

Maureen and Mike

Mansfield Library

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Archives and Special Collections

Mansfield Library, University of Montana

Missoula MT 59812-9936

Email: library.archives@umontana.edu

Telephone: (406) 243-2053

This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed interview. Please bear in mind that you are reading the spoken word rather than the written word.

Oral History Number: 465-009

Interviewees: Warren Brier, Nathaniel Blumberg, Sam Reynolds

Interviewer: John Newhouse

Date of Interview: 1975

Project: Lee Newspapers Oral History Project

Note: Nathaniel Blumberg was dean of the University of Montana School of Journalism from 1957-1968. Warren Brier was dean from 1968-1982. Sam Reynolds was editorial page editor of the Missoulian from 1966-1988.

John Newhouse: I will get far away from Sam. Don't mind this thing going. It's a monster but it keeps me from writing notes that I can't read later on.

JN: You mentioned that it had an effect on the AP and

Nathaniel Blumberg: Well, I would say that as a result of the Lee papers coming that AP coverage improved enormously. Because obviously it's a cooperative and it depends on the newspapers. Now, before, many, many stories were not only covered by the individual Anaconda papers but they never put it on the wire. There could be incredibly major stories, like the president of the University of Montana being on the verge of being fired, and this wouldn't even appear in the AP report. I think it's safe to say that the only newspaper in the state that was printing certain kinds of stories that I would consider of great public interest, was the student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Montana Kaimin.

JN: That's crazy.

NB: Now, the Great Falls Tribune was doing some, but not much. They had one man in Helena, who was a very nice guy, and what he did was very excellent, but he had very limited interest or, instead of saying limited interest, had very limited areas that he reported on. So, as a result, there was no real coverage of the Montana legislature, or of the judicial branch, or the executive branch, and certainly no investigative or exploratory or even interpretive writing about what was going on. And that changed. There are a lot of things that I don't want to go into, because some of the personnel who were involved in what was going on under Anaconda remained in the Lee organization in key positions and changed their own behavior, I think, at least some of the pressures that came on the AP were brought by Anaconda Company, by executives at the Anaconda Company newspapers, but after Lee came in, they apparently no longer put those pressures on the AP.

JN: Well, you're not eating, I really ought to talk to you. It is unfair to make a person sit in front of a mound of food and talk.

Sam Reynolds: When did you arrive in Montana, Warren?

Warren Brier: '62. So, I wasn't really here during that transition period of '59, and I really am not familiar with the Anaconda press in the late '50s at all. I didn't read it or study it or anything else.

NB: Well, you're lucky.

WB: I heard a lot about it. About all I can speak to, I think, is the change that's come about since '62.

JN: Well, that's been 13 years. Sam wasn't even here then.

SR: I came in '62.

WB: I think probably—that's right, you weren't, were you? I think probably it would boil down to three, three general areas. One the obvious one of the technical mechanical changes that have come about. Secondly, the one which impresses me consistently, which is the vast increase in number of editorial employees on the papers in Montana, the daily papers. Many of them quite young by my standards today and I think the Missoulian is probably the best indication of that. Third, the, as I recall, but you can correct me, Nathan, if I am wrong. Back in even '62, you didn't have the kind of interpretive reporting by the Lee Bureau that was going on in recent years and today. So, I think those are the three main changes that I've seen since '62.

JN: What kind of a job is the Lee Bureau doing?

WB: Big question. It seems to me that it is doing the job essentially that is supposed to do. I would qualify that by saying it's lost some of its best people. Dan Foley for example, Jerry Holloron, and some others, who perhaps went into the investigative side of reporting better than anybody else who has been with the bureau. That's an opinion. Foley, for example, as you may be aware, had quite a series going on the governor and some of the things that were going on with property and land etc. It won an award from the University of Missouri.

JN: Who was this, who did this?

WB: This is Dan Foley.

JN: Well, he was the one that got into the workmen's' compensation?

WB: Yeah. And Jerry Holloron, I think, just because it was Jerry Holloron, was able to turn out a level of coverage that would be hard to match because he was so good at it. I don't mean to disparage the people who are over there now. It is just that people like Foley and Holloron are exceptional.

JN: But this does trace back to the fact that there was a Lee takeover and there was a change in the type of journalism and without that there would have been no [Lee] bureau and without the bureau there might not have been the other developments.

