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PETER J. SHIELDS

REMINISCENSES

Tape recorded interviews
for the Bancroft Library

December 30, 1953-
July 1, 1954

C-D
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INTRODUCTION

We were in Judge Peter J. Shields' office, in a downtown Sacramento office building, when the following tape-recorded interview took place on December 30, 1953 and again on July 1, 1954. The room was neat and simply furnished and hung about with photographs of the Judge's friends and mentors. There was a sketch of Lincoln among the photographs on one wall.

Before the interview we (Professor Walton Bean of the University of California's history department and Corinne Gilb, for the University of California Library) spent some time inquiring about Judge Shields, at Davis and in Sacramento. Repeatedly we heard that he was "one of Sacramento's most respected and beloved citizens."*

Slight of build and almost fragile in his more than 90 years, Judge Shields was nevertheless so alert of mind and so sustained in his energy that we found ourselves more tired than he at the end of an afternoon of recording. Gentle and gracious in manner, pleasantly neat from his finely-tucked shirt down to his old-fashioned hightop shoes, he sat almost on the edge of his chair as he talked and illustrated his speech with a rapidfire succession of apt gestures and mimicry. We were, in short order, quite unabashedly charmed.

"During his long career the judge has held many official and unofficial positions of high responsibility and honor. The one closest to his heart is being known as Father of the College on the Davis Campus."** We concentrated our attention upon that

* Editorial in the Sacramento Bee, October 6, 1949, p. 46, col. 2. Written on the day Judge Shields retired from office.
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Because our conversations were completely spontaneous and unrehearsed, transcription from oral language into written language is not always accurate, and Judge Shields could not undertake the burden of checking to correct its inaccuracies, we regard this manuscript as a series of on-the-spot preliminary sketches rather than as a finished work of art. It was completed as part of an experimental oral history project for the Bancroft Library, under the general direction of Dr. Robert E. Burke.

26 October 1954
Bancroft Library

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[illegible] 1958
[illegible] Library

Corinne L. Gilb

A FARM BOY FROM HANGTOWN CROSSING

Gilb: You were saying that your mother had contempt for college professors.

Shields: Well, I wouldn't so much say that as that she had no concept of the meaning of the things they were concerned with. She wanted to talk to the man across the way who had made a success of his orchard and get the home-made methods that he had. And he'd tell her to put sulphur on it, and she'd put sulphur on it. A college man would be hesitating. "I don't know what this is," he'd say, and that wasn't what she wanted. And he would take a microscope and look at it and say, "We'll take a few samples and we'll think about it." Well, that was nothing for her if she wanted something done right away.

You asked me definitely about my childhood. I was born east of Sacramento, here in a sort of second frontier. The farmers owned their farms and they built houses, and there was an organized government there. But nearly all of them had the farms that they'd obtained from the government, and they were all hard at work clearing the land and making homes. They were a very interesting body of people, as I look back upon them. They were men of great integrity. They were neighbors in the sense that they had a responsibility for each other, and when anyone was in trouble they helped him. They had an entire absence of race prejudice or of religious prejudice.

Gilb: Were there different races and religions there?

Shields: Oh, yes, very much. There were some Scandinavians, some Germans, there were some what we just called old American stock, a few

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S: Irish families, a French family. But the neighborhood was characterized by sincerity, integrity and industry, and by a sympathy with their fellow men. It was a very fine place to live and grow up in that respect.

G: I wanted to know how big a farm it was that you lived on.

S: Well, my father's farm consisted of 160 acres, I think, as they first owned it. They later bought a couple hundred acres of what had been called kind of wasteland which later turned out to be better land. He bought it three times. That tells you what the pioneers were up against. He bought it first from a squatter -- that meant a man who had gone out into the open wilderness and located on a place and called it his. The squatter's title was good for something: it gave you a priority and claim as preemption came along. And later on it was surveyed by the government and he filed a preemption claim. He made payments on that. And when that title was about perfected, there was a grant man came along, and he claimed that we did not have proper title to that whole country. One of my earliest recollections is of my father going out at night to a settler's meeting where they were organized and doing what they could to preserve their homes. They employed A. P. Catlin while they were studying the law and contested before, I think, the Commissioner of the General Land Offices in Washington. Catlin employed no less a man than Jeremiah S. Black, who had been Attorney General first under James Buchanan and, when the rebels deserted the cabinet and so on, Buchanan had named him Secretary of State. He was a very eminent man. But they finally lost.

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S: Now those are small things, but when you have no money and no resources of any kind these things just make your back bend struggling to keep ahead ...

G: What kind of farm was it?

S: It was a timber farm. It was the kind of farm that later I was up in the State Library and the head of the California department said to me, "Your father was a pioneer. We haven't gotten his biography - can't you prepare it for us?" "Oh," I said thoughtlessly, "my father has no biography. He was an unpretentious, hard-working, home-making man." And then I sat down and without any hesitation I wrote this:

"John Shields. Came to California in 1856. He purchased a farm, reared a family and educated them, built a home, and left the place a garden for the service of a softer civilization."

Now, I thought that was quite a thing. It's there now, and when I'm thinking of why we live and how quickly we're forgotten and how little we appear to have done in the great mass of the thing we call human progress, I just like to think that that farm will be feeding man and supporting institutions for ten thousand years, that'll be the result of my father's labor.

G: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

S: I had one brother and five sisters.

G: Did your mother do much of the work on the farm?

S: Did she do much of the work? A farm woman, madam, they did lots of work. First she cooked for the family and the hired men ... it was quite a distance from the kitchen out to the well and

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S: most of the time she had to haul the water out and carry it. They cooked in a great big stove. I remember it was called a buck stove, and the wood wasn't very good. They didn't have time to go around and to cut fine wood. The wood pile was off, and she frequently brought the wood in. Then there was the dish-washing and there was the laundry. I see these new solvents they have, you know, and washing machines, and I think that water was hard water. We had no way of softening it. And she took the wash tub and the wash board and washed in that water with a good deal of rough hard old soap. We called it rosin soap. We planted a few almond trees at the house, and I recall that every drop in that washtub was carried out in the washbucket and put on the trees.

And with all her hard work, she had managed to plant a flower here or a vine there. When she had time -- in her leisure -- she'd go out and encourage the men who were clearing ... bring them out a drink of some kind, and would take hold of the tree that they were cutting under and would pull it over so that they could get under it a little better and help pull it over. Then -- she'd raise things on the farm; that was our source of income. That was our ready money. That, and dairy products and the sale of a steer or a few hogs or something of that kind.

To show you the difficulties under which farming people lived here and to temper your resentment of what we call 'new deals', I shall tell you how desperately we needed them then and need them today and ever will need them. The farmers of America, from Ohio to the Pacific Ocean raised wheat, barley, oats, corn

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S: and at the harvest ... You know, they didn't pay their debts as they went along; their grocery bill, the interest on the mortgage, the taxes, maybe the hardware -- they had no money with which to pay those things and at the time of the grain harvest, it occurred about simultaneously all over the nation and all of the crops of American agriculture went onto the market at once. And it depressed the market and we sold on that depression and paid our debts and started in a new year. That crop was bought by men who had the means to do it and sat in an office, put it in a warehouse, and in a few months they made more than my father made in a year with all of his sacrifice and that sort of thing.

Labor was the same thing. My father would call in a man from the roadside with blankets on his back, a well-bred man. A man who had come out here to find gold and got down and couldn't get out. He wanted to make hay; well, he'd say, "We haven't any house for you, John. You'll have to sleep in the barn there", or some outhouse. That man worked twelve or more hours and in two or three weeks -- he probably bought his shoes in the time and some tobacco and at the end, he'd worked say 21 days and my father would say, "Well, that's 21 days and I've given you 2 or 3 dollars. Here's $19. Goodby." And that man took up his pack and went out on the highway. It was a strange world. Nowhere for him to go. Next town. That man glad to have the work, and he got his money and went out and worked again. We went through all of that.

Today we have farm loan mortgages. Today you can put your crop or part of it in a warehouse and get a loan on it and pay a pressing debt and keep the rest of the crop until there is a

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S: raise in prices. We have an awful lot of legislation which has aided agriculture, but in that day agriculture's mission, as you see it, was to build America; and the money that was drawn out of the fat new lands of America built new cities like Chicago and New York and Boston and Philadelphia and St. Louis and Kansas City and all those big places.

G: Did you want to be a farmer when you grew up?

S: Well, I never thought about it. I never really had a particular desire to be anything. I often look at youth today and wonder if they're as undecided about it as I was. There weren't the opportunities in those days. You either just had to take a hold and go to work and if you did that, you generally forswore all other opportunities.

G: You worked on the farm, did you?

S: I was a slight little fellow and not much account, and my mother sympathized with me and all. I never did plow. I drove the harrow once in awhile. I couldn't bale hay or pitch grain onto a hay stack or separator. I didn't do much work at home.

G: What did you do in your spare time?

S: Spare time? There was no spare time in those days. Well, I did chores, herded cows, and I'd get a gun and wander dreamily through the woods. I had a good dog, and I dreamed a lot. When I came here to town, my mother said, "Now, you make up your mind what you want to do."

G: That's when you were 14.

S: Yes. I couldn't reach any conclusion. I didn't see any place to go. And she one day said, "I've seen Judge Catlin and you can study law and there you go." So I went to Judge Catlin and studied law.

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G: How old were you when you started to study law?

S: Well, I guess I was about 17 or around there -- 18, probably.

G: But you first went to study at a Catholic institution when you were 14?

S: It was the Christian Brothers College, which had just opened in Sacramento.

G: Were you a Catholic?

S: Well, my family was. I don't want those kind of considerations to go into the record. It was a great place for me to go.

G: You got a good education there?

S: I got -- I met two men there. When they ask you where you were educated, well, maybe you were at the University of California, but maybe you were down on the waterfront.

Bean: There is a sketch in Who's Who, in the British Who's Who, of a man who lists all his university degrees and ends by saying 'largely self-educated'. (Laughter)

S: How true that is. I learned from everybody. I walked up and down the farm with the hired man and quizzed him about the Civil War, about how they fought and how many battles he was in and who was the great general and all that sort of thing. And then I'd meet in the bunk house a sailor who had gone to all the ports of the world and he told me about the long distant lands and the strange people that he'd seen. And I'd go to the blacksmith shop and watch the blacksmith and talk with him and he had his philosophy. He'd come from someplace and he knew a lot of common sense. Oh, the wood chopper, he was a man who got around just chopping wood for a living, and he'd tell me where he came from

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S: and what they did in that country and so on. I didn't meet many city people. We distrusted them in a way. They were city slickers, as they called them.

G: Even from Sacramento?

S: Even from Sacramento. Oh, we knew a few people here but I as a boy didn't get close to them. At the Christian Brothers College, the brother that taught the class to which I was assigned was a remarkable man. He taught us the Christian doctrine and that sort of thing at a certain time of the day, and all the other subjects he taught too in the ordinary way, but he also taught us manhood and pride and ambition and self-respect and the obligation to be somebody and amount to something and go someplace. He'd lay your hand on the desk and if your hand was not clean or there was soil under your nails, he'd point to that and say, "That's not the way for a young man like you. You go clean that up." And if your attire was -- if you hadn't brushed and combed or you didn't tie your tie or cut your hair, he'd rebuke you for it. And if you got into a controversy and didn't stand up to it like a man, he'd rebuke you for it. You just did that when you were around Brother Alexander, and you did that when you went into recitation, and you were ashamed and humiliated if you didn't play your part well. That was the atmosphere in which we lived while we were under that man's control.

Education just came all out of that man. It wasn't the book that taught you or what he said that taught you, it was that man's presence. It represented all the things that were excellent and admirable.

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G: How long did you study law?

S: Oh, I'd better tell you first about another man I had at the college. The -- we had a teacher of English, a thing in which I was greatly interested. I loved books and would go off and read. We had a lay man who did that, Professor Hyde. He was square-shouldered and well tailored and he had reddish-brown hair, very fine hair, and it was perfectly parted and he walked with a military tread and he was ponderous. We'd go into class with him and he was dull. We never got interested, we didn't know what he was talking about. We'd take up, say, Dr. Johnson, and he'd ask you when he was born, what books he'd written and when he died and so on. Well, that was all just catalogue stuff. One day the superintendent came in and he had with him a kind of a seedy looking man with a glass eye and a face that was reddish, a little bleared. He said rather pompously, "Young men, I want to introduce to you Professor N. J. O'Connell French who hereafter will conduct your lessons in English." Then he asked him if he would go up to the desk and give us a reading, a Shakespeare reading, and he went up there and did it about like Edwin Booth.

Well, the next day we went down and the subject was Dr. Johnson again. N. J. French had a lot of books like that with papers tucked in every one of them. There was no class formation, they were right there like they studied under Plato, and he said, "Today our subject is Dr. Johnson." Then he told us about him, what a lovable old fellow he was, the coffee houses where he used to sit -- and he'd say, "By the way now, do you recall

Q: How long did you study law?

A: Oh, I'd better tell you first about another man I had at the college. The -- we had a teacher of English, a thing in which I was greatly interested. I loved books and would go off and read. We had a lay man who did that, Professor Ryde. He was square-shouldered and well tailored and he had reddish-brown hair, very fine hair, and it was perfectly parted and he walked with a military tread and he was nonchalant. We'd go into class with him and he was dull. We never got interested, we didn't know what he was talking about. We'd make up, say, Dr. Johnson, and he'd ask you when he was born, what books he'd written and when he died and so on. Well, that was all just catalogue stuff. One day the superintendent came in and he had with him a kind of a sorry looking man with a glass eye and a face that was reddish, a little bleared. He said rather pompously, "Young men, I want to introduce to you Professor R. J. O'Connell French who hereafter will conduct your lessons in English." Then he asked him if he would go up to the desk and give us a reading, a Shakespeare reading, and he went up there and did it about like Edwin Booth.

Well, the next day we went down and the subject was Dr. Johnson again. . . . French had a lot of books like that with papers tucked in every one of them. There was no class formation, they were right there like they studied under Plato, and he said, "Today our subject is Dr. Johnson." Then he told us about him, what a lovable old fellow he was, the coffee houses where he used to sit -- and he'd say, "By the way now, do you recall

S: when he was born? What period was it during his life?" Well, he'd go on that way and incidentally ask us different questions as we went along. He'd say, "Do you recall any of his books?" Yes, he did so and so. "Yes, here's a copy of it as an example. Now, this will illustrate to you the nature of his style." And he would read that like Charles Laughton. Oh, we thrilled, you know. And by the time he got through, we didn't think it had been a moment and we wished it had been a year.

I and some kindred spirits would go over to the state library. We got books from which we could make beautiful selections to bring over and show to him and all that.

Well, the influence of that man on me was tremendous and everlasting.

G: Have you read great literature ever since.

S: Oh, I never was a very great reader; I read too slowly. And I never had the strength and I never could be like Theodore Roosevelt -- take a book and turn it over and read it in an hour. No, I don't think anybody reads a book like that. They don't get it. I read a book and it would say so and so and I would lay it down and say, "Is that so?" Then I would read something else and "That's so beautiful, that's so beautiful." And I'd say it over and over and it took me a long time to read a book, but I remember an awful lot of the things I read. I remember what in those days I read, and I remember it today and the influence of it has abided with me. Anyway, that man gave me an indestructible and tremendous appreciation of the beauty of good English and the nobility of great thoughts.

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S: Today, if you asked me what education was, I'd say that was about all there was to it -- to teach you the nobility of life and the obligation that rests on you to make the most of it.

Now, I was just preparing a letter for Robert Sproul (President of the University of California). I'm going to send him a copy of this little book I've just written and I want to say to him, "Robert, take care of that little College of Agriculture over there. There's something that you can do. Your College of Letters and Sciences grew out of the ages, the Egyptian scholars, the Athenians, the monasteries of the Middle Ages -- education came to America. They never changed it at all, and they never will. It's just a set of exercises which you attend and through experience you find it helps to rather refine and cultivate and sensitize the human mind. The College of Agriculture is as new as the revolution and it's as American as the prairies and the Rocky Mountains. It's new and it's growing and it hasn't started yet. You can make this a greater college than any other college and when the student gets through with that, I can't quite see why he isn't educated. You educate yourself -- thoughts that you uncover, that you entertain, that are suggested to you -- the things you think about.

The classics teach you to think and the college is like that. They not only teach you to think; they teach you to do, and I don't see why the doing undoes the thinking. I still think you can become a student -- a classicist, an educated, cultivated mind that is sensitive to every wind that blows -- through the

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S: exercises that are taking place in that college. You think of everything. They bring the sun down to your service, you need it on your garden. They bring the depths of the ocean to you and tell you of the life that's there and let you speculate as to where it comes from and what it all means."

G: But every man isn't Peter Shields!

