Gazette Project

Interview with

Gaston Williamson,
Little Rock, Arkansas,
25 October 2000

Interviewer: Roy Reed

Roy Reed: This is Gaston Williamson and Roy Reed on October the twenty-fifth, I believe, isn't it, Mr. Williamson?

Gaston Williamson: The twenty-fifth, yes.

RR: 2000, in Little Rock. Mr. Williamson, just to get started, do we have your permission to record the interview and turn it over to the University of Arkansas?

GW: Yes, you do. [Phone Rings]

RR: All right.

GW: I'm so sorry about this phone.

RR: That's all right.

[Tape Stopped]

RR: Well, here we go now. I was just going to ask you for a little basic biography on yourself, when and where you were born, and who your parents were, and where you went to school. If you could just . . .

GW: Okay. I was born on January 22, 1914, the son of Lamar Williamson and Lillian Phillips Williamson, in Monticello, Arkansas. I went to the public schools in Monticello, and then I went two years to Arkansas – it was then known as Monticello A&M College [and] is the University of Arkansas at Monticello now–I went two years there and then

went to University of Arkansas for three years. I took my fourth year in college–which would be my second year at the university–I took my first year of law school as my major for a B.A. degree. You were able to do that back then. And I got a B.A. degree in 1934. And I was into my second year of law at the university, but decided to compete for a Rhodes scholarship that year–that was in the fall of 1935–thinking that I would just use it for the experience and then after I graduated from law school, I could seriously compete. But it so happened that I won a scholarship in 1935. I'm sorry, it was in the fall of 1934 that I took the exam and won it and went to Oxford in the fall of 1935, not having finished law school in this country.

RR: That must have been an exciting time for a young man from south Arkansas to spend a year at Oxford, or was it more than–three years?

GW: It was three years.

RR: Three years, yes.

GW: The scholarships back then were for two years, and if you did well, you would get a third year. When I went to Oxford, I studied jurisprudence and after two years got a B.A. in jurisprudence at Oxford, but was granted a third year. And that year I wrote a "B-Lit," they called it a "B-Lit," bachelor of literature, requiring, I think, a thesis on some subject. And I did get a B-Lit from that year, comparable to an M.A. in this country.

RR: Yes.

GW: So I finally came home from Oxford, after three years, at the end of 1938, the summer of 1938. Well, actually, I left Oxford in the summer of 1938, but my third year at Oxford I roomed with an Indian, a Muslim. There were three: an Englishman, John Dauns, who

was a physicist, and Salmon Akmudallee, who was Muslim, and I rented a house. We shared a house together. And that year, at the end of that year, I drove– Salmon and I, and another American, bought a three- and sometimes four-cylinder Ford, and drove all the way to India in it.

RR: Oh, my.

GW: And I visited with Salmon and his family for, oh, I guess, a month and finally got home at the end of 1938, just after Christmas in 1938, and practiced law in Monticello for two years. I had had no experience in the military, and I'd watched Hitler moving into the Rhineland and Chamberlain coming home from Munich saying there's going to be peace in our time. But all the while, Churchill, who was not in power then, was in the Parliament, in the House, but he was screaming for rearmament, and the country was not paying him much attention. I knew there was going to be a war, and I'd not had any military training, so when I came back from Monticello and began practicing law, I joined the Arkansas National Guard as a buck private and started working on a commission, which I got. But in the meantime I met a young lady in Little Rock, Wrenetta Worthen.

RR: Wrenetta?

GW: Wrenetta. W-R-E-N-E-T-T-A.

RR: Worthen?

GW: Worthen. We were married on November 27, 1940, and I got called into service on January 4, 1941. And after six months in–that was in an anti-aircraft unit–

RR: In the army?

GW: In the army, 206. It was a National Guard unit.

RR: Okay.

GW: But we were called into regular service, and after six months training at Fort Bliss, our unit got sent to Dutch Harbor, in the Aleutians. Sent up there for two years with no leave [laughs] and pretty grim sort of weather.

RR: Were you up there with Bill Bowen's brother?

GW: Yes, I was. I knew him.

RR: Did you?

GW: He drowned, as a matter-of-fact, in an accident.

RR: Yes. Yes, Bill still talks about that.

GW: Bill and I–in one of our 206 reunions, we went back to Dutch Harbor, and Bill joined us on that trip.

