorite candidate again-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-because I wanted to keep him and also because I hated uh Ivan [Zoobo?] myself and my volunteer Bob [Brownstein?]-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-uh did all the writing. Uh in those days he and I sat at my kitchen table and wrote all of the literature-

Moon:

Ok

Wilson:

-that I had and uh. And what was so funny is that and he had documented we had some research and documented what Ivan was doing and [can?] so we called him the king of four-by-fours.

Moon:

[Moon chuckles]

Wilson:

And uh and got the publicity out so that he was very growth oriented and I was [wanted] I was planned growth orientated-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and that has always been an issue in San Jose-

Moon:

Mm-hm. Right.

Wilson:

-and uh you can't get elected in this town if you're not planned growth y'know if you're not for boundaries you got to curtail growth and you're jus- you're just not going to get there. And so he was viewed as a villain, well he took exception to a cartoon, he might have seen it in the uh-

Moon:

Oh I think I-

Wilson:

The- with the bulldozer he-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-he's on the bulldozer

Moon:

Yeah!

Wilson:

A man on a bulldozer-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And uh, I was taken to- Ivan complained to the uh [Benaf Berat? Ba- [has difficulty pronouncing] how do pronounce that?

Moon:

Uh-huh yeah, yeah the the um I know which one, it's the Jewish-

Wilson:

Jewish Art-

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

-Federation

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

It's the Jewish Federation, that I was being anti-semitic, and so I was called on that by the president because I'd always taken advertisements in their journal, and they had always liked me and in fact I had uh, uh, helped with the uh when we did uh uh there was a big candlelight about the Zionist issue-

Moon: Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and uh protests uh about which was in about '76 and so they had always been in favor of me. And so she called me instead of uh reacting to Ivan [Zoobow?] and I said, "You know," I said "Very frankly," uh "My aide [Browstein?] is Jewish, and he and I wrote that material at our kitchen table and, at the time, he'd never seen Ivan [Zoobow?], and then we got a- a person to draw the cartoon was a friend of his, who was also Jewish, and perhaps he made it Jewish features because he's Jewish himself.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And so it, it was uh, a subconscious thing, cause he did, because he'd never seen Ivan [Zoobow?]

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

So if it looked like Ivan or Ivan thought it did, well, maybe it's because a couple of Jews worked on it [Wilson laughed]. And so she said, "Thank you very much" and dropped the whole issue.

Moon:

I think it was [(ph) Benigh Bird?] is what their...

Wilson:

[(ph) Benigh Bird?]

Moon:

Yes

Wilson:

Uh, uh, so that was uh, just a strange thing and of course it fortunately I could explain it to him.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Uh so that Ivan was painted as a developer, but he was from South county and I worked hard to uh move South county because they'd had a very very popular uh supervisor [Sig Sanchez?] for sixteen years...

Moon:

Mm-hm. Right.

Wilson:

And they weren't at all sure that this uh big city vice mayor was going to be thoughtful and- and really like South county.

Moon:

Mm-hm. Right.

Wilson:

So I had to win them over, but the alternative was Ivan [Zoobow?] and many of the South county people realized that he was not the material of a supervisor, in fact my first appearance, down in South county, after my election and I made a presentation some place. And, uh, an attorney woman, attorney from down there came up to me and she said "Susie" says, "I just can't [picture?] Ivan [Zoobo?] being able even represent that because he just wasn't, uh, of the caliber to be a supervisor".

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

So that's why I'm going over to South county, is because they, they considered the alternative. And- and I was uh, better than the other person, they felt.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

So...

Moon:

He had, had he been involved in government prior to that election?

Wilson:

No, yeah.

Moon:

And you had been working-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-in politics-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-for quite a long time at that point? So...

Wilson:

And, and I just had uh much, smoother approach-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Uh, you know even before in politics-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

I knew how to give a speech and handle crowds-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and be pleasant.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and a lot of the times in the interviews he would stop by uh, the beer joint before he'd come down to
[inaudible, something like "shoot a v"]

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

To be on the panel

Moon:

Ah-huh.

Wilson:

I guess have a couple of beers so that he would be-

Moon:

Relaxed

Wilson:

Relaxed and ready. And sometimes it showed.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

In debates, and uh that we had. And I could smell the liquor on him. And at the time did did drink myself occasionally, ehh wine. So I stopped drinking completely because I wanted it to be a contrast.[Moon and Wilson laugh]/

Moon:

So you just stopped drinking during the election? Or-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

[inaudible]

Wilson:

I stopped drinking during the election-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

And then after I became a supervisor, uh, we were spending five million dollars on alcoholic programs-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

Uh, I had a preacher that came back me to declare a non-alcoholic week and-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-um temperance week- and, and I began to feel like the uh trying work with the alcoholics-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

I just quit drinking period.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

Because I felt like a hypocrite.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Uh getting up there and reading this resolution and still-

Moon:

And then still going off-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-and having martinis-

Wilson:

Yeah, not martinis.

Moon:

[inaudible 00:10:56] or wine.

Wilson:

Wine. And so um, so I just quit-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-after I became-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-a supervisor and uh, never drank again.

Moon:

Oh. Well-

Wilson:

Because, well I really didn't drink that much.

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

But it- to me it was important because I go and speak to groups who were trying to get off alcohol.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And, um, it just, they were having such a big struggle and I could see what alcohol had done to so many people that I thought, well I just stop. So...

Moon:

Well that's a credit to you, you know, your um personality and to your- you know commitment to the work that you have done and you wanting to set an example I think.

Wilson:

[Yes?]

Moon:

A lot of politicians don't live what they preach kind of thing. [Moon laughs]

Wilson:

I guess I- I- probably didn't [give off?] set an example. What I felt like I was doing was supporting them.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Unknown Person 1:

Goodbye

Wilson:

Goodbye [speaking to an unknown people]

Moon:

[Goodbye?] But ya- ya- you know, inadvertently you were-

Wilson:

Yeah

Moon:

-also setting an example I think since for the-

Wilson:

Well and I've always uh had many women say that, particular women, say that I would have been, um, [minstrel?] for them-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson

-And that I had uh, helped them and-

Moon:

Yeah, I was talking to Linda [Lazad?] um, last week I guess-

Wilson:

Yeah

Moon:

-it was, and um, she was, she's re-, she's a really-

Wilson:

Yes

Moon:

-interesting women-

Wilson:

She is.

Moon:

-cause she's she's sooo articulate and so you know, you know, so self-confident-

Wilson:

Yes

Moon:

And um, she was saying, I was asking her kind of the same questions I've asked the other people that I've interviewed and who who really helped them get into politics. And she said I wouldn't have been able to get into the planning commission or into any other work that I did if was -if I didn't talk to Susan Hammer and I didn't talk to Susie Wilson, and get their support. And I thought that was a really interesting um testament to both uh you know your work and then um -I'm hoping to talk to Susan Hammer soon, but um we kind of had conflicts-

Wilson:

Yeah

Moon:

-of schedules and things like that, but um I'll certainly ask her about that too, because I think that's a really important part and then that's one of the things that she says is really important to her as a politician, is -and

also as a lawyer- is that she wants to be -set an example for other young woman and she feels like that's really more important to her than some of the other parts of the politicking that goes on, so, well um-

Wilson:

[inaudible] And it's carried through the years, it's been fifteen years since I've been on the board of supervisors-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and I, I had uh, two people come to me who were running for the Mountainview city council-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-to talk about things and when I was on the committee, uh for the United-way with the gay and lesbian, uh, chaired that committee, and there was a woman who was a lesbian from uh, San Mateo county, and, she wrote me about two years later, said "Because of you I ran for city council and won."

Moon:

Oh, wow.

Wilson:

So there was a...

Moon:

Do you have a copy of that letter still?

Wilson:

Uh, I probably do someplace.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

It be a good letter to-

Wilson:

Yeah, uh I have uh, I have a lot of those kind of letters- but uh so that- and then just you know, [its?] even this, uh, last uh, two years you know, people, women, who were running-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-would come and talk to me.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Ah in particular sometimes men do, but always women do.

Moon:

Is that what Susie Solutions is about?

Wilson:

No

Moon:

Or that's a separate sort of venture?

Wilson:

No, no, no. My- that's all just volunteer stuff-

Moon:

[ah?]

Wilson:

-that I did with women. If a woman calls and wants to talk to me-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

And right now I'm talking to somebody who is uh, uh, well she was —she's running for the —again- for the Water board-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And uh, Rosemary Kamei.

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

And so uh, even now I jus- I've been talking with her, on the phone. Uh, one of the things we talked about, that helped her give an insight, because she's, she is, uh, Japanese. And I said, "You know, just your running, for the school board, [introduces?] a re-election"- this is her third year-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-third time to run, I said, "Is a, creates a war inside of you because of your culture."

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And so that you have to overcome that, because to become more aggressive and yet not appear aggressive, and to be assertive, uh instead of aggressive, because you can't be aggressive, it's just not in your culture-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-to be. So how do you become more assertive and more positive and so that you- you are not afraid to speak out and then you're going disagree with an opponent-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-because your knowledge is so good.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And she told me that really helped her gain insight of herself-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-because I think that's always important if you can understand where your coming inside-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

So then they can project what they want to on the outside.

Moon:

How does she spell her last name?

Wilson:

K-A-M-E-I. Kamei. And I'd think she be a good person to talk to as a Japanese woman.

Moon:

Oh it sounds like it. Uh, is she —she's not, with the Water board currently-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-is she? She's going to be running.

Wilson:

Yeah, She is running and she's got a- uh she's got opponent of uh she's in a runoff right now.

Moon:

So she's an incumbent right now?

Wilson:

She's an incumbent. [lets see what side she's been under?] eight years. And this is, is uh, [probably?] third time. And uh, she's also contemplating you know whether she wants to run for the board when [Don Gates] is up. And that's what she's got think through. [Hi?].

Moon:

Hmm.

Wilson:

Part of her uh challenge is going to be to broaden her base-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-to uh appear uh not only knowledgeable but concerned about other issues that are not the normal issues that she's had in the past.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

Alright if she's going to uh s- [snuggle?] [you got to?] –San Jose has the most votes but, it's the Morgan Hill and Gilroy-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-and [incorporate?] areas you have to think of in a different way.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Of their concerns and what- what they're really-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-facing. And then of course [inaudible?].

Moon:

That's actually the Santa Clara county Waterboard then?

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

Yeah that's what I thought, ok.

Wilson:

I have her phone numbers.

Moon:

Ok. Yeah she would be a good person it sounds like. Plus, um, you know there's not as much diversity represented in a lot of the candidates-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-both male and female-

Wilson:

No, um.

Moon:

-and so it would be great to be able to have more-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-representation –Madison-

Wilson:

[yes?]

Moon:

Um, what's her last name, Madison....

Wilson:

[Nugyn?]

Moon:

[Nugyn?], that's right, I was trying to remember, I always forget pronounce [Nugyn] cause its, oh, it doesn't-

Wilson:

[Nugyn?]

Moon:

-doesn't, you know, flow-

Wilson:

No-

Moon:

-off my tongue very-

Wilson:

No-

Moon:

-easily. Um, I'm interested in interviewing her at some point too though. I am you know haven't gotten to that point to contacting her. Um, but, uh well I think you know that sounds like a really interesting –she'd certainly be very interesting to you know put into this project-

Wilson:

I think so because she's still contemplating her future-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And uh- it be good.

Moon:

Yeah, definitely.

Wilson:

[Think so?]

Moon:

Now what about um David [Runyun?], we had um-

Wilson:

Ok.

Moon:

-talked briefly about that.

Wilson:

David [Runyun?] came on the council –I’m trying to remember who he defeated and you probably know that by now-

Moon:

Mm, I’ll have to look it up.