S: Anyhow, I'd say to him, "This is your college over there. You can make it what you want. You can't make your College of Letters and Science any greater than it is, except by recalling to your service Morse Stephens and some of the giants of the past and they're gone and you can't go back again. Your old college is just there. And the other one is in. Anyhow, it's American and it's democratic."

I've urged him -- I've regretted the location over there on the campus of the College of Letters and Sciences.

You've got to have that in connection with any kind of culture that you take. You can't be an engineer or undertake a profession which enables you to take care of the sewage of St. Louis; you've just got to know something about Plato and Sophocles and Herodotus and those kind of men and the things they thought because they thought the thoughts you're thinking. And they thought how to stimulate those thoughts and how to appreciate them and become influenced by them and have your character and understanding formed by them.

I've come a long ways from Hangtown Crossing.

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TRAINING FOR THE LAW AND ADMISSION TO THE BAR (1884)

G: I wanted to ask you about your law training. How long you studied ...?

S: Well, in those days law training was quite primitive. That was only, say, 65 years ago. I never heard of law school. The law students in those days studied in a lawyer's office and they did work around the lawyer's office. Prepare papers, and run errands, and just read a few textbooks. There were no digests to speak of at all, and no indexes, cross-references, by which you could trace a case back to its origin and know of its growth and so on. When you came to a principle, you just didn't know it was a principle. You just thought that something was said and done in a certain case. Oh, how you can be helped by a little interpretation.

I couldn't get the idea of mathematics. It was some rule I can't remember. Take one point here and subtract that from another and divide by another and there's your quotient. I felt I had to memorize all that and which you subtract and all, and in an abstract way I couldn't do it when the problem was presented to me in an arithmetic class. Well, one day a gentleman came to the farm to buy a hog, they were the butchers in the mine, and my father had three hogs and they, with the resources of a farmer (men could do most anything with an ax, you know), they set up three poles like a tepee and then they hung a [?] on that and they caught them all and tied their feet together and hung them on the [?] and put some weight on the yard and the thing just balanced and that was the way they were hauled.

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S: They said to the boy, a little fellow, "Here, you take this paper and put these numbers down when we read them." Then they said, "Put down this is 197 lbs." I put it down. "Next one is 215." I put that down. "The next one is 180." I put that down. "How much is that?" I knew how to do that. There were three hogs and you just wanted to know the weight of them; you added. That was awful clear and I added them up. Well, then the price of hogs was 7 1/2 cents a pound. I knew you just multiplied pounds by price. I did that and I knew what the price of the hogs was. And the whole thing came to me. When I went to school the next day I had seen the thing in practice and I knew what they meant. I'd have groped in darkness, I don't know how long, if that hadn't been done.

Now, there was a teacher over in the Middle West who found her students uninterested in mathematics and related subjects. The Babcock milk tester had just come off and she bought one. You get a little sample, a thimble full, almost, from one cow and you treat it with sulphuric acid and then you whirligate it around with centrifugal motion so that the heavy thing reaches a curd and that leaves the oil, which is the butter, at one end of it and you stop it and turn it over and there's your little film of butter. It's graduated there and you see it's 4 % or it's 3 1/2 or it's 5 %. So then you weigh the cow's milk, multiply it be the per centage of butter fat and you get the amount of butter fat. Well, she told the children to go home and bring her in some milk in little measures. They went home and went to their father. "What goldarned nonsense is this?" But they

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S: persuaded him in most cases. So the next day the teacher went through all this performance. The kids were perfectly interested. They went home, and the father was interested to find out that old Spot had made three-quarters of a pound of fat that way, or a pound and a half. Now, this was all nonsense, but he was wondering how they had done with the other old cow, Brindle, and the teacher went through the herd. Then she simply made it very clear to them that Spot wasn't to be credited with all that fat, that clear fat was only part of it and other things had gotten mixed into it. I think only 85 % of the fat would be fat and the other remaining 15 % be a little milk, water, salt and things like that. So they found out what each dairy cow netted and what the price of butter was and all. Then they had to charge the cow with the feed. By the time they got through with that, the farmers were enthusiastic, the children were wild-eyed about it, and they never had any trouble any more about their mathematics.

G: How would you apply this principle to learning law?

S: You get confused about why a decision about this thing or that, and there is no one to tell you the simple, clear reason which is awful obvious when you know it, but when you don't know it, it's just completely hidden. It's like the law of nature. You'll live in a forest and you'll never learn the mystery which controls the differentiation of those different kinds of trees, and a fellow will come along and point it out to you ...

G: Well, wasn't that what Catlin was supposed to do?

S: No, he had no obligations on those bases, unless he happened to have a personal one and he didn't. He never quizzed me, he never asked me what I had read -- another law student was the one who gave me the greatest aid I received in those days.

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S: In those questions, you asked how you were examined with reference to admission. Well, in those days we were living under the common law, and that had been refined and re-refined until it became a system, a metaphysical hair-splitting, and when the case went before the court they would say, "Well, this is true, but on the other hand it is qualified by this and the qualification is qualified by that ..." and you can never stop if you go that far. Blackstone's Commentaries set forth the common law as it was known in England and as it came to this country pretty completely. So we studied Blackstone's Commentaries very much.

At the time I was admitted (in 1884), the court was made up of a number of men very sympathetic to the common law.

G: Where were you admitted?

S: I was admitted in Los Angeles. Hiram Johnson's older brother, Albert, and I went down together.

G: Why Los Angeles?

S: Because we wanted to get away if we failed so nobody would know us. (Laughter) It was an historic trip for me, by the way.

Anyway, old Red Saunton, he was quite a famous judge, he wanted to know what was the meaning or what was the nature of different kinds of writs. Well, boy, you could answer that with just everything and I was rather fluent and got by without much trouble.

G: What other questions did he ask? Do you remember?

S: No. I wasn't philosophic at the time. I didn't realize I was experiencing a transition.

G: How long did he keep you? Was it a long time?

S: No. Just quickly, to show that a boy had a conception of what law was

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S: and knew the application of fundamental principles.

At the time that I was admitted, and Albert, there was a man, he was a great counsel, a brilliant man -- there were three men in the Johnson family. Grove, the father, kind of a sinister old fellow, you know. He was tricky and he knew how to circumvent you and he knew how to play on a jury, and he could be scornful and contemptuous and he wasn't too high-minded. Then Hiram, who was aggressive and coercive, and Albert, who was rational and reasonable and faultlessly logical. They were all different but they were all strangely able men, each in his own way.

G: How did you happen to meet Albert Johnson?

S: They lived in Sacramento and he was studying then in his father's office. I knew Hiram. He was just a boy.

G: When you came back from Los Angeles after you passed the bar exam, what did you intend to do then? Go into practice?

S: Yes, there was nothing else to do. And very shortly after that I had a little office about half as big as this on the second floor of a building on 5th street. And I got some little matters from time to time.

G: What kind of cases?

S: Well, I'd draw a lease for a farmer and I had a Chinese client. He brought me some little matters and I settled some estates. And a little trial work. And then I was employed by Abraham Clark Freeman. He was author of several legal books, including A Treatise on the Law of Execution in Civil Cases and A Treatise on the Law of Judgments published by Bancroft-Whitney and Company, San Francisco, and then became editor of their series, American Decisions. That was the series which undertook to go back to the beginning of the American law courts, and from all the courts in the nation he would select out of, say, 50

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TEN YEARS AS AN INVALID.

AT THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN 1892.

S: I used to think that I deeply regretted the ten years that I lost.

G: What year was it that you had your first break-down?

S: Well, when I was around 23 years old. I lost ten years. I don't think I lost an hour now. I went wandering around the country. What do you do anyhow? If you get a million dollars and you get as old as I am, it's a lot of money and you don't worry about it. What you get out of life is experience. It's great friendships, and the discoveries which you make of new truths, and the new frontiers that you enlarge and expand and go out and occupy and know you're a pioneer all the time.

G: What did you learn in those ten years?

S: No specific thing except everything -- a great variety of contacts. I met many people of great wealth and visited them. I met sheep herders and loggers and so forth and spent lonesome months with them. It was a very unconventional rearing but I got a lot out of it. I've seen men at desks settled right down digging, digging, digging and trying lawsuits, one after another, without attaining scholarship, without attaining wisdom, without seeing life, without acquiring an education. You find an awful lot of successful men who haven't had time for that. My way has been varied and it's been peopled by the creatures of my mind and my imagination, my view of history and so on.

I had ten years, wandering about, to Bartlett Springs and those kind of nonsensical places, to climates and distances and diets and doctors. If I knew you now, and you became stricken as I was, I'd know how to

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S: treat you better than any doctor I've ever encountered. I could tell you all about it. Anyhow, I thought I'd lost ten years. I didn't.

After all, you see, you are not born to write a great book, you are born to be a great man, that means to be a good man and a man who would pay his debt to life. Some men do it by building a railroad across the continent; another one will do it by breeding better horses to carry it by wagon; another one by building good wagons; another man will do it if he is a teacher or be a father of four or five sons and raise them to nobility. And you do it by molding yourself into as much of an admirable personality as is within your power. I think an awful lot of the influence of a man is unconscious.

Now, Governor Warren has just retired. He was not a very able man, but he was a man of quiet nobility of nature. And somehow there is an essence, a fragrance it might be, about his personality which permeated California. Now, some men get that, some do it through intellectual brilliancy, you know, and through vast accomplishment. A good many men just build a railroad, and that's all. They don't teach a lesson, they're not really an example. They make ten millions, or twenty or thirty or fifty millions of dollars, but that isn't what you are here for, you know. You're here to do something -- the dollars are incidental.

And so, in going about that way, I couldn't tell you the adventures I had. I had no money, and I don't know how I dressed -- I just don't know. My parents helped me out, of course.

I went East one time. I hadn't something I had to go for, I remember this. This was a period, really, I ought to -- if I could write a little better, I'd write the story of that trip. You know, you could

S: treat you better than any doctor I've ever encountered. I could tell you all about it. Anyhow, I thought I'd lost ten years. I didn't.

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S: write a book about your visit with me here today. You could walk a couple of blocks up the street; you could see youth and old age; you could see success and failure; you could see vice and virtue; you could see the races; you could see the handsome woman, and she is on her way to a terrible fate, poverty and a bad marriage and life in an attic and so on.

G: My goodness!

S: No, you can steer clear of it if you just look out. But pick out -- as you go along, you read the signboards. They're all -- it's all written there, just danger, danger, danger. This way you go: hard work, self denial, poverty, TRIUMPH. That way --

Well, on the way east I met a man who was connected with Valentine's varnishes, in a big way, nationally, establishing agencies and all that. Oh, he was a wonderful fellow, and I got on with him wonderfully. He got off in Chicago and so did I, and he gave me a ticket to the National Democratic Convention, which had met just then and had nominated Grover Cleveland for President and Adlai Stevenson, the grandfather of the present Adlai, for Vice-President. Well, he entertained me generally. I went to that convention. On the way over, I guess I went up to the washroom. You know how they do. In this room, there's a shelf there -- it's aluminum and they'd be little basins in it this way. You've seen them, haven't you, in the men's room, and then there's a shelf there with stacks of towels on it. There was an awful lot of them there. And there was a fellow there with his -- just his undershirt and his suspenders down and (gesture of washing his face vigorously) doing that and throwing

S: write a book about your visit with me here today. You could walk a couple of blocks up the street; you could see youth and old age; you could see success and failure; you could see vice and virtue; you could see the rocks; you could see the handsome woman, and she is on her way to a terrible fate, poverty and a bad marriage and life in an attic and so on.

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S: No, you can steer clear of it if you just look out. But pick out -- as you go along, you read the signboards. They're all -- it's all written there, just danger, danger, danger. This way you go: hard work, self denial, poverty, TRUTH. That way --

Well, on the way east I met a man who was connected with Valentine's varnishes, in a big way, nationally, establishing agencies and all that. Oh, he was a wonderful fellow, and I got on with him wonderfully. He got off in Chicago and so did I, and he gave me a ticket to the National Democratic Convention, which had met just then and had nominated Grover Cleveland for President and Adlai Stevenson, the grandfather of the present Adlai, for Vice-President. Well, he entertained me generally. I went to that convention. On the way over, I guess I went up to the washroom. You know how they do. In t is room, there's a shelf there -- it's aluminum and they'l by little basins in it this way. You've seen them, haven't you, in the men's room, and then there's a shelf there with stacks of towels on it. There was an awful lot of them there. And there was a fellow there with his -- just his undershirt and his suspenders down and (gesture of washing his face vigorously) doing that and throwing

S: water in every direction. And when he'd sprayed the whole room, he reached up and got two towels and did that (gesture of wiping face, carelessly, with both hands) and threw them in the basket and reached up and got two more and did that. When he reached up and got the third set of towels, there was a little quiet man sitting, standing there by my side. I could see that he was a man of discipline and something. He said, "That makes me indignant," he said. "When I was a boy, my mother did the washing, and I learned to respect her labors." Well, I said I was observing it with agony. And on the strength of that, he invited me to breakfast. Well, we had a glorious time. We were a million miles apart. Occupation -- I had none, and he was one of the great. When we got through, he said, "Now, you're over here" -- I suppose I was pretty shabby -- "You're over here among strangers. You're not very well. You may need assistance." And I could see later on he meant, "You may need some money." He said, "If <u>anything</u> --," and he kept saying "<u>anything</u>" -- "happens, you come to me or write to me or telegraph me. Now don't fail to do that," he said. "Here's my card." He was President of the General Electric Company of America, and I suppose he was worth ten or fifteen millions of dollars.

G: What was his name?

S: I don't remember. He was just one of the -- I remember the fact awfully well. I can see him -- But it's been a great memory for me to think of him.

Well, when I changed cars at Chicago, the depot there's awfully involved... There was a great big handsome fellow, young man,

D: water in every direction. And when he'd sprayed the whole room, he reached up and got two towels and did that (gesture of wiping face, carelessly, with both hands) and threw them in the basket and reached up and got two more and did that. Then he reached up and got the third set of towels, there was a little quiet man sitting, standing there by my side. I could see that he was a man of discipline and something. He said, "That makes me impatient," he said. "When I was a boy, my mother did the washing, and I learned to respect her labors." Well, I said I was observing it with envy. And on the strength of that, he invited me to breakfast. Well, we had a glorious time. We were a million miles apart. Occupation -- I had none, and he was one of the great. Then we got through, he said, "Now, you're over here" -- I suppose I was pretty shabby -- "You're over here among strangers. You'll be very well. You may need assistance." And I could see later on he meant, "You may need some money." He said, "If anything --," and he kept saying "anything" -- "Anywhere, you come to me or write to me or telegraph me. Now don't quit to do that," he said. "Here's my card." He was President of the General Electric Company of America, and I suppose he was worth ten or fifteen millions of dollars.

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Well, when I changed cars at Chicago, the depot there's awfully involved... There was a great big negroone fellow, young man,

S: with fancy luggage -- I don't know what kind I -- I think I almost had a carpetbag. And he took me by the shoulder and led me around and put me on the car. Well, I was overcome with his kindness. I found out he was a gambler. He was going down into Mississippi to make a book on the Sullivan-Kilrain prize fight. But he just took this shabby young boy along with and fixed him in his seat. I said, "That's unbelievably kind of you, sir." Well, he said, "My mother is an invalid, and I learned how to take care of her."

Well, then I went to the convention, heard one of the greatest speeches in the political history of America, and I saw every effort made to delay calling the roll but -- I saw Henry Watterson got up onthe stand, and I saw William C. Whitney -- and the Committee on Platform reported, and they had a kind of a washy plank on the tariff. That was the pet thing they talked about in those days; nobody knew anything about it. And it was a straddle. Cries went up from all over the Hall, "Watterson, Watterson." He was a spokesman for the -- He got up. He had coal black hair, heavy mustache, and you could see that he was just made of iron, you know, And I can just remember now hearing his sonorous tones. He said, "The position of our party upon the question of the tariff, we had assumed that it was so definitely fixed and known that we could entrust its expression to younger and less experienced men," he said. And then he said, "Here's the plank," and he read it, and (sudden sweeping gesture) it was adopted. And they never amended it by striking the other one out, so they were both in there.

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Well, then I went to the convention, heard one of the greatest speeches in the political history of America, and I saw every effort made to Jeff Davis outdo the rest but -- I saw Henry Watterson put a curse upon, and I saw William C. Whitney -- and the Committee on Platform reports, and they had a kind of a wishy plank on the tariff. That was the pet thing they talked about in those days; nobody knew anything about it. And it was a struggle. Grace went up from all over the hall, "Watterson, Watterson." He was a spokesman for the -- he got up. He had real long hair, heavy mustache, and you could see that he was just made of iron, you know. And I can just remember now hearing his memorable text. He said, "The position of our party upon the question of the tariff, we had assumed that it was so definitely fixed and known that we could entrust its expression to younger and less experienced men," he said. And then he said, "Here's the plank," and he read it, and (and in sweeping gesture) it was adopted. And they never amended it by striking the other one out, so they were both in there.

