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Bob Brown: We're interviewing with Lloyd Crippen and Lou [R. Lewis] Brown, both of whom worked many years for the Anaconda Company. Lou is an attorney and Crip is a lobbyist in Helena. Lloyd Crippen, could you perhaps just kind of fill us in on your background, where you grew up, and perhaps how you got started as an Anaconda Company lobbyist?

Lloyd Crippen: Well, I was born and raised in Carter County in eastern Montana. I always say I'm from Alzada, the kid from Alzada. My dad died when I was about seven or eight years old. My mother had died previously to that. I went back to Wisconsin and went to school with—stayed with an aunt of mine after my father died. Eventually, I had a half-sister that wanted to see that I went on to school after I graduated from high school. So she talked me into coming out to Missoula, Montana, to go to the university. That's how I got to the University of Montana in 1935. I graduated from high school in '35 and I got to the University of Montana-Missoula in the fall of 1935.

BB: Of course, that was during the Depression.

LC: Yes, it was.

BB: So you went to the University of Montana for four years?

LC: Yes, I did.

BB: Then how did you get connected with the Anaconda Company?

LC: Well—I've lost it for a minute. I met a gal down there whom I later married. Her father was the PR man and a lobbyist for the Anaconda Company.

BB: That was Al Wilkinson?

LC: Yes, that's right. That was Al. After Lois and I—we went together for quite a while—we got married. Then I got interested in Republican politics. I was a secretary to the local central committee here in Butte. Through Lois' father, I became interested in politics beyond that. He was the lobbyist for the Anaconda Company in Montana. Well when he went on to Washington as a lobbyist back there, I more or less took over his spot in Montana. That's how I got interested in it. I was in it for quite a number of years.

BB: Now Crip, what was it about the Republican Party that attracted you to the Republican Party, that caused you to become interested in Republican Party politics?

LC: Well basically, my father was a strong Republican. When we lived on the ranch, I can remember that he had a picture up on the wall of the ranch house of Calvin Coolidge. I guess I'm a Republican because my father said I was.

BB: The same for me, if you want to know. Lou, what's your background and how did you become involved as an attorney for the Anaconda Company?

Lou Brown: Let's see, I'm trying to think. So much of my life revolved around the war. I guess I had gone to the University of Montana and then when Pearl Harbor Day occurred, that kind of shook up everybody then. We didn't—we went to classes and what not, but we weren't into the "I'm a Republican, you're a Democrat." We were just people that came out of that—what I can't think of the name of the hall now where all the freshman went.

LC: Freshman went to South Hall. [Now Elrod Hall.]

LB: South Hall and I can remember Jack—oh what was his name? He was from Helena, and he later wound up as president of the—one of the nationwide concerns during the war.

BB: Was it Mahan?

LB: Jack Mahan, yes. He was a nice guy and I knew him well. He was the one that ran through, when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor, "We're at war." We were in that first hall for the incoming freshman and that's where I was at that time.

BB: You were a freshman at the University of Montana when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor?

LB: Yes.

BB: And Jack Mahan, who I think later became the national commander of the VFW, went through the hallway there in South Hall saying, "We're at war!"

LB: Yes, that was exactly right. He did become the commander later on. He survived the war. So there was, as you might imagine, a lot of—everybody was wondering what in the hell was going on now. We're at war. We were at war. Then what happened was—from our standpoint that I wasn't in the ROTC or anything like that. I was just a young guy over there. At the U at that time, when you, whether you went in the ROTC or not, freshman and sophomore kids—sophomores had to go out and march around and that—at the area, I don't know which direction east, west of the campus it was—we'd go out and practice.

We were, I guess, kind of in sort of an army then in those days. It wasn't the way it was where the fellows that brought through two years of that and had gone into the ROTC. Then they were becoming officers in the ROTC. We never were. There were a lot of them. Maybe it will come to me as I go along. So many of the Montana School of Mines ROTC officers, you know—that you got to be after your second year—a lot of them died in Africa. Guys from Butte and Anaconda and Bozeman and everywhere else, you know, they were the lead people in the war at that time. Nobody else had the training except the ROTC from the various colleges. Then they got enough people sworn into the army then that they didn't need them right away. Those of us went to basic training—I went in Fort Benning.

BB: So you dropped out of college in your freshman year and entered the army?

LB: Yes, I didn't actually drop out of college. It was just that I had, under the thing where you have to be listed as eligible for the army and all that and whatever that was—

BB: Sure, the draft.

LB: The draft. I was in the draft, but a number of us—when our numbers came up and said, "You're going to go." Then we went down to Fort Douglas and then they put you all kinds of places. I wound up in Fort Benning, which was the infantry school and parachute school. I went through that period. Then when we got through with that, there still wasn't enough equipment or whatever to handle everybody that was coming out of training. They sent us up to a place called Ripon, Wisconsin.

It was an army—it was a nice, nice beautiful college. There was nobody there except girls. Some of us (unintelligible), which came out pretty good at that. Anyhow, we were there because all the colleges, in order to keep them on their feet, the government provided them with people, you know, that could use a little bit more training or whatever. At that time, the whole darn country was just flooded with people that were going to become soldiers,war soldiers. We went to Ripon College.

Then when that expired, then they put us in different categories or whatever. I wound up in Fort Monmouth, I think that's the one over on the east coast just short of New York City. We, again, trained there at Fort Monmouth. I'm sure that's the one. It was a nice thing in a way. We did our work, but we had some time off. Like on Sunday or a Saturday if we went to New York City. We had these things where you could get together and dance, whatever that was that they were providing at that time. For some of us, on Sunday at St. Patrick's—is that the big one?

BB: A big cathedral in New York City, yes.

LB: The priest and those—they had a spot for us to sit. We all went, all of us Catholics went and did that. They had USO places where you could go and dance and all that. We did that. Then when the word came—I was at Fort Monmouth and that was a signal course school at the time.

BB: So you were shipped out of Monmouth over to Europe?

LB: No. I went over—I went west. They fooled around like this with trains and all this to keep the Japs that were already, theoretically, surprised why we rode all over the damn country. I wound up in a place in—I think it was somewhere in Nevada or somewhere like that. All it was—we already had the training we needed. It was just holding. So we then wound up going to the POE and that would have been in San Francisco up the river from San Francisco.