Wilson:

Yeah. But uh he was a born again Christian, and uh was very um, pious about a lot of things-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and wore his Christianity uh, right on his sleeve. But at the council, uh, and he was –can be- very good in the afternoon [but by?] the evening time, after going out to dinner-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

He would become a different person almost, at –it was- we didn’t know why at the time-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-but he would be boisterous, he would be demonstrative, he would uh, uh, try to take charge and [at?] hearing and fight with the people and just be this other person who was hard to control, and uh, not knowing why, uh, it led to people being uneasy.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And, and, when he uh and more and more, uh, the liquor got more control of him he was an alcoholic-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-but he never admitted it. So that, he had one incident being drunk in public downtown-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and creating an incident with the police-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

Throwing-

Moon:

I read that article-

Wilson:

Throwing his weight around and of course and they arrested him, and uh, it was all in the headlines, anybody from the council you always make the headlines-

Moon:

Right

Wilson:

-and, uh, so that got by, and he, he thought, he he he learned his lesson and he apologized and all of that-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and there was a incident when he was, went to- we went to Washington to a uh, that's about when the, the National Cities met, in Thanksgiving weekend-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-first week in December. And we were at a dinner and that was the most unfortunate [inaudible 00:20:23] because he drank too much and he became that other person-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and his son was with him and we were all embarrassed about that and then uh, it was an expensive dinner, there were about fifteen people there, and then he got into this contest with the waiter, wanting to flip the bill, [uh you know uh, um, uh] you know do the coin, coin flipping for the bill, see who -whether he'd pay or he wanted to pay it for all of us, or the waiter would pay it. And it was so uncomfortable and I didn't know [how to do it?] and to take that waiter out of that situation. We just reali- and his son was there, which we felt was awfully embarrassing for his son-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and, so we finally got it handled, and uh apologized to the waiter quietly and got out of there. And so that was another -really indication that he was out of control, when he drank.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and then the uh next incident was that he got drunk, and well then crawled into a car he thought was his but it was a woman's car and he was in the back seat and she was leaving, she left to go home and there he was, at—in the back seat of her car drunk so of course she called the cops and so he was arrested again. Uh, and at that point uh the council, were in a quandary, you know, they uh, nobody seemed to know what to do, and I can't remember the article, so have to go back and read them, but what I did was the next morning after, uh, the incident, I went to his home, and talked with him-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and his wife at, at breakfast time, and and I told Dave, that for his own sake, he needed to resign, for his families sake, he needed to resign-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and needed to get some help. And for his [families?] sake. And his wife was there and she agreed and he agreed and he resigned.

Moon:

Ok

Wilson:

And um, no one else was talking to him then. I—in fact when [Gregory] came up, I uh, I talked to the editor about that episode [and that] Gregory should resign-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-I believed he should [then?], because the editor –editorial pages they [begun?] a talk with me. And I told them what I'd done. And so he quoted in his paper –and then uh a big write up. Uh uh, [Larry Pegram?] sent him a letter that he said "I talked to him too." Which is- kind of funny.

Moon:

Oh

Wilson:

He wanted to take some credit for this-

Moon:

Oh

Wilson:

-which was not true. But that's alright cause he felt he helped. Then- that seems [real?]-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

So, anyway. He was on the city council at the time

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

But uh. Janet Grey couldn't talk to him, she you know, just nobody else wants to talk to him. They just would want to turn away and-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

I can't even remember what they said in the paper. But I know that I did it.

Moon:

So, the –the reaction to him really wasn't about how he voted so much as his personality and-

Wilson:

That's correct.

Moon:

-so many embarrassments that he'd-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-caused people that were...

Wilson:

Because he was after—he- in the afternoon he was just fine-

Moon:

[Mm-hm?]

Wilson:

[inaudible] and he got a little bit preachy in the afternoon- you'd put with it, you know.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

We- we make- uh, we always made uh, Ralph his- for each [of?] our little idiosyncrasies that we had-

Moon:

[Moon laughs]

Wilson:

-uh Joe [Colea?] he was "Joe Cola" and uh, so we jus- we just, took him that's who was.

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

He was elected and so we –we just dealt with him, but then he'd go out to dinner, drink-

Moon:

Mmhm.

Wilson:

-and come back this different person-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-and he was hard to deal with.

Moon:

Yeah. Well people that get into that kind of state usually are and so that's probably a good thing that he took your advice and [inaudible 00:24:36].

Wilson:

Yeah his- and his son ended up in lots of trouble cause his, you know –what kind of example the father and-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-his son ended up as a-

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

–in juvenile hall-

Moon:

Mmhm

Wilson:

-and then later life he was, in some trouble.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And [they've?] uh, they've moved away, and Dave was still having trouble and –last heard of him-

Moon:

Mmm.

Wilson:

I think clean and sober.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

But I know that he wreaked havoc in his family.

Moon:

[hmm?] Well that's- that's an- that's- that's really too bad. Now, um, in looking at some of the other members that you worked with, it seems like that, that you- you, Janet, and Jim [(ph) Self?] were like always the minority on the more liberal minded sort of issues from the gay rights thing to, you some of these other things related to like Ted Tedesco and you know slow- or uh, planned growth versus-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-you know-

Wilson:

That's correct.

Moon:

-crazy growth. Um, what was, um, um [(ph) Self?] like, what kind of person was he and then-

Wilson:

Um.

Moon:

-how would you describe your relationship with him on the council?

Wilson:

Um, Jim and I got along, um. Janet Grey and Jim did not get along.

Moon:

They did not? Oh ok.

Wilson:

No. They, they clashed from the start.

Moon:

Just personalities sort of clashing?

Wilson:

Personality and uh, not for publication I can tell you some reasons why. I would- Jim and I were- I was just learning to ski and so we would- uh, we went on a League of Cities meeting we stopped in Denver on the way home and go ski and his parents were in Denver.

Moon:

Mmhm.

Wilson:

And, and, so we'd go ski together and he and I were more in line, we- we ran together, you know-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And, and [one?] at the same time he was 27 and I was 44-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

But he was comfortable with me. Uh, and what I found out in those ski trips –and one time –first Janet Grey and he clashed, they just did not like each other.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And, and I sat ‘em down, went over to Janet Grey’s house and we had, uh, lunch one day together.

Moon:

Mmhm.

Wilson:

The three of us, and I tried to counsel with them, because that’s what I had done. And, unfortunately, I said the wrong thing, I said, “One, your problem is you’re both too much alike”.

Moon:

Oh [Moon chuckles].

Wilson:

Oh! That just-

Moon:

They didn’t like that either.

Wilson:

That didn't- they didn't li—either one of them didn't like that and [absolutely?] declared I didn't know what I was talking about. And then when I went to uh, ski with Jim, I met his mother, and his mother was like Janet Grey-

Moon:

Oh.ok.

Wilson:

His mother says, you know, "Jim never did, never did anything that's quite good enough. And she was always directing him, what to do. Janet Grey was always directing him on wha—how he should be acting and how he should do these things-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-in the city council or- uh sh—she was uh-

Moon:

Do you think cause he was so much younger that she was that she felt that [inaudible]-

Wilson:

He was so much younger and also the first six months, of the city council he was always uh, talking and trying to do something and not being successful. [That's?] for six months, and so he went to his friend Frank [Staton?] who worked for the uh, billboard company and [sitting here as?] Frank was a uh- uh advisor of mayor Norm Mineta's-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-and said, "Frank, what am I doing wrong? Cause I c-- - I'm not getting anywhere". And Frank said to him - Frank told me later- Frank said to him, uh "Watch what Susie Wilson is doing". And Jim said, "She's not doing anything, she's just sitting there". I said-

Moon:

[Laughs]

Wilson:

[Laughs]

Moon:

[More laughing]

Wilson:

And Frank said, "Yes, she's learning. And she's not- she wasn't spouting off before, you knew what he was talking about". So Jim had his problems those first six months, and so- and Janet Grey, who was uh uh, [inaudible] at council she was vice mayor I guess at the time. Uh, they just couldn't get along.

Moon:

Mmhm.

Wilson:

Janet Grey couldn't get along with Joe [Colea?] either-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-And uh, and I could get along with both and eventually won Jim- Jim's confidence back and uh, that uh- and so he and I became allies.

Moon:

Mmhm

Wilson:

But, he wasn't really a happy person. And, and you know eventually he didn't run again.

Moon:

[oh alright?]

Wilson:

I think he quit before he ran again. Uh he was in uh, he- he loved to work with wood, and uh, when he got upset with the council, he'd go off and he'd work with wood, and, and uh distressed wood and do something with it make and window frames and sell them-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-things like that. And uh, he had, he had a uh, desire. He went to San Jose State. He was accepted as an Oxford scholar, and uh [inaudible 00:29:43].

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And he started to go and then he, he didn't go. He decided not to go. He couldn't decide what to do with his life.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

And, and, um. And he eventually he divorced before he left the council and and uh. That, that was uh [sad in his life????] And uh, but eventually, you know after he got out of politics and got away from it completely-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

He, he really did, uh, have a successful life. He lived in Santa Clara, he married again, had a child, and I- I'd see him occasionally and I haven't seen him in years.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

So, he just disappeared from the scene. Uh, you know there's people –its not many that stay for a long time.

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

You more of it now with term limits, that uh, that move up the ladder so their-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

- in politics a lot longer. But in those days you know, Larry [Pegram?] tried for this and then he didn't make it-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-so he dropped out. And he had been on council-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

[inaudible name, sounds like Haley] did his term then he went back to being a citizen. It was- most people felt like they did their term on city council then went back-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-to being a citizen again-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-and didn't have that ambition to go...

Moon:

When did that really change do you think?

Wilson:

It probably started changing about the time that I was on the city council.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And that Dan [McCarthy?] was on the board of supervisors, the time I was running for the board I believe is when uh, either the year before, I can't remember, uh, there were a few people who had ambitions and um, Mike Diridon was on the city council in Saratoga-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And then he ran and- and defeated an incumbent for the board of supervisors-

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

-so that, that year and [Mcarthial?] been in politics down in southern California he came up and he ran to be a supervisor, so uh, and they were on the- the minority on the board of supervisors and they were looking for some more liberal people. And so that and you know that was- they encouraged me to think about the board of supervisors-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

So it was a matter of probably at that time people began t'think about what they wanted to do uh and in politics-

Moon:

[Right?]

Wilson:

[Mcarthial?] was a political animal and, and Diridon was a political animal-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And so that they were thinking about their futures-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

They wanted to go to the state legislature. Diridon didn't make it, [Mcarthial?] did. He came [00:32:30 inaudible]-

Moon:

And Norman Mineta of course.

Wilson:

Yeah Norman. Norman Mineta then- you know went to congress straight from city council-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

But that was almost unheard of-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

But the opportunity still come up, because uh, the congressman was retiring.

Moon:

Right. Um, Don Edwards?

Wilson:

No.

Moon:

Did he take Don Edwards spot?

Wilson:

No. No no no. Um, uh, [Nieles? 00:32:49] I think it was.

Moon:

Oh, ok.

Wilson:

Down in Gilroy.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And uh, Don Edwards was much later that he retired.

Moon:

Ok, cause Don Edwards retired in I think 92' or 94', I'm trying to remember [inaudible 00:33:02

Wilson:

The uh, yes, and Norm ran 78'-

Moon:

Oh, right-

Wilson:

[00:33:06 late seventies?]

Moon:

Yeah ok, I was trying to-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-remember what his path [led him?] to.

Wilson:

Uh, Norm was the mayor of San Jose-

Moon:

Mm-hm, right and then didn't he- I thought he also-

Wilson:

74'

Moon:

Right, and he didn't work in the state assembly right?

Wilson:

No, he went straight from mayor to congress.

Moon:

Yeah, that was quite a transformation

Wilson:

Yes, that's a transformation.

Moon:

Hm.

Wilson:

He uh, one of the interesting things that was happening, and you talked about women and minorities, is that [clears throat] after world war two, [staph nazens? 00:33:40] community, they had a- a their guru. I can't recall his name. Uh, but he was a guru who wanted to make sure that what happened, did not happen again.