WB: Our criticism now by several of us and Reynolds has heard this many times is that, it would seem, looking at all this from academe, you know, it would seem as if instead of a three-man state bureau there might be a two-man state bureau and a one-man Washington, D.C. bureau and this is what we have been harping about for a long time.

NB: Or even better a four-man state bureau and a two-man Washington bureau and a slight diminution in the profits that the Lee newspapers take out of Montana.

JN: You think the profits are pretty high?

NB: I think the profits are extremely high on the basis of your own reports and our principal, we have many complaints with the Lee newspaper performance but the principal complaint has to do with the fact that they have never given us Washington correspondents except by the biggest—I'm trying to think of the right word for this guy that they had back there that was foisted on us.

[Someone says a name, but it is unintelligible other than the first name, Ken.

NB: He said the name, I didn't say the name but this man turned out the biggest bunch of tripe that has ever been forced on the reading public since Bob Considine and Westbrook Pegler. So that's no Washington bureau. I would rather have no Washington bureau than that guy. It seems to me that if the Lee newspapers are going to take all this money out of Montana, that they ought to give Montana readers the kind of coverage that we're entitled to from Washington, D.C., which means a two-man Washington bureau. We would even settle for a one man, God knows, if it was a good man, but that is something that the Lee newspapers have refused to give the State of Montana and we have asked a thousand times for this and so it seems to me they clearly have a policy which does not tally with ours of the concept of public service.

SR: [John] Talbot is on board he just can't get the papers to agree to it.

JN: Who can't?

SR: Talbot.

JN: Well, maybe you should go to Schermer.

WB: Holloron brought this into perspective for me here recently when he pointed out that with the energy and environmental problems that have merged in the past couple years and

because of the coal in Montana and that's going on in Montana and all that's going on that we simply are uninformed about the decisions being made in Washington, D.C., that affecting our lives very closely here in Montana and we are not becoming aware of it because there is nobody back there reporting it. What the Federal Agencies are doing, and so on, and I think that really hits the core of it right now, at the moment.

NB: And the reason we are bitter is because we love this state and we see it already starting to get raped by outsiders who are rapacious who don't give a damn about the State of Montana and we believe that good quality reporting from Washington, D.C., would enlighten this public even far more than they have been enlightened. And to merely say that the Lee newspapers are doing an infinitely better job than the Anaconda Company papers is not enough. You have to add the codicil to that, which is the Lee newspapers do not perform at a level that would serve the interests of the people of Montana instead of the power forces within the State of Montana, which is the large corporations and most of them are from outside Montana, which increases our bitterness and resentment. So, I deplore this policy of not only on the basis of being a journalism professor in an ivory tower but I base it on being a citizen of this State and so I would say on that basis the Lee newspapers—

SR: On a scale of 100 the Lee papers have taken it from about 10 to 55.

NB: No, 10 to 75 or 85, no question. In many ways, Sam knows, the Lee newspapers do many things very, very well. They do some things so badly that it becomes unbelievable. It is that unevenness, that unevenness.

JN: It's that 15 percent.

NB: Exactly.

JN: Can't say I blame you. Let's see, you were dean of the School of Journalism at the time of the takeover, wasn't it? You must have got some satisfaction out of watching this much change.

NB: Well, oh yeah, and I would say something more. I never would, have taken this job in 1956 if I hadn't had tips from my friend in Washington, D.C. [Interruption from someone passing the table.] No I won't save I never would have, I shouldn't put it that strongly, but one of the things that encouraged me to take this job in 1956 was that I had friends in Washington, D.C., who confided in me that the Anaconda Company was thinking of selling the papers and that chances were good that within a very few years they would sell and they gave me more information and on the basis of that I was more inclined to accept the offer here. So, naturally I was delighted when it came about in '59 and I have never done anything but wish the Lee newspapers very, very well. They have done a lot of beautiful things in this state. But now I am getting to what my article would be about and I better not do that. As a matter of fact, some of this is already in the article except I really probe, I really want to probe more fully both the

good things that the Lee newspapers have done and the deficiencies that I think have caused untold harm.

Of course, another great deficiency, obviously is they've got one editorial page in the state and he's sitting right here. And not only is it an excellent editorial page, it's a superb editorial page. You look at the editorial performance at the other newspapers in Montana and it is below par in every case, without exception, Billings, Butte and Helena. Consistently, while it has improved over the Anaconda situation, have never put out pages of the quality, standard, the perception, the interest in different points of view, the community concept, that Sam has and he writes an occasionally lousy editorial too which we never hesitate to tell him.

