

James Marshall Novak and Luis Roberto Renteria III (editors)

*The Voice of Jean Ardell:  
News Media and Political Courage behind the "Orange Curtain"*

*Shelfmark*

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).

The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History.

Project: Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage [COPH OHP\_270].

O.H. 5496.

Oral Interview with Jean Ardell, conducted by Heather Robinson,

December 2, 2014, Corona del Mar (Newport Beach), California.

*Introduction*

The oral history interview transcribed below belongs to a collection held in CSUF's Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), titled "Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage" (OHP\_270), a project directed by Dr. Natalie Fousekis, Professor of History (CSUF). As of 2019, approximately one hundred interviews have been recorded. The interview with Jean Ardell was conducted by Heather Robinson, at the time a CSUF student, on December 2, 2014, in Corona del Mar (Newport Beach), California. The interview lasted 1 hour, 6 minutes, and 24 seconds, and is archived as a digital recording/audio file at COPH (see "Copyright Advisory" below). The verbatim transcript edited here was prepared in 2018 by James Marshall Novak and Luis Roberto Renteria III.

Jean Ardell was born on January 23, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, grew up in Queens, and eventually moved to Orange County, California. On her personal [website](#), Ardell states: "At times a particular issue compels me: I've published features on the health hazards of electromagnetic fields, domestic violence, charity telemarketing, Major League Baseball's Urban Youth Academy in Compton, and the Orange County (California) Republican Party. By 2012, I found political issues so compelling that for several years I wrote a semi-monthly column, 'Left of Center' for the Newport Beach Independent." Ardell's publications include *Breaking into Baseball: Women and the National Pastime* (2005). In her interview, Ardell talks about growing up in a traditionally Republican, baseball-loving family; attending Hunter College High School (Manhattan), Butler University (Indianapolis), and the University of California, Irvine; changing her party registration to the Democrats in 2007; becoming involved in Orange County politics and news coverage; and taking on a leadership role in the Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club.

As a historical primary source, this interview provides fascinating insights into the life story of a political activist. References to significant issues and events include the 2009 excommunication of Sister Margaret Mary McBride, a Catholic

hospital administrator in Arizona, for permitting the termination of a pregnancy; the 2012 visit of U.S. President Barack Obama to Newport Beach; the 2012 Chick-fil-A same-sex marriage controversy; the 2014 defeat of ballot “Measure Y” pertaining to land use in Orange County; and the—at the time of the interview upcoming—election of 2016.

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ABOUT THE EDITOR: *James Marshall Novak of Buena Park, California, is currently pursuing a B.A. in History, with a minor in Art History, at California State University, Fullerton. The primary-source edition published below originated in the "History and Editing" course offered by CSUF's History Department.*

### Copyright Advisory

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### Verbatim Transcript (O.H. 5496)

LAWRENCE DE GRAAF CENTER FOR ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

NARRATOR: Jean Ardell [JA]

INTERVIEWER: Heather Robinson [HR]

DATE: December 2, 2014

LOCATION: Corona del Mar (Newport Beach), California

PROJECT: Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage [COPH OHP\_270]

TRANSCRIBERS: James Marshall Novak and Luis Roberto Renteria III

HR: Alright, this is Heather Robinson on December 2nd, here with Miss Jean Ardell. And let's get started. So, first things first, family background: Where were you born?

JA: Brooklyn, New York.

HR: Okay, and what date was your birthday?

JA: January 23rd, 1943.

HR: Okay. Tell me a little bit about Brooklyn and what brought you out this way?

JA: Well, actually I lived in Quee—I grew up in Queens. I was born in the hospital in Brooklyn, and my parents were moderate Republicans. Although, I found out after my father died, my mother was really a Democrat, but she said she could never tell my husband that—my, uh, my

- father. So, um, I came out in the '60s and, um, I married a boy from California, and we moved to Balboa Island. And, um, you know, I went through a divorce, but I stayed and, um, my mother wound up coming out and living with me and, um, never left. So.
- HR: Wow, that's it. You always wonder East Coast versus West Coast? What feels more like home to you? Do you still go back to the East Coast?
- JA: Oh yeah, yeah. My problem was all my friends, um, moved away after high school and my cousins kinda scattered too. They lived—I was an only child—and they moved to upstate New York and different parts of the city. So, there was never one place to go back and gather at, but, um, I get very homesick for New York City. But, this is my home, my kids are here they live within twenty minutes of me and, um, I love it here in most respects. Um, you know, there's this old Neil Diamond song,<sup>1</sup> um, what is it called? "I am, I am myself" or something, and it, he talks about being split between New York and L.A., and he—pulled back and forth, and I feel that way sometimes. You know—I brought a lot of my New York sensibilities with me. So.
- HR: Do you feel like they're both two large cities, but they are very polar opposite as well?
- JA: Yeah, yeah.
- HR: Definitely. I love New York. Um, so a little bit about your childhood then. So, tell me a little bit about your childhood?
- JA: Ok, I was an only child, um, I was a huge baseball fan, my dad was a fan, and we—you know—they had three teams in New York in that time—during that time, and so I um—
- HR: Who was the third team?
- JA: —So, I went to the ball games with them. The New York Yankees, of course, and the Brooklyn Dodgers—
- HR: Oh, yes.
- JA: —and the New York Giants.
- HR: Ok.
- JA: So, we went to a lot of games and that was our bond and, uh, that's pretty—that's pretty common, um, with girls. If they have a baseball loving-father and he includes their, their—his daughter in the game, it becomes a real connection. So, um, I grew up, um, in Queens, it was actually—I can't say it was rural but it was—it wasn't dense, in the sense that you think of Manhattan being densely populated. And, uh, I wound up going in seventh grade—I started going to school in the city, uh, to Hunter.<sup>2</sup> And it was a very academic school and you had to take a test to get in. And I had to take a bus and two subways to get there and, um

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<sup>1</sup> Neil Diamond, "I am, I said" (1971).

<sup>2</sup> Hunter College High School (Manhattan), New York, New York.

(pauses), I, I started at age eleven. And, um, I didn't wanna go, I wanted to go with my friends locally to the junior high, but that didn't work out (chuckles). So, I had to go, and it was the best thing my parents ever did for me. It was—I got a fabulous education there. Um, I also was given a subway pass to get back and forth to school. And what we used to do was ride the subways out to Brooklyn, or up to the Bronx, and explore different lines and see what the neighborhoods were like. And twelve—thirteen-year-old girls on the subway, running around Manhattan. And, uh, we went up to Harlem once and, uh, it was a black neighborhood, and whites weren't welcome. And we didn't know, we just walked out into the street. And this older woman came up to us and said: "Girls, you're in the wrong neighborhood, you need to turn around and go back downtown." And she put her arm around us and showed us downtown, d—So. (chuckles) Yeah, so that was, you know,—you want an education, ride the sub—the New York city subway as a kid, you see everything. And, um—

HR: It's your street-smarts education.