RR: Yes. Let me just back up for just a couple of things. Was your father an attorney?

GW: Yes, he was.

RR: In Monticello?

GW: In Monticello.

RR: Yes.

GW: And he and his brother, Adrian, were partners.

RR: Okay.

GW: And their father, for whom I was named, James Gaston Williamson, had been a partner until he retired from old age.

RR: So you come from a line of attorneys then?

GW: Of attorneys.

RR: Yes. Your mother's full name, again, was Lillian?

GW: Lillian Phillips.

RR: Phillips, okay. When you were talking about Oxford, were you there after Bill Fulbright?

GW: Yes, I was.

RR: You didn't overlap with him?

GW: No. I think he went down from Oxford, oh, in the early 1930s or late 1920s.

RR: Yes.

GW: And I didn't get there until 1935.

RR: You spent two years in the Aleutians, is that right? Or was it four?

GW: No, two years.

RR: Up to 1942?

GW: From 1941 to 1943, late 1943.

RR: What did you do then?

GW: Well, we were rotated out after–by then we had old three-inch guns, anti-aircraft three-inch guns, three-inch guns and fifty-caliber machine guns. The new divisions, antiaircraft divisions that had been organized after we were sent up there, had 90mm guns and 37mm short-range guns. So when we were brought back, the regiment was disbanded. I was sent to Command General Staff school for a couple of months and assigned to the Pentagon, where the place was overrun with Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels. By that time, I was a captain, and it seems to me that their primary objective was to keep from getting sent overseas. [Laughter] And after having two years overseas,

which rather disgusted me, and maybe I expressed my opinion too openly on an occasion or two, within a couple of weeks, I was sent off to Europe as an infantry replacement officer and wound up assigned to the Seventh Corps and reassigned to the First Infantry Division the day that Aachen fell. That was the first city on the Siegfried Line that was taken. And I was with the First Infantry Division through, oh, the [Hertgen ?] Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, the Remagen bridgehead. I was officially a member of the Seventh Corps but was reassigned to divisions under the Corps from time to time. And I was not with the First Infantry throughout that whole fight across Germany, but I was with the Seventh Corps from the time I got over there, just as Aaken fell, and fought with them all across the Battle of the Bulge, the Remagen bridgehead, all across Germany, up through the Hartz Mountains, and met the Russians on the Mulde River east of Leipzig.

RR: Which river?

GW: Mulde. M-U-L-D-E. That was east of Leipzig. The Seventh Corps was one of those regular army corps that had gone in on D-Day on North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, and as soon as the Russians met us on the Mulde River, it was pulled out and sent on. When V-E Day came, part of the unit was already on route to the states, and the rest of us were in Diepp, awaiting transportation. We were already slated to go in on Japan on V-E Day, the Seventh Corps, and when the war ended, part of the unit was already en route to Guam. The rest of us were in San Francisco awaiting transportation when the bomb dropped and ended it all. But by then we were making plans, going in on Japan on D-Day, and we anticipated that there'd be a million casualties on each side because those Japs just don't give up, you know?

RR: You were glad to see that bomb drop?

GW: Yes, sir. And there were a lot of eggheads, I would call them, who criticized Truman for dropping the bomb.

RR: Yes, yes.

GW: Well, of course, conventional bombs will kill just–our Eighth Air Force had been through cities and villages in Germany that were just wiped flat, [that were pervaded] with an odor you–a corpse has a stink, a sweet smell, you know? You always know what smell it is. It's the decaying corpse of a human. And some of those villages and towns in Germany that had been flattened by the Eighth Air Corps using conventional bombs [that] killed untold numbers of women and children who were in cellars and hadn't yet been dug out.

RR: Yes.

GW: That proves the atomic bomb would kill more with one bomb, but you were just as dead bombed by a conventional bomb, [laughs] with the Eighth Air Force bombing. Well, in any event, I was happy that the bomb dropped and, incidentally, a few, well, hundreds of thousands, I guess, in the two bombs were killed, but it saved far, far more lives on both sides, both American and Japan, than had we gone ahead and had to invade them because they would have fought to the last man and woman.

RR: During the campaign in Europe, I don't suppose, by any chance, you ever ran into an intelligence officer named Orval Faubus?

GW: No. [Laughs] I didn't.

RR: Well, he was in the Battle of the Bulge, too. Of course that was a big . . .