Then they put a bunch of us on one of the Madison(?) Line ships, one of the big ones in those years. I think they ran about a half a dozen. We went over without anybody with us because at that time, those ships could run faster than the submarines. So we just went over by ourselves and you could see the flying fish and you couldn't keep up with it. The (?) was the one that I went over on and made one or two stops on the way over to Australia. That's where we disembarked. It was quite a thing because we went over alone and no—

BB: So you spent the war in the Pacific it sounds like. In the signal corps?

LB: No, something called the infantry.

BB: I see. You were in combat situations in the Pacific?

LB: Oh yes, my best friend from Montana, Bob Hansen, and his dad was a big guy up on the north side of the state on the northeast or something. He had been in World War I and that. So Bob and I were pretty close. Then we got separated as they do—you know how that goes. I wound up in, ultimately in New Guinea. We started and I was an infantry man in the infantry. We started our trek from the lower tip of New Guinea because at that time, Australia was kind of in danger for fear that Germany or the Japs would be able to control them. They didn't do that. Then we went from the lower part of New Guinea up to, what the hell, northern New Guinea. That was where MacArthur had his setup way up there in the hills.

We were there for a while and then we didn't have any combat until we took off from there. Then we went up to another island, would it be Leyte or something like that? Yes Leyte. We fought there. Then I think then from there, we went to (unintelligible) and we were in Manila for quite a while. General MacArthur was very nice when we recovered his Cadillac. He had a damned way to still give us all the goddamn beer we could drink. I was taking six by six trucks over and filling it up. In my outfit, they were guzzlers. So anyhow, we did that for a while until it calmed down there.

BB: Lou, I want to hear about your involvement with the Anaconda Company, but I guess I'm curious and I think people would be, in the historical archives listening to this tape, how did you recover General MacArthur's Cadillac? What happened?

LB: The Japanese had it stashed away.

BB: After they had taken Corregidor early in the war?

LB: Yes, and it was there. When he left there, the machine was left there. I think it was some parachute guys that located it. They—whatever you want to call it—cordoned it or whatever. They got it back.

BB: They liberated it from the Japanese?

LB: It made him so happy that he then said that the beer outlet of that Tanduay distillery went for nothing. In my outfit, I was one of the few guys that could drive a truck. So we'd go over and just bring back beer like you couldn't believe. Then I went to that one where they—at the start of the war had taken the few white people that were in Manila at that time and they captured them. They didn't treat them badly, but they didn't treat them well. When we went there and got to them, they were just skin and bones. They were still alive. They were really happy.

LC: That must have been the Bataan Death March?

LB: That was the one where they killed all the soldiers. The death march was when they first took over Manila before we ever got there—that was part of the start of the war you know. The Japs had that. They ran those poor guys right into the ocean and everything else. That was maybe one or two years before the rest of us could come over and go up. So we kind of brought a little semblance of control to Manila. All of the lights were out. The bars they had—they had all kinds of bars with girls dancing and all that shit. Everybody was having a grand time. Then I had wound up somehow or another in the signal corps. So they sent—we were there for awhile and then they sent a bunch of us in three plane-loads, two-engine planes by the way, to go to Okinawa. I made it in one plane. Another guy made it in another plane.

BB: The plane just didn't make it to Okinawa?

LB: Yes, it just didn't make it. It went down somewhere. There were three planes and whatever. So then I was on Okinawa when they had the big winds and all that. It blew everything on the island down a couple of times. It also hurt the Japanese fleet because they couldn't get too close. By then, we had the big guns that could fire and stuff like that. So I forget how long I was there in Okinawa, but since all the guys in the unit I was in were from the East, they didn't know how to drive cars.

So they made me in charge of the motor pool. I taught some of them how to drive in that. Then we had a radio station that was there intercepting the Japanese things to—in their outfit and the one that was not involved. It was somewhere in France or—you know the one I'm talking about. It was not part of France or anything like that. It was in that area. So our guys—they were radio intercepting people at that time. We were that close to Japan. They came down one night and said, "Oh boy, are we in good shape." That was after they dropped the second atom bomb.

They said, "We just heard them. They're saying now sue for peace, forget it." That night— I still got pictures of all those things where all the guys on those—shooting the American guys at the bottom of Okinawa. I got a picture of that. I just couldn't believe it. Anyhow, then when they dropped the second bomb, that was it. Japan gave up. The Navy came in and a few guys that were radio intelligence people and stuff like that, which I wasn't, they went. I stayed in Okinawa until I came home.

BB: So you came home and then you finished college and went to law school?

LB: Yes.

BB: After law school you went to work for the Anaconda Company?

LB: Let's see. No, I worked for the government for a little while as a law clerk and stuff like that in Butte. I used to party with Kirkpatrick and Largey and those guys.

BB: Bill Kirkpatrick and Largey McDonald were lawyers and they also were eventually lobbyists for the Anaconda Company. So you were a young guy and knew them a little bit.

LB: Yes, I knew them. They were with Anaconda. I was with the government, as just a clerk in the—whatever department—it was in the federal office there. I knew them. We were all Butte guys and I knew them. We used to have some liquid lunches together and that. So then they—I went downtown and I was starting by the Hirbour Building, I don't know if you knew that, Crip.

LC: No.

LB: I had an office up there for quite a while. That was when Kirk and Largey and those guys came down and recruited me to go up to the Anaconda Company.

LC: You went to law school in Missoula?

LB: No California, Berkeley. I'm a member of the California Bar.

LC: I see.

BB: So you went to work for the Anaconda Company here in Butte where Crip was a lobbyist primarily in Helena.

LB: I had known Crip long before I went to work for the company. In fact, when you and your wife lived down on Harrison, and Bud lived with his grandmother, he and I—this was when we were in high school remember?

LC: I do remember.

LB: Yes, so that's when I met Crip and Lois.

LC: Lois lived with her grandmother Mrs. Thiel.

BB: Well Crip was a lobbyist. You were an attorney for the Anaconda Company here in Butte.

LB: When I did go to work for the Anaconda Company, yes.

BB: So you worked on some of the bills that were perhaps in the legislature and were involved, to some extent in that regard?

LB: Yes I did. That was part of our job, there's no doubt about it. Somehow or another later on, I got in charge of labor relations and things like that.