S: Well, there was a movement on then called the Mugwump movement. Democracy then became very fashionable, and Cleveland became its idol.

G: Were you interested in politics at that time?

S: I was, always, always. And all manner of the scions of the very wealthy and fashionable society over there, the prominent young men, Billy Russell, of an old New England family, was the young boy Governor of Massachusetts and all the pick of the crowd over there were there, you know. And in the morning I decided I was going to Cleveland. And by some hook or crook, I got into their private car. There was about 25 of them. They were the last word in tailoring and manners and personality, finish and culture, and I was a little sick fellow mighty plainly dressed, to put it very simply. Well, I got in a crowd of them, and they just hovered around me, you know. And I don't know when I've had such an experience. They said, "Come to New York," they said, we'll take care of you and put you on the map and so forth." They didn't know that I had just that much margin on being able to stand up. But anyhow I had that experience.

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AT THE STATE LIBRARY

S: Then I came home, and after some time, I don't know, a man came to me, a friend, a good friend, a professional politician, and he asked me if I would take a deputyship in the State Library at $150 a month. Well, the idea of taking on any kind of responsibility just was beyond my comprehension, but I thought I could hold out for one month and get $150, and I said, "Yes."

Well, I went up, and from that time I commenced to get as well as I ever did get. I got interested and I got confidence in myself and from there on it just went well.

B: What were your duties as deputy in the State Library?

S: Well, it was to wait upon attorneys who trouped in there. They wanted to get certain books and I'd get the book for them. The books would be taken down by numbers of lawyers and I'd put them back in their proper place. I don't think I did any cataloguing, but I read a great deal by myself and I helped men. Stephen M. White was a State Senator then, from Los Angeles. He was a remarkable man and he would come to the State Library and he'd work endlessly and I'd stay up with him. "I want this book and I want that book," and I'd go get it for him and I'd get him the page number. I just served the customers that came along.

White was the fighting leader of the Democratic Party in California. Very able. He was a State Senator, then, from Los Angeles. He was a terrible worker. He'd work at the Law Library way into the night, and I'd stay there with him. He later became United States

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S: Senator. But he would work until he was exhausted and then take a drink, to pick him up a little; then he took two drinks to pick him up, and he ultimately became a drunkard, and he died at 48 years. Don't ever begin the drink habit, young woman. (Laughter)

G: (Promptly) No, I shan't!

S: Don't think that you're strong enough to resist it. Don't take it. Don't start on it. Don't go to a cocktail party and drink cocktails. Don't do it. Oh, the flower of my friendships and friends of my youth that were made for great stations, you know, that died awful young or burned themselves out.

But at the library I got acquainted with all the legislature.

Bean: Did you actually help them in the drafting of any bills?

S: Oh, a great many. I did a great deal of them. It's easy to remember your successes. Don't let those failures come in.

The Supreme Court wanted to increase the salary of one of its -- oh, a janitor or something, a second or third class clerk. They sent word up to have the law ... there was a provision in the Political Code that said the employees of the Supreme Court should be as follows: so much and so much a month and so on. Well, they told me to prepare the bill. So I hunted up the bill and re-enacted it, except that subdivision 5 and so forth, one janitor whose salary had been $100, I made $150. That was all the change that was made. Well, when my bill was two-thirds through the legislature, they discovered all of a sudden that I had taken an old bill and re-enacted it, putting everybody's salary down, don't you know, except for this one fellow. There was great excitement.

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S: Oh, it was some place along that line. No, it was just before I broke down, that's what it was, when Washington Bartlett was elected Democratic Governor of California. And if he had lived, he would have been one of -- he would have made history. He was absolutely clean, absolutely independent, absolutely devoted to making a great state.

There was, for those days, a very fashionable woman. Her husband died, and he left her nothing. She opened a very select boarding house. And through a friendship with this one (gesturing to a framed photograph on the wall) I had a room in the corner, this boy and I, about as big as that cupboard. Governor Bartlett came there to live and he made kind of a chum of me, and we walked and walked and talked and talked.

The State Library was governed by trustees, and they were elected by the Legislature. If there were vacancies, they'd be filled by the Governor. One of them died, and there was an awful fight on for the appointment. Some of them wanted to support the Librarian, and some of them wanted to remove him. The Librarian, by the way, had been the janitor, I don't suppose had ever read a book in his life. But he was a politician and all that, and accomodating. He hired a librarian. And they wanted to get him. Well, I was perfectly knocked cold to have Governor call me to his office and say, "You know what's on about this thing. I have confidence that if you do the right thing, we'll appoint you to the --" I was appointed before the most eminent men of California, A. C. Freeman was one, the famous Henry Edgerton, a great orator and great lawyer, was one, A. G. Fuess, one of the greatest in

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S: San Francisco, was another, and I. S. Belcher was the other. And I served with those men for quite a while.

SECRETARY OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE COMMISSION

G: How did you get the job as Secretary of the California Code Commission?

S: You asked that. That's a sore spot with me. It's the one job I've had in my whole life which I have regretted.

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Q: How did you get the job as Secretary of the California Code Commission?

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GOVERNOR BUDD'S SECRETARY;

CALIFORNIA GOVERNORS AND POLITICS

S: That was a position that I am not proud of. And then from there I became private secretary to the Governor. The Governor was away nearly all the time, and I ran the office.

G: Which Governor?

S: And I got a lot of experience in that way.

Bean: Governor Budd?

S: Budd, yes.

B: 1897?

S: No, he must have been in '94. He was elected probably in '94 and '95.

B: Elected in '94, and you became his secretary in 1895?

S: During the last two years he was in, I guess. One day a big tall man came in with a big beard -- he rolled his shoulders (imitating) and he said, "Came to see the Governor." I said, "He's not here. He's in San Francisco." "Well," he said, "that's too bad." He said, "I've heard about him, and I wanted to look him over and size him up." Well, I invited him in, and he sat down. I knew I had a lion in the cage. It was Collis P. Huntington. (Laughter) He was a wise old coot, I'll tell you, don't you know.

G: When did you first become active in politics?

S: Well, I don't think I ever was much. Oh, from my birth, my mother was ... When I was five years old we would drive from our farm to the railroad where there was a flag station, just a flag station. Tie the team in the woods, get on that train when

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I: While Governor?

S: And I got a lot of experience in that way.

Beum: Governor Budd?

S: Budd, yes.

B: 1922?

S: No, he must have been in '24. He was elected probably in '24 and '26.

I: Elected in '26, and you became his secretary in 1927?

S: During the last two years he was in, I guess. One day a big (Watkins) and he said, "I'd see the Governor." I said, "He's not here. He's in San Francisco." "Well," he said, "that's too bad." He said, "I've heard about him, and - wanted to look down. I knew I had a ... tion in the cage. It was Phillis Burtis-Watkins. (Laughter) He was a wise old owl, I'll tell you, don't you know.

I: When did you first become active in politics?

S: Well, I don't think I ever was much. Oh, in my office, my mother was ... Then I was five years old we would drive from our farm to the village where there was a flag station. Just a flag station. The team in the wagon, get on that train when

S: there was a governor going to speak here, you know. We'd drive in and they'd have a fire on Center Street, at the intersection and a platform there. Some individual would talk for an hour and a half and I suppose said nothing on earth and we were enraptured by it. A little fellow like that, I was taken up to see all this.

G: And you must have learned a lot about politics when you were a deputy librarian?

S: I learned a great deal, a great deal.

G: And then how did you become Governor Budd's secretary?

S: Well, I was an executive in the State Library and that way came in contact with him, and he had a secretary who wasn't making good and he wanted to get a new one, and through the aid of some friend of mine, I didn't know anything about it, his attention was called to me and he knew me well.

My politics had not been calculated nor mercenary. I found this. Every once in awhile some would say "There's the surest politician in this state" or something of that sort. He isn't sure at all, it's just natural. The man just quietly does right, gets ultimately to enjoy greater confidence and respect. And then they say, "He's a politician. He knows how to get up."

I think a great deal of the best leadership we have is from men who had nothing to do with machine politics but just lived righteously and usefully and enjoyed the respect that comes to that kind of a man.

G: You were telling us that you knew several of the governors well. We wanted your comments about them. What would you say about Budd?

S: I think probably I knew more governors of California, either

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and a platform there. Some individual would talk for an hour and
a half and I suppose said nothing on earth and we were enraptured
by it. A little fellow like that, I was taken up to see all this.

S: intimately or just by contact, than any other man in America today. That's because of my great age and because I live right here where the governors came.

The first governor that I knew -- that I didn't know but saw, was Stanford. He came in about 1865 or so. I didn't know Fred Low or Weller or Haight. Probably along about that time Booth came along. I knew him quite well. After Booth, I don't know their order. Perkins came in, I knew him quite well. I knew Stoneman pretty well. Of course I knew and was affectionately close to Bartlett. I knew the rude and rustic and unfitted Waterman very well. I went in to see him at his request when he wanted to make the Board of Library Trustees do something he wanted them to do, put out the present librarian and put in his man. He invited A. C. Freeman to be a library trustee and I was a boy just appointed by Governor Bartlett. We went down and met him at his hotel in San Francisco and he talked like a big farmer who didn't know what he was talking about. As we went out, he reached out and took my hand and said, "I wish you well, sir. I have the best of intentions toward you", and so forth. Then he reached his hand out for Freeman and Freeman put his hand behind his back. He said, "I haven't got the kindliest feeling in the world for you, Governor Waterman."

Well, I knew -- after that we commenced to get into Budd and Gage and Pardee and Gillett and Johnson and Young and Stephens and Merriam, then Olson, then Warren. I knew all those men very closely. To make a comment on them ... you'd better ask Jack Neylan, he'll tell you.

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S: Merriam was an old hack politician, but he made a fairish governor. A governor can't sell his country out, you know, like a king in the old days. He's got too many checks and balances on him. The people are generally a little too well aware of what's going on to be subject to that sort of thing.

G: Well, tell us a little about the earlier ones since we have so little about them. Governor Budd, for instance, how would you describe him?

S: He was a Western man, kind of fond of gay company, a little rude in his ways. A frontier lawyer going to country courts and fighting over juries and was successful at it. Made a buckboard campaign over the State. Not very scholarly, but he was warm-hearted and he had some purposes. I remember when we sat the night before he left the city, vacating his office. We had a very remarkable man as his Chairman of the State Board of Examiners, John Martley. "Well", he said, "John, we've stirred 'em up a little along the road. They're whitewashing the fence now and repairing the outhouse." In other words, his idea was to get everyone to run his institution a little better. He did something of that kind.

G: Was Gage any different?

S: He was something of a politician. (Budd) Budd, who wasn't particularly state conscious, was a good-hearted, abundant sort of fellow, loved politics, just for politics' sake, and he wasn't up here very long. And he used to have big fights with the Legislature and all that. And when he gave up the idea (they hammered him to death) of running for reelection, the railroad -- Dan Burns was then running it -- determined on Henry Gage of Los Angeles. Gage was a strange man. Dan Burns, who was then

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S: running the Republican party, pictured him as a great orator, a powerful lawyer and a man of leadership. I went to the hall where he was nominated to hear the speeches and to see him, to hear him speak. It was in a cruciform building that belonged to the Agricultural Society. They'd drop a great curtain to fence off one of the ends of the cross arms. I was with Dr. Mathews, an old Democratic war-horse. I don't know what led us out back of the curtain. There was Dan Burns walking. I think his arms were behind him, walking up and down. They were nominating Gage inside. He said, "Doctor, what do you think of my organization?" In other words, to observe his puppets, don't you know. Gage went out to make his speech of acceptance and I was tremendously disappointed. First, he was small. Next, his speech was not masterly at all, just an ordinary talk. He was an impressive, nice-looking, friendly looking man, but quite inexperienced in public life.

Anyhow, he was easily elected, and along about the end of the year, when Budd was to go out, oh, the 4th, 5th, 6th or 7th, according to when the House was organized, and the new man installed, in January, I guess that must have been '98, '99 --

Bean: The election was in '98.

S: Was it? Yes. All right then, and one day along in the middle of December or even later than that, one day this quiet gentleman came to the office where I was. And it was Gage. I didn't recognize him. He introduced himself. He was all alone. He just didn't have any of the drama, don't you know, of having a lot of strikers around him. And I, of course, invited him in,

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S: talked with him about the coming inauguration and organization of the Legislature. And very quickly I saw that he didn't know anything about it. That he just wasn't, that it was all a new thing to him. And he was almost childlike in his frank innocence. Well, I invited him to take dinner with me that night in this hotel over here on the corner, this old hotel now that's a lodging house or something, the Golden Eagle Hotel. It was then the greatest hotel in the interior of California. I'd hardly ever been in it. It was a little too much for me. But I couldn't tell you how proud I was to entertain the new Governor in the Golden Eagle Hotel. Well, we had a very pleasant dinner. Gage gave further evidence of being inexperienced in its intrigues, you know, and on those kind of things. He kind of turned all of a sudden rather serious. He said this: "I wanted very much to see Governor Budd, but, " he said, "I've been unable to meet him. I want you to take a message to him for me." In San Francisco, they had a charter. Among other things, there was a police commissioner, and there was a way of appointing him, electing him. It was an office of great political influence. You had all the policemen, don't you know, and it was an awful source of votes --. Gage said to me: "If Governor Budd will assure me that he will do nothing about that appointment, I'll be inaugurated in a dignified way. If he won't give me his assurance, I will hasten up, and I can be inaugurated in a rush, in time to fill that myself. I'd like to do it the other way." He said to me, "Ask him if he'll assure me that he'll not fill it." Well, I just got white all over. My hair stood up because I knew what was going to happen. Budd had gotten one already, I think.
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S: Gage was elected in 1898. In 1900 he was Governor and then there was a vacancy in the Superior Court here and I became a candidate. They wanted him to appoint a man immediately pending the election, and they wanted to put in the man that was running against me. He wouldn't do it. The committee waited on him. They said that it was essential that somebody be appointed, business required it. "Well," he said, "Is the business so essential? Would you be willing to accept the Democrat if I appointed him?" They knew that he meant me. No, it wasn't that essential. (Laughter) So he saved me there.

B: Did he appoint you?

S: No, I went to the polls, and had a tremendous success. And whatever he could do, he did for me.

Then, he made a bitter fight for the renomination. I forget if that convention was in Santa Cruz or Sacramento.

B: 1906 was in Santa Cruz. This one was probably in Sacramento.

S: He was defeated there and Pardee was nominated. Frank Lane was nominated by the Democrats. Lane was a very capable man and a very high class man and he came up here to start his campaign early in September. I went down to hear him. He made a speech. The next day he went out to the State Fair to meet the crowd there. At the appropriate time I got him by the sleeve and said, "I want to talk to you", and so forth. And we went down among the stables there where I could talk with him. I said, "Frank, you can't be elected on that speech you made last night. It was colorless and it didn't appeal to anybody except it was nicely and prettily done." "Well, he said, "What could I say?" "Oh," I said, "That's easy. For example, there's the Ione

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S: Reform School over there. Three or four hundred boys a year enter that institution. Talk about them and say that they're misfits, not bad boys. They need redemption, and that you're going to take an interest in seeing that the management of that thing is wakened up and that instead of just imprisoning those boys, they redeem them. Talk feelingly about that. It will appeal to people. Talk about the State prisons. Our prison system is medieval, middle ages stuff. We just put a first-term man in with the old-timers and they're just banged into a cell and the door locked and we go off and they are left there. Brutalized in every way. Can't you talk about modernizing it? About teaching them some industries and teaching them cultural courses. Can't you separate the young fellows from the old ones? Go ahead and tell them what you're going to do for the State prisons."

I said, "Now, take your insane asylums. They used to put a person in a cell and then put chains around him and tie him to a post. Those are high-class people and they should be treated like human beings, and the best mental scientists in the world should be brought to their assistance. See what can be done about it, and talk about rejuvenating those people and saving them fron the dark ages treatment."

"Even go into the University." I didn't know much about it then and I said, "Speak about the growth of education here, about what a great institution that can be. That you're going to take an interest in that institution and, wherever possible, you're going to build it up and extend it and accentuate the prestige."

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S: Well, I went down the line like that. "Go and make a talk like that and people will listen to you." Well, I was very eager to hear his next speech and see how much he did, and he didn't do much. I was very deeply disappointed.