GW: Incidentally, I've got your book on Faubus. I'll ask you to autograph it before we leave here.

RR: Well, I'll do that. He was an interesting man. I ended up spending far more of my life working on his life than I ever thought.

GW: Well, I must admit, I've not read it carefully because I was hoping you would come up with some firm opinions on Faubus, but after reading your introduction, you, of course, set him both evil and good. Guileless and you know, the way you described him, I knew that I had a very low opinion of Faubus. [Laughs]

RR: At the end of the book, if he had been alive, he would not have liked my conclusions. [Laughter] His widow, his first wife, Alta, did not like the book much. His sister, Bonnie, who disagreed with him over Central High, liked the book quite a lot. [Laughs]

GW: Well, I want to read it. And I'm looking forward to it. It's high on my list of books to read.

RR: Yes. Anyway, we got you back from the war, I guess, did you go back to practicing law in Monticello?

GW: I did, in Monticello, but then I went to New York. Incidentally, during the war, when I came back from the Aleutians to see my wife after two years of separation, we had planned to have a child, and she got pregnant, but then I got sent on to Europe. And my first son was born on December 7, 1944. It was during the Battle of the Bulge, and they sent me a radiogram, but I didn't get it until the twenty-eighth. He was three weeks old before I even knew he was here and what sex he was.

RR: Oh, my.

GW: And was eight months old before I got back from Europe to see him for the first time.

RR: What a thrill that must have been when you picked that baby up.

GW: It was. It was indeed. But when the war was over and I was relieved, I went back, temporarily, to Monticello. And then went to New York, to NYU, to take a course in taxation. I wanted to be a tax lawyer, and I'd not studied taxation in the university. That was in the third year, and I didn't get my third year of law at the university. I was up there nine months and then came back and was offered a place in Little Rock with the Rose Law Firm. And that was in 1948, I suppose.

RR: And you were with the Rose Law Firm until–what year did you retire?

GW: I retired in 1990.

RR: Okay. Now at what point--I know that somewhere along the line, you began to represent the *Gazette* in some manner. I'm not clear on what the association was, but Archie House . . .

GW: Archie House was the main attorney, but the *Gazette* got sued, got involved in a tax case. I think it was the government alleged that they had unreasonably accumulated earnings. It was an unreasonable accumulation of earnings issue, and I won that case for the *Gazette*.

RR: Would that have been in the 1950s?

GW: That wasn't too long after I got back from New York. It would have been early 1950s. I was doing estate planning all over the state, and that's how I got involved with the Palmers and represented the Palmers also in some tax matters, as well as doing estate planning. I handled the administration of C.E. Palmer's [Walter Hussman's grandfather]

death. I didn't write his will because he died shortly before I began to represent them in estate work. I was introduced through a tax case that involved--I can't even remember the issue in the tax case, which I was fortunate enough to settle very favorably, and then started doing estate planning for the Palmers. And, at the same time, I had done estate planning for the Heiskell family.

RR: Can you tell me more about that, the estate planning that you did for the Heiskells?

GW: About all I did for Mr. Heiskell was I drew his will and Mrs. Heiskell's will and represented their estates and closed it up.

RR: Now, Hugh Patterson told me about--well, let me back up to the beginning. The general perception of the public, I think, was that Mr. J. N. Heiskell owned the *Arkansas Gazette*, but it turned out, he only owned a percentage of it. But at some point, the family decided that they needed to do some legal work to change the--I guess, Witt Stephens had somehow come into ownership of some of the paper.

GW: Witt?

RR: Can you pick it up there and tell me what.

GW: Here, my memory--after all, I'm eighty-six, and my memory's not as sharp as it once was.

RR: No, sorry.

GW: But if I remember correctly, Allsopp, the Allsopp family owned--it wasn't a majority, but it was a good chunk of that stock, twenty-five. Here's where I shouldn't even try to--they owned a good, sizeable minority interest.

RR: Yes.