BB: So you worked with labor unions?

LB: Oh yes. In fact, when everything was all settled then we'd have the big strikes and they would be in Butte in Montana and Anaconda and that. All the unions, the major unions in the United States, had all gotten together with boilermakers, the steelworkers, everybody that worked for Anaconda. We would have negotiations and if they failed as they normally did, we got called back to Washington. They would put us in that building opposite the White House. They'd say, "Now you guys are going to be here until we get a contract." First we enjoyed that because we had a lot of fun partying. When you're on a kind of—

LB: When they're making you tired and all—so then we finally—everybody and Barney Rask, all the guys from the other unions and that…

BB: Barney Rask was a labor union leader here in Butte?

LB: Yes he was. He was part of the CIO. Was it AFL-CIO?

BB: Yes.

LB: We had guys from the machinists, the electricians, all the unions joined together to take on Anaconda in bargaining. That's when we had that.

BB: Now Lou, I'm going to give Crip a chance to talk a little bit about legislators, maybe we can visit a little bit further too about those labor negotiations and that kind of thing too. Crip, you then, while Lou was involved with the legal aspects of the Anaconda Company, perhaps drafting some bills in legislation and also doing labor negotiating, you were over in Helena as a lobbyist during the legislative session. You began, I think you told me, you first session was 1955?

LC: Yes.

BB: Were there some key legislators that you can remember that kind of stand out in your memory?

LC: Well over the years, yes. In '55 I was just a green lobbyist. I came back in '57 as a full-fledged lobbyist. At that time, the lobby was under the direction of the legal department. Always fellows like Lou Brown and Largey, Bill Kirkpatrick and, at that time, Jim Finlen was head of the legal department. After he left, Roy Glover was head of the legal department, right Lou?

LB: And also the whole department, you know, not just legal.

BB: Roy Glover became the head of the whole Anaconda Company, didn't he for a while?

LC: Well, he was in Butte.

LB: They didn't just have the legal department. They had the mines and all that in the Butte area and that.

LC: Didn't he start out—wasn't Roy Glover—he came down from Great Falls. He was in the law firm in Great Falls. He came down and he was head of the legal department here. As being such, he was head of the lobbyists.

BB: So the two of you would have had the connection, that connection I mean, you were sort of part of the same department in the Anaconda Company?

LC: The lobbyists were under the direction of the legal department basically. So whoever was head of the legal department was really our top boss. It was, I can remember—

BB: So that's when you worked closely with Largey McDonald and Bill Kirkpatrick?

LC: That was in later years. Prior to that, Roy Glover was our boss. Do you remember him?

LB: Yes he was an attorney from Great Falls.

LC: Right. He came down from Great Falls. He subsequently went on to New York. Then Jim Finlen was up there in the legal department as well.

BB: Is there a connection between Jim Finlen and the Finlen Hotel?

LC: No.

BB: It's just a coincidence?

LC: I don't think there was. Do you remember Lou?

LB: I think his grandfather built it or something like that. It didn't happen during our time in the Anaconda Company, but it was the Finlen Hotel and it was one of the earlier—

LC: Great hotels.

LB: He was one of the earlier big shots in Butte, too. I really don't know what they were but they were named Finlen.

BB: It's still—this interview we're conducting is in 2005 and the Finlen Hotel is still in existence and still a pretty fine hotel here in Butte. Crip, you started out in '55 and you were a full fledged lobbyist in 1957 from then on until 1983 I think? So you came in contact with many legislators. Some of them became governors. Some of them went onto Congress in the U.S Senate. Some of them may have impressed you for whatever reason as members of the legislature while you were there.

LC: I've got a list of them here I think.

BB: I don't know. Who do you remember that might kind of stand out in your memory?

LC: Well George O'Connor for example. Just take one. That was in later years. George was the Speaker of the House twice. And that didn't often happen. Ray Wayrynen, Merv Dempsey, Jim Battin—

BB: What do you remember, though, about George O'Connor? He stands out in your memory for some reason.

LC: Because he was the first guy that was speaker twice in session. He was a great parliamentarian. He knew that book, what do they call it?

BB: *Rules of Procedure*, I suppose.

LC: Yes, something like that. It had a name like that. He was a great parliamentarian. He never had more than a grade-school education. He was a sharp guy to the point where he finally became president of the Montana Power Company. That was just because he was just a sharp guy. George was one of the—he was kind of my mentor as I was coming up. I used to work with George. He was, at that time, he worked for the legislature. George would—

BB: After he had been done being a legislator, then he went to work for the Montana Power Company and he worked the legislature for the Montana Power Company for a number of years before he became president of the company?

LC: Yes, he did.

BB: I think one time Tim Babcock, who later became governor, told me that he was George O'Connor's seat mate.

LC: He was, yes.

BB: He said that was a wonderful experience because he said that O'Connor knew the rules forwards and backwards just like you now just mentioned.

LC: Yes and Tim was from Custer County in Miles City. He was lucky to sit next to George. He found out what was going on.

BB: Ray Wayrynen, you mentioned him too, Crip.

LC: He was quite a guy.

BB: He was from here in Butte?

LC: Yes and he was Speaker and did a hell of a job. When he put that gavel down, he meant it.

BB: So he was a pretty—

LC: You knew him well.

LB: Very well, in fact, he went to high school when I did.

LC: Oh did he?

LB: Yes and then I think wasn't he an undertaker or something like that?

LC: Oh yes.

LB: I don't think he went to college.

LC: He must have gone on to undertaker school.

LB: He was a real sharp guy and he handled himself well in the legislature, I know that.

LC: Yes he did.

BB: Then you mentioned Merv Dempsey.

LC: Mervin was—he was a guy, you probably remember this Lou. The guy, the speaker from Great Falls, was a real left-wing Democrat, do you remember him? He was a lawyer.

BB: Graybill?

LC: Yes, Leo Graybill.

LB: Yes, Leo Graybill, I remember that.

LC: Leo Graybill was great for—when he was Speaker, everybody in the house had to wear a shirt and a tie. Everybody did except Merv Dempsey. Mervin wouldn't. He would not go for that. He would wear a shirt and a jacket, but he would never wear a tie. Every day, Leo used to call him up on the floor and say, "Where's your tie?" Well he never had one and he never did get one either. That's all I remember. Mervin was a great guy. He always kind of liked to—he was a good friend of the company's.