And then I went to hear Pardee when he came here, and he made a speech that wasn't very deep or practical. Anyway, Lane was beaten slightly, and I got to know Pardee's secretary, A. B. Nye very well. He was a splendid man. I told him about these things. I said, "What was the matter with these men that they didn't talk politics, about their office?" "Well," he said, "don't you know?" "No, I said, "I don't." He said, "Well, Gage was bitterly disappointed. He's sulking in his tent. He's got an awful lot of votes he can throw either way and each of them is trying to placate him, trying to get him to throw his votes to them and so they were afraid to criticize. Not only afraid to criticize his institutions; to even mention that they could be improved would be a reflection on him for not having done it." And that's how that came about. There's politics for you.

G: Did you have anything to do with the Southern Pacific machine, with William Herrin, for instance?

S: Well, no, that was Republican, you see. And I was a Democrat. But I knew some of his lieutenants, and one of them -- one of the most interesting -- was George Hatton. He'd been a newspaperman and had a taste for politics and knew the politicians and so he was taken on by Herrin. He was one of the managers of the Republican party for a number of years. I knew him awfully well, and he was really friendly to me, and he would

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S: tell me things. As an example, I'll tell you this: When Gillett was Governor, the question was, his term was up, whether they'd renominate him or nominate someone else. And on the Republican ticket at that time, Charles F. Curry was a candidate for the nomination. He'd been Secretary of State for a long time and knew everybody. And Hiram Johnson was suggested as a candidate. The fight, though, appeared to be either between Gillett and Curry or the man that the railroad would nominate in Gillett's place. And I took lunch with Hatton. I said, "Are you going to renominate Gillett?" "Well," he said, "I just don't know. We haven't made up our minds." I could tell you why, but that's -- I won't go into it. "Well," I said, "How are you going to beat Curry?" I never thought of Johnson at that time. "Well," he said, "That's going to be easy. Our man --" This was for the primaries, you know, which was all Republican. "Our man will be known as the Republican candidate, and Curry and all these other men will be just known as men who are trying to break in." He said, "When Curry goes to San Jose, there'll be no big newspaper account of it, no brass band. There'll be no parade. And the hall won't be decorated and all that. When our man goes down, the State Central Committee will get up a great crowd, meet him at the depot. He'll be put in a carriage and driven to the hotel. There'll be a brass band, the newspapers will get laid out to announce that their man was there." He said, "There'll be nothing to it." Well, he was a wise man, but he had to learn this. Old men quit thinking, and the Republican party -- that management of the Republican party -- was dead. When they attempted to do that, there was nothing but a lot of old men to answer. The young men were allProgressive. But something

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G: Do you think Hiram Johnson was an outstanding governor?

S: What does Neylan say about him, that he's a great man?

B: Yes, he does. Neylan admires Hiram Johnson enormously and I believe he stated that he considered Johnson to be the best governor that this state had had and possibly that any American state had ever had.

S: Well, that wasn't Neylan's condition for quite awhile. They had differences and disillusionments and things of that kind.

It's hard to place men. Sometimes you want Woodrow Wilson to speak a little more correctly. Sometimes you want Teddy Roosevelt to spur us into a bigger and more outspoken protest of wrongs. You want the different types. Each man makes a contribution of his own, if he has anything. Coolidge -- Coolidge was the least of them all, I guess, although old rough and ready Zachary Taylor probably knew as little about government as the horse he rode, but Coolidge came pretty near reaching ...

G: What changes have you observed in our state government over the years?

S: Oh, I've noticed a very definite change. It used to be a mere honor and its chief function was rather political. A man made speeches and raised flags and dedicated schoolhouses and made appointments. Now our country is so big and complicated that it needs government and we're really trying to get men now that are interested in Davis College and are interested in whether or not

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S: we have another four year college in the Imperial Valley and so on. That know what should be done about poor relief and about civil service and about prison management and so on; and we're becoming conscious of all those things, and demanding in our officials that they know something about that sort of thing and do something about it.

G: There's an article in Colliers, 1949, saying that Artie Samish was the secret boss of California. Did you know him?

S: No, I never even saw him and I don't know by what means he wrought his inequities. I often wonder about that.

It would be hard to classify Johnson. I told you about his speech, when he was being nominated. That he didn't tell anything wrong ...

B: It was a speech rather like Billy Sunday's, wasn't it?

S: I saw him one time. He was attorney for a Chinaman here, accused of murder or something, and it got to be quite a famous case in a small town. The papers were full of it. So I came up from my little hide-away down on Riverside road, living there alone in an old house. I wanted to hear the argument. I sat in the back of the courtroom and he started in with that to the jury. After he talked an hour, I was puzzled to know what he was talking about and at the conclusion, I said, "My God, that man hasn't made one particle of an agrument." He hadn't shown the evidence which showed his man to be innocent, and he hadn't answered the details of the evidence that was against him. I was completely puzzled and benumbed.

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S: and Johnson said he was going to be for Roosevelt. The wife and I were up to the farm and we came down and listened to the radio. Now we were smiling like a cat, you know. Did you know Johnson much, or hear any of his speeches?

B: I never met Johnson.

S: He kind of ran out on stage with a kind of a scream, you know. And he screamed there for three-quarters of an hour, just denouncing Hoover, and then they had him quit, I don't remember why. I looked at my wife and she looked at me and I said, "My God, I wonder how many votes he's cost us?" I thought a little while and then I said, "Well, wife, that man has a million votes that will go any way he tells them. I guess maybe it won't hurt." That's the kind of speeches he made.

If you get his letters, you'll never get a letter that contains an analysis of the truth or a philosophy which will help to guide you. He never set forth the principle of government. But he was a master at throwing them out. He came in and Herrin's men went out of every window of the capital. He put in a lot of other men that weren't any better.

G: Neylan claims that the great thing about Johnson's administration was its humanitarianism. That the prisons were improved and the insane hospitals were improved and all that sort of thing.

S: Well, maybe they were. I wouldn't say. He had a lot of fine men behind him and he did undoubtedly reconstruct the Board of Examiners, made it into the big State Board of Control. Well, the State had grown big enough for that, you know, but he did it and I couldn't have done it. I would have been scared stiff to

L: and Johnson said he was going to be for Roosevelt. The wife and I were up to the farm and we came down and listened to the radio. Now we were smilin' like a cat, you know. Did you know Johnson much, or hear any of his speeches?

B: I never met Johnson.

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L: Nelson claims that the worst thing about Johnson's administration was its humanitarianism. That the prisons were improved and the insane hospitals were improved and all that sort of thing.

S: Well, maybe they were. I wouldn't say. He had a lot of fine men behind him and he did undoubtedly reconstruct the Board of Examiners, made it into the big State Board of Control. Well, the State had grown big enough for that, you know. But he did it and I couldn't have done it. I would have been scared stiff to

S: have undertaken the radical slaughters that he entered on.

G: I have one more question. Mr. Joe Quire told us that you had suggested to Franklin Roosevelt the fireside chat idea. Is this true?

S: Oh, I definitely did, but I don't think that it was from that that it came. I wrote him a letter when he was elected. I said, "I'm an older man than you are and have had a lot of experience around among practical politicians. Maybe I can give you a little advice that will help you. First, don't break your heart over your appointments. Lincoln was nearly killed filling little post offices. But when you come to make a major appointment, you make it. And know whom you're appointing. You can spend a million dollars, waste it, in California and we won't know anything about it. It's a lot of bookkeeping, but if you appoint a certain man to a major office in California, everybody knows that he's either this or that and if he's a bad one, they all know it and they'll say, "Yes, that's the kind of a man that Roosevelt selects, that's the kind of man he is." They'll generalize by the appointments you make. Leave the little fellows to your little men, but do the big ones yourself."

"Second," I said, "keep your door open. Know what the people are talking about." I had had breakfast about six or eight months before that with an admiral who was passing through here and I was on a committee or something like that. He spoke about Taft; he was a great friend of Taft. He said that Taft was confident of election in 1912. People all told him that T. Roosevelt didn't amount to anything; that he was just a noisy, picturesque sort of a character; that Taft was the party candidate. That's

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S: all he heard. When election came, Taft carried two states, I think, and didn't understand what happened to him.

I said, "When you were elected at this last election, Herbert Hoover was your opponent. He came through on a train to come to California to vote and a party of his friends went up the road to meet him. They met him at Colfax and one of them, Fred Keesler, told me about it. He said, "Herbert, how do things look?" "Fine, fine. Everything's just fine." "Well, it don't look like that down here."

Herbert didn't know what was happening. He said, "It doesn't matter. I don't need California. The whole thing is a foregone conclusion." Well, the next day he learned that it wasn't a foregone conclusion. He hadn't heard the word.

I said, "Don't let anybody tell you about things. Find out everything that's said against you. Don't get fed up on this praise business."

"Lastly, we've been in a position of dread, hopelessness, and leaderlessness for four years. Mr. Hoover didn't talk to us. He didn't encourage us. The only thing he said was that prosperity was just around the corner. We sensed that nothing was being done and in despair and silence, we just stood there and took it. Foreclosures, discharges, unemployment."

I said, "Talk to us over the radio frequently. You do it so well. If you don't know of anything that you've done, let us know that you are trying to do something. The mere fact that you're there and at work and looking out for us will help and encourage us.

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S: Talk to us frequently over the radio." That's probably what Joe was talking about. I don't know if that influenced him or not. I think not.

G: He also told us that Earl Warren came in to see you just before he went East to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

S: Yes, he did. I went to lunch with him and we had a good heart-to-heart talk. Oh, I was very, very fond of Warren. He was a man you could talk to and you knew he knew what you were talking about. He was awfully good to me.

About Johnson, I don't know how to classify a man like that. As a fighting personality, he ranks awful high. For example, one campaign, for Governor or Senator, I don't remember which, it appeared that Warren Porter was our Lieutenant Governor and as such, a Regent. They used to have speakers come down and talk to the student body and he went down there and he made some kind of speech in which he said that they learn here the responsibilities of property and to respect its rights, or something like that. Well, that's all Johnson needed. He made his campaign on that. He said this whole gang, representing the big railroads and the big wealth of this country, have now invaded our institutions of learning and they're sending their emissaries there to tell them to see that they protect wealth, and he doesn't say anything to them about protecting private rights and human rights. That's the kind of a campaign he made.

Well, the next time, I guess he ran for Senator. I heard these things from headquarters; there was a man named Booth that was running against him for the Senate, and he was from Southern

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He was invited by some women in San Francisco to speak to them and he went there and made a characteristic speech about this opponent." He has nice brown hair and a wave in his hair and he's got blue eyes. He's got this and that and he wants to be Senator and to write the destiny of a great country, and he'll do it with his blue eyes and his wavy hair and so forth." He made his campaign on that line.

B: Do you believe that Johnson would have never gotten the nomination or become Governor had it not been for the accident of the attempt to assassinate Heney?

S: Oh, I think there's no doubt of that. Heney was shot down; he jumped into the front and convicted Ruef and that gave him tremendous prestige.

B : Sometimes this sort of odd accident changes the whole course of political history.

S: He was a man the like of whom you will not see again. He had a lot of fine qualities. He was an awful good companion, fond of humor and of jokes, intolerant of opposition and a little

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S: ill at ease in cultured society. I remember one night seeing him come into the horse show here when he was Governor, and there was a box for him. I could have laughed right in his face. He came in and kind of did that. (Imitates Johnson.) I dare any man to spit in my eye sort of thing. (Laughs) He made some good ties in Washington. He fraternized a good deal with Philander Knox and with someone else.

Lord, I hate to say this. This is confidential, it isn't going to be published, is it?

G: No, it isn't going to be published. It's going to be used by scholars.

S: I'll not be quoted in connection with it. You'll not use it for years, will you?

B: That's right.

S: Well, he ... I'll tell you this story later. He did something for Roosevelt, I guess the last election that we had. Before that, he'd done something nice and the Democrats out here said "He's on the liberal side." It was the election when he ran against Willkie. They said, "Let's endorse him out here so that he won't have to make a campaign." and they did, so he was nominated by both parties.

Then he went back to Washington and came out with a blistering address favoring Wendell Willkie. That's the only time I ever voted against him. I said to my wife, "I can't vote for him. That's treason." It was gratuitous and unprovoked and he got our nomination and then turned on us.

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S: was the great man. He was in the Senate for 26 years and for all useful purposes there, he might never have been there. I think that the boy next door would have done a little better. He would have taken up some modest department of the government like the post office and developed some new method or some new economy or some new efficiency. But with all of that dramatic power and the ear of the nation open to him, he gave us no leadership, he created nothing.

You should talk to Jack Neylan. I wish I could hear him talk. He has no inhibitions. "That kind of a governor was so-and-so. Why, he's a so-and-so. And that fellow, he's a counterfeit. He was a political accident, and a damned scoundrel and all that."

With me, I'd see a fellow there and he's got some good and he's got some bad. I've had some friends that I was fond of who were such damned blackguards in some respects that people wondered, but they had seen nothing but the blackguard.

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JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT,
SACRAMENTO, 1900 to 1949

G: Did you resume your practice of the law after your job with Governor Budd?

S: Well, I went from the library job to this Code Commission and from that I guess I became the governor's secretary and then when I came out Hiram Johnson and I formed a kind of a loose partnership. I had been out of practice so long and I didn't have the instinct of getting hold of the thing.

G: Had you practiced law before?

S: I had practiced before I broke down. And then the work that I did under A. C. Freeman was an intensive study of law. It was better than a practice. It covered the whole field. It covered it with such an accuracy, a clarity, that it was a tremendous preparation. But I had not practiced very long.

Then I was made Secretary of the State Agricultural Society. I did some practice with Hiram, quite a little bit, and then, it was while I was there, that I was elected judge. I went to the bench, like Warren did, without too much actual practice and looking back, I know how that limited my skill but I also feel that it tremendously strengthened my judicial capacity. I just knew people and I knew that when a man foreclosed a mortgage, I knew what it meant to the man who was foreclosed. And when children had to be awarded ... I look back with great satisfaction on the way in which I handled children, carried them through all those years and somewhere managed to have them fed and trained and taken care of.

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S: Here's an experience. When I was first nominated to be judge, I didn't know anything about the practice or how to get votes. I concluded that I just had to see people and tell them that I was a candidate and I wanted them to vote for me. Well, the saloons were then in full flower and they were the meeting places of the people. I had to go to the country saloons because they were the news vendors of the neighborhood and people stopped there. The saloon-keeper was quite a fellow. But in town there were too many and they were too costly and it didn't look good to see a candidate for judge bobbing in and out of a saloon. I didn't have the dough anyhow. But there was one big saloon downtown on K between 2nd and 3rd or 4th, known as the Lafayette, where there was a mob of men. Two or three men had made large fortunes there robbing farm hands and laborers and so forth. I concluded I just couldn't let that great big mass of voters go by without meeting them, but the place had a bad name and I didn't want to get contaminated. So one afternoon it was quiet and I looked around and saw no signs of vigilance or anybody watching me so I went by and darted right in. I hadn't gone in a moment until I saw that I had made a mistake. At that time of day the men were not there. There were men around playing cards and the place was dark and stinky. I went up to a table or two. I wanted to get a few of them up in front of the bar so that the bar keeper would know who I was and that I had been to his house. Well, they were surly and discourteous. I think there was one drunken man lying on the floor. But I got three, and I didn't know how to get out without going to the bar, you know. The three men I got

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I've known so many people like that. Men out of State prison, blackened by the common way of estimating people. They were awfully fine on one side or the other. I remember a man in New York. He was implicated in a murder, I don't know just how, how much of it he did or what, but he was evidently of a

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B: The incident you just described reminds me a little of an incident Abe Ruef described in his memoirs. When he was first going to work as a lieutenant for Boss Martin Kelly in San Francisco in the 1880's, Kelly's headquarters were at the back of a saloon that Kelly owned. When Ruef was going through the saloon on the way to Kelly's office, he saw a judge standing at the bar talking with some potential voters and Martin Kelly pointed that out to him as he came in the door and said, "Now, you're a young lawyer. It won't do you any harm to be a part of the organization that helps to elect these judges before whom you practice." That was quite a different situation, of course, but it was the sort of thing that apparently did lure Ruef into the sort of life that he chose as distinct from the sort that he could have had as the man that he was.

G: Did the Southern Pacific machine have much control over the judiciary at the time you were judge?

S: It's in the nature of politics that men who are interested in office should group together and take control over the unthinking and unorganized masses, don't you know.And whenever there's some big interest, you'll find that there's a group forms to

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S: take advantage of that interest.

Now, I think it was about the time that the Central Pacific Railroad was composed that the railroad wanted the government to be friendly to their efforts, And as time went on they needed aid from the State and tremendous aid from the Federal Government to get public lands and bounties, to get men in office who were favorable to anything they needed, and there gradually grew up that great big organization. They grew stronger and stronger as other big interests in the State -- the great landowners against efforts to subdivide their lands and the water interests and then the vice interests -- all organized under the head of the railroad. It was always called the railroad. It was the large capitalist enterprise that wanted protection from exploitation and which was legitimate. Well, in order to prevail, they had to take in with them those solid bodies of folks that are represented by the iniquities bunch, you know. That was the bad side of it. And when they got into power they had to look out for the iniquities.