GW: The Allsopp family. And Allsopp had been the business manager at the *Gazette*. Heiskell was the editor. And when Hugh married Wheatsie [Louise], I call her--Elizabeth--he went to work for the *Gazette* in the management area. I don't remember his exact job, but he was working under Allsopp. And Allsopp was very conservative. Hugh was much more--well, he was just younger and a better manager. And I don't know why Allsopp--of course, Allsopp and Hugh didn't get along, but in any event Allsopp decided he'd sell out. And he sold to Witt Stephens, I think. That either was consummated, I think it was, but the *Gazette* later bought that interest from Witt. Or maybe, at the time when Allsopp was retiring and Witt was interested in buying the *Gazette*'s stock [and] stepped in to buy. But that's where there was--the Heiskell family was very much afraid that the Stephenses were going to acquire an interest. They felt that Stephens might attempt to influence editorial policy.

RR: What were you able to do for them to settle that matter?

GW: Very little. I think, by then, I had been put on the board, but Hugh, more or less--we didn't have too many board meetings. We had them, maybe, once a month or every two months. But, in any event, it was just a cut-and-dried matter. I was the only outsider. There were some other members of the family on the board. And Hugh would just come in and bring us financial reports on how the paper was doing and policy matters and just announce what he proposed. The board approved it.

RR: Was he a pretty firm manager of the newspaper?

GW: Hugh?

RR: Yes.

GW: Yes, he was.

RR: What's your overall impression of the job that he did in those early years?

GW: Well, I think he did a very good job in running the paper.

RR: I gather he modernized certain management practices?

GW: Oh, yes, and he modernized the equipment. I think it was back in those days, [they] still had old, hot-press types. They went into the computer type. I've forgotten all the technicalities of the paper, but he did modernize the business end and the mechanical end of the press.

RR: I gather that Mr. Heiskell, Mr. J.N., was a little off to one side of this. I mean, that was not the kind of thing where he was concerned.

GW: That's correct. He was, of course, head of the editorial policy and was a great writer. And he and Hugh brought in Harry Ashmore, whom I greatly admired. I thought he was a fine fellow. And the paper, as you will remember, took a very firm stand in the 1957 crisis.

RR: Yes.

[Tape Stopped]

RR: We've had an interruption here, and we're going back to the early legal work that you did for the paper in connection with the ownership matter. Hugh Patterson has described for me an inter vivos trust that you set up for the paper to--as he put it, so that the Heiskell family could present a united front and vote as a block. Can you tell me, in a little more detail, how those things worked, that kind of trust?

GW: Well, I don't remember the details of this particular trust, but in a voted trust, you

exchange voting stock for non-voting stock, and the voting stock is put into a trust with either one, or a group, serving as trustee. In this particular case, as I remember, Hugh was the trustee of--well, first, if it was done back in J.N. Heiskell's time, it may very well have been [that] J.N. would have been the voting trustee, and on his death or retirement, Hugh would have been the voting trustee. But all of the stock owned by the family, which was both J.N.'s stock, and he had one or two, three sisters. I've forgotten how many now. But all of the stock that the Heiskell family owned was put into the voting trust, and when Allsopp's stock was acquired, it, too, went into the voting trust. So you had a trust that voted all of the *Gazette*'s stock, with one person controlling the vote. So there could be no dissension among the stockholders, in the first place, nor was there ever any evidence of that, but with J.N.'s sisters dying off, the stock was getting spread out.

RR: And, then, the Fred Heiskell family, they had some stock.

GW: The Fred Heiskell family had some stock. It was just a management tool and very common. The Palmer people did exactly the same thing.

RR: Do you remember being at a board meeting after Witt Stephens had bought a percentage of the *Gazette* stock and after this trust was set up? There was a board meeting at which Witt Stephens was confronted with the fact, for the first time, that he was not going to get control of the *Arkansas Gazette*? And, apparently, he hadn't known about this trust until this meeting. Were you at that meeting?

GW: I may have been, but I don't remember it.

RR: I've heard two or three different people talk about how it went, and it was at that point that Witt realized that he had, I guess, he had been outdone.

GW: Well, he did that. I do remember that when he discovered he could not get control of the paper, that he was very receptive to just selling it. He said he'd go.

RR: Yes. He was supposed to have told somebody that Hugh Patterson was the only man who had ever bested him in a financial matter. [Laughter] But Hugh must have been a very sharp young businessman.

GW: He was. He was.

RR: Did you know him pretty well in those days?

GW: Yes. I knew him not only because I had represented the *Gazette* in the tax matters, successfully, but, also, my wife and I and the Pattersons would have dinner together. We'd exchange invitations. We were social friends as well as business related.

RR: Yes. Hugh mentioned Allen Gates. Did he have some role in the *Gazette* during those years?