BB: Crip, I remember once when I was a young legislator, I remember you singing a song called "Ace in the Hole."

LC: Yes. "Old Ace in the Hole."

BB: I think you told me one time too that Merv Dempsey taught you that song.

LC: That's right. Yes, that song, "Ace in the Hole."

BB: Let's see—Jim Battin, do you remember him in Congress, I mean, in the legislature?

LC: Sure, you bet. You remember him, Lou.

BB: Jim Battin was a congressman who was a lawyer from Billings.

LB: What year was that, I wonder?

LC: That would be in the sixties, early seventies I think.

LB: I wonder if that was when I went down to Arizona.

LC: Jim Battin was in a couple of terms. Then he ran for Congress and he was elected from the second district.

LB: All right. I know the name, but I don't really—I might have been doing other things at that time.

LC: He was a good friend, real good personal friend.

BB: How about Frank Reardon, Senator Frank Reardon?

LC: You would remember Frank better than me.

BB: He was a plumbing contractor wasn't he?

LC: Yes, he was a rough and tough old guy.

BB: State senator from Butte for a number of years.

LB: I remember him and everything else. He was pretty conservative, that's for sure.

BB: So he wouldn't be like Graybill?

LC: Oh no, no, not at all.

BB: So you were able to work with him easier than you could Graybill, say?

LB: I really don't—can't be able to remember anything that I personally went to him about. We had Denny and those guys—

LC: I told you about the stuff we had. I handled the Republicans basically. Denny handled the Democrats basically. We crossed lines of course too.

BB: Like I used to do, that's right.

LB: We never tried to step on the toes of the guys that were working for us, the lawyers, I mean.

BB: You obviously had to reach out to legislators in both parties to the extent that you could? You wanted them to at least be reasonable with you when you talked to them?

LB: Yes, the idea was to have somebody that could talk to everybody, but not to everybody all at once, but the people that would believe them. That, I thought, worked out pretty well. Carney—

LC: Yes, Glen Carney was there before Denny. Carney was good.

BB: Did Carney lobby the Democrats or the Republicans?

LC: Democrats. He had a lot of friends on both sides.

BB: Denny Shea was—

LC: He was a Democrat.

BB: And you were the Republican [lobbyist] for a long time, of course.

LC: I have friends- we had friends across the aisle. I remember when Carl Lehrkind first came into the legislature, he was a Democrat from Gallatin County. He was a swell guy and had a nice wife, I might add. The second time that Carl ran, he ran as a Republican and was elected. Do you remember Carl?

BB: I do. He was there before me. He was the Coca-Cola distributor in Bozeman.

LC: His son is now.

BB: I didn't really know, but I remember hearing of him.

LC: Carl was—you remember him.

BB: He might have been replaced in the Senate by Paul Boylan, I don't remember for sure. Boylan was there when I was there.

LC: Yes, Boylan was there. That's in later years.

BB: Yes that could be. How about a legislator that had a fairly high profile when I first got there, and for a few years afterward was Tom Towe?

LC: Not as far as we were concerned.

BB: He was a—he introduced a lot of bills and a lot to Senate.

LC: Yes, he always had a lot to say, but he was never our friend. I don't think he was in— no matter what business you're in and I don't think—he was a banker by—his dad had a bank down in eastern Montana in Baker. Tom Towe was a nitwit. I don't know what you thought of him, but that's what I thought of him. I think the rest of the guys in the lobby thought about the same thing. He wouldn't even talk to us.

BB: So you wouldn't compare him, for example, to Frank Reardon or Ray Wayrynen?

LC: Oh no. Hell no. Tom Towe, he was just a complete nut. You served with him?

BB: Yes, I served with him. I didn't serve with Pat Williams, but he preceded me there in the legislature. He was a legislator from here in Butte.

LB: Pat was pretty good, wasn't he?

LC: Yes, Pat.

LB: He did pretty well.

LC: He was a Democrat but he'd never go out of his way to do anything to hurt us. If it was a deal that had something to do with the union, he'd go along with the union. He didn't solicit anything against us. During the interim, he used to work for the BNP out between here and Anaconda as a trackman.

BB: Pat Williams did?

LC: Yes.

LB: Williams? They were very short shifts.

BB: So what did he do on the railroad? He was an engineer or a brakeman?

LC: No he was a trackman.

BB: Maybe that's how he worked his way through college, do you suppose, something like that?

LB: Other than that, he was a representative from Montana.

LC: Let's see, how many years? Sixteen years?

BB: Eighteen years I think.

LC: That was after he served his time in the legislature.

LB: He was a good guy, really.

BB: When you think of legislators—we've mentioned Pat Williams and characterizes a big guy, and Merv Dempsey and Ray Wayrynen and Frank Reardon, you know, guys you could talk to—less than a favorable opinion on Tom Towe. Let me just ask you both: are there any particular legislators you can remember that were helpful in any way in terms of carrying legislation or helping defeat legislation, providing you with information, being helpful to you in any way?

LC: I'm sure there would be many. I don't have any—caught any to mind now. We were there for many years and there were guys rotating around. I can go back to guys like—you can remember these names like Ben Brownfield and Charlie Scofield and [Willis] Junior Spear and guys like that of many, many. We used to have them up at [Room] 621, that was our hospitality room. We were the first ones that ever started that down in the old Placer Hotel.

It was the best thing that we did at the legislature as far as, just to bring both sides together and we never let anybody talk any politics. That was the thing—before we took them into the room, just go in and have fun and have a drink and have a piece of roast beef, but don't talk politics. So the Democrats got to know the Democrats and the Republicans got to know the Republicans. They got to know each other. It was a good thing wasn't it?

LB: Yes.

LC: Lou used to carve the roast.

BB: Is that right? So you got to be acquainted with some of the legislators up there that way, right?

LB: Yes, I did but not nearly as well as—

BB: Bill Kirkpatrick told me one time that he met at periodic intervals, I don't know if it was a regular basis or not, with legislators. Maybe it wasn't always the same group, that kind of helped advise him on what legislation was and the progress of things and so on in the legislature. And I guess I've been curious because Crip, you've told me because I got curious after that hospitality room was no longer in existence. I didn't come into the legislature until 1971.