In that way we built up rather indifference and unconsciousness of the great masses of people. It was not the railroad, it was the Republican party.

I don't know how you were reared in that respect, but prejudices are one of the strongest influences in human judgment. If you were reared to be a Republican, then you're reared Republican on all sorts of things, no matter which way they go.

G: You were a Democrat.

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S: You were a Democrat.

S: I was, yes. And more so every hour. I'd like to explain to you, but not here. The state organization had its representatives in the county and in the cities and all that sort of thing. There was a point where if you wanted a pick and shovel job, you had to go to the railroad to get it.

G: This was also true of the judges?

S: Well, yes, they were political. They ran as Democrats and Republicans and I know that the organizations picked out their men. In the main I wouldn't say that they had been particularly vicious about it, but my own views are this: I don't think they corrupted many men other than they seduced them into allegiance when the opportunities arose. I think they took a man who naturally sympathized with the great wealth and felt that it should be encouraged because of the great services which it gave. I think their managers were pretty shrewd men. They knew in Sacramento County who was favorable to them and who was inclined to be a little radical or a little revolutionary.

G: Would a man who was unfavorable ever have a chance to get into a judge's position?

S: I would say that his chance would be very slim. He just wouldn't be considered, you know. They were not particularly or intentionally corrupt. They wanted a man who was what they called a 'safe' man. They wanted a conservative man or a man who would not be swayed by Communism or Populism or any of those kind of things or by a lot of discontented people here and there. They could depend on him for a steady, dependable judgment. They picked those kind of men out and I doubt if they ever had to subsidize them in higher office. Office was held in higher

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S: esteem in those days. You see, we came from a country of class distinction and our people who first came over here, they wanted to be something, don't you know. Public office was tremendously sought for.

G: You hear cases of open corruption, like the bribery of Justice Henshaw.

S: Well, yes. I think those kind of cases were very rare.

B: Among the men who accepted appointments to judgeships from an organization like that, there would, however, be a few men like Henshaw who were corruptible before they became judges.

S: Oh yes. I know that. I don't think the railroad or the organization really wanted that kind of a man. He could be bought, but you see, he could be bought by the other side.

G: They wanted to be safe in the first place.

S: Yes, they wanted to be safe in the first place.

B: And they didn't want, in so far as they may have controlled the judiciary in a way, they didn't want it discredited by bribery as raw as the thing that Henshaw did.

S: No. I would say that there was little gross abuse or any abuse in the selection of the judiciary. It was like the thief, you know. He would hesitate before he goes into a church to steal.

G: Well, didn't the railroads control the Democratic appointments of judges?

S: Well, the Democrats were never strong enough to develop a machine. They developed lots of leaders but they were widely distributed. They were the Shawns in Los Angeles, I recall, and then some of the old-fashioned Spaniards. My, there were

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S: some grand Spaniards in the country. Then there was Clay Webster Taylor up in Shasta and James O'Brian in Sparksville. And then there were different men in San Francisco.

And they ran things. Dennis Kearney developed a great leadership and there was Kyme, and then Buckley. Buckley was the big boss. Budkley was one of those very able men and he wanted -- I don't suppose he really set out like poor old Ruef did to make some money out of his office. I think that he liked politics and that he wanted to get power and have an organization that could be depended upon and so forth and I think there were certain offices in which money had been made and he wanted those. I don't think he ever asked any questions of a man who was interested in being supervisor to let a contract. He wanted to see that the price of that contract was big enough so that the supervisor could give him enough money to help him maintain his machine.

Back of most of those machines there was a measure of worth and sincerity. Buckley gave us some of the best men in California for governor and for judicial offices. He put them in as window dressing. I think he used them. He nominated Washington Bartlett who would have made a governor to model the nation on. He was a grand man.

G: We have been interviewing his nephew, Louis Bartlett.

S: Is that true? I don't think he's eloquent enough to describe the worth of his uncle. I walked with him late in the night, up and down the streets, in his election, and he confided in me. Talked about his plans.

G: Were you a Democrat that early?

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S: Oh Lord, yes. I was born that way, inclined that way, coursed that way. I wanted to be a Republican because all the better people were Republican. Superintendent of the bank, president of the bank, and I wanted to for no other purpose than that I saw the prominence of the Republicans and we had obscure people.

But today, girl, I've come to see -- I look around me now and I pick out the different kinds of people that are the best people. I pick out an old woman working in a laundry in order to stake her grandchildren, the children of her daughter who died, to send them to school. And she went out of her peaceful, old ladyhood into the laundry and that sort of thing. I go among people who have been an influence in their community, people to whom the community can look up to for an example and an inspiration. People who forewent opportunity for wealth and station and applause and a place on the stage, but adhered to the proprieties and the decencies and the nobilities of life. My, how I love those kind of people and because I think there are more of those in the Democratic party ... I don't want to say that. There are an awful lot of good men in the Republican party, but it's a class party. You go up to a great club and there'll be about 25 to one Republicans. You go to the Rotary club and you'll find it's about the same proportion. You go into a first-class coach on the train and you'll find it. And that isn't healthy, it isn't wholesome.

And the Republican party is today, I think, Hamiltonian. It's the Federalist party and the idea was to favor wealth so that it may build up the country and that the prosperity they enjoy and

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S: the development of enterprises all over the country would sift down and reach the masses. Well, it just doesn't do that at all. While we are talking, I want it understood that I've written some decisions that I'd hate awfully bad to pick up today because they're confused and unintelligent. But I wish you'd go back and read the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States reversing my decision, well, not my decision. It was one that followed my decision saying that a child could not be put out of the public schools for failure to salute the flag. Why, it was so clear to me. The Constitution says that the free exercise and practice of religious profession is forever guaranteed in this country except on two conditions, one, it shall not be immoral and two, it shall not destroy the government, and I had no trouble. I never hesitated, while all over the United States they began to reverse that. When it got to the Supreme Court of the United States, they decided against it.

B: Do you recall the name of the case, of your decision?

S: The original case. No, but it wouldn't be hard to find.

G: What was the case that went before the Supreme Court?

S: First, they reversed my decision, the Supreme Court of California, in one of those kind of decisions you talk about. Utter gibberish. Then it was reversed in Georgia. I sent my case back there and it was referred to the court and the court said, "You referred to us a decision of the California court to the contrary. It's enough for us to say that we don't agree with you. That's all." And they picketed a man back there, had a little hat store. Had six children and was making a little living. And the American Legion dominated by the Ku Klux Klan picketed him on the ground of

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S: his lack of patriotism and the Supreme Court condemned him and upheld the removal of his six children from school. And they ruined his business and put him out on the street. And they did that in America in the 20th century. I shudder as I think of that. Then it went to a court in Massachusetts and another one in Pennsylvania, and they had a law requiring it, which was against the Constitution and therefore was against the law. But they approved the law. Then it went to a federal court in Eastern Pennsylvania and there I got my decision, a whole page out of the newspaper. And I wrote to the man and I said, "I bless you, sir, for your decision. I have been humiliated and ashamed at the cowardice of the higher courts of America that lost my case and heard yours through. We are delighted and I bless you for your decision." And he wrote back and said he had my decision at his hand and used it as a demonstration for his.

Then his case went to the Supreme Court of the United States. Seven to one, they reversed it. Well, Chief Justice Stone sustained that reversal. Then, it took two or three years, I don't know how long, when another case involving those Jehovah's Witnesses came along. They were such nuisances that laws were passed trying to limit them. They had a way of taking a phonograph and going in front of some Catholic home and playing that thing into the house, announcing their religion. There was an ordinance passed providing that they couldn't circulate certain literature without a license. Well, that ultimately went before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court approved of the ordinance, but it was a five to four decision this time. Three of the judges, Black, I can't think of them now, Murphy -- they each

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Well, of course, I knew that would be the end of the next case that went to them. They were more intelligent.

But when you think of all the mistakes that you make, think of what your president does once in awhile. Think of all the terrible blunders he makes with all the advisors in the world.

I have one other case that went to the Supreme Court that was discreditable to their judgment and intelligence. I thought when Warren went there and when they talked about his judicial inexperience, good lord, I thought that would be the strength of the man.

Things that go before the Supreme Court of the United States are political, social and cases that are universal in application to human society. In those respects, Warren is the best prepared man on that bench. And he'll show it. You're young, both of you. You'll live to see his name venerated.

B: It's incredible that anyone could have gotten the Supreme Court into a nine to nothing decisionon the segregation issue.

S: Warren is one of those kind of men who has so much of common sense and the common touch that he just naturally, automatically is on the right side of things. It just shows the influence of experience and sympathy and justice and strength. They all operate on him normally and there it is. He'll make a great judge, a very great judge. And he's a great man. Not the great

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AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA, 1890'S

B: Judge, what were the main shortcomings of the agricultural education that was offered at Berkeley about the 1890's? That is, there was a College of Agriculture but it was entirely in Berkeley.

S: Well, it was an incidental thing in the University, had no prestige, it had no building. Its activities were in some kind of a shed on the campus. The people had not grown up to expect anything from it.

When the Morrill Act was passed, agricultural colleges sprang up all over the nation to take advantage of that land grant and I would imagine there was no real enthusiasm behind its foundation. The public didn't demand anything from it and I don't remember who preceded Hilgard. Hilgard was a rather strong character. He was a chemist and he did a considerable amount of rather valuable work in soil analysis. I rather think it was Hilgard who taught the cause on alkali in the great San Joaquin Valley, and he taught the method by which it could be corrected, and he taught the people there that if you raise the water level to the point where the capillaries would go to the surface, it would take up the salts that were in all the sub-soils and they'd go to the top and be evaporated and leave the salt there and come up and leave more salt there until the soil developed an alkalinity which was beyond the tolerance of plants. I think he did a good work in that. And later, I don't remember just when the Farm Institutes were instituted. They did some good. The trouble with people then, they weren't awake to what the meaning of agricultural education was. I don't know who the earlier directors of the Farm ...

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B: At Berkeley? You spoke of Hilgard's predecesor. That, I think was Ezra Carr. There was quite a controversy between Carr, who was, I think, their only professor of agriculture, and two or three professors in the College of Letters and Science; and Carr then, when he left the University, became associated with the Patrons of Husbandry, the Grangers, became an agitator of a kind, sort of a lobbyist for the Grange movement. It was part of this conflict between the literary college and the agricultural college. In what I've read of this analogous situation in other states, apparently the same thing happened in many, many states. In the early stage, as you said, the Morrill Act was the bounty of the Federal Government. Each state created a college in order to get the bounty of the land or the endowment from it. There were only, I think, four agricultural colleges in existence at the time of the Morrill Act. Then, within ten or so years after that, the Morrill Act had created thirty or so more and eventually that spread over all the states and Hawaii and Alaska even and there was always, or almost always, in every state, a long period of conflict between the farmers and the college because the farmers felt, and it was just surprising how similar the patterns were in different states, the farmers felt that the funds from the Federal grant were not being used for the right purposes. That they were being dissipated, and this was true in some states. Actually, those funds were not being used for agriculture by any stretch of the imagination. At the Florida State College they had a professor of horticulture and Greek, and he spent most of his time teaching Greek and an hour a day of his time supposedly teaching horticulture, when he had any students, which he usually didn't. So there was this period, you see, in many states.

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S: California is very different from other states. This Tom Allison that I've spoken to you about said to me one day, talking about farmers, "You have no farmers in California." There were great big cattle ranches, you see; there were land grant owners. There were corporations which went down to the Valley there and took up great areas and started in to irrigate them and do all that kind of thing. There were a good many farmers who took it up with the idea they'd make a killing out of it and go to town, or particularly that they'd raise their families and make lawyers and doctors and professional and business men of them.

B: That happened in every state in the country. During the early years, very few students in the College of Agriculture ... if the farmers believed in book learning at all, they usually wanted their boys to be lawyers or mechanical engineers.

S: Now, I went up in Oregon and I found it very different. It's strange how imaginary lines made a physical difference, but you can't go into Oregon a hundred feet without you see a home there on the farm. They've got varied resources. They've got cattle, a dairy, some oats, some corn and the home is homemade. They make their own foods there and things and they regard themselves as farmers and they stay there and their children grow up to be farmers.

G: The land is different up there, the land is more hilly and therefore the farms are smaller.

S: Well, yes. The Willamette Valley, where I was most familiar -- that was very level, but there was, as you said, some of that sort of thing, but their farms were small. When Corvallis opened, you know, we had students immediately and it was very popular with

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S: the people up there.

B: I think we might make this distinction between different groups of states and the difference between California and Oregon to illustrate that. About half of the states ultimately chose to set up separate institutions for the Morrill Act college while the other half chose to consolidate the land grant college with the existing state university or a new state university, the development of which was encouraged by the Morrill Act; and whereas in California, the land grant college was a part of the general, single state university, here the conflict was of course particularly strong. In such states as California, there was especially great criticism from farmers about the state university.

S: We didn't really have the regular farmer, the farmer of history, the farmer of the frontier of America. Too many of our farmers had the infection of the gold mines and they'd made big money or they'd seen other men make big money and they were impatient of small incomes and living industry. There was no particular pride in their occupation and there was an awful lot of city men rented land and farmed it from their chairs through tenants and all that kind of thing. We used to have an awful lot of farm labor, you know, that were Chinese, so our conditions here were a little different.

I know that I never heard of the College of Agriculture until I was 18 years old.

B: Well, that's a question that I was coming to and which you've already answered in part, but just how far in the years before 1905 or in the years before the Davis Campus actually got into operation, how far had the College of Agriculture at Berkeley been

S: the people up there.

B: I think we might make this distinction between different groups of states and the difference between California and Oregon to illustrate that. About half of the states ultimately chose to set up separate institutions for the Morrill Act college while the other half chose to consolidate the land grant college with the existing state university or a new state university, the development of which was encouraged by the Morrill Act; and whereas in California, the land grant college was a part of the general, single state university, here the conflict was of course particularly strong. In such states as California, there was especially great criticism from farmers about the state university.

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S: Well, that's a question that I was coming to and which you've already answered in part, but just how far in the years before 1905 or in the years before the Davis Campus actually got into operation, how far had the College of Agriculture at Berkeley been

B: successful in extending the results of its research to the farmers, as distinct from the scientific pamphlets which they published?

S: Well, I couldn't say that it had been very far. It may have been different with different types of persons than I and my family. The Farmers' Institute, I was awfully fond of that. They sent out two or three professors with a kind of a leader. They called meetings around the country and met in little sheds or barns or homes or whatever there were and they'd have a little talk. They weren't very profound, they weren't altogether very practical.

I recall there was a man, D. T. Fowler of Fresno, a handsome man, vigorous and athletic looking with a shiny beard, a man probably 45 years old with a great voice and a dramatic personality; and he was having a row with the railroad company on account of fares and freights from some place down the valley. And he made himself heard. He was of that type, you know. He could make a great speech, and when he got through all you had to remember of it was that he was against the railroad. He actually went so far, I think, that he said we'll just defy the railroad and get along without them. He loaded a six or eight mule team to carry some freight to San Francisco, and he was going to follow that up by other developments. Well, I don't know what happened about that -- of course that was quixotic.

He attracted Dr. Wheeler's attention. He thought, "Well, here's a farmer." Wheeler wasn't much of a farmer. (Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California.) He said, "Here's a real farmer now." And he made him director of the

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I recall there was a man, D. T. Fowler of Fresno -- Defiance Man, a generous and athletic looking man with a shiny record, quite jocular, fond of joking with a great voice and a dramatic personality; and he was having a row with the railroad company on account of fares and freight rates from some place down the valley. And he made himself heard. He was of that type, you know. He could make a great speech, and when he got through all you had to remember of it was that he was against the railroad. He naturally went so far, I think, that he said we'll just defy the railroad and get along without them. He loaded -- six or eight mule team to carry some freight to San Francisco, and he was going to follow that up by other developments. Well, I don't know what happened about that -- of course that was quixotic.

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S: Farmers' Institute in California. Dr. Wheeler appointed him Director of Farmers' Institutes, and E. W. Major was out scouting with them, you know, here and there. And on one occasion, they asked -- I think someone asked what was good for calfs scours, calf scours, that's a sort of a -- that became a scourge that killed all kinds of fine cattle. And they haven't, I don't think, completely solved it yet. And some big fellow down around Manteca, when they met in a barn with planks across nail kegs for seats, he asked the professor what about it. Well, the professor didn't know. And they were doing this, and they were doing that. He didn't give the men a specific. And when Fowler met with them afterwards, he said, "Don't ever do that again. When they ask you a question, you answer it. If you just don't know, come as near to it as you can." Think of that. Well, of course, Fowler didn't last very long. Well, those were the first steps, those were the first steps.