GW: No. He was an insurance salesman, and he sold Hugh a good deal of insurance and members of the Heiskell family. But Hugh--he was a good friend of Hugh's, too.

RR: I thought he might have gone on the board. Do you remember?

GW: I don't remember that.

RR: You must have been on the *Gazette* board for a number of years, from, maybe, the 1950s up until the 1980s?

GW: I got off of the board--I know I had gotten off of the board by the time this antitrust suit was brought. Do you have a--was that . . .?

RR: That was in 1984.

GW: That was in 1984.

RR: Yes.

GW: I seem to remember that I had gotten off before that. Maybe it was the time when Hugh was thinking of bringing the suit.

RR: Do you remember--the reason I ask that question is in that sweep of years when you were connected with the *Gazette*, can you remember other highlights of your time on the board?

GW: Well, the biggest highlight I remembered was the 1957 crisis and the strong stand that the *Gazette* took during that whole period. When Faubus called out the Guard to [laughs] keep those nice little children from entering high school . . .

RR: Was the board of the *Gazette* involved in that decision, in any way?

GW: Well, the board unanimously supported it, congratulated the management on the stand that it took, and there was no dissension at all. And, of course, we all greatly admired Ashmore and the editorials he was writing and the stand that the paper took. I don't remember the details, but it did suffer financially. It lost a good deal of circulation, and, at the same time, the *Democrat*, I think, by then had gone to a morning paper. Do you know?

RR: No, not at that time.

GW: Not at that time?

RR: No, but they did gain a lot of circulation then.

GW: But it did gain a lot of circulation. And the board was unanimous in its supporting the stand that the newspaper took, [for] which it got two Pulitzer prizes, as I remember.

RR: The main name that we remember, of course, was Ashmore, Harry Ashmore. What about

the role of the other top management people in that decision in 1957? Do you remember much about that? The part that, say, Hugh played or Mr. J.N.?

GW: Well, they were--there was just never any question in their minds that the law had to be enforced. It was the law of the land, and when Faubus called out the Guard to oppose the entrance of those nine black children, everyone was outraged, outraged. I remember, personally, being so upset I leapt to my feet and screamed, "That's the biggest act of demagoguery I've ever heard of!" It took everybody by surprise. Of course, I was in on this, peripherally, due to the fact that Archie was representing the school board and worked out with Blossom a plan of gradual integration. It had been presented to the public in many meetings. In my view, the public was perfectly willing to accept it. And the day that the plan was to be carried out, the governor calls out the National Guard to block it.

RR: Weren't you involved in the STOP [Stop This Outrageous Purge] campaign?

GW: Was I?

RR: Yes.

GW: Yes, I made speeches.

RR: My recollection is you were one of the leaders.

GW: Well, I was involved in a lot of the fight during the STOP campaign. And then, finally, after the schools had been closed for a year, I headed up a committee to reopen our public schools. I was the chairman of that committee and made a lot of speeches and was quite active in that as chairman.

RR: Did you ever consider running for the school board yourself?

GW: No.

RR: I gather you worked for the moderate candidates?

GW: Oh, yes, yes.

RR: Someone, just the other day, was talking to me about Ted Lamb, in some other connection entirely. I hadn't thought about old Ted Lamb in years.

GW: Ted Lamb?

RR: Yes. Those were some heroic people, Ted and Everett Tucker and Russell Matson.

GW: Yes, they were. They really were. And, of course, we were active in getting those people elected. In the STOP campaign, that was one piece of legislation that backfired on old Faubus. He passed legislation to enable recall of members of the school board.

RR: Yes. [Laughs]

GW: And, again, I've forgotten all of the details, but the board was about evenly divided between segregationists and integrationists, as they were so classified then. I would say it's between the people who were for the law and against the law, forcing a Supreme Court decision. In any event, Faubus, [who] had been consistently encouraged by Amis Guthridge and a few others of that nature, passed an act to enable members of the school board to be recalled, and both sides began to get up petitions. During one meeting, in which the law enforcement people had walked out over some impasse, the remaining members of the board fired a lot of teachers who, they figured, wanted to follow the law of the land. Others in the community, and I was one of them, helped to organize the STOP campaign. This was really initiated by the Women's Emergency Committee, in which Mrs. Terry, Irene Samuel, Pat Murphy--these courageous women--organized to

stop that outrageous purge the STOP campaign.