You've always told me—you've told me two or three times that politics wasn't discussed during the hospitality room. Lou was cutting the roast beef and Denny Shea was serving cocktails and you were talking to guys and that sort of thing. Somewhere along the line, where did Bill Kirkpatrick talk to these guys? Would this just have been over lunch at a restaurant in downtown?

LC: I think, of course, he talked to them up in the room because Bill was head of the lobby at that time. He would go around and circulate around and he would come out to the capitol on occasion to meet the guys. If there was something of a particular nature, and I think you'll bear me out, Lou, if there was something of a particular nature that some of these guys would rather talk to the boss man, a lawyer than the regular lobbyist. That's where Bill—Bill more than Largey. Largey didn't talk that much. Bill was more—

LB: He was pretty smooth and a nice guy. He wasn't going to try to embarrass anybody or anything. He was just going to talk to them and see whatever he could scratch out of it. He was a good guy.

BB: Lou, I had the impression from talking to Bill that he had a group of legislators that he was close to personally or knew well or were in the same philosophical (unintelligible) with him and that he, maybe from time to time, would just sit down and brainstorm with them?

LC: That's possible.

LB: That wouldn't surprise me.

LC: That's possible.

BB: But you guys weren't necessarily involved in that?

LB: Not necessarily because my recollection of our meetings and all that, I carved meat up there and all that shit. You didn't get a group together and talk to them. You just talked to one guy or another guy or something like that, you know. If you wanted to have—at least as far as I recall—if you wanted to have a larger thing, you didn't do it there where everybody was supposed to be having a good time, but somewhere else. Is that the way it was when you were there, Crip?

LC: Yes. Another thing I was going to tell you about, as far as Lou, for example, and the other lawyers in the lobby—I'd go up in the morning and get the bills out of our box and bring them down to the office. This would be all the bills that had been on general orders since the day before on the board. So the lawyers would get together and we'd have a meeting. You'd have a meeting either before—if it was later than the day session, we'd have a meeting before the legislature went in. If not, we'd go the whole day and then come back down and we'd have our meeting. What happened today and everybody—you probably remember the story about the little black book. A little black book—we had the bill number, who the sponsor was, and stuff like that. We'd have a meeting. All the minds were put together. This is where the legal department came in because they knew more about it, legality of a bill, than we did. We would exchange ideas, right Lou?

LB: Yes.

LC: We'd have a meeting before the session or after the session.

BB: And it was the two of you might have been in those meetings?

LC: Yes.

BB: Frequently always were, maybe?

LC: Yes, always were.

BB: Sure and then—

LC: Except when the lawyers got together and worked out a lot of the details. They would bring it to us and say, "Guys, this is what's really in this bill. We want to watch out for this one." They knew the legal parts of it where we didn't.

BB: So once you got briefed on what the problem was or what the good thing about it was or whatever, then you'd come up with a clean understandable way to—

LC: Talk to them. Either we were for the bill, but generally speaking, we didn't propose any legislation, did we Lou?

LB: No, but—

LC: We made amendments.

LB: In talking with the guys, we would say, make some suggestion for an amendment or something like that.

LC: In other words, we didn't bring in a bill as sponsored by the Anaconda Company.

BB: But you'd need somebody, perhaps, to propose an amendment for you somewhere along the line.

LC: Sure.

BB: That would have been your job, Crip, more than your job, Lou, I think, to go find some legislator that you might be able to ask to help you with the amendment.

LC: No, if there was an amendment to be put in a bill, this would be the decision of the legal department, guys that we worked—we actually worked for the legal department. We took our orders from the boys in the lobby who were lawyers. This was a good bill. This was a bad bill.

This we didn't mind so much. We took all of them. They made the bullets and we went out and shot them.

BB: That's what I'm thinking. So Lou and his guys make the bullets. They read through the legislation carefully and see what they would want to be opposed to or what they would want to be for or what would need to be amended. Once those decisions are made, and it's you and Denny Shea that had to go into the arena and do what you could to carry out the plan.

LC: Not us entirely because a lot of times the lawyers would come up and they would explain legally to the legislator about this.

BB: So Lou, you might have actually been up at the capitol a few times too?

LB: Oh, I was there quite a bit.

BB: Did you ever talk to a legislator about helping with an amendment or anything like that?

LB: I'm sure I did. Whenever it was being discussed, sometimes the lawyers got in and had their say and were having something before a committee that was listening and wanted to know both sides, things like that.

LC: We very rarely—the lobbyists themselves never appeared before a committee.

BB: To testify?

LC: No. We never did. I think once in a while, I think the lawyers did.

LB: Yes, we did occasionally. If it was a bill that we thought said something that somebody else might not have thought or something we did. Normally we stayed behind and just gave our thoughts to Crip and Glen and stuff like that. We weren't that active before a jury (?) all the time or that.

BB: When you guys had your meetings, usually in the morning, the staff meetings that would involve the lawyers and the lobbyists and that sort of thing—

LC: Either in the morning or after the session.

BB: Or after the session, did those meetings just exclusively include your guys or did you have—were there Montana Power Company lobbyists, railroad lobbyists, legislators, other people in on the meetings?

LC: No, no.

LB: No, this was just private.

LC: These were private. Like the oil people, they had theirs. The Power Company had theirs. They had meetings just like we did because they were interested in different things than we were.

BB: There might have been a few bills, though, that you would have had some common interest in.

LC: Oh well, naturally.

LB: Yes.

BB: And I suppose you would bid your advantage to work with other lobbyists and others interested in that.

LB: Yes, sure, no question about that.

LC: Sometimes they had inroads with fellows we never did. They could go talk to somebody better than we could. We always tried to get the guy that had a tie into somebody.

BB: Now Crip, there's sort of a common perception, and I think it may not be accurate: Early in Montana history, the Montana Power Company was a creation of the Anaconda Company. Then it became a separate company, but apparently the same guys were the Board of Directors for both companies. Then probably sometime in the fifties or sixties or something, there was a more distinct separation that was made?

LC: Much later.

BB: Tell me about that.

LC: Well do you remember Bill Coldiron?

BB: Yes.

LC: Coldiron came up.

BB: Bill Coldiron was an attorney for Montana Power?

LC: Later on he was. I'll get to that. Our legal departments used to be like this: very close. There were guys like Charlie Mahoney. Remember Charlie Mahoney?