The Institutes were more picturesque, I think, than substantial. Our big farmers didn't go to them very much. It was like the Grange. Now the Grange never became a power in California, not at all. And in other states, it really amounted to something. In fact, the Granger movement, as they called it over in the Middle West, was quite substantial, and it resulted in a quantity of Granger legislation. One was that Congress or the State legislature had power to regulate the rates charged by corn elevators and so forth, and other things of that type. But here it didn't catch the leading men or the real substantial farming people.

S: The Farmers' Institutes were still going at the time I began the agricultural college. When I came to town and began to read agricultural papers (I was lonesome and anything that had to do with the farm ... or wherever I saw a purebred animal I'd go and lean over the fence and moon over it), I began to see what a wonderful thing it would have been for me if I'd known something about botany, about geology, about the migration of birds, about soil fertility, about the pedigrees of domestic stock, about the different varieties of chickens and pigs -- if I had known hybridization, and all those marvelous things. If I'd just known forestry so I could tell one tree from another. I didn't know those things, and when I began to hear about them I just thought what a delight that would have been to me as I moved around on a pony or with a dog at my heels, just dreaming or hunting or something. And when I began to see these things in the books, oh, I just regretted that they had not come to our attention. And then when this man told me that there were schools where they taught that, I just went wild.

My objection to the College of Agriculture came afterwards, after I realized what a mass of mystery and romance, of beauty and materialism, resided in these different truths that had never been whispered to us. I just didn't think that they existed, except that one farmer would tell about a dog that he'd known or a horse that he'd seen or something of that sort. And farmers would compare across the fence; they'd compare a new kind of oats that they got or something like that.

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S: could see or hear, the College of Agriculture was. There was no attendance at it. I went over immediately after this boy told me about that, to see what kind of a college it was; and I found, I think, that two boys had graduated that year. Two, in California! And the year before but one, and that was a girl. Later I saw the shed in which the thing was operated.

B: This was a fairly common pattern. The same situation existed in Minnesota, even though a few years later at Minnesota it did become strong. This was a transitional period. Part of it was that for many years after the Morrill Act, they couldn't find the people to do these things. No one had been trained to do it. What were the attitudes of the farm lobbies, the organized farm groups, toward the College of Agriculture at Berkeley during the time that you were studying this?

S: Oh, during the time that I was agitating? I never heard of anybody who defended it. Undoubtedly here and there, there were men who went down there to see if they could get some scientific explanation of some phenomena existing in thie r country, but I never heard of anybody getting any information from there that ever helped them. Not at all.

B: Did the farmers, as far as you knew, ever read the reports that were published every two years, or later every year, I think, by the College of Agriculture?

S: No. I never heard of one. I just never heard of one.

B: They were published in big fat volumes. All the researches for the two year period in one fat volume of a hardcover book -- impossible to get at, from the point of view of the farmer.

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S: heard of somebody that had graduated from the college of agriculture, and they told me the reason they did that was that anybody could go through the College of Agriculture down there, and he took it in order to get a degree, to graduate, to get by. And that was what it was regarded as, an escape college, a snap course.

G: Did you know very many farmers at this time?

S: Well, I was living in a community, and we used to have meetings for one thing or another. I'd meet them at picnics. The real neighbors we'd meet very occasionally at the postoffice. They were our neighbors, and we visited them. I knew a normal lot of them. Never heard the word of an education in agriculture spoken of. Never once.

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1899

B: Did you meet many farmers during your work as Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, in 1899?

S: No, not much.

B: What was the nature of that work?

S: Well, its origin was some enterprising men who were interested in farming and animals, just to hold a great fair. That was the tradition, you know. In the first place, it was a great place to have races; trotting races then were the vogue. The trotting horse appealed to all of us because he was ... it was his type that we had in the family light horse team, the buggy horse. And it was a source of great sport. There were a few herds of purebred animals in the country, and it was marvelous for us to see them. I wish I could tell you how my eyes just bulged when I saw a shorthorn bull that weighed nearly a ton. The Holsteins didn't come until rather late, and there were a few early Eyreshires here, and they dropped out. They're coming back again. I remember very well the first herd of Jersey cattle that I saw. I was sitting in the farm wagon that we came into, on the inside of the circle out there. The stock parade was on, and here came your mount and draught horses, and then the beef animals, shorthorns almost exclusively. And then a lot of small little creeping things like mice, in the distance, as I saw them -- they seemed just flat on the ground, they were so small. That was my first view of a Jersey cow.

B: Was that a private or a public organization?

S: I think it had its origin privately, and I recall, there was a great deal of litigation later on where they had issued life

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S: memberships and they could get free admissions. When it was taken over by the State, the question was whether they would recognize them or not. It was quite definitely a private institution.

G: How did you happen to be appointed to be Secretary?

S: Well, my girl, how did you happen to be here today? I just wouldn't want to tell the little story here.

In the first place, I was known for my enthusiasm over animals and farming generally and that made me considered when such an occasion came around. The state fairs were very useful in their beginnings. The farmers would go over there to see the locomotive collision or the greased pig race, but they'd see the chickens, they'd see the pigs, they'd see the cattle and they'd see such fruit as we had in the beginning and they had an idea they'd go home and try it. It spread learning very much; more practice than learning. Animals got scattered out and the amount of pure bred or cross bred continually and constantly increased.

B: Incidentally, the first large fair anything like a state fair in California was organized by James Warren; I describe it in a little article I've given you there, back about 1885. He was one of the organizers, I believe, of this State Agricultural Society too.

S: He must have been quite a man. Don't you know, the roots of big things are fine and widespread. I've grown kind of reverent in the face of any kind of an incident. I'm afraid to talk in front of little children for fear that one word or another will suggest a tolerance of wrong or suggest an impropriety or an indifference to the dignity of the departments of life. I

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S: read about these new books that the children are reading now, I've forgotten what they call them, and think how vicious they are.

B: The horror comics?

S: Yes, the horror stories. Now, I read dime novels voraciously when I was a boy and they were very wholesome.

B: Horatio Alger stories?

S: Yes, I read those too. They are in my literary tolerance. The hired man would go to town. He had a few things in view. He'd get his hair cut, buy a new pair of shoes, get drunk, bring home two copies of the Police Gazette. Well, I read it. I read the print off of it. I read anything I could get my hands on. Those things were perfectly harmless to me.

B: Was the State Agricultural Society still publishing its Transactions at the time that you were secretary? Many substantial papers were published in that series of papers called the Transactions of the State Agricultural Society for many years.

S: I don't doubt it, but I had never seen them.

B: I think they had ceased publication by this time in 1899.

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ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSITY FARM

B: Was it in your first year as secretary of the State Agricultural Society that you conceived the idea of a new agricultural college?

S: I guess it was the first year. No, I don't think it was, because when Pardee became Governor in 1903 I had been working on the bill for only about two years. I've told how I first got started on the idea in this pamphlet I've written.

After that incident I read and read and read, and my views enlarged with every day. First I learned that there were such things as agricultural colleges in other states. I didn't know that in the beginning. And I picked out those in which the most progress had been made, and I wrote particularly -- There was a man named Withycombe, James Withycombe, the Principal of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis. I got to know him and wrote him for aid and information. There was a man named Butterworth or Butterfield in Massachusetts. I don't know why I picked him out. There was a man named Hopkins in Illinois, from whom I got a little help. And I met John Craig, a lame man who was the head of the Texas A. & M. But the great man, oh, the man to whom I just bowed and submitted and to whom I am reverently grateful was Dean Henry of Madison, Wisconsin. Well, I wrote to all of them.

Some of them expressed sympathy and good will, but Henry took hold of it. Oh, Jim Wilson was then Secretary of Agriculture and had been for some years. And it was nearing the time of Theodore Roosevelt. I wrote to Wilson. And in Minnesota, which -- no, Wilson came from Iowa -- in Minnesota, the head

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S: of the college was a man named Hayes, who later became Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. And he was a fine fellow, too. He gave me some vital help in many ways. But Henry was the one who guided my faltering footsteps, and when I left the courthouse I had a stack of letters that high by him. And with the infatuated idiocy, don't you know, of a man who hasn't got the historic instinct, I destroyed them. I would give a dollar a word to recreate those letters.

The first letter I wrote him, he said, "Go ahead and get your school. You need it. Everybody needs one." And I don't know whether it was in the first, but immediately following it was a letter, "Be sure and start with enough land." I couldn't get that. I thought 40 acres would be eminently sufficient. I thought a patch about as big as this room of alfalfa would be sufficient to test alfalfa, don't you know. You could do that with vegetables, and an acre of different kinds of fruits was sufficient to study the fruit industry, you know. He said under no circumstances start with less than about 640 acres, and he kept insisting on that from time to time as we went along.

B: Who was this again?

S: This was Dean Henry. I don't recall his initials. He was at the time the most mentioned in the newspapers of almost any of them. He was Dean of the College -- of the Dairy Division. Oh, later on I met Henry E. Allport, who was the Head of the Agricultural Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, and he was a splendid fellow.

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S: Did he?

B: Perhaps not at this time but --

S: Well, anyhow he kept writing to me for years, and whenever I got into difficulty, he wrote to me. Speaking of aid, I had a great many individuals that I convinced and that got in and helped me in a great many ways. There was an organization formed shortly after I started by young men who were buttermakers, and my zeal was largely in that direction because I was interested, loved dairy cattle and saw the possibilities of a great dairy industry. They were made up of the operators and the employees of the buttermaking industry. They were called the Creamery Operators' Association. Well, they enthusiastically took it up, and they aided me clear through the movement. That is, more by encouragement. When I needed to go before the Legislature, I'd like to have a sheaf of resolutions, don't you know, trying to create sentiment. They'd write any kind of a resolution that I needed.

G: When did you start going before the Legislature?

S: Well, that's important. I heard of this thing in September, 1899. And in just about a year from that, there was no action. That was 1900. And then the Legislature met right following the election in 1901. Well, there was a young man elected to the Legislature from Kings County, a fine type of enthusiastic young fellow named R. Holtby Myers. And he came to me when he came to Sacramento and heard about my plan. And he wanted to get an appropriation to create a skimming station. That sounds awful crude and little and petty and funny, now. But they were just beginning, the farmers, instead of skimming their

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S: milk at the farm were taking it to a central station where it was more adequately treated, don't you know. Then from there -- the skimming stations were sometimes in connection with a factory and sometimes they sent it to a factory. Well, he wanted one down there, and to me anything that looked connected with agriculture, or that increased agricultural facilities or developed its breadth of operation, was in line with what I wanted. So I drew a bill, 389. Well, that of course was a nonsensical bill. Well, no, it wasn't. Don't you know, the first steps in any growth or progress is reverent, it just is. I was groping. And I was one of many in the dark. And that, of course, got nowhere. But in succeeding years, that is, from 1901 to 1903, the Legislature meeting biennially, I made a lot of progress, got a lot of letters, talked a lot about it and met a lot of people that were helping. I got some newspapers. And I had a large political acquaintance, friendship, and I was facing headway there because the farmers as a class didn't rise to it at all.

G: Among both parties?

S: Oh, yes. It was totally nonpartisan. There was no suggestion of anything else.

S: milk at the farm we're taking it to a central station where it was more adequately treated, don't you know. Then from there -- the skimming stations were sometimes in connection with a factory and sometimes they sent it to a factory. Well, he wanted one down there, and to me anything that looked connected with agriculture, or went increased agricultural facilities or developed its breadth of operation, was in line with what I wanted. So I drew a bill, 309. Well, that of course was a nonsenatorial bill. Well, no, it wasn't. Don't you know, the first steps in any growth or progress is movement, it was in. I was groping. And I was one of many in the dark. And that, of course, got nowhere. But in succeeding years, that is, from 1901 to 1903, the Legislature meeting biennially, I made a lot of progress, got a lot of letters, talked a lot about it and met a lot of people that were helping. I got some newspapers. And I had a large political acquaintance, fraternally, and I was facing headway there because the farmers as a class didn't rise to it at all.

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GETTING THE BILL PASSED, 1903 AND 1905

S: Well, I drew a bill in 1903 which I recollected as having been rather rudely comparable with the final bill. But when I came to look it up, not long ago, I was astonished at its narrowness, incompleteness, its mighty evident lack of understanding that I had at the time. Well, I had a good organization by that time, and there was quite a lot of people around Woodland who were -- they wanted some sort of an agricultural school or something there. They were not very clear about what they wanted. But Senator Marshall Davis was elected Senator from that district, and a man by the name of O'Connell was elected to the Legislature. And I entrusted the bill to these two men, Davis in the Senate and O'Connell in the Assembly. Well, an awful lot of work was done. Lord, I attended a hundred committee meetings, way long in the night I'd go home. The bill was referred, oh, to the agricultural committee and then to the educational committee, and then to the finance committee, don't you know. And then they'd postpone it and postpone it. I don't know how I ever went into it, five, pretty near six years of that. One night in the beginning there was a joint meeting of the finance committee of the Senate and the ways and means committee of the Assembly. It was -- everybo dy that was interested in appropriations was there, and the Assembly chamber was pretty well -- Senate chamber, I guess, was pretty well filled up. And I was there to speak for my bill. Dr. Rowell, the uncle of Chester, was in the Senate. He came from Fresno. He was a regent of the University at the time. I knew him. And I've often wondered what I said, don't you know, just enthusiastic beyond my knowledge. I was speaking on my feels and not on my reason. Anyhow, it was a perfervid

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B: Do you remember the particular thing that he was talking about? This wasn't the original bill, was it?

S: It was one of my bills.

B: Do you recall what particular one it was?

S: Oh, yes. It was probably -- it was the one in 1903, probably.

B: Oh, yes. Yes.

S: I think it was that one. He was a lovely gentleman and a fine scholar, strong minded and sympathetic. But that was not education. C ontrast that -- you don't know what you've inherited. Fifty years have been a revolution in America. Now, education concerns itself with sewage and house flies, you know, and stable manure. It concerns itself with anything that touches the life of human beings, don't you know. Always when the citizen has any relationship.

Well, this bill -- we had created quite a sentiment for this bill. I had a lot of good political influence, and my friends that were with me had. When it became apparent that it was going to pass, there was a member of the Legislature from San Mateo County named Henry Ward Brown, I think. They had in San Mateo County quite a large tract of land, nothing like adequate, that had been given to the University by Jenny Flood, the daughter of James Flood, the bonanza king. I suppose it's there yet, being put to some use by the college. And he drew a bill copying mine exactly, except that I had it the farm to be selected by all of the

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S: faculty of the College of Agriculture and some other persons, and he had it just specified in the bill that it should be on the Flood property. Well, the Legislature got confused about it. They passed them both, left it up to the Governor to see which one he'd sign, don't you see.

B: Were they aware that they were passing them both?

S: Yes, they were aware they were doing it. The straddle isn't a new invention, you know. Pardee was Governor. He was a good Governor. He was one of the first to sense the size and unity of the state and that the purposes of the Governor and the Legislature was to build that up symetrically. He was less of a parade man, less of a man to preside, less of a man to be interested just in politics, than we'd been having. Although we'd had some fine men, fine men. But he was a constructive Governor, and he vetoed both bills. He suggested to me very definitely that the bill was too narrow. He said that -- oh, I wrote a leaflet then, for distribution throughout the state. It was quite an extensive thing, in which I spoke of the need of a College of Agriculture, spoke of how our boys were all going to town and leaving the farm because there was nothing of interest in it, they hadn't the skills that would make it profitable. And that was unbalancing our society.

Then, I compared the number of men who had been admitted to practice law and the number of physicians that had been admitted to prac tice medicine, and I guess engineers. That was published in the Pacific Rural Press, serially, and in one or two other little newspapers. The big papers never took any sides in the matter. That would show you the lack of pressing immediate need

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You see, the men who had facilities for raising wheat were not at all interested in seeing vineyards planted or seeing orchards planted, don't you know. They were a little here and there, and they weren't big industry, and these fellows were not interested, and the fellows that were planting them were groping in the dark for what to do; but they never thought much of a college, don't you know. And neither the farmers, nor the big newspapers, nor the faculty of the University -- most of the faculty, of course, had nothing to do with agriculture, they didn't know the bill was being agitated, I suppose, most of them, and of the agricultural faculty I don't recall anybody but me. Woodworth and a few others may have quietly sanctioned it, but they didn't say so, and so it developed into a largely political outfit. Well, I knew an awful lot of leading politicians of the state, and that helped me a lot. And I knew how to go about getting help.

B: What were the political aspects of this problem -- the situation in state politics at the time you became interested in the Davis campus?

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B: You made a statement in your memoirs that interested me. It was that much of the support for your bills in 1903 and 1905 came from interests and persons who were unfriendly to the University, but who were friendly to your proposals. Could you give us more details on ...