JA: Well, that too. That too. Um, my kids tell me, I have an inner New Yorker that comes out sometimes. (laughs) And, uh, I went ice-skating after school at Central Park or Rockefeller Center. And, uh, you know, you just, uh—I love strolling the streets of Manhattan. So, um, I went to—I started college in, uh, Indiana where my father's family was from, Butler University,<sup>3</sup> good basketball school. And, um, Indiana was quite—is quite conservative. It was then, and it still is. And, um, I kinda had my eyes opened about racism because New York City was segregated in those days in the '50s. But, you didn't think much about it because you—you—if you went into a shop or if you were anywhere at all. You usually ran into people of different races and ethnicities, and I thought that was normal, and gay people. You know—I used to go down to the Village all the time and hang out down in Washington Square and, um, you know, there were all kinds of gay people around and you just figured that was the way humanity was. So, in Indiana, not so. And, uh, it was kinda of a, a rude encounter with racism that it was just automatically assumed that blacks were not (pauses) up to snuff. And, um, I remember inviting one of the black students to—in the dorm to have dinner at our table one night—and, um, my next-door neighbor in the dorm was from Arkansas, and she was unusually quiet at dinner, and later she told me, she'd never been at a dinner table with a black person before (pauses and laughs).

HR: Wow.

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<sup>3</sup> Butler University (founded 1855), Indianapolis, Indiana.

JA: So, you know, then I came out to Orange County and finished up my education at UC Irvine,<sup>4</sup> and, um (pauses), you know, I encountered a whole different sort of, um, Republicanism than I had grown up with. Um, as the '70s wore on—you know—it was just getting farther and farther and farther to the right. And, um, as I was doing my freelance writing career, I—in '96, I think it was, '95, I decided to do a story on the Orange County Republican Party. And, uh, just it was the kinda point of view, I am the only, you know, woman around here that feels this way that the Party's left me. And, um, I thought we get all kinds of protest and so did my editor, and we didn't. We got, uh, people who said, "I thought I was the only one that felt that way." So, um, it was an eye-opener. And, um, I stopped voting Republican (pauses) mostly becau—for two reasons. Um, one, um, there—there truly was war against women. Um, there's a book out by that name, and I talked to the woman who wrote it.<sup>5</sup> And, uh, it had to do with reproductive rights, and I happen to be anti-abortion, but pro-choice. And, um, I don't think this issue *ever* should have been politicized to the extent it was. And, um, I had an aunt who had a horrible experience with an illegal abortion and barely lived and could never have children after that. So, um, when *Roe v. Wade*<sup>6</sup> came out, I saw the benefit. Um, the other thing was the, the religious right piled in. And, um, I was going to an evangelical church at the time, Mariners,<sup>7</sup> which is huge. And, um, I, I bought into some of it, but not all of it. And it became more and more wrapped up about, um, political issues, and, um, I'd always had gay friends, and all of the sudden, you know, gay was the besetting sin: being gay. And, um, it really bothered me. So, um, we wound up going to—moving to a, uh, progressive church, St. Mark Presbyterian.<sup>8</sup> But, um, I, I, I thought—I, I can't be in a party—I was still a registered Republican. I said, "I can't (pauses) have my name in a party like this—that—that espouses such hate." So, um, I kept my registration because I, I kept voting for the most progressive Republican candidates in the primaries. Well, they never got elected—they never got chosen—it was never gonna happen. And then, um, in '08, Sarah Palin was, um, back. I think she was in Virginia, and she was doing a real hellfire-and-brimstone speech, and it was all against Obama. And, um, I was horrified at the racism that came out against him. And, um, somebody in the audience shou—shouted out loud enough to be heard by everybody and on TV, um, "Kill him!" And she didn't even bat an eyelash, and she never repudiated or addressed

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<sup>4</sup> University of California, Irvine, in Orange County, California.

<sup>5</sup> Presumably Marilyn French (1929-2009), author of *The War against Women* (1992).

<sup>6</sup> *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

<sup>7</sup> Mariners Church in Orange County, California, founded 1965.

<sup>8</sup> St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California.

that comment. Now John McCain did, on another incident, but she never did, and I thought, I, there's no use in having—being, being a registered Republican. It's—I haven't voted Republican in years, there's no point to it. And I know enough about the local Republican Party to know (chuckles) that it was not—not a seemly group. So, I changed to Democrat, and then in twenty—

HR: What year was that, that you changed to?

JA: —Uh, '08 or, actually, it was '07, yeah.

HR: Prior to the election?

JA: Yeah.

[00:10:32]

HR: Ok.

JA: It was during the campaign when I heard that (pause) comment and I, I just wrote it in and changed my, my registration. So, um, it felt right, it felt good. I don't agree with everything the Democrats believe in. But, um, by in large, yes, and they're certainly preferable to what the belief systems the Republicans are promoting. So, um (pauses), what happened next. (pauses) I, um, in 2010, I was teaching a memoir writing class at the Newport Beach Public Library for the foundation. And a student in the class was the chairman of the local Republican women's—or Democratic women's club in town. And she kept, she kept inviting me to come. So, I did, and I got interested. (brushing sound in the background growing louder) And, um, it was a good group of women, and, you know, as the old joke—who—who else is a Democrat in this town cause it's got a reputation for being so conservative. And it turned there's a lot of them, but they tend to be quiet. And, um, so we started growing the club and Suzanne,<sup>9</sup> the original president, wound up, um, running for office, and she had to step down when she did that. So, I was sort of (pauses) cornered into being president, and I, I did it reluctantly, but I am glad I did it. I, I like doing it and I ran again last month, and I have another year. And then I'll step down and pass it on because I don't think you should stay too long. But, um, it's been a blast, I have met so many amazing women, um, through the club. Uh, and, we're starting to have a voice, we're starting to make ourselves known in town. And, um, along with that, let's see, go, backpaddling a little bit. Um, in—let's see it's 2015. In 2012, Obama was coming to town for a fundraiser and you would've thought Hitler was coming to town. The Republicans were so beside themselves that he had the audacity to come to Newport Beach. And he

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<sup>9</sup> Dr. Suzanne Savary, co-founder of the Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club (2007).

was gonna be at a home just down the street at, uh, Shore Cliffs.<sup>10</sup> So, I ran into an editor I used to write for, and he said, “Why don’t you write for the Newport Beach—and do a—do a column on, um, on, um, Obama coming to town. And, um, see if you like it, maybe you’ll wanna do a column ‘cause I have got people on the right, but it’s hard to get people to write on the left.” And I said, “Okay, I’ll, I’ll check it out.” So, I spent four hours down on the street—I could literally walk down the street—there was a big demonstration. And, um—

HR: What was the demonstration around?