SR: Never!

JN: What side of the editorial page? I was talking to [John] Toole about this and he said your editorial page is kind of toward the liberal side. And, there are some of the conservative people in town who are not really happy about it, but I don't know what to do in a case like that. You have a right to have an editorial page which has a definite slant but you don't have two papers.

NB: Sam gives everybody who wants a voice in this community, a voice. There is no one who is denied a voice. Every conservative voice in Missoula that wants to be heard on the editorial page is given a tremendous amount of space. He runs columns by conservatives as well as liberals. Sam is and arch conservative on some issues and is absolutely repellent to liberals in Missoula who regard him as wishy-washy sometimes. He's written editorials about bleeding hearts, you know, he calls somebody who cares about human beings, bleeding hearts. See, what John Toole and the others are saying, no, not John Toole, John Toole is a very rational, beautiful, human being, but what some of the other people are saying is, it isn't the kind of editorial page the other papers have. A conservative, business oriented viewpoint.

JN: How about the news columns of the papers? Are they, do they give the same distribution between the conservative and the liberal news and what was happening?

SR: You know, you can't answer that question because it depends on the gist of the news and what is happening.

NB: And which paper are you talking about.

SR: A great deal of the movement in any community is provided by liberals. They want to change something that they don't like. I don't feel they're totally gratified and certainly not totally cut off. Either are the conservatives.

NB: When I talk about good editorial page, I don't talk about liberal or conservative, I talk about fair, open, balanced, that gives everybody a chance, that isn't blind to new points of view and Sam fits that and the other papers do not fit that. Occasionally, Billings has, on occasion, had

some good editor pages, individual ones, but it's highly erratic. It's a very erratic newspaper, both in news and editorial and its personnel changes endlessly. From year to year it is never the same people. They have a lot of problems.

SR: They so have some stability.

NB: Oh, yeah, there is a thread that runs through it.

SR: The profits of these papers, John Talbot could tell you better about.

Billings and Missoula are licenses to coin money essentially. They are monopoly papers in rich, basically rich, basically rich towns. Butte is a profitable paper usually, but when they get a strike they go into the red. It's not anywhere in the same class in terms of a money-maker as Missoula and Billings. Helena is a moneymaker but it is a very small little paper. It's only what, 15,000, 16,000, 17,000, and the community has one dominant sort of Manchester's department store, the old Madison, World War II, which just dominates everything. It doesn't essentially have competition. They've always [unintelligible] and their black ink would begin to soar out of sight. But what Nathan is saying is something that [James] Wingate, our business manager has said too. That is, if these papers take a great deal of money out of Montana, they really don't send back enough. We should be doing things like, the university library desperately needs books. The municipal library desperately needs books and so on.

They do have money to dispose of in charitable ways and sometimes they come around and say how should we get rid of 200 more dollars? Should we help sponsor the harmony band and I about go through the roof because we have so much here that we need. It would be nice if this organization not only hired, say a Washington man, and beef up the news staff of the various papers. It would also be nice if they would bring some of the money [to Montana] that they tend to spend for philanthropy back in Davenport [Lee headquarters in Iowa] because that's where all the philanthropists are and where the money goes and so they really do a lot of good there. If they would bring a few thousand more dollars for us to dispose of here it would be very nice. Just for a philanthropic sense. There is no reason they couldn't. We have desperate need for [unintelligible]. They still sponsor spelling bees and things like that.

WB: You know one change that has come about, has happened since I've been here, perhaps no one else has mentioned it yet, is along about '62, '63, '64, you started to get your college-educated journalist with a journalism degree into editor positions on these Lee papers. Sam is a perfect example of it. I don't think up until that time you had any Anaconda editors who were college-trained journalists. Were they?

NB: Oh, no, a large number of them were university graduates, a large number of them. Most of them.

SR: Erlandson is a graduate of your school.

JN: But is it easier to get people to go into journalism and to find places for them in the present situation where you don't have to apologize for the quality of journalism practiced around here?

NB: Well, in all candor, I think you would have to say this. That there were a lot of graduates of the Montana School of Journalism up until 1959 who did not want to work in Montana on Montana newspapers. I think that is an absolute documentable fact. I think what Warren is saying is essentially true, that there weren't, I won't say there weren't any or very few, there weren't as many, put it that way. They did have a lot of persons who did not have college degrees or degrees in journalism but that wasn't the main thing. I don't care if a man has a college degree or a degree in journalism. Is he a good man?