Moon:

From- from San Jose or some place else-

Wilson:

San Jose, this is San Jose.

Moon:

Ok

Wilson:

Yeah. Think he lived over in Cupertino but he was a gu- he was the guru Norman know who he is, and I- I- I know, I [inaudible]-

Moon:

He was a Japanese American?

Wilson:

Japanese American, who was uh, determined that what happened in World War II would not happen again.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

All the- all those people- so he began to try to politicize the Japanese and- and he uh, uh, [inaudible 00:34:22] first success because I went to the dinner honoring him was Wayne [Konamoto?]-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-Became a judge-

Moon:

Mm-hm. Oh right.

Wilson:

Uh-huh. And that- they- Japanese worked so very hard to get involved in politics. And then Norm of course was appointed because he didn't run the first time, and there were some people who helped uh, that appointment and worked the council to get-

Moon:

Mm-hm-

Wilson:

Him- he was an insurance agent in Japan town. And a homegrown boy-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And uh, he uh, uh- so he got the appointment, and then he ran uh, uh for mayor then after that against uh, Ron James, and won.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Because they- they worked so hard. This was really was the first grassroots that San Jose probably seen for- and I don't what was involved in that grassroots myself-

Moon:

Maybe it was Senator [Hio Kalum? 00:35:14] must of involved somehow in that, he was from Hawaii I think, and he was um, he was in office around the same time as uh Mineta when he went to congress. Does that-

Wilson:

This is all San Jose-

Moon:

Its all local. Ok.

Wilson:

Its all local.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

Yeah, um we- [inaudible 00:35:32] local what was happening here.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And so that uh, so there was that push there and so then when- and they really pushed Norm into running. Norm didn't- wasn't- really sure he wanted to run for that seat. Wasn't sure he could win it, and so there were a lot of people pushing for him, for various reasons.

Moon:

So you were saying when you started that you thought things were very different for women and minorities in San Jose and so, when you say that you're thinking in terms of just the opportunities and people actively trying to pursu—you know get women and minorities involved in politics?

Wilson:

Well, we're- its just the whole racism issue-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

Wasn't trying to get 'em involved in politics, it was trying to get them to equal opportunity.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And, uh, that's where my efforts were uh, not to get people involved in politics as much as to, uh open the doors-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

The doors were closed-

Moon:

Mh-hm.

Wilson:

And, and, what I found in looking at this book in '76 and '75 was that uh, there was no system for [inaudible 00:36:41] nations uh, marked an article-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-where I- I said I had a plan to uh get more women and minorities on that commission.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And uh, that's what the article said, and so then uh, and I was taking it to the council-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-that Tuesday, and they accepted my plan the next week and voted again, which- and the plan was that, uh when we had vacancies, they weren't even announced uh, they were, and so I said we'd have the clerk announce the uh, vacancies every week, for a month, that we would publish them in magazines- I mean newspapers. But then we had a vacancy and asked for that. So we had a way to advertise and publicize that we had vacancies on the boards and commissions.

Moon:

At that point did you put in to those advertisements you know the statement that you know we encourage minorities and um women to apply as part of that. Is there something in there on that?

Wilson:

[sound of rummaging through materials] Yeah, let me uh- I- I- I marked 'em so I can see them. [inaudible 00:37:48] found out [inaudible] that's very interesting. On the refuge house uh we -us- uh I wa- was working on the refuge house.

Moon:

For, um, battered woman?

Wilson:

Battered women.

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

With uh R- [Rina Rosenberg]

Moon:

Uh-huh right.

Wilson:

Yeah [inaudible 00:38:06] women.

Moon:

Is Rina still around in San Jose?

Wilson:

No, she was uh- she lived in Palo Alto, uh that's uh. [Inaudible speech and background rummaging] That's the uh, that was [inaudible, more rummaging]. This was the ethics reform. That was that whole big speech.

Moon:

Well that was one of the things that [Janet Flaming?] had said in her book on you know women in politics in San—in- in Santa Clara was that you know women actually helped to clean up a lot of the politics in those early years.

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

And um, do you think still true- do you think that still holds true that woman are actually cleaning up politics in the same way that they were during that time period or are they- is there more purity in how women act as politicians versus-

Wilson:

What I always said, uh, was that, uh, I'm not sure that women ever were more ethical than men, but that, we're perceived to be more honest-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And to be moral [inaudible 00:40:11]-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

That's an advantage we have.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Because we- we- the way that we talk the talk and walk the walk-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-uh, gives that perception. Sometime, you know woman can very devious [Moon and Wilson laugh] But, uh, but were- we- that was uh- but I do think that it's still true today-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

I think that you know that's where the uh, or get, uh, or even see, uh Condoleezza Rice-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

Who really is very strong-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-in her opinions. And- and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, but as a uh, as a woman, uh Secretary of state, and the same thing with the other one-

Moon:

Yeah, with Madeline Albright.

Wilson:

They bring a- Madeline Albright- they bring a different dynamic to it.

Moon:

Definitely.

Wilson:

That uh, uh, they always have to be a lady.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

You notice.

Moon:

Yeah, well-

Wilson:

But they're strong woman, and they have to be a strong woman, without uh, being uh, considered uh, pushy.

And, and, that's uh-

Moon:

Yeah, yeah, they're still being critiqued on how they look you know-

Wilson:

Oh yes-

Moon:

-in contrast to men. That's one of the things that [Linda Lazat?] said that I thought you know that is very true-

Wilson:

Mm-hm-

Moon:

-because [inaudible 00:41:40]-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-are critiqued on what you're wearing and what you're hair looks like-

Wilson:

Ah-

Moon:

-and all of that sort of thing.

Wilson:

This was- is- uh- here is one of the things and I still [doesn't?] found the I was looking for. Uh-

Moon:

Can you find it later if you want?

Wilson:

Well, I- I did find this -It was talking about the commissions, that there were too many miss—commissions and the boards and that there can be a headache for the city staffers and so I said uh, that, "she was

unimpressed by the staff woes. Citizen participation doesn't get in the way of efficient government. There's no government without citizen participation. On the complaint that planning is hampered by random citizen participation Wilson says, 'That's just tough' " [Laughter]

Moon:

[Laughter]

Wilson:

"The city council has been known to hamper city devel—uh the city council has been known to hamper city par- departments also.

Moon:

[Laughter]

Wilson:

"But she agrees that a lot- there's a lot room for refinement of responsibility with groups even narrowed to a specific [deity?] or broadened to merge with another group, but she deca—declines to say which group should go. "Whose efficiency are we talking about." she asked? Citizens can be very efficient at pointing out the needs of a community. It's the council's policy to determine policy- it's the councils business to determine policy, but we wouldn't know change was needed, unless the citizens informed us."

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

So I said that.

Moon:

[laughter]

Wilson:

"Ten years ago we never would have had an affirmative action committee, but we need one. But if the need arose, that, staffing problem is a two way street. If groups- groups aren't staffed so to- can perform their

function adequately, the staff gets most upset about their decisions. It creates more problems with staff later if they go off on tangents. I explained that citizen boards are supposed to be concerned with their total city, unlike community organizations which reflect special interests. She feels recent complaints have arisen because of three major projects: Community development block grants, private [75?], and the general plan review, which saps a lot of staff energy.” This [inaudible] go on for hours really. I- its just amazing how much of what they printed what I said. [Laughter].

Moon:

Yeah, really. You know, some- now they just sort of uh, they don’t print a lot with context.

Wilson:

And Wilson planned to purpose an ordinance to the city council this week, May 13, 1974- no-

Moon:

Seventy-

Wilson:

’75.

Moon:

Ok. Uh 1975, “which she says will help promote responsiveness to citizens by opening up the availability of boards and commission posts. The ordinance will require that the groups notify the city clerk of pending vacancies, a month ahead of their expiration and the vacancies would be advertised for a month on the council agenda and in the news media. The procedure has been if we can think of somebody we call them and say “Hey, why don’t you apply?” Adding that if enough people know about an opening that- better balance in the cities population would be represented. A report released last week by the affirmative action officer noted minority representatives on the boarding commission is 18 percent and female re-representation is 26 percent at that time.”

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And, why need to change it?

Moon:

Yeah, well I think you worked hard to do a lot of that-

Wilson:

[Laughs while Danelle says this]

Moon:

Um, well I think you know, certainly that's- that whole time period is such an interesting part in our national and-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-you know state and local history certainly. Now um, moving on a little bit to the 1977 national-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-woman's political caucus. I was going through the scrapbook and found some of the articles that you had highlighted and-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-and then I found the one where it had you on the podium giving-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-your speech-

Wilson:

I [love it?]-

Moon:

Do you have an actual real photograph of this? Did you ever get one from the newspaper?

Wilson:

Yeah, I think I do, that's '77?

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

Um, I think I do [talking in the background while rummaging] Um-

Moon:

Because in- when I do my um presentation-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-it would be great if I can scan any- some of the photographs you might have, because- and this one would be great 'cause it really highlights the you know the- the uh congress- or the caucus.

Wilson:

[Sound of surprise] Look who came to town for me.

Moon:

Ohhh, Jane Fonda-

Wilson:

Yes, boy did that create [controversy?] that was-

Moon:

I'm sure-

Wilson:

-create a controversy-

Moon:

I'll have to look at those pictures when we- when we get a chance-

Wilson:

Its not here-

Moon:

Um-

Wilson:

Its not in this-

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

Um-

Moon:

Well that's ok maybe- maybe we can look for it at some point later on-

Wilson:

And I don't know whether you know- I don't know how long the archives and the newspapers last. And those photographs because they can- they-

Moon:

I don't know if they [inaudible 00:47:01]

Wilson:

Or politicians, you- you can ask them if they- how long they kept their-

Moon:

-got a picture or two?

Wilson:

-that's the billboard-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

That was- I still have that.

Moon:

You still have the billboard?

Wilson:

Uh-huh.

Moon:

You do?

Wilson:

Uh-huh [inaudible 00:47:15] They gave me a copy of it.

Moon:

In reading some of these articles about the- the- the- the-

Wilson:

Yeah

Moon:

-three day-

Wilson:

Mm-hm

Moon:

conference um-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-for the [inaudible 00:47:26] caucus. It sounded liked um, one of the primary objectives of the congress was really to you know promote the- the final- what they hoped would be the final push for the equal rights amendment.

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

Um and so maybe you can talk about -you know, what you were -I know um- we had talked earlier and you- you said that um in trying organize it, you- this was- actually I- I didn't realize this was the first actual conference to be held at the new convention center-

Wilson:

-Mm-hm-

Moon:

-and so um, part of the newspaper was commenting on- you know that all these women were coming to the- to the um paper, and there were a number of inters-

Wilson:

But wait now, this was the new- this was not the [McHenry?]?

Moon:

No no, not the [Mchenrey?] I- there must have been some-

Wilson:

It was-

Moon:

Re-

Wilson:

Yeah. It was the uh –the old –the old one, uh, which was re- uh remade and added onto.

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

You know- You know where the uh- right across from the convention center.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

The beautiful uh, Spanish building.

Moon:

Uh-huh. Right.

Wilson:

Uh-huh.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

Ok, well, could you maybe just um reflect a little bit on some of the work that you did for that conference and um, what you were talking about in um- I know each- each person who was part of the caucus they spoke of different types of issues. There was an African-American women representative- I can't remember her name now but I had taken- I cataloged all of these articles and um- so it sounded there were a lot- there

was a quite diversity of women talking about various things and then uh, of course you know I wanna listen to those tapes of the- the con- of the caucus also, um so, maybe reflect a little bit on-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-you know some of that work that-

Wilson:

-Yeah-

Moon:

-you're doing.

Wilson:

You see Sarah [Janagen?] who was the president I think at the time-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-of the caucus. Have you talked with her yet?

Moon:

No.