JA: Well, the Republicans organized to protest his presence. The Democrats organized to protest the protest. (both chuckle). And, um,—I had great ol’ time, in fact I can give you the column, um, that I did. And, um, I got hooked on doing this. And so I went back to Roger,<sup>11</sup> my editor and I said, “This, I’d like to do this every couple weeks.” So, I’ve been doing it almost for three years and, um, it’s a great forum. I—they—like me, they let me write whatever I want (chuckles). And, um, I get great feedback, I mean, I get amazing feedback. And even though I, I have a friend on the city council, an acquaintance, I should say, and she said, “Even though the city council doesn’t always like what you say or agree with you, they respect you, you do your homework.” And, um, if you’re gonna be the voice of, you know, the other, you better darn well have done your homework. So, um, it’s been a very satisfying, um, thing to do. (brushing continues)

HR: What is, what does the election process look for you? When you were running for—

JA: For President? Oh gosh, it was very unformal. Um, our club was loosely organized. And, um, I was basically point—, you know, singled out and asked, will I do this. And I said “Yeah, but if I do it, I gonna make some changes and I don’t want anyone getting mad at me.” ‘Cause it was kinda—it really was disorganized. And, um, it had kinda started in somebody’s living room and they got together and drank wine and talked politics. And it was the same old, same old for a few years. And then they started growing, and they outgrew the living rooms, but they didn’t know where to go. So, I changed the venue. And, um, I started getting speakers, uh, we did a candidates forum, um, a couple months ago for the city council. And, uh, we’re having, uh, Dean, uh, Chemerinsky<sup>12</sup> from UCI, uh, the Law School, come and talk in February. I wanna get Tom

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<sup>10</sup> A reference to U.S. President Barack Obama’s visit to the Shore Cliffs neighborhood in Corona del Mar on February 16, 2012.

<sup>11</sup> Presumably Roger Bloom, founding editor of the *Newport Beach Independent*.

<sup>12</sup> Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the University of California, Irvine, School of Law (2008-2017).

- Hayden<sup>13</sup> to come and talk. So, um, you know, the Democrats are interesting because they got so many different avenues, you can get environmentalists, you can get, you know, constitutional law people, you can get, um, you know, minority advocates, um, the gays, um, you know, all kinds of people with a different perspective, unions, and, um, I don't think we hear enough from them.
- HR: Well, that would be my next question. So, what—what kind of feedback have you received? Or even just personal how does—what does it feel like to be a Democrat behind the “Orange Curtain?”<sup>14</sup>
- JA: Oh. It feels very good. Um, first of all, it feels authentic. And, um,—Newport Beach, I have lived here since the '60s. As a town, it's grown, it didn't use to be that way. But, mid-'70s, it really started to changing, and started becoming ostentatious. And, uh, it was always a wealthy town 'cause people had their vacation homes here. But, they lived pretty basically, the only way you knew people were wealthy is by their address if they lived on the water, you know, they probably had more money than you did. But, um, all that changed in the '70s. And, um, there was a lot of people that wanted to fit in, that wanted to be with the right people, and career-wise and socially, and the Republican Party was the place to be. So, you know, it was the glam thing to do. So, um, like any single party, though, you know, Orange County has traditionally been dominated by the Republicans, um, so has Newport Beach. When I was growing up in New York, it was the opposite. It was the Democratic Party machine that had a grip on New York City. And I remember my parents bemoaning the fact, you know, that they—that there wasn't equity, there wasn't fairness, there wasn't this—you know—it was all one way. And, um, I see that out here now. So, um, it feels good to be able to speak up and say, “Hey there's another point of view to this, have you thought about this, uh, from a different angle.” And, um, one of the great shining moments we had was on “Measure Y.”<sup>15</sup> Um, are you familiar with that?
- HR: No, no.
- JA: There was, um—oh, to backtrack a little bit, um, the Irvine Company<sup>16</sup> is the, a huge player of course in town.
- HR: They own Irvine Spectrum<sup>17</sup> and the apartments adjacent, correct?
- JA: Yeah, many—

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<sup>13</sup> Thomas Emmett Hayden (1939-2016), American activist.

<sup>14</sup> A reference to the dividing line between historically conservative Orange County and historically (more) liberal Los Angeles County.

<sup>15</sup> Measure Y, Amendment of the Newport Beach General Plan, Land Use Element, ballot question, November 4, 2014 (defeated).

<sup>16</sup> Irvine Company, real estate firm in Newport Beach, California, founded 1864.

<sup>17</sup> Irvine Spectrum, shopping center in Irvine, California, opened 1995.

HR: All that land.

JA: – many – much, much land. Including Fashion Island.<sup>18</sup>

[00:18:20]

HR: Ok.

JA: And, um, at some point, they wanted to continue developing, uh, Fashion Island and Newport Center. And, um, traffic has gotten worse because of it. So, citizens got together and there was – there’s an organization called “Stop Polluting Our Newport” that I was involved in years ago. And, uh, it’s basically environmental, but it’s anti-development, if you will. Um, anti-*extreme* development to the point where we become like westside L.A. So, um, they wanted – they passed the “green light” initiative which means that the city council, if they wanna approve a large development project that generates more traffic past a certain point, they’re gonna have to put it to the people and put it to a vote. So, there was – they had to do this – the Irvine Company wanted to build all kinds of stuff and, it was a foolish, foolish development, uh, it didn’t make any sense. So, everybody rallied, I wrote five or six columns and went at it from all different kinds of angles. And it was defeated by a 69.5 percent margin. Yeah, which is huge, *huge!* And the money that was poured into getting it passed was –

HR: The other side of it? Yeah?

JA: – huge –

HR: Wow.