BB: He was a state senator from somewhere in eastern Montana.

LC: Garfield. Charlie Mahoney always said and he was no great friend of ours, but he was an enemy of the Montana Power Company because they were against the co-ops. The power company would run the line across 100 yards from a guy's house and they wouldn't put a line into his house, see. So that's how the co-ops got in and Charlie Mahoney would always say, "Well, you guys are bad, but you're not as bad as the Montana Power Company."

BB: So once in a while you could talk to Charlie Mahoney, but they never could? Charlie was a Republican, I think.

LC: Yes he was. He was always elected from Garfield County. He wasn't our friend particularly. He hated the Power Company worse than he hated us.

BB: The Montana Power Company and the Anaconda Company might have been almost undistinguishable, say, in the 1920s. By the 1960s, they were different lobbyists and they were separate, is that accurate?

LC: No, not really.

LB: I wasn't involved in the twenties. I don't know where it was then.

LC: I wasn't involved in the twenties either, but—

LB: It was my recollection we felt we were representing the Anaconda Company and the others were for the power company, had theirs going on. We knew them and all that, but I don't remember we ever put it together—a thing where we would go in on this together, do you Crip?

LC: No, we never did.

BB: That's what I'm thinking. I'm thinking that—

LC: The two legal departments, they worked together on certain things. Then after a while, they completely came apart.

BB: About when would that have occurred?

LC: Oh, in the seventies.

LB: I would guess, but I think there was a reason for that, in that the power company had different problems and things like that than the Anaconda Company. They had their attorneys and all that. They went their way and we went ours even though they were a subsidiary. I don't think we ever interfered too much, did we on that Crip?

LC: I remember when Bill Coldiron came up here. He came up here for the Anaconda Company when we split our legal departments. He went with the Power Company.

BB: I see, okay. I don't want to over-characterize this either, I mean the fact that the Montana Power Company and the Anaconda Company began to operate as very distinct entities doesn't mean that there was necessarily any rivalry between them. They weren't necessarily opposed to one another.

LB: No, we weren't.

LC: No, we were all on the same side, really. We weren't as close as we had been before. I can remember in our black books, we used to carry both our company bills and the Anaconda Company bills. It finally got down to the point where we just carried Anaconda Company because the power company had different needs and different problems than the Anaconda Company did.

BB: Bob and Jack Corette were both here from Butte. They were both attorneys like you, Lou. So you would have known them socially and politically and that sort of thing even though they were Montana Power Company people.

LB: Oh yes.

BB: You would have had a pretty good open communication with them probably.

LB: Well yes, except they were kind of hard-nosed on what they wanted.

LC: Jack was especially. Bob was more affable and I got to be very good personal friends of Bob and his wife.

LB: Jack was a head guy and Bob was his lieutenant, or whatever you want to call it.

BB: Yes, his younger brother.

LB: Yes.

BB: Then, of course, Everett Shuey was a lobbyist, and John Lahr.

LC: They were strictly Power Company.

BB: Yes, strictly Power Company. Now let me ask you, just since I'm interested, a person that I've always found fascinating and his name has popped up in a number of my interviews is Boo McGillivray.

LC: Oh yes, Boo was strictly Power Company, but we were all very friendly.

BB: Yes, Boo was an interesting character. Do you remember any stories?

LC: Oh God, not really, except he said, "If I ever get shot I hope it's by a jealous husband." He said something like that.

LB: Yes, he was a character.

BB: Do you remember any of his witticisms, Lou? Apparently he had some funny—

LB: Not really, because unlike Lloyd and Glen, they stuck around the legislature longer than we would. We might be back in the office writing up a memo or some damn thing. We weren't there the whole damn time. These guys were. If anybody caught anything, it would have been him and Glen.

BB: I remember once someone telling me that a Boo McGillivray witticism was he would say, "If you don't like bourbon, breakfast is over."

LC: I don't remember that one, but he had a lot of them like that. He had a million of them.

BB: You know, Lou, you were involved in the process of looking at these bills carefully to determine what the Anaconda Company's position would be on them and how you should approach them and that sort of thing. Is there a bill or two, an issue or two, that comes to your mind that was important in the years that you worked for the Anaconda Company?

LB: I'm sure there were, but they don't come to mind. You were up there in the sessions and you were working on whatever bill you already had and knew was coming up and all that.

LC: I'm like Lou. I don't particularly remember any specific bill, I mean a biggie.

BB: There must have been something, though, wouldn't you think? I remember—I don't know if this was a big bill or not, but when I was—maybe my first session in 1971, it just runs vaguely in my mind that the Berkeley Pit was expanding and there was this person who owned a lot somewhere up on the rim of the Berkeley Pit that refused to sell it. So the pit couldn't hardly expand, you know, without acquiring that property. Do you remember about that?

LC: No.

BB: That there was a bill in the legislature that gave the company the power of eminent domain to…

LC: I remember some eminent domain bills.

LB: I don't remember when somebody's already got his place and everything else, you come in with eminent domain and take it away from him.

BB: The problem in this case was that—

LB: (Unintelligible) talking about.

BB: The problem, as I remember in this situation was that the pit was about to the point where engineeringly it couldn't expand until that property was acquired. There was some kind of legislation that—maybe the problem was settled with this person that owned the lot before the bill passed.

LC: Undoubtedly, maybe it wasn't something that came up at the legislature either.

BB: I remember it from the legislature.

LC: Eminent domain often came up at the legislature.

LB: Yes.

LC: Eminent domain was—any company like the power company or the oil companies or the railroads, they were all in eminent domain.

BB: I think there was a bill that—I'm not sure if the Anaconda Company would have had a big interest in it, but it maybe would have. I think the railroad, the Northern Pacific had the biggest interest in this, had to do with—this was probably Tom Towe, too. That's what I remember anyway, had a bill to tax withheld mineral rights. When the railroad got its land grant, it got a whole bunch of land, the Northern Pacific did. Then later on, they sold a fair amount of that land off. They retained the mineral rights. They sold the surface, but they retained the minerals.

So there was a bill introduced and it was even in a couple of sessions and the logic behind the bill was obviously the mineral rights must have some value. We only tax the surface, though. We don't tax the minerals. The other side of the argument would be, "Well how do you know whether the minerals have any value? You don't know what's under the ground." The guys that were proposing the bill said, "Well, they must at least be presumed to have some value or the railroad wouldn't have kept them. So we want to be able to tax them." That went around and around.