Wilson:

Yeah, well you- uh, you need to do that.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

She wa- she was the one who- and she worked for me-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And she was the president of caucus, and so she came to me and uh, they had to put down payment for the uh-

Moon:

-to hold it-

Wilson:

-to hold it. And I think I just took it out of my savings account-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

I don't think that was when I- I can remember- one time I know- went to a bank to find a loan. And I can't remember was that for this or something else. Um, but uh, she- she wondered you know what- what they could to get some money. You know it was so quick and they didn't have any and I said, "I'll loan it to ya." Is what I think I said. You'd have to-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-try to talk to Sarah about that. I just do the things and then forget about them. But um, so- she was just working so hard, she's such an organized person. She probably has everything still –very [00:50:18 inaudible], very organized women and uh, and there was such logistics of it and I can remember though uh, I was nervous about giving my speech and so I was so concentrating on that, that I wasn't involved in the busy work of you know-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-putting that on you know. Jane Decker-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-was, and uh, and [Sailor?] and the people who were on the, uh-

Moon:

On the programming committee-

Wilson:

-Programming committee, and they did a very efficient job. And we did get uh, see Dolores Tucker was the black women.

Moon:

Mm, right.

Wilson:

Mm-hm. And um, so they did uh, a great job. But I wasn't involved in it, and also Michelle [Fuche? 00:51:06] who was uh, working for me, she was my- my lets see, maybe in '77, no. Sarah was not working for me, but she's -she graduated with me and she'd interned at my office.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And uh, Michelle [Fuche?] was working for -she's was a reporter and then she became my aide, and then my aide, and then she -[she -when?] she left town uh, I hired Sarah in her place.

Moon:

Oh, ok.

Wilson:

And that was uh, and Michelle worked for [Cleveland dealer?] for years and she's been –I don't know- she's long gone out of the community.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

But she and I sat in my car and worked and worked and worked with that speech and I was satisfied with how I-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

presented it, I will tell you that. But uh-

Moon:

Do you remember the content of the speech?

Wilson:

Not at all.

Moon:

No, ok we'll have to listen to it [today?].

Wilson:

I think I might have a copy of it. I did save some of my speeches.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

I went through when I left. And so they're at the office. I hadn't thought about- I thought- I thought you have to, "Gee I should bring those speeches down here. There might be some stuff in there."

Moon:

Yeah I bet there would be some-

Wilson:

-And I might have saved that one.

Moon:

Oh, yeah, it be- well it's also on that recording right?

Wilson:

Yes it's on the recording? So uh-

Moon:

But when uh Jennifer-

Wilson:

Yeah

-gets that copied

Wilson:

Mm-hm-

Moon:

-I'd like to be able to listen to [inaudible 00:52:22]

Wilson:

Yeah. Yeah. And uh, I wa- I came across in here that – [told 'em? 00:52:30] I guess it was my reelection uh, that the caucus endorsed me. That was the only person they endorsed-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And so then I- I- It has to be in my '76 re-election.

Moon:

Oh, how come that was- that they weren't- weren't they in the habit-

Wilson:

There were-

Moon:

-endorsing other candidates?

Wilson:

No. Only women.

Moon:

Only women right? Oh, but, ok-

Wilson:

And there weren't any other women! [laughing]

Moon:

There weren't any other women. Oh god, ok, there we go, of course.

Wilson:

Remember.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

Remember the time.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

[inaudible 00:53:01] And there aren't any others.? [sound of shuffling papers]

Moon:

Okay.

Wilson:

Yeah. [low level speaking inaudible 00:53:14] here some place [more low level speaking inaudible 00:53:18]

Moon:

So do you recall the convention um-

Wilson:

Oh yes-

Moon:

-being focused on the equal rights amendment as part of that um history or-

Wilson:

Yes, the uh- that's the [Geo Rucklehouse? 00:53:35] speech that I showed you before-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And uh, and that was uh, that whole emphasis was on moving toward uh the uh, the women of the year in 70- the women's year in '77-

Moon:

Right, which was-

Wilson:

-to-

Moon:

-con-conference that was in Houston, right?

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

And there was quite a lot of um, press coverage of that-

Wilson:

-Yes-

Moon:

-conference and that it –one of the things that learned in this was that that was actually established by congress-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-that they gave the funding for- that was the first time congress had ever given funding for a women's conference and it was specifically to address you know, the inequity issues of women in politics I think. But also it was focused on the equal rights amendment battle, and um, I guess Phyllis [Schlafly?] and some of her uh, you know-

Wilson:

Yeah

Moon:

-anti-ERA-

Wilson:

[inaudible 00:54:28]

Moon:

-people were there, but that um –and then in one article like this one, its called “Women's Conferencing is a Battle of Feminist versus the Foes” and so this article kinda talks about that a little bit and how um –and then um I think it was [Rena Rosenberg? 00:54:45] who was um, the director of the commission-

Wilson:

[Uh-huh?]

Moon:

-at least that's women at that time said um, that they only rep- they'll only represent 20 percent of their representation so their obviously not going to have enough clout to carry any resolutions-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

What was your recollection of your involvement with that-

Wilson:

Uh, well, there was a delegation appointed from San Jose-

Moon:

Right there 96-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-women altogether from California-

Wilson:

-California, and we had about uh [inaudible 00:55:14] there was a resolution so that we had about 8 I think from San Jose-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-Is what we had. And so that going, uh, first we- first went down to a conference in L.A. That's when I paid my five dollars [Moon and Wilson laugh]. That check I had [inaudible] nothing but the five dollars written over on one side and nothing else my signature. And we went to L.A. first and then we went to uh, to Houston. And it just was a s- a overwhelming experience because there were the presidents wives you know that were there-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and former first ladies and- and people who were uh uh [inaudible [00:56:00] there and be in that huge uh, arena [inaudible 00:56:07] that probably was the arena or- or the convention center there in Houston ok and-

Moon:

[Uh?]-

Wilson:

-Houston yes, uh, just was uh something you- you just absorb-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And so, I can't remember anything except the whole spirit-

Moon:

Ok

Wilson:

-was uh determination and uh sisterhood and-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-um camaraderie-

Moon:

Ah, yeah.

Wilson:

It just was fantastic. I know one night, I rode a taxi ride over to uh, back to the hotel. And I was in the taxi with publisher of the ladies home journal.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And, and just we were all there together. Whether we were- council on San Jose-

Moon:

Uh-huh. So you were all kinda treated the same regardless of what-

Wilson:

Yeah. And we talked- when we talked, we were all talking the same issues.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And made no difference you know, when you can talk with the publisher of the Ladies Home Journal-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-editor of the Ladies Home Journal for, an older woman but she was so- so-

Moon:

-do you remember-

Wilson:

-[pure?]-

Moon:

-any of the anti-ERA?-

Wilson:

No-

Moon:

-people there.

Wilson:

No, no. Didn't pay any attention to them. [Moon and Wilson laugh]

Moon:

That's probably just as well.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

So. Um, I re-read a couple of their articles on that. And there were a couple of men who were reporters at-at- actually the reporters who came to the San Jose, um caucus, and they were saying, "Oh this place is being run over by woman!" and it was just such a curious way-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-way that you know this kinda of like acting like somehow woman were you know part of you know mainstream society or s- you know [inaudible 00:57:50] represent you know, 50 percent of the population-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-what not. But it was kind of curious-

Wilson:

-Mm-hm-

Moon:

-to read some of those stories and so I was just curious what- what- It must been such a, um, interesting life experience to go and be among all those, you know, degrees of women who you, you know followed and you know [um?] Jane Fonda to you know um-

Wilson:

-Gloria [Steinem?]

Moon:

-Gloria [Steinem?]

Wilson:

[inaudible, listing names? 00:58:16]

Moon:

Yeah, yeah.

Wilson:

And uh, [Bella Abzug? 00:58:19]

Moon:

[Abzug?] Yeah.

Wilson:

Yeah. and uh. [Shirley Chisholm?] They were- they were all there-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

You know its- it was probably as uh some people would feel like when- if you were at the academy awards. All the biggest stars are there. And these were all the biggest in the women's movement.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

That were all there in the same building and all being sisters, with-

Moon:

-Right-

Wilson:

-everybody else.

Moon:

Have you experienced a similar sort of mood- uh moment like that after you know the-the seventies period of kind of the –you know the really the hallmark of the feminist capital and feminism and [trails off in mid specch]

Wilson:

During the campaign, for uh vice presidency of uh, [Jordene Corora? 00:59:08], [Jorden Corora?] that was as exciting [in?] when she came to San Jose and- and I was on the committee to do all these for her and, and it was uh, that same feeling of togetherness-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-that same uh, shared leadership-

Moon:

-Right.

Wilson:

Uh, approach, that we had for that. That we were so proud-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

That would- that would [inaudible 00:59:40]-

Moon:

[inaudible 00:59:40]

Wilson:

-pride. And you know later, uh when, after she was defeated, uh, we were always on the planning committee for one of the CWAR uh, annual conventions-

Moon:

Mm-hm-

Wilson:

-uh conferences and they wanted to know if they thought they could get Gloria- um [Verna Fuarra? 01:00:02] come, and I said, "I know her." And I called her, and because I had been one of the leaders that helped her in San Jose, she said, "Yes I'll come."

Moon:

Oh fabulous.

Wilson:

Yeah it was. And so I was with her again in Sacramento for that meeting, and uh-

Moon:

Ok, well that leads us to turn to the um the talking about [Seelore? (ph) 01:00:25] a little bit-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-but before I do I just wanted to- I don't know if you looked at this carefully in- in the um- in the scrapbook. But this was from November 7, 1977 when you must gone to San Jose State-

Wilson:

Uh-huh-

Moon:

Or it- it-

Wilson:

No, no no, they- this is- no that was the uh, [Terry Christianson?] taught a one 1 unit course on uh, on citizenship-

Moon:

Oh, ok.

Wilson:

And he had his pupils come to city council-

Moon:

-ok this was their re-re-reflection on city council-

Wilson:

-and- and this was their reflection on me, uh and-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

-at city council meetings that they also –eventually at the end of it they had to give their impressions of the people.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And uh-

Moon:

I thought it was kind of funny-

Wilson:

Wasn't it cute?

Moon:

It's very cute cause some people said, you know, some things like "least inquisitive" like these its just its just that-

Wilson:

-Yeah

Moon:

-typical of how students kind of respond and when you ask them to write, to review their professors, it's the same kind of thing. "Professional, pleasant, more impatient, thoughtful, receptive, encouraging" and then one person said you were cute-

Wilson:

[Laughs]

Moon:

Somebody else said "an active intelligence" [Moon laughs] Then somebody, um, said something not very nice about Janet Hayes, [laughs], "Hayes -Hayes [with?] a face lift" and I thought, "Oh my gosh, you know that kind of a-

Wilson:

-yeah-

Moon:

-a nasty comment by a student" but um, and then it said, uh "Has a WASP liberal guilt complex, overdoes it to help minorities". [Really loud laughter] Well, so I thought that-

Wilson:

-And then al- also once somebody said, "She smiles too much," or something like that-

Moon:

Oh-

Wilson:

Always smiling or something-

Moon:

Yeah, something like that, but I just thought this was really funny to read [inaudible trails off 01:02:09]-

Wilson:

-every now and then I remind [Terry Christianson] that uh, of his comment when I first ran, that you know, she- it's something like, "You [01:02:25 ensure?] my intellect" because all I did was smile all the time-

Moon:

Oh he said something like that?

Wilson:

Yeah, he said something like and I've got the [01:02:32 inaudible] He- he had to eat those words-

Moon:

-Eating those words [01:02:35 inaudible]-

Wilson:

-while yeah he ran my next campaign [Wilson laughs]-

Moon:

-Well right-

Wilson:

I mean -but when I first got on the council he thought that uh, he wasn't sure you know whether I was anything but just a happy person-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And uh-

Moon:

Now um, looking at the um, looking at the California Elected Women's Association-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-also known as CWAR-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

Right? Um there's a couple of examples in that scrapbook-

Wilson:

-Yeah, it- it actually it's a Cali- California uh- uh-

Moon:

-Elected Women's Association for Education and Research-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Ok.