JA: – *huge!* Um, so, it just, it was just inspiring because it goes to show citizens rally and get together, and, you know, work hard and get the message out, they can make a difference. And it was the right decision. So, um, that was – that was very satisfying. So, it feels good. You know, I’ve offended people – I, I joke that I, I, um – ‘cause I am not shy what I write. And, um – (pauses and chuckles), I’ve, I’ve offended friends, um, and I’ve offend, um, people I know in town. Um, I wrote about, um, the progressive church we go to versus the, um, conservative Presbyterian church we used to go to, St. Andrew’s,<sup>19</sup> and my old St. Andrew’s friends, one of them got really offended. And I said, “We have been talking about this for twenty-five years, I didn’t say *anything* in my column that you haven’t heard.” You know, when we get into these discussions, and they’ve always been collegial, um, ten times over, so what’s the problem, well it was in the paper. And, uh, I said, “Shouldn’t a church as successful as St. Andrews, ‘cause it’s big and wealthy, be willing to take a look itself and its effect on people in a fresh way?” I said, “That’s what we are called to do as Christians, every day of our lives.” So, you know, what’s the

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<sup>18</sup> Fashion Island, mall in Newport Beach, opened 1967.

<sup>19</sup> Presumably St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California.

- problem, um, so that was—that was an issue. Um, they also didn't like a column I did on, um, when Chick-fil-A, um—I don't know if you remember, a couple years ago the president of Chick-fil-A—
- HR: Yes, Huckabee.<sup>20</sup>
- JA: —was—came out anti-gay, and I wrote kind of this satire—
- HR: And there was a lot of support from the Republican candidates at that point.
- JA: Yeah. Yeah. So, I did a column on “To Chick-fil-A or not to Chick-fil-A: Should I boycott it or Should I not.” And, um, I—it was pretty satirical, and, um, I actually quoted a study from, um, I think it went to Yale or Stanford, a professor said that there are, I don't know, fifteen hundred species of animals that exhibit homosexual behavior. And the chicken is one of them, so I closed with saying—
- HR: Ironic.
- JA: —you, know, people wanna know is Chick-fil-A serving up gay chicken. So, that didn't play well in some places.
- HR: I'm sure not.
- JA: So, I am sorry if you can't laugh at yourself. So, that caused some trouble and another one was, uh, when Hoag Hospital<sup>21</sup> affiliated with St. Joseph.<sup>22</sup> Um, they coincidentally decided to end, uh, elective abortions, all abortions actually at Hoag, um, a few months later. And our club and several other women's organizations formed a coalition and we had a demonstration at across from the hospital. I brought my granddaughter, um, we—I did four or five columns on it. And, um, again it was a bad public policy, and we got Kamala Harris to reopen the—an investigation into how it was done. And she got Hoag to acquiesce, it wasn't everything we wanted, but we got them to back down on some of it. And we also brought a lot of the attention to the issue. So, um, you know. There—I had—I had two good friends whose husbands are the board of Hoag. So, that got exciting, and we got together talked about it. But, um—(coughs) it's funny, people—people often don't understand journalists and writers that, when they write for publication, they're writing, I mean—I mean I am pretty-authentic writer if you look at what write and how I talk and what I believe and what I write. It's, it's pretty much all one piece. Um, but, you—you write it out of your heart because you care, and you have something to say. You, uh,—I don't do vendettas or go after somebody and take cheap shots, and believe me, it's easy to do as a writer. Um, you see it all the time. And, um, I really try to not do that, but a lot of my old

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<sup>20</sup> The reference actually appears to be to Chick-fil-A's then (2012) COO Daniel Truett Cathy.

<sup>21</sup> Hoag, Orange County health care network, founded 1952.

<sup>22</sup> St. Joseph, hospital in Orange County, opened 1929.

friends, I kinda thought, “Do you not know me?” So, um, everybody is still speaking to me that I care about. (chuckles)

HR: That’s a win.

JA: We don’t go near some subjects which is fine, you know, and, um, I have also had some Republicans come to me and say, “You know, I hate to say it, but I agree with you on this or that.” And I keep harping that there’s, you know, there’s a lot of common ground out there. If you’ll get off the high horse and the rhetoric and just look at the issue. And what the results—what the consequences are of doing this or not doing that. So, um, that’s what I—and there’s other times we’re talking about this with friends the other day and, um, and they’re total liberals, they live down in Del Mar. And I said, um, “Sometimes I feel like a fool for evening bothering to write this stuff. Does—is it even gonna matter in the age of the Koch Brothers<sup>23</sup> and the Supreme Court that we have.” Um, I don’t know. But, I guess I, I would feel worse if I didn’t write anything. So.

[00:25:03]

[digression]<sup>24</sup>

[00:27:55]

HR: Do, do you consider yourself a leader-slash-activist? Or do you consider yourself a political leader or a political activist?

JA: No, I’m, I’m not a—I don’t believe in vertical hierarchies in organizations. I believe in spreading the—(laughs)—the joy and the angst of, of, um, of the work. So, um, I am the president, um, but I try to enlist in the power and encourage the whole club to be involved in ways that make sense to people. Some people are just happy to come and sit and listen, and they have an important part because they can go and talk to their neighbors and their families about what they hear. Others have a specific interest, big on women’s reproductive rights, um, the environment, um, is the city council behaving itself, um, you know, you name it. So, um, I try to put people where they, um, where they wanna be. So, I guess, if that’s leadership, I guess I’m leading it, but, um, I see it more working alongside of people to get, get our name and our voice, um, and our presence in town better known. Um, I guess I’m an activist, um, you know, I had—I guess I have the heart of a crusader inside. It’s not something I tend to foster in myself, it just kinda comes out, but like with “Measure Y” and getting that defeated: that was a crusade for me. I probably did five columns on it and I, I got more of a response on those columns than I ever got anything else, as far as numbers go. Lots and lots of people responded and mostly positive, um, and it was circulated. It was copied and

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<sup>23</sup> Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch, heads of Koch Industries.