LC: That still prevails today with property right here in Butte. A lot of these houses are built—when you get the deed, you don't have the mineral rights.

BB: Yes, I know, and I don't know if the law has been changed since I left the legislature. I don't remember exactly what happened. You don't seem to have any—you don't remember that particularly as an important issue?

LC: No, not really.

BB: Were you involved in any timber issues, because the Anaconda Company had timberland?

LC: I imagine we were.

LB: I don't recall anything on that because all the timberland, they had it all fenced off and it was theirs and everybody knew it.

BB: I remember having a talk with Bill Kirkpatrick one time about a bill called a yield tax? Yield tax on timber? I think the way the law had worked: timberland was taxed at a particular percentage in the law. There was a particular—the land was classified as grazing land, it would be taxed in one category. If it was agricultural land, another category; it if it was timberland, another category—and so a bill was introduced to say, "Well, timberland won't pay any tax until the trees are harvested." Then basically there will probably be a fairly significant tax on the timber. It's called a yield tax. I know Bill Kirkpatrick had a strong interest on that issue.

LC: Bill, for awhile, represented the lumber industry, the timber industry.

BB: I think he represented Champion, didn't he?

LC: Yes he did.

BB: Champion bought the Anaconda Company's timberland.

LC: Absolutely. Do you remember that, Lou?

LB: Yes.

BB: Lou, that may have been after the Anaconda Company sold the timberland to Champion. So you might not have had any way of knowing about it.

LB: I don't recall being involved in any of that, so—

LC: Kirk went over with Champion, I remember that.

BB: How about labor legislation?

LB: I don't think we had too much of a problem there. The NLRB, at least for all of the laboring people that are in unions and that, that's where they get their control and their benefits.

BB: I know there was an ongoing controversy over silicosis benefits. You probably understand the issue better than me. How do you remember that?

LB: Well, I would think that if we're talking about silicosis, it would be more that the government in the state of Montana. I don't know—

LC: We're still paying. The other day Bobby Patowitz told me that there are still some people down in Galen, maybe one or two, that are still drawing silicosis benefits—

LB: From the legislature. That could be.

BB: The controversy is, as I remember it, was I served on the public health committee my first session in the House of Representatives in 1971. It was some kind of a bill, Crip, that pertained to silicosis benefits. I had never even heard the world "silicosis." I was from the Flathead Valley until I got there. So anyway, I learned that it was a lung ailment that, I guess the assumption was, it was caused by working in mines and breathing dust and that kind of stuff.

LB: The ingestion of dust and other matters.

BB: Stuff like that, so anyway, I remember we heard the testimony, both sides of it. Then as we left the committee hearing, I walked out of the hearing with Dr. M.F Keller. Millett Keller…

LC: Oh yes, I remember him from Great Falls.

BB: From Great Falls. The Republicans had the majority in that session. Dr. Keller was the chairman of the committee. So we were just talking a little bit about that as we left the committee room. I remember Dr. Keller saying to me, "Really Bob, this probably shouldn't have even been a controversy, but it's been around for a long time. The hospital at Galen basically was constructed to accommodate these people with these lung ailments and that sort of thing. There are still some of them alive, but there are fewer each year."

It was his opinion that in reality, it never should have been the state's responsibility. He said, "In my opinion, this should have been something that should have been taken care of by the Anaconda Company. It shouldn't have been taken care of by the state." We're so far down the tracks now with it that he guessed that probably legislation wouldn't pass or die, whatever, and that's just how it would end up.

LC: The Anaconda Company wasn't at fault as much as some of these smaller mines. The Anaconda Company put in air and water and things like that to do away with things that would cause silicosis.

BB: So you could make the case that the miners were in a more healthful work environment in the Anaconda mines than in other mines. So the argument was that it wouldn't be fair for the Anaconda Company to pick up the tab for the whole thing.

LC: Maybe it was at first.

BB: Lou, any thoughts on that?

LB: Yes I'm thinking back to the underground miners and way, way years ago after they worked about 30 or 40 years, yes they were all done. I think that either medicine or something happened to that so it didn't work that way. Do you remember that Crip? I know they weren't wearing masks or anything like that, the early guys. I've never heard of it as being much of a problem. If they had emphysema or something like that, they usually got diagnosed and they were taken care of by doctors. That would be the only way I could figure.

BB: Any other, before we switch topics, any other bill or legislation or issue that comes to mind?

LB: No, not for me. Crip and Glen were the guys that were there every day all day.

LC: Of course there was always a bill—I don't know if there was always a bill—relative to silicosis.

BB: That was a very frequent one, though.

LC: The lobby always had to be—and the legal department—always had to be wary of somebody putting in a bill that would just knock us out of business entirely.

LB: Yes with the underground miners, you'd have to watch for silicosis, that's for sure.

BB: So the position of the Anaconda Company on silicosis, just to help me understand, was what then? You say you always have to be watchful about that kind of legislation. What were you watching out for?

LB: For things that were good and things that could be bad. In other words, is this just our crackpot bill or is this something that points out something that we're not doing or what?

BB: The general position of the Anaconda Company was what, generally in terms of silicosis?

LB: We were trying to do everything we could to keep it from spreading and continuing. That ruins your work force.

LC: The Anaconda Company, I wouldn't have any idea how many bills or what's in the law now that the Anaconda Company did, in their minds, help the spread of silicosis.

BB: Help prevent the spread of silicosis, yes. I'm going to ask you for a few names, I'm just going to mention a few names to you and we're down to about the last 10 or 12 minutes of our interview. I'd just be interested in each of you, maybe just in a few sentences, kind of giving your thoughts or impressions of the people's whose names I'll mention. I've already mentioned Jack Corette and I think Lou said he was hard-nosed or something like that.

LB: No, he was a pretty smooth guy, I thought, very.

LC: He was very honest.

LB: Bob Corette was a little different, but Jack was, in all my dealings with him, he was very friendly, smiling, would listen to you, and whatever he said he'd do, he would do if he felt it was necessary or said it was.

BB: Crip?