Moon:

Ok, um, and so what I did was look at some of the pieces that I made from copies from some of the- the materials in your book-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-Um, and it said in here that you were actually the um- Vice- were you the Vice President of the board- you were on the board-

Wilson:

-I became the president too.

Moon:

Ok, so when did you first become involved with CWAR –you remember?

Wilson:

Mmhm, I was one of the founders.

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

Um-

Moon:

Well you can remember-

Wilson:

Yes I have a- [inaudible 01:03:41] –in my office I have a lot of stuff about CWAR I sure I could get to you.

Moon:

Ok

Wilson:

-The 25th anniversary and the uh, um, there was one- one bro-brochure or-

Moon:

[inaudible 01:03:56]

Wilson:

-or program- where the all the [flat pass presses? 01:03:58] say something-

Moon:

Oh yeah.

Wilson:

-and that would be interesting, uh 1974 uh lets see 190- excuse me 1973- December of 1973, uh, the uh, Pat- Pat Men- [let me get something?] –Pat uh, [background mumbling] –[Pat Russell?]-

Moon:

Pat Russell-

Wilson:

-Who was the president of the city council in Los Angeles. Um, we went to Puerto Rico for the League of Cities meeting-

Moon:

Mmhm-

Wilson:

-Uh, in December of 1973 and Janet Grey uh, had been involved in the league of Women Voters as well as Pat Russell –And Pat Russell knew Janet Grey from the League of Women Voters and- it's a lot of these women who were- had gotten elected –a lot lot many- uh throughout the state had come from the league experience-

Moon:

Mmhm, right.

Wilson:

And Pat Russell knew them, and Pat Russell knew Janet Grey because she'd been the president of the league in San Jose. And uh, there was going to be a meeting of a group in um, a bedroom, smoky bedroom of one of the council members who were there, ah because we were had about 8,000 people at this convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and about 200 were women-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-uh, Norm Mineta had a- had a- uh was on the program, Janet Grey was not and, Pat Russell invited Janet Grey to this meeting, of about 8 women, and Pat told me later she was irritated with Janet Grey because Janet Grey brought this new council women with her, tagging along with her. Cause Janet Grey just brought me along cause she was with me every place there, and I was the new councilmember-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-Been in there for six months and of course, Pat said much, of course, to her amazement, and she had certainly eat those words of being irritated because, I became one of the founders, and Janet Grey never even came to the second meeting-

Moon:

Oh-

Wilson:

-because I was inter- really interested in women-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-and there's some place in here that somebody said that I was the person who was the most interested in women's issues on the city council.

Moon:

Why did it start? Um, what was the um-

Wilson:

-The uh, because uh there were, they had a mission to have more women elected in California.

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And that was their mission, and uh- uh- Pat was an organizer. She really was. And she had a- we had a- a man who helped 'em when I get my uh- my book that talks about she had a man who would help her, who was an organizer-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and down in Southern California. Southern- most of the women from Southern California, and Dianne Feinstein was not there, but she eventually became one of the founders.

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

And uh, so that the um- but she and uh [Marilyn Ryan? 01:07:34] who was also on the city council. I think in uh, one of those uh-

Moon:

-In Los Angeles area?

Wilson:

-Los Angeles area, and, and so there was [someone?] we had a person from Sacramento, there was a council women from Sacramento. So it was [us? 01:07:52] but mostly of it- was South- S- Southern California-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-And the list of the founders of the months of which I was on some of the [inaudible 01:08:02] uh, would say who all they were-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-And the story is told in one of the [magazine I'll give you? 01:08:10] and so uh they were agreed to meet and organize and meet in Sacramento, for a second a meeting, and try to put together uh- she put together agenda of uh, what we needed to discuss and create- bylaws and everything including what [were names to be? 01:08:31] tried to come with some names that would make a good uh, ac- uh-

Moon:

-Acronym-

Wilson:

Acronyms, and couldn't, and so we just decided well we just say what it was-

Moon:

-Uh-huh

Wilson:

-and then we just we went to develop a way to say it.

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

And so [inaudible 01:08:47] became [CWAR?].

Moon:

So that organization took place in like 1974 following the-

Wilson:

Mm-hm, 1974-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Mm-hm, following uh, that initial meeting and there was some organizational meetings probably down in Southern California-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-And so um, so I became vocal and uh interested in- so I became eventually one of the presidents, and the vice president, and president. We had a meeting here in San Jose, uh and that Ms. [Carpenter?] came to-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-And was our speaker, and um, the uh, I guess I was uh, [I'm not sure I was president or not?] but Becky Morgan was our program chairman for that.

Moon:

Oh, ok.

Wilson:

And she was active. And she's now a founder, uh, you can -a life member uh, in CWAR. She was uh- she was never president but she was very interested in it. And she'd be on the school board in Palo Alto-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-of course school board members uh, this was not just elected to city councils-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-this would any women who was elected to anything-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Like school boards-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-city councils, supervisors, the whole works-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And uh- uh congress-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-assembly-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-any of that. And uh, [inaudible name 01:10:11] was on the, wonder if she was in congress at that point, or whether she was where she was, she became quite a [inaudible 01:10:21]. Um, and, so what we wanted to do is just what the title said, "Education and Research," the education part was to educate women on issues, so that they would be knowledgeable enough that they would be effective when they got into office.

Moon:

How did that differ from what the uh League of Women Voters' goals were, cause wasn't that their same mission, originally?

Wilson:

Uh, League of Women Voters uh, uh-

Moon:

Well there-

Wilson:

the- the- they're a debating society-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

Uh this was uh, we- we did issues that like uh, uh, that weren't the typical- the League of Women Voters looked at bills-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-they looked at the legislature and took position on them.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

What we wanted to do, what we did, is studied the uh, the plight of women in prison, and what women in prison were being trained to be. They were being trained to be housewives when they got out.

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And we did our research that said nobody wants a women for their housewife when they get out of prison.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Uh, and that was one of the differences, of course is that uh women, would take a man out prison and think they're going to make a hero out of him. But no man would marry a woman who came out of prison.

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

And uh they were [inaudible] –and so they needed some occupational training. And what we needed was to have enough research to take it to the legislature and get a bill passed.

Moon:

Ok, so you were kind of like the ground work for trying to produce-

Wilson:

-we were-

Moon:

–producing these studies to use those –that as your kind of fuel to promote legislation.

Wilson:

To promote legislation and to get women elected, so when you got elected you had your issues that you're going to deal with, and Sue, Sue, Sue uh oh my friend Sue uh [inaudible murmurs 01:12:26] -Sue [Hone?], Sue [Hone] uh was a lawyer and on the Berkeley city council.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

So right there she was one of the founders. And she had uh, an in, with people, like Carrie Brown-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And so one of the things that uh we- we created that would bring attention was that first election when uh Jerry Brown ran, and [inaudible name 01:12:58]-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-ran, and Jerry ran for governor. We called you know- as small as we were, Sue got them to come to speak before us-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-as candidates in Burlingame, I'm not uh, I think it was Burlingame, someplace up the peninsula, that should be in there-

Moon:

Yeah there was an article on Jerry Brown saying he wanted to support women and politics-

Wilson:

Mm-hm

Moon:

-in California and -I'm trying see what [inaudible murmuring 01:13:26] So um, so in looking at kinda the uh early impe- impetus for this group, the um- was there a feeling that it was a- compet- competitive with um, the National Women's Political Caucus because they were also trying to promote women in politics, but in a different way maybe-

Wilson:

-No, different way, uh, excuse me, caucus a- was local and they were- it- we never- it was just a different emphasis to go through- we were actually uh, uh, we took in you know school boards, the city clerks, anybody, the judges-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

Anybody. And I don't think the caucus had that same focus.

Moon:

Ok, so the focus was your's was more broad based-

Wilson:

-broad based and, and while we- we did this to get Jerry Brown as a candidate to come to us-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Because see the caucus was also just for women-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-but like we were going to endorse uh that for governor, as a body and, and what we were doing was uh that, we weren't going to endorse, but we were going to have them there and give them a debate, and the idea that this fledgling group of women could command these uh gubernatorial candidates to come was a coup.

Moon:

Right, it was total-

Wilson:

It was an absolute coup-

Moon:

Yeah absolutely.

Wilson:

And uh really just had the greatest time. And Sue Cone- Hone made that happen H-O-N-E. Sue Hone made that happen. She was a- and Pat Russell because Pat Russell was president of the uh San Jose City Council and that was uh, a big deal. And so Jerry Brown you know with those two, it was worth his time-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-and uh, uh to do that. So that uh, and that was an exciting meeting that uh-

Moon:

It must have been very exciting-

Wilson:

-It was, it was just that [it was this?]- the who place was buzzing because we had press there-

Moon:

How many, how many members would you say that you had at that point? Do you reca- um, can you give an estimate on that or? It must be in the-

Wa- was that '77?

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Um-

Moon:

Oh, with uh Jerry Brown?

Wilson:

Yeah, was that-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Yeah, that's '77 where you in that.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Um, I don't would we- I don't know- that would I have to really think- I don't-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-we didn't have a hundred people.

Moon:

Yeah. It wasn't it a big group at that point.

Wilson:

It wasn't a big group at that point, maybe we were- could of- could have been fifty?

Moon:

What would you say that the highest membership was at that uh- in that group that- no idea?

Wilson:

No idea. I have some membershi- I had some membership books uh-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

-[Instead?]. They- history of CWAR would have that probably-

Moon:

-Yeah, yeah, I'm sure we could- I could get [inaudible 01:16:23].

Wilson:

And actually Jennifer probably has some [that?] 'cause worked for CWAR-

Moon:

-Right.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

Right, uh, well, I think that you know it reminds me of this other organization that formed, um, called, it was called the owls, and it was a group that formed-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-you know in the early, in the 1920's-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-um, to help women who were actually elected to office-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-um, in the legis- in different state legislatures to form kind of a support group and they used that group as a mechanism to help women candidates and to- you really because they were so ostracized in politics in the-

at- at that time period, but there seems to be a similar sort you know of replication of some of those kinds of organizations when women actually- It think- It seems like women kind of come and go out of politics-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-perhaps since the 1920's, though there are certainly women who have been represented in different forms of government throughout, you know, that time period, but it seems like the whole, you know, processing of learning- uh, there's kind of a relearning process that seems to take place between the modern feminist movement to what was happening in the 1920's and 30's.

Wilson:

Oh, yeah, and the one of the things that we found out was we were the first in the United States-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

-to form, and so we eventually developed a packet-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

To send to women in other states-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and we, we went to uh, and the uh, got involved with the- the branch of the [01:18:02 inaudible]

Washington, D.C. [01:18:03 inaudible] women, for women.

Moon:

In Washington D.C.?

Wilson:

In Washington D.C. university, uh [01:18:11 inaudible]

Moon:

Uh, I can't think of the women's [01:18:17 inaudible]-

Wilson:

Or is it they're organization that uh, oh shoot-

Moon:

There's uh, there was the-

Wilson:

-an institute-

Moon:

-there's a gene- uh the genera- um general federation of women's clubs-

Wilson:

No, no, no. No, no. Um, no its part of a- part of a university where there's part of Georgetown, university.

Moon:

Don't know.

Wilson:

Or uh, uh I'll have ta' think about that-

Moon:

Oh I don't know, we'll have to think about that-

Wilson:

I'll think about that, uh, but uh. Cause they're still- they're still active in they still get quoted and they uh have uh session that's uh-

Moon:

Its not the uh, Women's joint congressional?

Wilson:

Mm-mm, Mm-mm.