<sup>24</sup> At this point, the interview digresses, resuming at 00:27:55.

circulated around town. So, in that, in that respect I was an activist. Also, in the Hoag affiliation I s' –I, I was definitely an activist on that, um, writing the columns and talking about it with people and, uh, trying to, you know, get it out there that, that that is a bad place to be (pounds hand on table/surface). Basically – what – and forgive me if you're Roman Catholic. But, um, (coughs) – the gist of the story is that across the country Catholic hospitals are scarfing up, um, others that, uh – and they impose their own values on these hospitals. So you cannot have an abortion at one of these hospitals after they've affiliated or, or been, you know, taken up by the Catholic hospital. And in life issues too: contraception. Um, a lot of things that people take for granted, uh, and it's Catholic policy to say "no." So, there was a woman, um, in Arizona, a mother of four who had severe problems with her fifth pregnancy and was rushed to a hospital, I think in Phoenix. And, uh, the Sister<sup>25</sup> who was running the hospital felt that the woman's life was in danger. They had to terminate the pregnancy, or both the baby and the woman were gonna die. (banging sound) So, the Sister decided that there was room in the Catholic belief system to, uh, permit the abortion, and they did, and she lived. Um, the Bishop<sup>26</sup> over there, the Cardinal I guess it is, um, excommunicated her and moved her out of her position and to a, uh, less influential job. That's scary. If you want – if you want to, um, be Catholic and go to a Catholic hospital and live under those rules, go, and God bless. But, I don't, and I don't think I should have to. And, nor should anybody else that doesn't want to. Uh, why – why religion is now driving our healthcare system, I don't know, and more than twenty percent of our hospitals today are under Catholic, uh, direction and it's growing. And I am sure the Koch Brothers are behind that, too. So, you know, they've got the money behind them. It's – it's really (pause) scary. So.

HR: So I've heard. What, um, what has been your biggest challenge as a leader-activist?

[00:32:31]

JA: I think getting people to care enough. Um, you know, to actually believe that their voice can make a difference.

HR: What are you most proud of (pauses) in that time being the leader-activist?

JA: Well, uh, I, getting the club to grow – we – when I took office, we, we had our membership rolls were a little, uh, shabby (chuckles). They hadn't been maintained, but when we did the audit, we had forty-six members, and we're up to fif – almost sixty now. Fifty-eight for sure, and a couple

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<sup>25</sup> Sr. Margaret Mary McBride (Religious Sisters of Mercy).

<sup>26</sup> Thomas James Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix.

more are joining. Uh, and a lot of visitors. So, that's in the space of a few months. And they're the kind of people you are excited about that have good political credentials, and, uh, smart, (screeching sound) capable people. So, we now have a treasurer who's a retired CPA. We now have a web-mistress who's married to the CEO of, um, QLogic,<sup>27</sup> um, down in Aliso Viejo. Um, so you know, we've got people that know what they're doing, and, um, I am proud of that, I am proud that the—you know—we're attracting people. Um, and I, I'm *proud*—I'm not proud of it, but I'm just happy to be a part of a group of women that are so interesting, you know, they're people you wanna hang out with. (pauses) So.

HR: Very nice. Do you consider yourself a feminist?

JA: Yes. Yes, it's one of my abiding regrets that it's become a dirty word. And young women say, "I, I'm not a feminist, but," and I always wanna say, "You are a feminist, sweetie, or you wouldn't be doing what you're doing." So, yeah.

HR: Absolutely. Do you feel as though men and women lead differently?

JA: (pauses) Yes and no. Um, most of the men that I have been around are good Republican businessmen, my husband would be one. Although he would—he hasn't voted Demo—Republican in a while either, and he voted for Obama, but, um, he takes a huge amount of ribbing from his Republican friends. But, um, they, they tend to be more hierarchal, and one of the things where our club, that we're concerned about is, we're really at the point where there's a lot of—of successful Democratic businessmen in town. We should be working alongside them, and we haven't made any effort at all. And that's gonna change, it needs to change. And some of the concerns are, well, if we open it up to men, are they're gonna come in and do it the good-ol'-boys' way. Or do we get to keep our autonomy and, you know, are a feminine voice which means a great deal to many of us. Um, you know, we have some old-line feminists that aren't real interested and (pauses), you know, um, but I think, um, it's—I think it's important to find a way to do it. And I happen to like working with men. Um, I'm a baseball researcher in my other my life and I do a lot of, um, work with men. It's a male oriented field, and, um, baseball writing and baseball research. So, um, I'm used to working with men. And, in that regard, no, it's, it's a personality thing. One guy's stronger, one woman's stronger. Two others might be much more laid back and, you know, just not so directed. So.

HR: Uh, sticking with the gender, but backtracking a little bit, did your parents ever set gender roles for you? Did they ever have the discussion of, um, you know, women do this, or women should do that? Or was it a very

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<sup>27</sup> QLogic Corporation in Aliso Viejo, California, founded 1994.

open season for you being that they, you know, were very academically driven for you?

JA: Well, it was the '50s which was a crazy time to grow up. And what I remember about the '50s was we lived in a nice garden apartment complex, a lot of yelling women. And as I look back, I think they were mad in part because they had come of age in the '20s, maybe when things opened up for women. Um, then the Depression, everybody worked to do whatever they had to do to put food on the table. World War II, women were drawn into the workforce, and then suddenly in the '50s, they were expected to stay home and be happy house wives and obsess over their kitchen linoleum. And, they didn't like it. And, I think there was a lot of frustration. So, in my own family, my mother was very independent, and she had worked on Wall Street all the way through the recession, I mean, the Depression. And, um, she was held back because she was a woman and I think she had some frustrations with it. Um, being an only child, my father and I had a great baseball connection, and I always thought I'd go into baseball in some way. And when I was a senior in high school—and he never discouraged (motor sound) me until I was a senior in high school. And, I came to dinner one day, and I said, "I know what I wanna do. I wanna be a sports writer, and I wanna cover the New York Yankees like Red Smith<sup>28</sup> does in the Herald Tribune." And, he said; "No, you're not going into the locker room. Women don't do that sort of writing." And I was floored, and I wasn't the kind of kid to take no for an answer easily. But, in that case, I just accepted it. (blowing noise continues) And, I was crushed, but, um, it all—and, you know, there's a reason why wound up going into baseball writing all these years later. But, um, I didn't even know what a locker room was. So, you know, gender roles didn't mean that much to me, growing up. And then I went—Hunter was all women and it was very uppity, smart, achieving women, brilliant women. And, I saw that, and so I thought, wow, you know, you do watcha you do. So.

HR: So, now. Um, what do you think about Hillary?<sup>29</sup> This would be my first part of the Democratic question. But, do we feel confident, comfortable with Hillary running?

JA: I am very comfortable with her.

HR: She seems to be the front runner.

[00:39:14]

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<sup>28</sup> Walter Wellesley (Red) Smith (1905-1982), American sports journalist.

<sup>29</sup> Hillary Rodham Clinton, American politician, U.S. Senator for New York (2001-1009), U.S. Secretary of State (2009-2013), Democratic Party presidential nominee (2016).