JN: Well a good man would tend not to get into this profession in this state, wasn't that the point?

NB: Yes, but they also got some others.

WB: I guess what I am trying to say is there's a transition someplace in the '60s, in which the Sam Reynoldses came in and the other, the old-time Anaconda editors, started to move out, retirement, etc., and we still are seeing that process we're still involved in it. But it really started someplace around '62, '63 in there. And now the Dean Joneses are gone and the—

SR: Jerry Alquist.

WB: And the wire editor—

SR: Al Himsel—

WB: —who had been around for 30 years. They are out and the younger people are in.

JN: Well, these are people who doing things, not only in Missoula but all over the Lee group aren't they? You've got a brand of journalism now that is far better than it was.

NB: No question.

SR: It's better than almost any state in the Union, by and large better.

JN: Really, why do you say that, Sam?

SR: Because we don't have, in this state, any of the major daily papers that are so weak as you always find in other states. I know of no paper bad as the Tacoma News Tribune, with

tremendous circulation, the Spokesman Review with over 200,000 circulation. There is no paper that bad, big or little, in Montana.

JN: So the competition is better.

SR: That's right. There is no paper as bad as some of those Wisconsin papers. I can't think of any offhand. Green Bay might be an example.

JN: Do you really compete with yourselves in this state? Each one of you has your own separate little bailiwick.

NB: Well, there's the Tribune. The Great Falls Tribune helps to keep them modest. Competitive a little bit, in a way. Especially, you go anywhere in this state, you can pick up a Great Falls Tribune. That's not true of any Lee newspaper. It's the closest thing to a state newspaper we have.

SR: That's right, and it's due to their Helena coverage, not to anything else.

NB: That's right. Well their local coverage is dreadful and their editorial page is dreadful but they do have vast state coverage and their Helena coverage is consistently traditionally good. It's a large newspaper and they have good circulation techniques and they move their papers fast. No matter where you are in Montana, you can walk into a hotel lobby and get a Great Falls Tribune.

JN: It's an independent paper?

NB: No, well, it used to be. It used to be a Montana locally owned paper and Cowles came in, the Minneapolis Tribune Cowles, Des Moines Register and Rapid City, S.D., etc., they bought it.

SR: They put in charge one of the greatest advertising salesmen, the Cowles family, ever had.

NB: Exactly

JN: And he made a difference

SR: He made a difference, yes—

[Pause in recording, end of side A]

[Start of side B]

JN: —you want to be on or off the record?

NB: Yeah, I really want to put something on the record.

JN: Good

NB: Are you on the record?

JN: Right, it's rolling.

NB: There is one base canard that I would like to destroy once and for all. It has to do with the transition period. Somehow the story has gotten around, and has even been published, it has appeared in print, that I said to Don Anderson, "Don, fire all the Anaconda employees. You'll never have a paper."

JN: I've seen that.

NB: All right. I never said any such thing [said emphatically]. What I said to him quite clearly was: You have a very limited number of professionally qualified journalists on these Anaconda papers. I will name for you five of six and I am sure there are others. The five or six were—and I named them, and I said, now look yourself.

I said, "Fire no one. Fire no one." That's exactly the opposite as what I have been quoted as. What I said was: "Encourage large numbers of them to leave. You can afford to keep them on, you intend to keep them on anyway, you said, but encourage them to leave. Don't—they are un-retrainable they are un-retrainable. Bring in young new guys that you can start training for your executive positions so that by 1962, 1965, 1970, you can get the job done. This advice was not followed. I repeated it many times to Don, and many, many, many times to Lloyd Schermer, who insisted that he could get the job done the way he was doing it, and I think the records proves that I was right. That you would have been far, far, far ahead if you would have encouraged many of these people to leave. We get right back to the main deficiency of the Lee newspapers and that is, one of the world's worst personnel policies.

But I don't want to get into that any more than that. But it has to do with that. I think that the record is clear, that the personnel policies of the Lee Newspapers, and I've worked on the Lincoln Star for three years. I was associate editor and editorial page editor and I nearly went crazy there, trying to get them to improve the quality of their personnel. And they weren't into it. It is a very paternalist organization, has a lot of good things in its personnel, a lot of good things, but one of the things it doesn't have is creating the kind of people they keep talking about that they want. They say they want to have but they don't go about creating that kind.