Moon:

Well we'll have to do some research and we'll have to think about- [inaudible 01:19:16]

Wilson:

I'll have to think about that. [01:19:20 inaudible] The, the other thing we, we were doing uh, is that which made uh- we wanted the gov- gubernatorial candidates to appear before us because we had a request of them-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-We wanted them to appoint more women in the commissions and boards-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-at the state level, and so we got uh- we wanted to have access to their appointment secretaries-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

-once they were elected, and so we got that access with Jerry Brown. And indeed uh, he- he was turning to us and we became a resource of women- we wanted our women throughout the state to- to apply for these jobs, and so, you know, we would push them into them to say, "Yes go in and apply for these jobs". And we- we were searching out women who were very very competent-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and who fit those jobs, and send [them?] them, supporting them at the- with the appointment secretary, and we had an in with them.

Moon:

Now did you work at the same time collaboratively with the NWPC to endorse those candidate- those women who became candidates in those situations, or was that not or was it a separate sort of-

Wilson:

I think that was a separate sort of- I think that the –the caucus were local-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

and we were statewide.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

Uh, we just purely were statewide-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

-And there was no local-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-to us, there, now they have some chapters now I think that they find. There was always a tug between whether we should have chapters in the large metropolitan areas-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and uh would that beneficial to our membership, and so I think there's a chapter now in San Diego, a chapter in the Los Angeles area.

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

Um, and they're organizing that right now.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And-

Moon:

-So its still a very active organization-

Wilson:

Oh yes.

Moon:

-and its certainly um hasn't um you know- some of the- when I was talking to Linda, we thought we were talking about um, her involvement with some of these-

Wilson:

Mm-hm

Moon:

-women's organizations and she said that um she didn't really become involved with the um NWCC, but that um, but she also felt that it wasn't a really viable organization anymore in the same way

Wilson:

[inaudible 01:21:34]

Moon:

-that it once had, but this organization CWAR is still very functioning active organization.

Wilson:

They, they, they're are smart politically, always have been, uh, you know when we were doing the- the prison, you know we had a judge, uh, ah, who was in fact part of our- uh Judge [Marie Collins?], who was one of the first women judges, and so she's the one who- and was very concerned about the women in prison. And she was on our board, uh, from uh-

Moon:

-from L.A.?

Wilson:

From L.A. area, yeah, no she's from Oakland.

Moon:

Oh from Oakland?

Wilson:

Yeah, Marie Collins, Jerry did Oakland, Piedmont and [inaudible 01:22:18]. And Yvonne Burke was the congresswomen, and um- but when we uh- we were always statewide and- the women who were- seemed like more committed to statewide advancement of- uh the women and women of color and all that-

Moon:

Ah.

Wilson:

-and so- have never had many women from San Jose become involved it-

Moon:

Oh-

Wilson:

-who were on the- on the uh- couldn't get them involved in it-

Moon:

I wonder why?

Wilson:

I don't know they- they liked local things-

Moon:

Oh-

Wilson:

-in here, they- I don- I don't know uh, they never could see the benefit of it because uh there was a- a real benefit to it like in the- one reason that [as I said?] they were smart- they uh- began to get the sponsorship- PG&E-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-and all those groups and so we would write- and when we have conferences where they can meet all the women who are in the- we have uh- this one coming up in August-

Moon:

Oh right- the um-

Wilson:

-conference-

Moon:

Co- is it the breakfast one?

Wilson:

No no, this is a conference- two conference in Sacramento-

Moon:

Oh

Wilson:

Its sponsored all these large industries-

Moon:

Uh-huh

Wilson:

-so we have money, uh, as an organization, and uh, we went out- deliberately to those organizations that make impacts on legislation-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And we wanted them know they had to come to us-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And uh, what we did is we- we established bragging rights before we were even an organization that had anything to brag about [Wilson and Moon laugh]- that- we acted as if we were important-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and we were.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And that's just one of the keys of uh- self-confidence that they uh- the leaders had-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-when they were-

Moon:

-first formed-

Wilson:

-when they first formed-

Moon:

Are you still active with CWAR?

Wilson:

Um, occasionally, you know like when we- we- they had their anniversary in uh last December we all met up there-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

The two of us who were founders-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And Pat Russell and Sue Holland, and I and uh, um Marilyn Ryan and uh- uh- they were-

Moon:

Did Becky [Morken?] go to that also?

Wilson:

No she didn't, she wasn't- she wasn't a charter member-

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

Yeah. She just, she was- she was a member-

Moon:

Ok-

Wilson:

-and she she she liked it and of course then she eventually became a senator-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and was a member, but so she's uh, just cared enough about them to be a lifemember-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-and um-

Moon:

-I've tried to contact her and um she hasn't responded ever to anything I've sent her- I don't know if its because she doesn't want to be interviewed or-

Wilson:

No she's probably uh- she just has more on her plate you know, she's got her own foundation, she's working with- she works for many pregnancy programs-

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

-and uh, she has uh- I think I was saying been living in with her grandchildren or children in the [inaudible 01:25:40] she's probably been interviewed a thousand times-

Moon:

Yeah I'm sure she has-

Wilson:

-and then her story-

Moon:

She probably thinks she doesn't have anything else to say maybe-

Wilson:

Well that does, she probably figures you can go read it from some place else its been written-

Moon:

Yeah probably.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

[inaudible 01:25:57]

Wilson:

[inaudible 01:26:00] she's- she's a very wealthy women-

Moon:

Oh I didn't know that-

Wilson:

She's the wife of Jim Morgan who was Applied Materials period.

Moon:

Oh really-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

And uh he of course- they created that fortune at Applied Materials- they worked hard- they came here from uh- uh- New England- she's a thrifty New England farm girl-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And went to Cornell and met I think that they met or they knew each other there and then they married and uh uh eventually she uh started working for a bank in uh- in Palo Alto. And Jim- you know- helped created Applied Materials-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and he was CEO and uh manned the whole thing, and so uh, so they're very very wealthy and she has- they have their own foundation-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and, and its um- she always uh- she re- she gave me money for the history books we wanted [inaudible 01:27:00]-

Moon:

Oh she did?

Wilson:

Yeah. I- I've talk with her and we see each other occasionally- uh- cause I was a person- see I was the one who fought for her at the caucus-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-so that I was always on her side, and-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-it didn't make a difference that she's Republican and I was a Democrat-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-and we worked together- she was- served on the board of supervisors- and then she went to the senate and I could always you know- work with her.

Moon:

Are there any really memorable stories that you have thought about in reference to your work with CWAR and when you had gone to either you know the first couple of meetings or you know in some of the you know you work as president and vice president for that organization that you think would like to share? I know Jennifer is going to ask you that question, [laughs] this will give you a chance to think about it [more?]

Wilson:

I'll have to- yes- um- the- what was a lot of fun uh with uh the organization was during those early years we really had what to call- what we did share with the caucus- I'll take it back it with that- [National?] and political caucus- was that putting on workshops for women who aren't even going to run-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and uh it was fun to uh work with Mary [Stanley?] who she's talking about-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-is Republican. And National Women's Caucus down in Fresno, and she and I conducted a workshop on finance-

Moon:

Mary Stanley?

Wilson:

Mary Stanley. And uh, we uh- she's just a feisty women [Moon laughs]- redhead feisty and she sold button-campaign buttons at the [inaudible 01:28:43] that was one of her come in- come in- so she sold buttons but she also knew how to raise money and she was active in the State Republican party until they kicked her out- I say its because she's uh women's liber- [Moon and Wilson laugh] and uh so that we would uh- I was always [gone?] with Mary that would put on a campaigns-

Moon:

[Uh?]

Wilson:

-to- teach women how to raise money because that was- women shied from raising money and I know one time we were talking uh women and running, and one workshop I was telling you about power, and women

were afraid to say “I want the power” to create the change, they wanted to stay shied away from that, “Well I don’t want do this cause of power, I want to do this for the good of community” and I said, “If you don’t have power and [won’t] acknowledge your power you can’t do anything for your community.” And I- I tried to help people understand that having power was not a dirty word-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Or wanting power was not a dirty word or not a dirty concept. Because that- women are socialized not to want power.

Moon:

Right. Now were these workshops mostly um situations where you and Mary or whoever was part of it was actually lecturing to the audience, or was it more interactive where you were doing kind of like modeling sort of you know, things.

Wilson:

It- it was one [inaudible 01:30:18] small workshops that the uh-uh whole big agenda and you choose one or two or three or four workshops so you they were smaller groups at the state level. And so you would uh- you know you’d- you be in a workshop and would be we talked you trying mixed [in its?] questions and answers-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

-so it was interactive and that’s why you know I find out from women that they didn’t- they were not seeking power-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And- and I would- then we'd start the discussion of "What do you mean you're not seeking power?" You says I want to see the power [inaudible 01:30:50] get the job.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Yeah and I- you know- and I talk about how the seat carries power with it- and its what you do with the seat, that you occupy-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-is whether you can effect any change or not-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And-

Moon:

-You say that a couple of times in some of the articles that I've read in this uh-

Wilson:

[Don Tudor? 01:31:09]-

Moon:

-this guy-

Wilson:

Ok-

Moon:

-which I is uh really powerful um way of looking at you know, why you have get into-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-politics [inaudible 01:31:17]

Wilson:

Yes. Yeah. It-it- and its just so- to me its basic. And what I see where politicians get it wrong is when they think they have the power.

Moon:

Hmm.

Wilson:

And- and Dave Runyon thought he had the power-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-he didn't, his seat had the power-

Moon:

Right-

Wilson:

-and he was occupying that seat and he did nothing but destroy himself in it, and- and- maybe it's the concept that- is usual- but I- I- it just makes such good sense to me I guess.

Moon:

Yeah. I think that's really an- obviously that something that women need- still to-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-be able all sorts of workshops to help inspire them to want to become politically active- um, in, a number of different ways. Um but in- in reflecting on the work that you did tha-that and the success really- the success story CWAR as an organization and a continuing [and?] viable- how have the league of city meetings changed since the time of 1973 to lets say the '80's or '90's because obviously women were a very small minority in that organizatio- in um- in the '70's so c- do you have any uh re- uh ideas of how things have changed since then, in that?

Wilson:

Uh, I can remember when the first women president of the league uh, lets sees, and of the state league uh, uh [she?] legislate and uh, Helen [Putnam?] uh was the uh, I think became the president of the California League of Cities-

Moon:

[Mm-hm]

Wilson:

-was the first women- if I'm not mistaken- who was also a member of CWAR. Ah- she was the first mayor in uh Petaluma and put in the Petaluma- uh planned growth ordinance that uh- Helen Putnam was a formidable women and and- and then there was a women from Seattle who rose to the presidency and and the- the League of California Cities was uh the- a lot always a lot campaigning for those top offices-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and uh, uh, and it had been a good 'ol boys club- uh, for a long time-

Moon:

Mm-mm.

Wilson:

But the women set out to be- to be known- those who got involved in chairs at the uh- uh league- uh were- were assertive women who were not afraid to use the power they had-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and uh I chaired the uh, uh, for the League of Cities I chaired the uh criminal ju-justice and uh the justice committee, which dealt with uh- you know, justice and and I and I- chaired the sub-committee one year too for juvenile justice and that was- they were very very informative- uh-

Moon:

-So was- so was it a short per-period of time in which that organization kind of moved from the good old boy sort of network to the you know good old mixture of the gals and the-

Wilson:

Um- well you see I left it in '78 because then [inaudible 01:34:32]-

Moon:

Oh right, cause you were-

Wilson:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, in fact, uh yeah it- [inaudible 01:34:36] moved up with the county supervisors- uh-

Moon:

[Really?]