- JA: Yeah. Um, I'll—I'll preface this with saying that I think in retro—and I supported Obama fully, but in retrospect I think it would have been better to elect Hillary first and then Obama. (coughs) Pardon me. Um.
- HR: Give him some more time in the Senate?
- JA: Yeah, yeah, uh, seasoning and, um (pauses)—and I think she was—and she was definitely ready for it, she would have been a hell of a president. And, I think she might have been able to work better with, uh, Congress. Al—although I will say that anything Obama did was gonna get passed those Congressmen. It was Congress's people, it was never gonna happen, they were out to undo him from day one of his election. And, um, I—the, the, the way he's been treated is just horrific to me, absolutely appalling. So, I have no sympathy for the Republicans in that regard. Um, I don't know—Here's, here's the problem, and I saw this at the local level all the way on up through the ticket this year in 2014. The quality of candidates that were getting across the board—in public offices is not very high, and that really concerns me. In the—in the local Republicans' case, I would argue that the Party—the county party which are the king-makers—and they can pick anybody they want, don't want the best and the brightest. They want people that will do their bidding. Um, you know, why the Democrats can't do better, I don't know. Um, I'm gonna talk to Henry<sup>30</sup> about it when I see him next week. But, um, it's a real discouragement. So yeah, I'm—I'm willing to go with Hillary when I look at the Republican candidates, I just shake my head, and go where—who are these people and where did they—what rock did they climb under—out from under.
- HR: I think the only one I'm familiar with is Cruz<sup>31</sup> from Texas, if I'm not mistaken.
- JA: Yeah, awful, awful, awful.
- HR: They put him on a pedestal, I think, at the last convention or whatever it was that I was watching, it's the only—
- JA: It's, it's not good.
- HR: —reason why he sticks out to me.
- JA: Yeah, yeah, um, they're all appalling. Um (pauses). So, I, you know, it—she stands much taller against any of those candidates, um, then—then I can, you know, I can say. But, um, yeah, I support her, but I don't know who's behind her. I mean, who else do we have that's gonna be—I mean—Elizabeth Warren, maybe, sometimes, someday, somehow? Um, I don't know where they are.

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<sup>30</sup> Presumably Henry Vandermeir, chairman of the Democratic Party of Orange County (2013-2017).

<sup>31</sup> Rafael Edward (Ted) Cruz, American politician (Republican), elected U.S. Senator for Texas in 2013.

- HR: What do you feel – which direction do you see the Democratic Party going right now, what do you feel like the status of it is and – are they progressing, are we progressing –
- JA: That’s a good question.
- HR: – like it’s stagnate. What, are we keeping with our foundation?
- JA: Well, uh, it was interesting I was writing content for the website. And, um, somebody wanted to put the term progressive up on our headliner. (blowing sounds begin again) And, um, somebody else said, “You know, not all Democrats are progressives.” And it kinda – I consider myself a progressive, but it kinda pulled me up short. And there are a number of moderate Democrats who are probably “Eisenhower Republicans” in blue, you know, yeah.
- HR: That’s an interesting label.
- JA: So, um, I don’t – I don’t know. I think it’s very much a party that’s finding its way. Um, but the – you know – the joke was – somebody wrote this to me when I – um, um – after the election. Um, they said, “The – the – the America people are amazing, they say that they’re – they believe in climate change and the immigration reform and all this stuff. And then they go vote for the people, the very people that, um, are gonna oppose all that.” So,” he said, “what you gonna do with that?” And I don’t know. But, um, I think the problem with the Demo – they didn’t run a good campaign this last cycle, and it showed big time. Um, they gotta get a better message out and they’ve got the arguments, good grief they’ve got the arguments. But, um, it’s gotta be a better – better – smarter message. These people vote against their own interests. And I – I don’t understand it.
- HR: Do you, um, foresee – this is a little off topic, but, do you foresee, um, are foreign strategies dictating the nomination or just the campaign in general – just overseas –
- JA: For 2016?
- HR: I – domestic policy always seems to be, you know, headline, but I think that we overlook domestic and we always look foreign. So clearly, we pulled out of Iraq, and now we have ISIL,<sup>32</sup> we’re still in Afghanistan, and where else might we be. Do you think foreign policy will dictate who they bring in because the Republicans are very gung-ho, war oriented, they think that pumps the economy which, you know, not necessarily went very for us this time around. It’s not World War II all over again, but –
- JA: No. I mean, I, um, it’s the military industrial complex that Eisenhower warned against when he left office. He said, “Look out for it.” (brushing sound) And, you know, it’s – it’s become a behemoth. So, um, I think we should stick to foreign – to – to, um, domestic policy. There’s so many

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<sup>32</sup> ISIL, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIS, IS, or Daesh.

things in this country, uh, that need fixing. And, um, the wars will always be there overseas, it's a matter of taking a steady course and how much you wanna invest in it. And when you look at the cost of our—of our military. It's *insane*, absolutely insane. So, yeah, I always get up and arms when Republicans talk about being fiscally conservative. And I say: "You can't say that, you're just spending money willy-nilly on other things." So, you know, guns or butter, what do you want? Yeah, so I would stick to domestic policy. But, um, it's gonna be an interesting two years. And, I don't know if she'll announce or not. I just don't know. I don't know how her health is.

HR: It looked like it took a toll on her last time too. I can't imagine losing and putting all that effort into something. Obviously, it doesn't feel good. But, what, what kinda toll did it take on her.

[00:46:21]

JA: Yeah—she—and I—what I heard was that the good ol' boys in the Democratic party didn't want a woman, they didn't want her. And they'd rather have a black man than Hillary. So.

HR: Um, another topic related to that, I didn't know if you remember back. But, she—oh, gosh, was it the Connecticut—it must have been the second or third primary and she was in Connecticut, and she started weeping or she started crying at the table. And it was almost politicized as like a weak point like "See, she is woman, oh, look she did cry." Um, do you feel like that stereotype still exists for women today that we rule with our emotions? Or, um, we wouldn't have the same steadfast, calm, steady hand and—you know—in times of—of (pauses) tribulation, war, nuclear: do you feel like that still exists for women?

JA: I think it depends on who you talk to. If you wanna talk to people that think—fear that in a woman leader, um, look to the religious right because they're so patriarchal. And, anytime you get a patriarchal mindset, you're gonna have somebody saying, "Well, a woman's not up for the job." So, um, in that case, yeah. I think there's element, uh, in the Republican Party that feels very strongly about that. Most of them know better. Um.

HR: Do you think it's a possibility to have a gay president before we have a woman president?