S: Well, in a word, yes. You had in Alameda County a Senator named Frank W. Leavitt. He was a printer, I think, and a swashbuckling fellow who didn't give a damn. He'd go into Governor Budd and say, "Jim, you've got a bill in there you're thinkin' a lot about. You're not a goin' to get it." He talked like that, you know. He was not a rowdy, but just that kind of an informal fellow. He was the leader of the Senate and all that. He didn't like Dr. Wheeler, I don't know why, and he thought that Wheeler didn't want this thing. Therefore, just to spite Wheeler, he was going to be for this thing. Then, I knew him well. When it comes down to how I got the bill through without the farmer as a mass, without the big press, without the faculty, without the Dean, without the Regents, it was on my personal friendship and my political experience. I had known so many men in public life and so many of them were friendly to me.

You see, Dr. Mead, he was a power in California. I knew him intimately. I knew a lot of the leading legislators and the men who were familiar around the Legislature and could do things there. It was through those men more than anything else. I don't think anybody else could have done it. That's not egotism, it's just a fact. It was just my personal acquaintance combined with what general sentiment. Agriculture through the ages had been honored, you know, and exploited and it was the thing that public

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S: men could talk about. The wealth of the soil, etc., and then they'd go and take advantage of it. But it has always been the thing that you could talk about with respect and get respected for talking about it. It was kind of a popular thing to talk about, not like you were trying to put over some unpopular idea.

B: Would you say that there were strong political pressures that joined with your ideas, so to speak, in favor of this University farm separate from the main University campus?

S: It was more than ... Leavitt wasn't the only one, but he was leader of the Senate. Then there was a Jewish Senator from San Francisco named Eddie Wolfe and those two paired and worked together and Wolfe joined with him. I didn't have much business with Wolfe.

B: Did you know why these men were unfriendly to President Wheeler, or to the University?

S: Well, I think there was a general sub-feeling that existed in other men than Leavitt and these other few men that had a grievance, that was that Wheeler was an aristocratic fellow and had no use for the farmer. Something of that. Leavitt is the only one I can recall right now that just definitely was against him.

Well, let me see now, there's something else, another story I want to tell -- oh, yes, about Hatton. You see, in 1905, the year the bill was passed -- Johnson wasn't nominated then until 1910, Hatton was very powerful. He had the Legislature just like that. And I was doing an awful lot of lobbying up there. I was at the Assembly C hamber, which was on the north side of the old capitol, going through the long hallway over to the Senate, and

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Oh, I could tell you incidents, stories and stories and stories about politics.

B: May I ask a question? I'm speaking about the University and politics. Was there anyone who regularly represented the University of California with reference to the Legislature?

S: Yes. They had the -- I think, what do they call him? -- comptroller. He prepared the bills. When the college was -- when the location was here and they began to want money for that, this sentiment rather against the University was such that I took over the matter of getting appropriations in the earlier years over here. (Speaking of the Davis campus.) I got the appropriations, I think, for North and South Dorms; I got appropriations for animals and harness and some little other equipment, you know. I did that.

B: Do you remember discussing the origins of the Davis campus with the University political representatives, so to speak? It was 1903, let's say. Do you recall who was representing the University in legislative matters?

S: No, I don't think there was anybody. I never encountered anybody.

B: Nobody. Wheeler did not assume an active role as lobbyist for

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S: The comptroller went before the committees. Wheeler came to see me repeatedly, and I think had other business. I don't think he came to see me alone. In writing out this matter, now, be awful careful that you don't make too much "I" about it. Because really I was the whole -- the spearhead of it. And I was the one who had it always in mind and who directed everything about it. And without me it wouldn't have gone. There's no doubt of that. But I --

B: We do want to know what you know about it.

S: I want you to speak about the lot of people who came to help me.

B: If you can recall any of these episodes that concern the University. I'm very much interested, you see, in the problems of public universities and in their relations with the public through the medium of politics, public policy. I'd be very much interested in anyof these stories you can recall.

S: Well, the University wasn't much in politics. They were trying all the time to get more and more endowments. The attendance wasn't very great at that time, 53 or 54 years ago.

Dr. Wheeler was rather -- it just wasn't classical education, don't you know.

B: Did you know Eugene W. Hilgard?

S: I did know him, and he was against it. A dear, dear good man, but he was against it. He isn't the first man that has tried to dam up progress, don't you know.

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B: He was Dean of the College of Agriculture --

S: No, no, he was emeritus, I think, at that time.

B: Oh, at that time he was emeritus.

S: And Wickson was the Dean.

B: Do you recall Wickson's attitude toward the --

S: Yes, it was vaguely opposed, but not militantly so. He sympathized with Hilgard. He was a wonderful man, Wickson was, oh, a fine gentleman. I just loved Dean Wickson and was awful sorry to have to be opposed to him. Oh, he had reached the age, I think, when he had found adjustment, and they had a nice little college down there where they were teaching soil analysis, botany, and things of that kind and had probably advanced something in more wider aspects. They were rather indifferent to it. Dr. Wheeler rather accepted it. Once in a while, he'd get off the reservation and we'd have to win him back again. But all in all he was a pretty fine soldier right towards the end; he was definitely for the thing. I think probably regretting that it had to be but recognizing that it did have to be. My friendship with Dr. Wheeler grew to be very close and very intimate, and I hold him in a very affectionate recollection.

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CHOOSING A DEAN; GETTING APPROPRIATIONS

S: After the bill was passed, the big thing was to get a big Dean, you know, because Dean Wickson when I -- I couldn't tell you how fond of him I was, and how he was a guest in my home. I used to go to the Farmers' Institutes where he was, and he'd be just an elegant, finished gentleman, don't you know. But I thought we wanted a new man. Just like your professor who is called a communist now has said, thought has got to come from youth.

Here's a story which will interest you very much: When the bill was passed, right away I felt that we needed a friendly Dean of Agriculture. Wickson was the Dean. He was inactive, but unsympathetic, at least not interested. When our crowd got to the point where our movement had a lot of power and popularity and it looked like we were going to get something, some of the people at Berkeley concluded that they had better kind of cash in on our strength, and they began to talk, "Oh, we must do something for agriculture," and so forth. They would have a great building at Berkeley. Well, that was just deadly to us, you know. That was one of the things we had to watch all the time to see that they didn't undercut us and to see that they didn't turn the big sentiment that we had created for agricultural education over into a big building and a large faculty. Well, the bill passed in, I think, June or something of that sort, 1905, and they had a summer class there along in the, oh, in the fall, I think, or late summer. And the first thing we heard about, they asked the very famous Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell to come out and address the students. He

CHOOSING A DEAN; GETTING AFFIRMATIONS

S: was a very famous man. He was the author of many books and a scholar. And instantly we just said "There, they're going to have him talk for a building, and we must do something on the campus for agriculture." While our bill had passed, it didn't have to be immediately executed, you see. And while we had our appropriation, that would be expended in purchasing the farm, and I was very greatly concerned that Hyde Bailey, with all the prestige of his great name would distract the sentiment we had created from its purpose and divert it towards another one. So, I didn't go to hear him, but I took the press notices as fast as I could, you know. It was the instant after he had spoken.

B: Did he speak at Berkeley?

S: He was at Berkeley, yes. And he had nothing to say about the farm. He didn't have anything to say about any farm or the need of a farm, but he did talk in a way that would be satisfactory to the people who wanted the building. And I immediately, by every source I had to appeal to the people, to the workers behind me, I said, "This man won't do." We made a lot of noise, voiced a lot of opposition, and Bailey said -- he had been invited out to accept the position of Dean of the College of Agriculture, that great man -- but he said he wouldn't accept it where there was such a divided sentiment, and so forth. So whether or not I made a mistake there, I don't know. I'm quite satisfied that I didn't. He was more of a scholar, more of a laboratory or library man. And instead of him we got one who was a farmers' type of man. Anyhow, Bailey's still alive. I

S: guess he's as old as I am. But I never have regretted a minute that we lost a name and got a man.

B: In talking with Hilgard or Wickson, what impressions did you get of why they were not particularly anxious to have a farm?

S: I never followed out -- I think it was just instinctive. Hilgard was a laboratory man; he was a chemist, he was a soil analyst. And he was a scholar and intensely devoted to his experiments and his research, and he didn't care to divide it. He didn't have much interest in general agriculture, you know. Wickson -- I think it was just he was in an atmosphere of indifference or opposition, and he just fell in with it. He was getting along in years. He was not opposed -- oh, I think he was, quietly; he did nothing in the way of opposition.

After the bill was passed and we were trying to get a start over there, I had to do all the lobbying for appropriations. Wheeler couldn't come before them and Dean Wickson couldn't.

B: You say they couldn't. Do you mean they were forbidden by the rules of the Legislature or weren't able to present the case ...

S: No, no. It just wasn't in their line, don't you know. Wheeler wasn't that kind of a man, although I want you to understand, I think I've spoken affectionately ... I got to be awful close to him and when you got real close to him he was quite a fellow.

B: Yes, one gets that impression from your book.

S: I just got to like him. But he never quite knew what it was. I remember after we got it passed, there were things we wanted to see the Governor about, and Pardee was Governor. And Wheeler came to me and he wanted me to go up with him to the Governor

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S: to see about something. And I talked to him all the time. He'd fall down on me once in awhile after we got among educated people, what he'd call educated people. I went up through the hall to the Governor's office and spoke about the necessity of getting a firm, active pressure behind us on its organization. And as I laid my hand on the door knob -- I can hear him just like it was yesterday, he was right here ... he said, "Yes, I'm going to get the best farmer in the Sacramento Valley to head that institution."

B: Wheeler said that?

S: Yes, Wheeler. I took my hand off the knob. My God, I said, "Dr. Wheeler, Dr. Wheeler, don't you know how that is?" And with emotion and under hard control I said, "That's a scientific institute, a cultural, an educational institute. It's to teach the best farmer in Sacramento Valley rather than to have him teach us."

Well, he came out of it.

B: Well, President Wheeler must have assumed that the scientific work was being done there in Berkeley and that if the farmers wanted it, they could come there and get it. Was that it?

S: No, he felt for the farmer.

B: But he felt that this was a very complete distinction between the scientific work at Berkeley and the practical, high school type of ...

S: Yes. I wouldn't doubt but what he maybe felt that cultivation and the cabbages would be down there, the afterthought.

B: Sort of a manual labor school.

S: Yes. And that the educated boys would come up and look at it

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Lawyer said that.

Yes, Wheeler. I took my hand off the knob. My God, I said, "Mr. Wheeler, sir. Father, don't you know that is?" And with emotion and tears I said, "There's a scientific institution, a college, an music school institute. It's to teach the poor farmer in Sacramento Valley rather than to have him teach."

Well, [illegible] got out of it.

Well, President Hoover must have used that the authority to work the long hours in general and tear it the farmers worked it, very small compared to it. Was that it?

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Sort of a manual labor school.

Yes. And then the educated boys would come up and look at it

S: and go home and finish. I guess he had that idea to a degree, but he grew better and better as he went along, and he organized it well. Of course, he started in with Leroy Anderson who was a gentle, uninspiring man, and nothing happened. And then I don't remember who followed Leroy. Then came E. W. Major, my dear friend, and Major went wrong mentally. Cracked right there on the job and had to be taken off. Then they put in a man who had been around there, Tommy Tavernetti, who was a good fine manager, but not an educator.

And I was in despair over our situation and I just didn't know what to do. When Hiram Johnson was elected, I said, "Now we'll get some new regents, a new kind of regent. Regents that are interested in this kind of thing." They had previously been the big banker who wanted to be with mortar board and the social distinction and all that sort of thing. All city men or else great big non-resident farmers. Well, Hiram's first appointment was a man named Bowles of Alameda County, the president of a bank, (laughter) and he went on and appointed several that way.

I just didn't know what to do, I was entirely baffled. McEnerney was an intimate friend, an affectionate friend of mine, but he'd laugh at me when I'd talk about my 'chicken farm' and all that kind of stuff. James K. Moffitt was another one. Those were the giants on your board, but I couldn't get them interested.

And then when I read in the paper that morning that he had appointed three new directors, (A. W. Scott was one of them) I threw the paper up in the air and I said, "Wife, I've got my regent."

S: Well, that didn't make him a regent. He was the President of the State Board of Agriculture, an institution I'd never heard of. But I got hold of Scott, took him to my office, locked the door and told the clerk there was no business today. And we went over it and over it and over it till I had him just steeped in it. I told him that he was a regent.

B: Scott supposed that he was a regent at this time?

S: Oh, I think he did. But it didn't matter. He said, "I think I can put it over."

He was a very important figure in San Francisco and a fine spirited gentleman. Charley Wheeler was one of his close friends, and he was a power there. Guy Earl was another one. Those were the biggest kind of regents, you know. And he went right down and he put it over. I never got from him the details of just how it was done.

I think they sent for Wheeler and told him he must get a director that was on a par with the great colleges of the country. He said, "No, gentlemen, it takes money to get those men and we haven't got it." They said to him, "We are on the finance board of the University and you have all of the money that's needed to get that kind of a man for California."

B: And these men were members of the Finance Committee of the Board of Regents, was that it?

S: Yes. I was told, and I forget by whom, that when he left, he said, "Well, goodby gentlemen, I'm on my way East to get a new director of agriculture for California," and he brought Hunt out. And from there, things just went. There was a real man.

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B: Do you recall when Hunt became the Dean?

S: I think he was brought here in October, 1912; he took office, I think, as of the first of October, 1912.

B: I'm very interested in your statements of your efforts to obtain appropriations for the Davis campus. Do you recall when that, when you began to do that?

S: Get those appropriations? Oh yes. I think it was, probably -- the Legislature passed that bill in 1905 -- I think I started in immediately, in 1907 and 1909.

B: Yes, and do you recall when the University began to --

S: To take over?

B: Well, to be officially represented in the Legislature?

S: Well, when Hunt came, he was such a strong, well-poised man moderate in his ways but firm in his purposes, and I said to myself, "There's the man that should go before the Legislature and tell them what he wants, and he's a man that they will have confidence in, a man who doesn't provoke any controversy. My job of lobbying is over." So when the Legislature, well, it must have been the Legislature of 1913, came, Mrs. Shields gave a dinner at our home. I don't remember how many, ten or twelve people: the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, those were the two money people there, and then leading and dominant figures in the Legislature, people that had a lot to say about what was done, men of high standing and respect. We had a grand dinner, and Dr. Hunt, of course, was the big man. I introduced him to these men, and I said that my occupation as a lobbyist was over. And it was. I never had to go before the Legislature

S: again. He just quietly explained to someone just the thing they needed, and he got it.

B: And the sort of problem that you had in deciding whether to build a building at Berkeley or whether to acquire land at Davis didn't arise any more?

S: Oh, no, no. You see, that was settled.

B: I mean, that sort of problem didn't come up again?

S: No, no.

B: Of apportioning the funds between the two campuses?

S: He was very -- he didn't know anything else but a farm, you know. I mean by that, it was not within his philosophy. And he just went ahead to develop the school and farm, there. Wheeler was entirely sympathetic, but he was -- he was -- he just never quite grasped the idea.

B: He was a Professor of Greek.

S: again. He just quietly explained to someone just the thing they needed, and he met it.

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S: You asked there about what made the University boom so all of a sudden.

B: My question was a little broader. What factors and events do you regard as most important in the great development of the University of California as a whole?

S: Well, not being in an educated community, my family were not educated people and I never heard of the University. I heard once in awhile later that this boy or that boy had graduated from there. Under Budd there had been several presidents. You will recall that they were distinguished men, old fashioned scholars. I can't even recall their names right now.

B: Here are their pictures.

S: Read the names of the earlier ones.

B: John LeConte, acting President, 1869-1870.

S: LeConte, I knew he was a member of the faculty but I never knew he was president.

B: He was acting president. Henry Durant, President, 1870-1872. Daniel Coit Gilman, 1872-1875. William Thomas Reid, 1881-1885. Edward S. Holman, 1885-1888. Horace Davis, 1880-90. Martin Kellogg, 1890-99. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, 1899-...

S: Who was ahead of him? Kellogg? Well, Kellogg was an old man and a very much revered man, and he was put in as president, but his years of energy had passed and he was the quiet, contained scholar. He wanted to have other scholars about him and maintain the institution on staid and traditional lines. Nobody dared to attack him, he was so beloved, but Budd was a roughneck, you

DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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S: see, and he had no reverences. He was one of those ripsnorters. Someone persuaded him that we needed a new president. He knew about Kellogg. He said, "He's just got to get out of there." I don't know just how he did it, but he took the lead in putting Kellogg out, or seeing that Kellogg retired. Then, he was the one who was behind the selection of Wheeler. You can say that to the credit of my dear, old friend, James Budd.