It isn't just a matter of my opinion. I think the record document it. So let me make it clear, I did not say, fire everyone. Quite the contrary, I said fire no one. Encourage, however, your drunks, your ignoramuses, your incompetents, guys that can't even put a sentence together, don't know what a lead is, get rid of them, get rid of them. Just encourage them to go. A funny

thing about it was, I said, why don't you get so and so a job as a lobbyist in Helena, and why don't you get a guy a job at the downtown Missoula men's store. God, he would be great in there.

These things eventually did come around and some of these people did become lobbyists and some of these people did move into other areas. Then finally, one of the few guys they ever fired was a guy who became a city councilman.

SR: And a bad one, too.

NB: And a bad one too and he's still in Sam's hair to this day. One the few guys they ever fired. The only reason they ever fired him, it wasn't on technical qualifications, of which he had none, he had none, what he was fired for was something that the Lee Newspapers finally came to see was unethical, and so they fired him. Incidentally, don't let this get out because he'll sue me, I've no doubt.

SR: They fired Harmon Henken too.

NB: Yes, that's right, they fired another man, once again. You know, there all kinds of, I am not in this business of saying fire people, what I'm in this business is of telling people the truth, being honest, and stop kidding yourself. That's what the Lee Newspapers do very well in personnel, is they kid themselves. They say, oh, we can get this guy to do a good job for us, we'll move him here, he'll do a better job for us and this kind of thing.

JN: I think Lee should have hired this guy five years ago, or maybe 10.

NB: Oh, god, there are a lot of other papers that made lot better offers to me than the Lee Newspapers, who have never quite appreciated me very much anyway.

JN: Yeah, but I was working for Lee so it would have helped me a little. Since we have been talking, I have thought of several examples, probably ones you don't know about.

NB: Well, as I say, I am very critical of some things, I make no bones about it. On the one hand, keep the record straight, I approve of many, many things that they do and many things they do very, very well. When it comes to technical matters, technological matters, they are supreme. They and Copley—and that's a hell of a twin for you—they and Copley are probably the two best chains in the country when it comes to technological advances, and I will give them credit in another areas. I give them credit for the Sam Reynoldses and I give them credit for the Jerry Hollorons, Dan Foleys and Charlie Johnsons and Denny Currans that they have had.

JN: Well they gave them freedom to operate.

NB: Oh, they do a lot of things very well. I keep saying that, and I mean it, but they do some things very badly and that's the way it is. There is no question that their being here has been a boon to Montana. Oh, I should say one other thing. When I see the other chains who were in the running right to the end, I thank God it was Lee. I would take them over the other chains that were in all the way to the end.

JN: Who were those?

SR: Cowles?

NB: Cowles and Scripps League come to mind.

SR: Is Scripps League a small one in operation? Flathead?

NB: The Courier. They're in some kind of funny thing. I don't know, part of it's Hagadone and part of it's Scripps, and I don't quite understand what has happened the last few years they split off. But, I think even Scripps-Howard was in on the early negotiations. I can't remember all the details but this was in Editor and Publisher. It's been published.

JN: How come Don was talking with you.? Was this in your capacity as dean of the J-School?

NB: Yeah, and also I knew him, because when I was on the Lincoln Star as associate editor and editorial writer, Don came to Lincoln to aid in the merger of the business and mechanical facilities of the Lincoln Star and the Lincoln Journal. Then when he came here, he asked my opinions and I gave him my opinions.

JN: Did he follow any of them?

NB: He followed some, but he didn't follow the important one. I said the absolutely total, most complete one is that you should encourage some of these people to go and don't try to build on them.

JN: Well, didn't he do it, though? I mean, it takes time.

NB: No, he didn't. As a matter of fact, many, many years passed before a lot of these people left and we had to bear, I don't want to get into names, a lot of these people are still alive and still around and they are good human beings. I've no objection to these people. They are friends of mine, some them. You know, I can go around saying some of my best friends are former Lee employees, or currently Lee employees.

WB: Some of them did go. Some did go.

NB: But very few and very few were encouraged to leave. You take the period between '59 and '62, Warren, those three years. Nothing happened really.

WB: Let's take Helena, for example. Between '62 and '66, I can name two of them who were let go on the Helena Independent.