JA: (chuckles) That's a good question. (brushing sound) Um, all put it this way, no, I don't, um, given the religious right. As long as they're catering to the religious right, it's not gonna happen. But, I will tell you, and I don't know if you've heard this from other people. I heard this back in '95 when I was working on my story. (table tapping) And, um, I—I picked up nuances of it, and then finally I sat down with a political scientist from UCI, and I said, "What the heck is going with this party it's really squirrely." And turns out that there are and have been, since Reagan's

- time, a large contingent of closeted gay, conservative men in politics. They—most of them get to a certain level and then they don't go any farther because of the scandal quotients. So, you'll never see them run for vice president and or president. Um, but, congressmen all over the place. Yeah, at one point, the, uh, political scientist said "three-fifth of our congressional delegation are gay, they're in the closet." Yeah. Yeah, everybody knows who they are, but they, you know, they're married most of them—families.
- HR: Do you feel like, um, or can you pinpoint, put your finger on it any change that you've seen through Obama's, um, term. So, his big campaign spiel was, you know, change which (pauses) you've changed your registration, you became a Democrat, so that's one thing he did accomplish, right?
- JA: Yeah, he did.
- HR: Did—is there anything you can pinpoint, big initiatives that you feel like, uh, once his term is term his over, once his presidency over, his name will really be attached to?
- JA: Well, the healthcare initiative. And what people don't realize is that when you have a (pauses) huge piece of legislation like that, it's impossible to get it right the first go around. You've gotta tweak it, you've gotta keep working on it through Congress, and get it—get it fine-tuned. Um, there's work that's needed—needed to be done on that. But, to just throw it all out and say it's impossible, no that's—that's atrocious. So, I think, you know, if the Supreme Court still backs him on these—everything, you know, that comes along that they throw at this—this healthcare law. Um, I think that will be one of his great legacies. Um (coughs). I think if you look back at what he inherited what an almighty mess it was. Um, he steadied the country, you know. I, I would have like to see him go after the, um, the financial guys that got us in the mess, but it didn't happen. And, I have heard it say, you know, they're so slippery, they didn't even have the evidence, but I don't know. Um, but I think he's done a tremendous amount for this country. Um, over—overseas, very well regarded. Um, he did get us out of some of the war mess that we're in, not as much as I hoped for. Um, and I love what he's doing with immigration. So.
- HR: Do you think if that follows through that will be monumental?
- JA: Yeah. Yeah. And, it's—you know—it's just a joke that the Republicans are all upset about it and given—I—every president who's used his executive powers like that. I mean, going back Republican, Democrat, you name it. There's no news there. But, they act like it he's reinvented the presidency and I don't think he has. So, my—my great concern is getting the Latino votes—to get the Latinos to go out and vote.
- HR: I think that's huge.
- JA: Yeah, get out and vote.

HR: So, can the—can the Democratic Party still stick with their foundation? Do you think it has stuck with the foundation? Do you think the Democratic Party still stands for equality and civil rights and gay rights?

JA: Very much so.

HR: Um, can the Democratic Party stay with those and not have to deviate or back-track and win the Latino votes? Do you think that's possible?

JA: Deviate? You mean stay with, uh, the immigration reform?

HR: Uh, yeah, just all encompassed, because I think the Latino votes are so important for the Democratic Party, but they don't necessarily synchronize with like you were saying the Catholic Church and that's, you know, predominately what the Latino community is. So, how does the Democratic Party win them over?

JA: Well, Latinos and I—I talk to Latinos a lot, um, they're a lot more pragmatic than they are ideologues. Uh, they're hard working people because they've have to, to make it in the country. Um, they have a very clear understanding of the Roman Catholic Church and its limitations. So, most of them, I don't see, um, reproductive rights is a big issue. Um, you know, for one thing, most Catholics practice birth-control anyway. And, um, with abortion, um, you're gonna find that across the board too. Some people are just gonna have one, no—regardless of their religious faith, they just are. I know born-again Christians who've had abortions. So, um, you take that off—I think that can be taken off the table. The immigration, absolutely, the Republicans shoot themselves reliably in the foot every time they turn around on immigration. And I hope to gosh the Democrats take that to the bank this time and don't let them off the hook. And, just get'em—get that story out there again and again and again. One of the things I saw in the city council, um, election was these—we got basically three tea parties or partiers who were elected, and they were not the best candidates. But, they're in, and what they did was just repeat, repeat, repeat the same mantra. The Taj Mahal city hall, the overspending on the—of the existing council, they weren't conservative enough and, um, it droned into people's heads. So, I think—I hope the Repub—the Democrats take another page from that and just go, you know, they're beginning—they're beginning—they don't wanna do good reform. And keep repeating it. Um, the other thing about the Latinos is that they're environmentalists and people don't realize that. And, um, they love their parks, they—they love, um, in fact I'm getting ready to do a column on this. Um, they may not go up to the High Sierras and backpack, but they like going for a picnic at the beach and at a park. And it means a lot to them. Those are Democratic values. Republicans would pave those parks over in a New York minute if they could with houses. So, um, that's an area the Democrats could develop, I think. The other thing, I wish the Democrats would do is—I know they're married to the unions, but I wish

the unions would get off this teacher-tenure, and, um—this absolu—pension fund reform. I mean, we gotta have it, um, for financial viability. And to just stick to their guns and not, you know, yield is—is foolish. Sometimes—some of them have, but, um, the same thing on—on of getting rid of bad teachers. I mean, everybody knows they exist, and it's not right, why should a teacher—and I mean, I can see the argument for tenure when you get people like the Koch Brothers who are wanting to, um, nudge them into, um, submissive, um, teaching. But, um, there are some bad teachers that need to be outed. So.

HR: Back to you. Now what do *you* want to accomplish before your term is over?

[00:56:02]

JA: Hmm, (pauses). Well, I originally had the goal of growing the club to a hundred people, and we're at sixty now, let's say. I am not sure that it needs to grow that fast in a year. Um, I'd be satisfied if we get to eighty and they're the right eighty. I don't wanna just grab people and sign 'em up without, you know, having them know what they're getting into. Um, I want a, um, permanent venue that is, um, attractive and appealing and affordable. The one we're at now at the Five Crowns<sup>33</sup> is a little expensive. Um, I want good programs—

HR: So that cute little restaurant right across the way.