Wilson:

-and um- I think part of the uh- you know part of the success of women in the league are in the California supervisors- I mean the National Supervisors Association, was the fact is that San Jose- the major cities had lobbyists and the s- the lobbyists would push their uh- country supervisor and to get uh on these committees and to [ride?] into chairs.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And the same thing with the League of Cities is that our lobbyists in Washington, really pushed to make Norm Mineta the president of the- and get him in positions of- on the panels that were [inaudible 01:35:23]-

Moon:

-and those were the lobbyists- there were lobbyists for the c- League of Cities-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-organizations and for the county board of supervisors-

Wilson:

-and for the city-

Moon:

-and for the city itself-

Wilson:

Yes-

Moon:

-and the one um young women who was appointed- oh what was her name?

Wilson:

Susie Owen?

Moon:

Yes. She was appointed like at age 34 and was working as a lobbyist and had come out in San Jose, um you know, political science program-

Wilson:

-but she came out of my office-

Moon:

Oh! Ok that's right cause she worked- she also worked for Janet Grey also-

Wilson:

-Uh-huh-

-right? Right.

Wilson:

-we had- we had to share her and she worked for us and then she went into the uh, the- the local lobbying that- w-with abortion people-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-then she went to Washington.

Moon:

Yeah. So it's interesting that she- you know-

Wilson:

-and she's still my friend-

Moon:

-yeah I bet she is. I mean she must have had some interesting experiences-

Wilson:

-oh she does.

Moon:

[01:36:14 inaudible] get to talk to [over??] her-

Wilson:

She really would be-

Moon:

-but, I was just thinking about that in- in context to kind of thinking about the- the terminology of the-

Wilson:

-in fact she was in San Jose we- did you go to see- hear Terry Smith speak?

Moon:

No I didn't.

Wilson:

Because Terry Smith is her husband.

Moon:

Oh!

Wilson:

-and so sh- Susie came down and we had dinner- we had our dinner-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-over at [Mona Linstz's??] house, across- across from [San Jose 01:36:37]

Moon:

Where did they live? Did they live in-

Wilson:

-they live in uh- um- uh- Chesapeake Bay-

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

-at uh- and right around from Don Edwards-

Moon:

-Oh ok-

Wilson:

-and Norm Mineta on the other side of the bay, so uh, Susie [Elving??] was chief of staff of Norm Mineta-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

-in Washington and then she went over in the Commerce department when he was Commerce [inaudible 01:36:58]. Susie [Elving] was in the uh Jimmy Carter's administration, and that's why I got to go to uh- so much-

Moon:

-Oh with the Carter-

Wilson:

-With the Carter, uh-huh-

Moon:

Uh-huh, yeah.

Wilson:

Yeah, I got uh, I got to ride in the- in the presidential limousine-

Moon:

Oh really! How fun!

Wilson:

[inaudible 01:37:14] yeah got to- to Kennedy Center-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-and soon as we- soon as we check out the limousine if- if Jimmy wasn't using it- got invited to the um- uh- Iceland- uh no, president gives all these artistic awards-

Moon:

-Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-like [Loretta Lynn?] and for her mother education-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-[involving?] her mother and I got to meet both of them at the Whitehouse, you know things like that that were just- Susie [Elving]-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Yeah, I just uh, arranged that.

Moon:

Now was she at that Don Edwards reception this last Spring?

Wilson:

Well that's what I'm talking about-

Moon:

-That's- well she was there right?

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

I don't- I think I might have met her- cause I only- I wasn't able to stay for the talk- I had to- but I [can't get the notes? 01:37:57] she left on-

Wilson:

Oh ok, yeah, she was at the reception, yeah-

Moon:

-and I think maybe I met her-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-cause she would be really interesting-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-to talk to.

Wilson:

Yeah, she would be.

Moon:

[Yeah ok?]

Wilson:

Uh, I have her phone number, she'd probably talk to you-

Moon:

Ok-

Wilson:

-Cause she was involved in the National Women's Ca- Caucus, with Jane Decker and those are all still her friends- Jane and-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

-Pete Stone and and and um, um and I have her phone number-

Moon:

Oh Ok

Wilson:

Um-

Moon-

[I'll] get that contact information [inaudible 01:38:25]

Wilson:

Probably, and I've got her email, she emails, very well-

Moon:

Oh alright.

Moon:

Well-

Wilson:

-Anyway, so she married Terry Smith-

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

-and she- she's- she's heavyset now-

Moon:

-Ok-

she was slender-

Moon:

Uh-huh when she was younger-

Wilson:

When she was younger and she's heavysset and uh, blondish brown- um-

Moon:

Yeah-

Wilson:

-blondish uh- some gray [in there?]-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

Yeah longer hair though she's always wearing longer hair-

Moon:

Ok-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

She would be- I think she would be good-

Wilson:

-She would be-

Moon:

-to interview. It shows you how um local politics- you know- really has a- you know national and sometimes international influence on- you know- public policy-

Wilson:

Mm-hm-

Moon:

-and um that the policies that are made in Washington- you know- are made specifically to reinforce- you know whatever policies are being already created-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-you know- within a local region or within that state-

Wilson:

-you know what uh- good 'ol uh- our Boston poll said, "All politics is local."

Moon:

Yeah, yeah exactly, well that's one of um, my- the person that I've been doing all this research on, she said the same thing in-

Wilson:

Mm-hm-

Moon:

-you know in the- in nineteen forty se- se- seven or eight to Alice Paul reminding her that she didn't think she was doing a very good-

Wilson:

Mm-hm

Moon:

-job trying to organize women, but I- I think it is- it is totally um uh local and um its very interesting

Wilson:

Mm-hm- Mm-hm.

Moon:

-at the same time um. But I think we talked a lot about these two different organizations and I think if there is any other thoughts that you have later on we can- you know- maybe-

Wilson:

Mm-hm

Moon:

Um go back to some of that. Um I'm sure that Jennifer is going to ask you um more questions about- you know- wanting to you talk about specific individuals and stories-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-I'm sure she'll be interested in the story between- with you and um Mary.

Wilson:

Mary [Stanley?]

Moon:

Mary [Stanley?]-

Wilson:

Yeah, Mm-hm.

Moon:

-particularly-

Wilson:

Yeah I was going to finish on that- that- that partic- last particular workshop that we did together-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-was when Liz um- no, Richard's son uh from Texas uh-

Moon:

Oh-

Wilson:

-uh not Liz-

Moon:

-is the Governor?

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-[which is?] oh Ann!

Wilson:

Ann Richards.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

Ann Richards was running for Governor-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-and so we were talking about finance and I said, "Alright," I said "Heres [what?] do you believe in?" And women in politics, uh "We need to pass the hat for Ann Richards in Texas, and uh write checks to her." And so we got those that- [then?] we got the whole uh- uh- not the convention but the whole meeting uh involved where you- we got the people from the workshops write checks for Ann Richards-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and we wrote checks to Ann Richards and uh, sent it from- from Sacramento- you know-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-to her- and of course because sh- I still get uh mail from Ann Richards-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-because of that-

Moon:

Oh really?

Wilson:

Yeah, and so we did- we selected-

Moon:

-She was quite a- she was quite a character-

Wilson:

-Oh she was she was wonderful. And um- we got- we got- we got good amount of money that we sent her-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-from California- from our own meeting. So that was- that's- I remember that particular workshop because of that-

Moon:

Were there particular women that you worked with that you felt like you really had a bond of sisterhood with, were you didn't necessarily feel that with maybe some of the other women that you might have been working on committees with [inaudible 01:41:49]?

Wilson:

I think all- all- yeah- ah- that's where you know Pat Russell and Sue Hone were particularly- they were there at that first meeting and- and I- I admired them greatly-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

-and then that's uh- just thought that they were really good and uh- to me they had much on the ball than I did-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and so I felt like I was learning from them and- but most any of them the women that I worked with- whether they were large cities or from uh- supervisors of small counties- uh, they were all so vital, I was just- just- uh- they were none of them were shirkers they were all just policy makers and they were all uh proud to be a part of the sisterhood and so you just felt bonded with all of them. And, I never could understand why people uh, other elected officials, missed out on that opportunity like in San Jose- to- to really become a part of an organization that they could learn from and they could feel comfortable in and uh, you I think Linda [Lazat?] would of felt comfortable with those women and even grown even more than [past?] she had, if she'd just taken advantage of that.

Moon:

Yeah, she said she was a member of um DAWN-

Wilson:

DAWN- yeah DAWN is the- DAWN has taken the place of the caucus-

Moon:

-in um- yeah-

Wilson:

-San Jose—

Moon:

-she also said that she thought DAWN was kind of a [fledgling?] organization too, and she was upset with them because they had- weren't going to endorse- they were going to endorse her as well as a man and she felt that it's a women's organization, that they should be spon-

Wilson:

Yeah-

Moon:

-sponsoring the women-

Wilson:

-but you see but that- that's not their bottom line-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-in a caucus uh, their bottom line can elect women-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And DAWN says it is but they uh- you know they deviated-

Moon:

Uh-huh-

Wilson:

And uh- and frankly Linda [Lazat?] had a right- she- right to be upset-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-but uh she- they let uh- Ken worked- you see that's were Ken worked that uh- and he'd become um- a member when they- they formed [inaudible 01:43:56]-

Moon:

Ken [Yager?]

Wilson:

Yeah. There were always men and women there-

Moon:

Mm-hm

Wilson:

-but it was uh a women's organization-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-and, and she'd been a president, I'm sure of it I think.

Moon:

I think so too.

Wilson:

Yeah. And and so it was a same situation with Becky Morgan- Becky Morgan was in the wrong party and it cost her -Democratic Jim Jackson was running you know.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And uh-

Moon:

Well, its just, you know, it's the inner the politics of-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-some of these organizations that's as interesting as the politics themselves I think.

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

She also, had mentioned that she felt that women are really tough- you know she- she finds it easier to work with male politicians on some level because she thinks women are really tough to form and they're –are- are very very competitive against each other- that was one of the things she had mentioned. Which, I'm sure there's some truth to that.

Wilson:

I don't think- I never found that to be true.

Moon:

You never found that to be true?

Wilson:

What I would say is that what Linda's found out is that on 11 people, they're all competitive.

Moon:

Right. [Laughs]

Wilson:

And- and- you're trying- all trying [inaudible 01:45:03] its almost impossible situation to try to get your name out there- you know like Judy [Cherko?] who says, you know, cause everybody said, "Well she never says anything," she says, "You never print what I say."

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

And uh that's true. You see the loud mouth [inaudible 01:45:20] [last year?] is the Chuck [(ph).Reed?], [Cortez?] and Linda and Cindy- you're just- your fighting for attention all the time, so you're not going to give an ounce. And uh, she's more forgiving of the men than she is women because uh, certainly [Cortez?] and- and Chuck [Reed?] uh, are less difficult- uh more difficult than [(ph) Nurocampis] or-or- or [(ph) Pile]-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

I just [01:45:56 inaudible] off hand, but she probably expects its her due.

Moon:

Yeah, I would expect so too, a little bit.

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

So it is interesting to hear different- you know kind of- and she's like in the middle of the politicking still-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-too-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-so she doesn't have the reflective- the reflection is different when you're in the middle of it versus when you've not been in it for a long time.

Wilson:

And- and if you- ya' know and to be- be fair to her, uh, what she's forgetting is the animosity between she and Ron Gonzales-

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

-uh, was like, was the most, of anything that she had to deal with-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-and because he was just- he just was not going to appoint her to anything and she had to fight to get there-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-and so she became known as a fighter and became more abrasive.

Moon:

Yeah. Well we didn't talk about Gonzales at all because it was right after the- you know- indictment so um [laughs] it wasn't prudent-

Wilson:

No.

Moon:

-to even talk about that at all and so and- maybe as a future point I'll talk to her about it.