RR: That was Sara Murphy, wasn't it?

GW: Sara Murphy. Sara Murphy. I've read her book, didn't I? I haven't yet.

RR: Yes, that was the highlight of my time at the paper.

GW: You were with the paper, at that point?

RR: Yes. I covered a lot of the STOP campaign and was at that school board meeting where they fired, I think, forty-four teachers. Yes, that was quite a time.

GW: Well, you refresh your memory and were even more closely involved than I was. I needn't tell you anything about that fiasco.

RR: It was a rough time, then, in the city. Let's move into the later years of your own career. First of all, how many children do you have?

GW: I have three.

RR: Any lawyers in the bunch?

GW: No. [Laughs] I have two sons. One is a banker, Jim Williamson, Jr. He's a banker in Van Buren. And I have another son, who lives in New York, and he's a professor. He's both a professor, and he writes books and conducts seminars all over the country on early childhood disabilities.

RR: Yes. What's his name?

GW: Gordon Williamson.

RR: Gordon. And you have a daughter?

GW: And then, I have a daughter, Edith Farrell. She and her husband are both occupational therapists and live in California.

RR: Yes.

GW: They have a clinic there.

RR: Yes. You went on with the Rose law firm until--what year did you say?

GW: Well, they still carry me of counsel, but I ceased participating financially in 1990.

RR: And what do you do now, if you're not practicing law, actually?

GW: I spend most of the time reading. I love to read. I play golf twice a week. We've got a foursome that consists of Gilbert Dean--he lives out here. He's ninety. Jim Headstream. He's a retired doctor--and I made it six in 1987. And our fourth is a retired barber, Leroy Ebbits, who is a wonderful fellow, one of these people who has never met a stranger, just effervescent, and he's only eighty-two.

RR: Okay.

GW: He's a retired barber from the Donaghey Building. Knows people all over the state.

RR: Yes. What's Dr. Headstream's first name?

GW: Jim.

RR: Jim.

GW: James Headstream. So we play twice a week. Headstream and I belong to the Little Rock Country Club, and Gilbert Dean belongs to Pleasant Valley. And if we play at either of our clubs, the guest fees of the two, would be forty dollars apiece, nearly a hundred dollars, that's for cart and green fees.

RR: Yes.

GW: We play at the municipal course. This is where we play for $10.50 apiece. [Laughter] So we play War Memorial and Rebsamen occasionally.

RR: These are the main questions that I had. Can you think of anything else that needs to go in here about the *Arkansas Gazette* and your association with them?

GW: No. I'm very proud to have been associated with the *Arkansas Gazette*, particularly back during the period of leadership under both Mr. Heiskell and, later, Mr. Patterson and the stand they took during the integration crisis, and so on.

RR: Yes.

GW: And I was sorry the Patterson family, finally, voluntarily sold control to Gannett.

RR: Yes.

GW: That was a sad day for everyone who loved the *Gazette*.

RR: Yes. As a very interested observer of the Gannett years, would you want to offer any observations about how that company handled the paper?

GW: Well, no, except that it wasn't of the high character that it had been. I won't call it a tabloid, but I thought the quality of the news--the paper was not as good as it had been.

RR: Yes. What effect has the passing of the *Arkansas Gazette*--what effect has that had on the state of Arkansas, if any?

GW: I can't point to any permanent effect.

RR: Any political impact?

GW: No, again, it so happens that I approve of the current positions of the paper, the *Democrat-Gazette*, in supporting Bush. And, of course, the paper used to always support the Democrats. And, I think, at times, when I criticized Ashmore--I've forgotten the particular reason--but there was a time when the *Gazette* was supporting a Democrat against whom I considered a better Republican, and the Republican won. I don't

remember whether it was during Rockefeller's race. But when Faubus tried to make a comeback, it may have been during that period, the *Gazette* stuck with the Democratic ticket too long, in my opinion. And, if anything, I thought that when the paper got over that constant support of a Democrat over a Republican, regardless of character or the abilities of the parties--I thought it was carrying its loyalty to the Democratic party a little too far.

RR: Yes.

GW: And, if anything, the change in that attitude has been an improvement, as far as politics are concerned.

RR: Well, sir, I don't think of anything else that I need to ask you about. I guess, we can wrap this up.

GW: Well, Roy, thank you very much.

[End of Interview]