JA: Yeah. Yeah. It's cold in the winter. Uh, it's got some shortcomings, it's dimly lit. Um, anyway. Um, I wanna do, um, some—some work on the programs to get really exciting speakers and programs that are gonna draw people out. Uh, even people that don't ever join at least they know we're in town and that we're doing good work and sponsoring some—some provocative, um, discussions. So, um, that's my goal. Um, and consolidate, you know, encourage the women that are already in the club to consider getting appointed to a commission in town, possibly running for office someday. Um, we have a—we have the, um, the state convention coming up in—in May in Anaheim. And our club should be volunteering to help staff that and do whatever the grunt work is required. So, um, get them involved in politics where they, you know, where they wanna be. So, I think that will be enough for a year.

HR: Definitely. And then after the year, what—what do you see yourself moving into? What would be next for you?

JA: I don't know. Um, it will be an election year. So, they'll be work to be done for that. Um, I'll be in the club working towards that. (pauses) Um, I'll probably still do, be doing my column. And, um, we'll see where it goes from there.

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<sup>33</sup> Five Crowns (founded 1965), restaurant in Corona del Mar, California.

HR: Now why do you—and this may seem like a very simple question—but why do you think it's important for women in particular to be involved in politics?

JA: Well, it's less than a hundred years since we got the vote. And, um, this—the—the, this cards of—of—of our social—of our institutions are often stacked against us. Um, the way healthcare is going and—and the way the Catholic Church is trying to, um, commandeer healthcare and—and eliminate reproductive rights. Um, we need a vote. We need to get out and vote on that stuff and speak out on it. Um, I think that's one big—big reason—um—childcare, education, that means a great deal to women. And, um, we should be spokesmen for that, you know, we should get the best people on the school board we can and there's another place where women should be running. Um, yeah. (pauses) So.

HR: Do you feel that is it different for women or do you feel like there's less or they're becoming more competent or, um, breaking through those stereotypes today versus let's say twenty years ago. So, do we feel like women are going forward, or do we feel like we're going backwards? Do you feel women are coming out, not necessarily in droves, but to the extent that they should be nowadays? Or do you feel like twenty years ago the women were more empowered coming out of the '70s and being a little more gun-ho when it came to politics?

JA: That's a good question. Um, the '70s were a gung-ho time and you had to be gung-ho to get any traction. Um, you don't have to be so gung-ho now. The doors are already open. So, you don't have to push so hard to get in. Um, we were at a party up the street and—they—um—at a home where—they—um—well the husband was the—uh, lead attorney in the Enron case.<sup>34</sup> And—he is the one who personally brought down Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling.<sup>35</sup> And then he went out in private practice and wrote his own ticket. He's doing very nicely.

HR: Whoa. I can imagine.

[01:00:49]

JA: But, uh, I wish he'd write a book. But, um, there were a lot of movers and shakers, uh, attorneys there. And, we got in a conversation with a black attorney and she'd been, um, I think chair—she said chair of the Orange County Bar Association.<sup>36</sup> That would not have happened twenty years ago. And I happen to know a woman who's writing her memoir. Um, she's a student of mine, and she's writing about being one of the first

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<sup>34</sup> Presumably a reference to John C. Hueston, attorney in Newport Beach, California.

<sup>35</sup> Former Enron Corporation executives Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling.

<sup>36</sup> Presumably a reference to Dimetria A. Jackson, president of the Orange County Bar Association (2012).

women attorneys in Orange County. And, opening up the office of a really big-name law firm and how tough it was, unbelievably tough. So, I think women have much more opportunity and, um, room to maneuver and grow. It's still—there's still areas, um, in politics, no. And—also, um, in tech,—the tech industry. They're—they're underrepresented. But, in the law, in medicine, uh, yeah. So.

HR: Uh, how do you feel—so let's think way back to when we started in, you know, the girl out in New York and come to stay, how has your political activism shaped you?

JA: (pauses) I—I don't know. I mean, it's so much a part of me, um (pauses) there are people—I'll—I'll put it this way—there are people—as I've been more politically active, and I've been engaged in conversation with people who disagree and people who agree with me. I find there's a handful of people that I've known for a long time that I'm not so keen on anymore (chuckles) because they—I mean, a, a guy from Stanford, um, and he plays the Stanford card, actually, his wife plays the Stanford card more than he does. And, I had a conversation with him about the—with a specific issue a while back, and it became very apparent that he's—he's switched his mind off. He hasn't studied the issue, he made up his mind and he's not taking any more information in. (chuckles) And he's dull, in other words, he may be a Stanford grad, but he's dull. And I have trouble with dull people. I don't have a lot of patience or time to spend with them. Um, that sounds terrible and judgmental, but there's so many great people out there that are amazing. And some of the most amazing are just simple housewives who never held a job in their life, but they've educated themselves, and they serve humanity, and they get out there and they put themselves out there and they do stuff. And I love people like that. So, um, that's kinda been eye-opener to see that, you know, my—my tolerance level for certain ty—types of people has changed. Um, also I'll be more outspoken. Um, hopefully I temper it most of the time, but when I'm in a situation and somebody makes a racist comment or sexist comment, um, I—I will likely speak up, um, but unless it's with in-laws and my son has told me to not talk politics no matter what. (laughs)

HR: What would you tell a young woman who wanted to become in pol—to become involved in politics or to become an activist? What advice would give them?

JA: Um, find a group of likeminded people to volunteer with. Um, join a club or something where you're getting out there and getting to know people. A campaign, if you will. And, uh, educate yourself, read the books, read the good books. Um, political science is a fascinating subject. And, uh, then start seeing where you fit in, what are your talents and—and how can you best use them.

HR: Last question. What does political courage mean to you?

JA: Political courage—(pauses)

HR: What would you consider political courage?

[01:05:06]

JA: —I think, um, Obama running for president was political courage. I hope that somebody has counted the death threats he and his family have received over the last—what—six years, seven years now. Um, that was—we never—the people that grew up through the '60s and all the assassinations were scared to death he was not gonna make it through without being assassinated. And I think maybe that's why Sarah Palin's, uh, refusal to address that, uh, idiot in the crowd bothered me so much. Uh, so, um, that's political courage. Sometimes taking a stand even though you know it's gonna cost you your election. And, uh, you know, I take my hat off to people like that (pauses) who are willing to just show up, um, and speak their mind and, you know, they're not gonna win the battle, but they took a stand. So. (pauses) I don't think we have a lot of political courage around to be honest. It's kinda sad. Yeah.

HR: That's it.

JA: Alright.

HR: That's my questions. Thank you.

JA: Yeah.

HR: That is the end. Thank you.

[01:06:24]

END OF INTERVIEW