LC: I can remember—this is funny and I was never on the payroll of the Montana Power Company at any time. Somehow or other, Jack Corette got the idea that maybe that I was not on the payroll but I was a good friend of the Montana Power Company. When I retired, I got the nicest letter from Jack Corette [than] from anybody. He just had a flare of writing beautiful letters.

LB: He was a pretty smooth guy, no doubt about it.

LC: He wrote this letter for me and I was not a former employee or anything. He just figured I was a good guy.

BB: Well good. That's wonderful.

LC: I always treasured that letter.

BB: Bob Corette?

LB: Well, Bob Corette was okay, but he was rougher. He wasn't as smooth as Jack.

LC: Oh, no way.

BB: You know, Crip about Corette?

LC: Bob was a closer friend of mine than Jack's. I was a good friend of Jack's and we were neighbors in Butte. Socially, Bob and his wife and my wife were very close friends socially.

BB: When I was a new, young legislator in 1971, I have a recollection of Bob Corette. He was only there for a couple of sessions when I was there. It was kind of an intimidating figure. He was big and he was kind of bold. I was young and inexperienced and that sort of thing. I don't think I ever—I knew who he was, but I don't think he ever spoke to me.

LB: He would give you that kind of an impression.

LC: He wasn't as smooth as Jack.

BB: Mike Mansfield?

LB: One of the greatest.

BB: Did you ever meet with him personally?

LB: Yes.

BB: What can you say?

LB: Well I would say he was as honest as any person in any legislature you could ever find, he really was. He was a smart guy and a wise guy—

BB: Were you able to work well with him, as the Anaconda Company?

LB: My term with the Anaconda Company, I never had any problems with him. My father died and that was before they had a thing for federal judges [pensions]. Mike put in a private bill in the Congress and got her a pension.

BB: Because your dad was a federal judge?

LB: Yes.

BB: Crip, any impressions of Mansfield?

LC: No, I didn't know Mike very well, but I'll tell you where Mike—when Al Wilkinson went back to Washington, Mike was never a particular friend of the company. It needed somebody back here to let him understand. He and Al became good friends. Al said that there was a lot of good in Mike, but never came out.

BB: Senator Lee Metcalf?

LC: I didn't know Metcalf.

BB: Did Al Wilkinson work with him too?

LC: Yes he did. I don't know, I can't say how they got along.

BB: Lou?

LB: I wouldn't have any—that's in the federal level. I wouldn't have had much input on that at all.

BB: Let me ask you about two or three governors here: Don Nutter?

LB: Yes, I remember him.

BB: Any impressions?

LB: He was a gung-ho guy, I know that. I really am not familiar with any of his programs or anything else, but—

BB: Did you ever meet him?

LB: Yes, yes.

BB: Strong personality, is that what you mean?

LB: Yes and he seemed to be a very pleasant guy and a good guy. Crip would know him more than I would.

LC: He was a personal friend.

BB: Tell me about him.

LC: He was just—he came in after the war. He was a gung-ho guy. He was our kind of a guy, your kind, and my kind, and Lou's kind of a guy. Had he not gotten killed, I think he would have risen to be a candidate for a United States senator. When he came into a room, it just seemed to light up. I always thought it was-—now Tim is friendly and everything with everybody.

BB: Tim Babcock?

LC: Yes. Tim doesn't have the same type of personality that Don had. Tim was a good governor and everything, but when Don came into the room, it was just different.

BB: Any thoughts on Babcock, Lou?

LB: None that I can think of. I don't remember anything that I thought he did wrong or anything he did right. I just don't have any thoughts on that.

BB: But a word came to mind when I said Nutter. You said, "Gung-ho." So both of you- there was a greater strength in Nutter's personality than most people, I think.

LC: Oh, yes.

LB: Tim was a sweller guy and probably a cooler guy. He might have said a lot of things that passed over to your dad.

BB: Governor Forrest Anderson?

LC: I didn't know Forrest very well. I didn't have much dealings with him. He was a Democrat and guys like C.J Hansen and maybe Lou had a closer tie in with Forrest than I did.

LB: C.J would have been working with him.

BB: Did you ever meet him, Governor Anderson?

LB: Yes.

BB: What were your impressions, how would you describe him, what word would come to mind?

LB: Just a big friendly guy, is the only thing I can think of.

BB: A big guy?

LB: I'm just trying to think now. Forrest, yes, I did meet him and I think I did have some occasions to talk to him. He was always polite and nice. I never had any problem with him or anything like that. It was not Forrest I was thinking of there first. Forrest, I never— when I worked in the legal department, I had some contacts with him and that.

BB: When he was attorney general?

LB: Yes. He was always fair and decent. He didn't throw me out of the place. He didn't do anything. So I have no recollection of anything that would make me really be not disposed to say that he was a good attorney general.

BB: Crip, anything to say in conclusion?

LC: In conclusion of this whole thing?

BB: Yes. We're about out of time.

LC: Well, if you were going to use what we said here today, I think everything we've said was the truth as far as our feelings about certain people and about certain problems like, you mentioned, silicosis and things like that. First, there were problems in those days. I think the company bent over backwards like they're having to do today about this environmental thing. We have the same problems today; the environmentalists want to close the open pit mine over in Whitehall. They'd like to close our properties down, I think. It's a cycle of things.

BB: Lou?

LB: Well, I look out here and I see a pretty clean atmosphere and I don't see too many people coughing and choking in our lab. I know that people who dig these deep mines and that, they're very careful about control and avoiding dust problems and everything else. When you look over here at what the outfit and that mine—

LC: Whitehall you mean? [Golden Sunlight Mine.]

LB: In Whitehall. And when they cleaned—I would go over that way and then when they filled in their pit and it fit in so beautifully with the contours of the mountain and all that, I just thought that was a marvelous job. They were guys that were really dedicated to doing something right. Tommy Colin is the guy I know well. He's running—he was running the mine down in Nevada and all that. They had, I thought, a pretty god-darn serious interest in doing what's right.

LC: Now Tad Dale was head of MRI up here. Tad Dale is a decent—he ran a few small mines in south, MRI—

BB: Montana Resources.

LC: Yes. He's the lead man up here now. There's never a straighter guy in the world than Tad Dale.

BB: Anything else?

LB: One thing. You can shut that off, this is just an aside. Have you flown from eastern Nevada over to—

[End of Interview]