NB: After we are off this thing I would like to know what you are referring to.

JN: We'll get off— [briefly shuts off tape recorder]

NB: No, I'd rather not. I don't want to get it.

WB: You saw Helen's story this morning, didn't you, on the last fiasco here? The story in the paper this morning by Helen Peterson.

JN: Oh, yeah.

JN: I think what you are doing, Nathan, is writing a something on this for—

NB: Yeah, I had hoped to do it on the 10th anniversary, and then I thought about the 15th anniversary. It's like Paul Krassner's 10th anniversary edition of *the Realist* that was supposed to come out about 10 years, six years ago, or something. But someday I want to do an article on Montana, and what happened in Montana and then, of course, in order to do that, you have to cite the Lee Newspapers as contributing to what I regard as miracle of what happened in Montana.

When I look at Montana of 1956, one of the most closed states in the country, no information, no media, no nothing, everything operating on rumor and grapevine and the state government totally unaccountable. Graft, corruption, bribery widespread. Nothing ever reported. A judicial system corrupt beyond any kind of description. A lot of things are still raw, but when you think of all the good things that have happened.

And then, in order to do that I have to pay justly deserved tribute to the Lee Newspapers. But if I am going to be fair, I have to also say, unfortunately, unfortunately, and then I will say the other things. I would say it's 85-15 or 90-10 or 95-5. It's just that Montana could be even farther ahead, much freer, much more open. Have a greater society even than what we had emerge if the Lee Newspapers and the Great Falls Tribune and, of course, the other dailies too, had contributed to it and I think it's a hell of an interesting story. I think it's a fascinating story, and as I say, most of it is highly commendable.

JN: I think you're right about a Washington bureau because I think if there is anything the country needs it is a Washington bureau. Everything out of Washington and have for God knows when is just—

NB: Tripe.

JN: Tripe. The whole group are running one way in a pack and another way in a pack. I've got to the point that where it comes out of Washington, I don't believe it automatically. It's horrible, really, but when you look at it, this is the New York Times and its political, I don't read it. I just don't believe it.

JN: Is that right? Now what is that about, I'm having a little trouble following that. I agree with you, but I wonder why you would think that.

JN: I can't exactly tell you why. I suppose over the last five or ten years ever since the war in Vietnam, I've been following, you know, the news stories and the stories out of Washington and as an ex-reporter, which I now am, why you can see the holes in the stories and that you see so damn many holes in the reporting, then you lose faith in the reporting. But I don't want to go into that much more or I'm going to swear at a liberal college and get thrown out, but what you're—

NB: No, No. What you're saying is, uh—

SR: Right on.

JN: There are all kinds of people in our town who say that we take the Journal, but we don't read it until after breakfast. Some of them have got to where they don't read it until after lunch and they're the really happy people, and then the real guy who leads a nice life is the guy who doesn't read anything at all. He's quit taking the paper and there aren't too many of these, but there are some and it kind of scares you when you are in a profession and you hear people say, "Look, I can't stand the paper." Of course, there ain't nothing but bad news these days so you can't be criticized too much for printing that Vietnam is falling and Cambodia is falling.

Of course the other thing too is if you watch television and read newspapers both, why it makes for a very unhappy life. We've had to quit the 5 o'clock television news totally. I got to be a slave of that after I retired and I was watching it every night at 5 o'clock and couldn't get along without it and all of a sudden, my wife said, "Look, all the fun is going out of our life. We have a happy hour and we're grabbing two drinks instead of one, or three instead of two, and I think it is the goddamn TV. I can't take the TV and the paper both."

So, we cut out the TV and dropped our alcohol consumption.

NB: What you're saying is extremely interesting, because I've been talking about the same thing at great length. I went on a three-month media fast. Went out of the country and didn't look at anything for three months—

JN: What a treat—

NB: Everything was just infinitely better. Didn't have Sam to upset me in the morning and read a sports page and Abby.

WB: I told Nathan this. We did the same thing last summer by being in the wilderness away from any of kind of media for a week, and when we came out we had a new president of the United States and we hadn't known about it, and it really, everything, you know, we continued to live. The transition went on without our knowledge.

JN: The personal trauma was cut by—

WB: It was a very strange feeling when you got out.

JN: We went to England last year and ah—.

SR: John has the best deal you have ever known.

NB: It sounds great.

[End of Interview]