Wilson:

Yeah. And- and- what you- you can say- its- I because I wouldn't want her to se- be published that I thought that she was being unfair to women, cause I don't think that's-

Moon:

Oh are you- yeah-

Wilson:

But- but-

Moon:

I don't think she's trying to be unfair to women necessarily, I think that- she's just-

Wilson:

That's her perception-

Moon:

Yeah

Wilson:

-because of where she is but-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-but in truth of the matter is that there more women on the council for her to be competitive with and she- and uh, but when she was first on the council, you know she came to me for advice because I'd- I'd worked on her campaign and then in part of her finance committee [inaudible 01:47:40] write a check to her-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and supported her wholeheartedly. And so after her election- and then Ron was uh- she was on the council and Ron was just completely ignoring her and would ignore her not call on her and uh so she came to me and I said, "Linda, you have to call him on it. You're going to say to him, in a loud voice, uh, 'This is the third I've had my light on and are you going to call on me or not?'" And I said, "If you confront him, with it, he'll start being nicer because he doesn't like that confrontation- it makes look like an unfair mayor." And so uh, so I said so "You have to do it-"

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

"-do you really want to say something?" And so she did.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

And you know what, then he started calling on her, and so when he uh- when he cut her off going to have to say, "Mr. Mayor I wasn't finished!" [Moon and Wilson laugh] And so I probably helped her become abrasive in the-

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

-in the eyes of some people. But uh- and so she-

Moon:

[inaudible 01:48:46]

Wilson:

-she really- she was struggling because she was trying to be a cooperative member.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

A new member.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And it wasn't working cause he [inaudible 01:48:53] he was being a dictator.

Moon:

Yeah. The other thing she mentioned that I thought was interesting she said that- you know one of e- the best places to start to get involved in local politics is through the planning commission-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-and she said because that's where she learned everything about local government was through the planning commission and so she really thought that that was a real positive place for new candidates to start if they were going to do that, and I was just curious if you thought that that was also-

Wilson:

I think that's true, the planning commission is the most powerful commission.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

When I uh was first approached to uh run and they said uh, uh, I should go on the commission, and uh, so I should go on this commission and that commission. Of course it wasn't- the timing was wrong to go on the planning commission-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-but I- what I did is I- I- I read the minutes of some of the commissions and I said, "Nah I don't want to do that because they don't do anything." And was a waste of my time and I know when the YWCA I was with on the [01:49:58 inaudible]-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and we talked about city commissions and we investigated them, and- and- they just weren't doing anything like they were doing. [I'm not?] going to even waste my time I didn't want to fool with that. Before I was involved in politics and so I saw no reason to change that when I got involved- I did- I noticed I was a- became a member of the status of women commission.

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

Cause just a- a new commission that I got on-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

- I was running, cause I really had not been on that commission a long time to do much. But- but most of the commissions at the city do not give you a springboard for politics. You can get the springboard for politics on the school board as Madison did-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-or- and I wasn't in to school board when they told something instead, "You've never been involved in politics you can run for the school board," and I said, "I'm not interested in school board I'm interested in city council." [Wilson and Moon laugh] And and Earl [Crandel?] who was the uh superintendent of schools that I had worked with on the uh citizen review- [charter?] review- citizen review committee of the schools, uh when I went to him for his endorsement and he uh, he was uh on the uh assembly at that point, and he told me I should run the- the um- run for the school board I said, "Not interested in the school board."

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

I [want?] city council so I guess I'll just run for council, you don't want support me ok. [Moon and Wilson laugh]

Moon:

Well you won so [inaudible 01:51:27]

Wilson:

But um, so the planning commission is really the only plan- the airport commission-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-is another powerful commission.

Moon:

Janet is on that commission I think right now, or she's working some sort of-

Wilson:

No, she's on the citizens committee-

Moon:

Oh on the citizens-

Wilson:

-opposed to- opposed to the airport-

Moon:

Right ok.

Wilson:

-the noi- uh the-

Moon:

Now Janet though did stir-

Wilson:

Janet Grey-

Moon:

Janet Grey I know- Janet Grey did start on the planning commission though I believe-

Wilson:

No. She started on the redevelopment agency.

Moon:

Redevelopment ok. Alright.

Wilson:

Yeah. She was on the redevelopment agency. And she said she got involved in running for city counselor because uh, they were turned down for a stop light-

Moon:

Right, that's what she said.

Wilson:

Yeah yeah and-

Moon:

That kind of sounds s- like a simple story I wonder.

Wilson:

Ya- ya- probably true Janet Grey is an impulsive person [Moon laughs]. Uh but uh-

Moon:

Well she always tells that story. It's like uh she doesn't um- when iner-iner-interviewing her she's much more um, she- she tells kind of the same stories you know- she has like her kind of script I think-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-of- you know- how she responds and um-

Wilson:

Uh she probably tells the fan story-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And uh the incident where uh- interesting there's in here the uh when we were uh, the YW had a women's conference and uh, the um, she was the keynote speaker-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-and their whole speech were uh- were uh, chip on the shoulder type of thing-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

And you see that's where you know cause she had to battle the chip off- and like c-chip off the shoulder uh- you know its uh- and I'm reading it and you know that's Janet Grey-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

She's just uh, she's a fighter-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

But she's a fighter in a- in a weird sort of way.

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

She did, uh show that uh, uh, so yeah she has a set pattern in the s-same-

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

-Things as she did-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

And- and she really didn't do anything for women's issues-

Moon:

Mm-hm. Yeah that's-

Wilson:

She was a [capitalist?]- feminist capital of the world.

Moon:

Right, and to-to help launch other women by- that's what she says, you know-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

-so I'm not sure that that's actually-

Wilson:

No. She- she- she did want- she did want- ah- ah- another women on the council-

Moon:

-and but she kinda signed her friend Pat to see if [he?] would do something about it and Pat did-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-Janet Grey didn't and then Janet Grey wasn't at all sure that I was uh assertive enough-

Moon:

Uh-huh.

Wilson:

-and spoke loudly enough to be on the council. And- but she supported me and she gave me her endorsement but during the cam- she says she's going to help to campaign raise money and so she did uh I meet one [lunch?] with her then she went to Paris for the month right before the election.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

So she wasn't here-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-to- to really help me-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-when it- when it got down and dirty so that that's uh- but she- she did put the mo- motion ru- uh started with- and Pat [(ph) Shelfin] was one who uh really look for it for me and uh went for a women candidate.

Moon:

It see- I- one of the things I'm thinking about is that maybe you know I don't want diminish any her role

Wilson:

No.

Moon:

-in any way in looking at her role in politics and- and women in politics and what not in San Jose but I think one of things that she seems to be good at is you know capturing the theme of the feminist capital even though I'm not sure that I would really um define her work as really "Feminist"-

Wilson:

She's not feminist-

Moon:

-and I'm not sure that she actually would define herself

Wilson:

No she wouldn't.

Moon:

-as a feminist either and I- in fact I don't think she did in the interview I had with her but um-

Wilson:

No she doesn't.

Moon:

She doesn't and yet she uses that as kind of a -you know- publicity sort of stunt [inaudible 01:55:26]-

Wilson:

She is great on publicity-

Moon:

Yeah so that was really a skill she had was using that publicity but necessarily being reflective and there were other women like yourself -you know- or Leona Edwards-

Wilson:

[Inaudible 01:55:38] [Ricky Morgan?] uh- uh- but here is uh- uh-

Moon:

She also-

Wilson:

Oh here it is [the sound of paper being pull out] [this is?] -here this is "Mayor suggests Alice [(ph) Dusaday?]" uh " 'Alice Dusaday out to be renamed Alice Does-day because we've come a long way' Janet Grey Hayes announced Friday. An' a the National Women's- uh- in-in uh- National Organization of Women will sponsor Alice [Dusaday?]. Asking women to refuse to go to work- the purpose of women are vital to society." They say, "S-She would give the idea only limited support, because I fear it could jeopardize the livelihood of some women who must work to support themselves and their families."

Moon:

Mm-hm.

Wilson:

“Uh she cited uh, [Geraldine Steinburg?] and grand jury former [Dale Hill?] and herself as women who have made progress in government. Uh then she- mayor came as statement issued by her office she’s be touring Russia on October- October the 29th. Councilwomen Susan Wilson the only other women on the city council said she supports Alice [Dusaday?] and plans to speak at a noon rally in St. James Park on October 29.”

[Moon and Wilson laugh]

Moon:

What’s the date of that? That’s from the Mercury News?

Wilson:

Yeah, October 18th, 1975.

Moon:

Ok.

Wilson:

And then- then- “Don’t even smile today women Alice doesn’t.”

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

And then I uh then I marked uh, it said Janet Grey was going to be a speaker but she wasn’t, she wasn’t there at all, and neither did Leona [inaudible 01:57:17] they announced uh they were going to be there, Leona wasn’t there, nobody showed but me.

Moon:

Oh.

Wilson:

And uh that’s why I’m quoting- well other women showed but no more- no other elected official. And then its talked- and I talked about uh uh amazing so many women have survived finding out that the [medians?]

salary for women in Santa Clara County in 1970 was 6, 445 dollars while for men it was 12, 311 dollars.

And- and that one third of the working women in this county earned less than poverty level salaries. She says her challenge is to work to change laws that discriminate against women in such fields as housing, tax credit, and the labor market. [Then this for life?] uh da-da-da-da-da no that's- that's what I said that day.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

Uh.

Moon:

So do you think the reason why they didn't like Leona and maybe um Janet Grey the reason they didn't support that um kind of you know Alice [Dusaday] kind of thing was because that they thought it would look bad for them politically?

Wilson:

I think Leona was uh in the assembly and she couldn't get there that day-

Moon:

Oh ok.

Wilson:

-it was on a Thursday.

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

I looked at uh- I looked back twice she wasn't there when she was listening, but that was a pattern people do still -you know- yes yes I'll be there so you get your name in the paper and never show.

Moon:

-and never show up-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

[inaudible 01:58:43]

Wilson:

But uh- but knowing her she had an excuse and Janet Grey was- was not going to be there, but she allowed her name to be put in the newspaper-

Moon:

Right.

Wilson:

-but somewhere or another-

Moon:

Ok. Well I think there's-

Wilson:

Rena- Rena Rosen- [(ph) Rena Rosenberg] was there of course.

Moon:

She was there, now where is Rena?

Wilson:

Mr. [Haggler?]

Moon:

Do know wha- where Rena is?

Wilson:

She would- would be in Palo Alto if she's still- you know and there's uh this women in Palo Alto who was uh part of the pay equity over in the county and uh, that uh, that committee and I've got one of my friends

down in- in uh- uh- she lives in Morgan Hill and she works for the uh bankruptcy court she's an attorney and she would be a good person, she was on that uh committee and I can't think of her name.

Moon:

Oh ok. Well um.

Wilson:

You know get [them?] pay equity stuff.

Moon:

Yeah I have a couple of other people Joan [Dos?]-

Wilson:

Joan yes.

Moon:

-and Joan [Goderd?]

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

But I talked to both of them and probably will interview them at some point and Joan [Goderd] was very involved with the pay equity stuff-

Wilson:

Mm-hm. Yes- yes-.

Moon:

-and the union work-

Wilson:

Yes.

Moon:

-she did a lot of union work

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

I think she'll be interesting to talk to about that. Ok-

Wilson:

Does she- does she live in Palo Alto?

Moon:

I think she-

Wilson:

[inaudible talking at the same time 02:00:05]

Moon:

If-if she did she now lives in San Jose-

Wilson:

-Yeah I think you to ask her [person?] was in Palo Alto she was a very strong person on that committee.

Moon:

Oh ok. On the pay equity committee.

Wilson:

Uh-huh. Yeah on the pay equity committee.

Moon:

Ok. Well um I think we've talked- we've covered a lot ground today-

Wilson:

Yeah we have-

Moon:

-and its been very helpful for me to look at the scrapbooks prior to meeting with you-

Wilson:

Yeah.

Moon:

-cause it gives me- you know-

Wilson:

Mm-hm.

Moon:

some stories to-

Wilson:

You take this one I haven't-

Moon:

Yeah.

Wilson:

-quite finished, but I've got them some of my marks like the first- the- this you know which- [transmission ends 02:00:37]