So Wheeler came. That was the first step. Wheeler was a big man, a big organizer, a distinguished scholar and he had prestige. Budd had said, "We must have a real working President, a President with prestige and power and sympathy who wants to go ahead and build it up." And so, Wheeler was the result.

You may grow by degrees but your growth becomes visible by cataclysms, you know, and if you call them crises, there are no crises that grow like that but it becomes a crisis when it becomes visible. We had developed a larger population and more distributed wealth and we had gone beyond the district school. High schools had become a part of the educational system, and through the high schools, the knowledge that there was a university there. I never heard of the University until I was 16 or 17 years old. So the students were here, the knowledge of the institution was here, and the prestige of the new president. And I think that probably made a start and like all starts, it sets the fashion.

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B: Stephens, yes. I'm not sure about Gayley. Stephens was at Cornell with Wheeler for several years before Wheeler came here and he evidently urged him to come with him.

S: The LeConte brothers, their prestige was spreading very rapidly.

B: Of course, they were old at this time. They had been here since the 1860's.

S: Anyhow it all burst on the country at once. And then the students began to flock in.

B: Coming up to the more recent years of the University, what do you regard as the more important things that have contributed to its development? In recent years.

S: Well, I would say there has been no one particular incident. I think that after Wheeler we had two or three just temporary presidents who never became known and then following Campbell came Sproul. I think his selection was a very happy one. I think he's a very able man and the students admire him very much. I thought he was a fine symbol. I think he gave prestige to the institution. Then, I think it's been well staffed and its reputation has been maintained over the nation. It ranks very highly. I guess it's been well governed. We had a few regents on there that were real men, you know. McEnerney was a giant of intellect and character and Moffitt was another man, of irreproachable character and serious purposes. I think William Crocker was not so able a man, but he was determined to be useful and went along under the shadow of some of the abler men and did his part favorably. Guy Earl and Charles Wheeler were men of eminent fitness for their job. I think that out of that came a government of the institution that harmonized with the President, and together they made a great team.

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THE DAVIS CAMPUS, PRESENT AND FUTURE

B: You spoke about the future of the college. I'm not sure I know how it ranks now. You said that it ought to be made the foremost, the highest ranking college of agriculture in the nation.

S: In the United States, yes.

B: I would guess that it's fairly close to that now. I don't know what ratings are used or might be used to determine which is the best college of agriculture, but I would say this is one of the three best. Would you, is that your impression?

S: I wouldn't want to rank them. I talked to someone about that a year or two ago. He said we're already pretty well up there. In the first place, we've got a wonderful state, and its agriculture is going to be more varied and more artificially sustained. It's going to be one requiring a higher degree of knowledge of plant industry and plant life and of breeding of plants. We're going to have, have now a tremendous variety of plants. Here's something for you to remember, now. In the past, agriculture was a rule of thumb. It began a way back, back in Caesar's time I suppose there were good farmers. And in China they were a thousand years ago that way. They knew how to do things in a certain way, and they stayed there. Well, out in California one man would say, oh, he knew how to raise mules, you know, and what way to get the best of them, and he knew the hitch for an eight-mule plow team. And he, oh, he knew how to treat the wheat for mildew, smut. And he knew the foundation agriculture pretty well, and when one man tried oats in a certain way and it succeeded, the other man learned from it. Well, that day is over. The growth of agriculture in California is going to go on

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S: and on and on. There's no limit to the extent it's going to go. There's no limit to the extent in which anything is going to go. And all the growth that's going to come to agriculture from now on is going to come from Davis and other institutions of that kind. Laboratories. Experimentation. And scientific experience and all that. When you think of that, and when you think of how long here ever the hereafter is going to be, you realize how important it is that Davis be made master of the destiny that it is going to create.

G: Have you done anything at Davis for the last two or three decades?

S: No, no, except to go over there. I love to go there. I love to go there -- I went over to see Billie Reagan one day. His wife drove me in. The campus was fenced in, the Quad, you know, with green lawns and fine trees, and I could just see the thing rising, you know, like a city in the desert. I was just quite overcome, for a moment. I just had to do that (hiding his face in his hands). And not one of the men that were active in the matter was alive to see it, not one.

B: Do you recall who perhaps may have had most to do with the selection of that site?

S: No, I don't. I kept hands off of that, now. I wasn't --

B: Your role there was really to select a commission, was it?

S: I prepared the commission. But I wanted the school for the good of California, and I didn't want to interfere with their councils. And I thought if they were free, I knew they'd select a good site and I'd rather -- So I can't claim any credit for the selection of the site. I had an idea it might have gone

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S: down to Fresno, but it's an awful good thing that it's here. There's going to be a tremendous growth down there, but the law by which it's going ahead -- They can have little local experiment stations. They can have a scientist observing the practice on the farms and all that. But the science that's going to underlie most of the future is going to be in its great school. So it behooves California, which is laying foundations for her greatness, to provide an institution like this than can enable her to achieve her future.

B: What do you think of present expansion on the Davis campus to include a new College of Letters and Science?

S: What do I think about its location at Davis?

B: Yes.

S: I have greatly regretted it. In the first place, agriculture is a new institution among recognized colleges and it's taken us five or six thousand years for the farmer to attain the respect that he holds in America today. We have built that college up until it has that recognition in America. But this other college is the traditional college. If you place it over there, our attendance is limited to a narrow class, the other has a general appeal. Their attendance will increase more rapidly than ours, and I don't know how big that college might grow, and I don't know what will be the temper of the legislators to come, and I don't know what kind of governors like Knight that we're going to have in the future. I just felt that they'd kind of overshadow us and the agricultural college would again be something of a cow college. The trend would be to give prestige to the other college, and dim that of our own college. I wanted the agricultural college to stand on its own feet on its own ground and pride of

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S: I have greatly regretted it. In the first place, agriculture is a new institution among recognized colleges and it's taken us five or six thousand years for the farmer to attain the respect that he holds in America today. We have built that college up until it has that recognition in America. But this other college is the traditional college. If you place it over there, our attendance is limited to a narrow class, the other has a general appeal. Their attendance will increase more rapidly than ours, and I don't know how big that college might grow, and I don't know what will be the temper of the legislature to come, and I don't know what kind of governors like might that we're going to have in the future. I just felt that they'd kind of overwhelm us and the agricultural college would again be something of a cow college. The trend would be to give prestige to the other college, and dim that of our own college. I wanted the agricultural college to stand on its own feet on its own ground and pride of

S; those vast acres, that it possess its own house and would want to dwell in it. I felt that there would be a kind of rivalry between the gentlemen's college and the dirt farmer and the cowboy. It takes more philosophy and understanding for a young fellow to realize the pride and dignity of the agricultural college than in the other one. I was afraid it would come to live a little bit in the shadow of the other.

B: From my own impressions I would say that you need not fear that, at least for the time being. The first dean of the college was head of the chemistry department of the College of Agriculture there at Davis, Young, and I think that he appreciates the problems pretty well.

I have a related question. As a matter of fact, Dean Knowles Ryerson suggested that I might ask you this when I talked with him. He put it this way. Are you concerned that agricultural students should have the widest possible general education along with their professional training and that they should have full contact with the affairs of the world as a whole?

S: I do believe in that, yes, but by having an independent, well-rounded College of Agriculture, with letters and science there to which our boys could go in to get what they needed to complete their other ... I'd rather have that than division of the College of Agriculture with the general education not under the control of the College of Agriculture.

B: That's what it was when I was there as an instructor at the college.

S: Of course it was. I see no reason why it shouldn't be done. I suppose Letters and Sciences, you've got to have that in any kind of a college course, engineering, mining, business administra-

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S: tion, journalism, whatever you have. You've got to learn how to read and write, know the literature of your country, know its history and its ideals, but I'm trying to think just what it is that the cultural colleges of the ages have to give to a man that the modern college of agriculture ought to give him. I don't see why you're not inspired to a nobility of life, to a sense of your obligations to yourself, to develop the qualities and limitations of your birth and why you can't see the moving picture and the world in action, I don't know why you can't get that out of the agricultural college.

B: Since agriculture is the nucleus of the whole experience of the world.

S: Yes.

We don't want any more four year colleges in California. Now, there's one already at Riverside, just made, straggling along. Part or not part of the University, we don't want them. There's a strong man now who wants one down at Imperial.

As I wrote in that letter to Sproul, our communication is now so free and complete, you can come from Yreka to Davis in half a day, from San Diego up here in 24 hours. You can have instant communication with either of them by telephone. The boy ought to be close enough to his mother under those circumstances to come to Davis. Why build a college down close to him where Mother can come see him and bring him a cake? Furthermore, where are you going to get a faculty? How can you get one Director of Agriculture? You'll have to hunt the whole United States to get the biggest one and if you're going to have 5 in

S: California, where are you going to get them? I'd have one that was supreme and then I'd have all of the four-year boys come here. I'd have that short course while I could, but I'd let it diminish to make room for the four-year men until it was extinct. Then, when it was top-heavy with population here, I'd commence to have a branch someplace else. But we don't want to multiply and have five little colleges that will never give prestige or wealth or social leadership to California. One of them will give more distinction. I believe in that awfully strongly.

I believe in the short course work. There's an awful lot of boys who don't need four years, aren't capable of it, for that matter.

Furthermore, I want all the boys in California that we can possibly get to know about Davis and what it can do for them. Why, I saw a man the other day who told me, "I thought we would have to give up dairying, our cows got 'bloat' so bad. We were losing so many of them. I sent to Davis about it and they sent a man up there. He solved our whole problem for us, so now we're going ahead." He said he had a big peach orchard that had a peach disease. They gave him a remedy for that. All over California, that's being done. I want everybody to know that it's there.

B: The entire University faculty learns that it's there in an interesting way. In recent years, the President has called an annual conference of the faculty from all campuses of the University. It meets every April on the Davis campus. I've been there a couple of times. It rotates among the faculty, the delegations that go there, but we found that extremely helpful, and it's a wonderful place to hold meetings of that kind. Have you seen dormitories there? It makes a wonderful place to

Q: California, where are you going to get them? I'd have one that was supreme and then I'd have all of the four-year boys come here. I'd have that short course while I could, but I'd let it diminish to make room for the four-year men until it was extinct. Then, when it was top-heavy with population here, I'd commence to have a branch someplace else. But we don't want to multiply and have five little colleges that will never give prestige or wealth or social leadership to California. One of them will give more distinction. I believe in that awfully strongly.

I believe in the short course work. There's an awful lot of boys who don't need four years, aren't capable of it, for that matter.

First place, I want all the boys in California that we can possibly get to know about books and what it can do for them. Why, I saw a man the other day who told me, "I thought we would have to give up lecturing, for none but 'fools' so had. We were losing [illegible] there. I said [illegible] I said that [illegible] men in there. We have our share problem [illegible] about." [illegible] had a [illegible] theory. They have all a remedy for that. All over California, that's being done. I want everybody to know that it's there.

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B: hold conferences during the times when the students themselves are on vacations.

S: It will be a long time before there are 5,000 students wanting four-year, professional, agricultural education in California. Let Davis take them all until we get 5,000. And then have one down South someplace. There isn't any distance anyplace anymore. So a good college anywhere in California is a good college all over California.

I talked with Dr. Sproul the other day about regents. We must have two or three m ore regents on there, not that are farmers but that have a knowledge of the importance of rural life and rural industry.

B: I may say that it was Regent Olson, last spring, who suggested that I come and talk to you. I met him at the Davis Conference. That's an annual all-University faculty conference, which has been held on the Davis campus for several years.

S: Olson's a wholehearted farmer. His weakness probably would be whether he's -- oh, I think he's all right, I think he's all right. But we want about two more who can tell these lawyers and bankers and other men that are there what rural life means to the world. You are too young to really feel it, but as life gets awfully complicated, it's likely to get awfully material. You look out for yourself. You build a big house, and you want to make a lot of money, and you want to have power, and so on. You've got to have something that will sweeten life and dignify it, give it the softer qualities of a great spiritual experience. Germany, now, went to war the first time and probably the second

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A: I may say that it was Regent Dixon, last spring, who suggested that I come and talk to you. I met him at the Davis Conference. He is now engaged all-university faculty conference, which is [illegible] on the Davis campus for several years.

A: [illegible] wonderful time. He wondered [illegible] would be whether you'll -- no, I -- [illegible] all right, I think he'll [illegible]. But we were down two years ago and [illegible] and other men that are there where rural life means to the world. You can't [illegible] real it, but as life gets [illegible], I'm [illegible] to get [illegible]. Interior. You look out for yourself. You build a fine home, and you rent it, make a lot of money, and you want to have power, and so on. You've got to have something that will sweeten life and lighten it, give it the better qualities of a great spiritual experience. Recently, now, went to war the first time and probably the second

S: time because she had been too scientific. She had just -- she was an engineer, and she was this, and she was that. She had everything. She had her great schools which taught the scientific thing. She didn't have anybody to teach them to laugh. Didn't teach them to have a World Series or a Kentucky Derby and shout your head off, don't you know. Or that would make you love to look at a plant or see a child, that would make you like to read a great book that didn't have any mention of profit in it at all. But would soften your heart and illuminate your vision and make you see a world that you oughtn't allow to get mixed up with your railroads and your banks and things like that, don't you know. Now you've got to have that. And you get more of that on a farm, as a rule, than you do in a great financial enterprise.

B: Do you recall seeing the inscription on the top of, I think it's Hilgard Hall on the Berkeley campus?

S: I've heard it a thousand times, yes.

B: I believe it's either by Theodore Roosevelt or --"To preserve for American society the values of rural life," that's approximately the quotation.

S: I think that's "to rescue".

B: "To rescue", yes. "To rescue for American society --"

S: Yes. Oh, I made one of the speeches dedicating it. My, there were five major speeches. Think of me making a major speech. There was the President of the Alumni, Dr. Hunt, President of the Santa Fe Railroad, I don't know why, someone else, and then myself. I said a lot of things there all right that were rather new and have come true. And I spoke about that in that speech, that we had to -- I spoke of the wars, and I talked of the

S: time because she had been too scientific. She had just -- she
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look at a plant or see a child, they would make you like to read
a report back that didn't have any mention of profit in it at all.
But would soften your heart and illuminate your vision and make
you see a world that you weren't allow to get mixed up with your
politics and your books and things like that, don't you know.
How you've got to have that. And you will or I think it's
as a couple, then you do find a great financial enterprise.

I: To our record setting the inscription on the top of, I think it's
[illegible] left on the Jefferson Memorial?

S: It's been in a thousand times, yes.

I: I believe it's either Thomas Jefferson or --"I have sworn
[illegible] upon the altar of God eternal hostility --"

S: I think that's "to resume".

S: The [illegible], yes. To make it for American society --"

S: Yes. Oh, I made one of my speeches [illegible] it. My, there
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S: competitions of life --

B: There must be many documents of that kind, the address that you made, for example, what was it, laying the cornerstone, dedication to Hilgard Hall?

S: That speech of course was published in the Proceedings.

B: Yes, but there must be many documents among your papers; you see, I'm an historian and such papers would be of enormous historical value.

S: competitions of life --

L: There must be many documents of that kind, the address that you made, for example, what was it, laying the cornerstone, dedication to Willard Hall?

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L: Yes, but there must be many documents among your papers; you see, I'm an historian and such papers would be of enormous historical value.

Notes taken from the Sacramento Bee, October 5, 1949, p. 1, col. 5

SOME FACTS ABOUT PETER J. SHIELDS

"He was born of pioneer parents in Sacramento County on the family homestead at Hangtown Crossing, near Mills on April 4, 1862. In the district school at Mills the judge received his elementary training and he was among the first students to enroll at the opening of the Christian Brothers College, from which he was graduated in 1879. His lifelong interest in agriculture was derived from boyhood days on the farm -- his first dollar was earned trucking watermelons to Sacramento, then a two day trip." His parents were Elizabeth (Bowe) and John Shields.

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On August 1, 1901, Judge Shields married Carolee Wilsey, daughter of Caroline and Levi Wilsey. Their marriage and their residence in Sacramento have continued down to the present day. There are no children.

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Peter J. Shields was Judge of the Superior Court in Sacramento from 1900 to 1949. When he resigned, it was said that he had retained that office "longer than any other man in the history of the state." "For more than 25 years he handled the juvenile court as a part of his work."

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Judge Shields' interest in agriculture continued throughout his life. "In later years he specialized in building up a fine herd of Jersey cattle and became an authority on the subject. His herd won so many prizes at the California State Fair year after year he finally withdrew from competition in the interest of encouraging others to exhibit."

"In 1939 he was honored by the University of California when Garret W. McEnerny, San Francisco attorney and university regent, established the Peter J. Shields Scholarship, a $7,500 fund, for the Davis School."

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