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BIPARTISAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Paul I. Clymer (R)

145th District

Bucks County

1981 – 2014

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Raymond Whittaker (RW): Today we have the opportunity and pleasure to speak with Representative Paul Clymer, who represents the 145th District, which includes portions of Bucks County, from 1981 through 2014. Representative Clymer, thank you for speaking with us today.

Representative Paul Clymer (PC): Thank you for the invitation to be here.

RW: I'd like you to first talk briefly about your early life growing up in the Sellersville area, importantly because it's still part of the district you've come to represent.

PC: Well, I was fortunate and blessed to have wonderful parents. My mother and my father were very much interested in my life and my siblings'; I'm one of six boys and a sister. We were poor, but we never knew it because everyone else on the block, there on Hughes Avenue in Sellersville, were in the same situation. But, one of the things that we were blessed with was this parental involvement and also it allowed us, because we had to go out and earn our own money. I remember my father telling me when I was about twelve or thirteen years of age – Bill Steeley had a gas station and he had a Monarch bike, I remember this so clearly, the price was twenty-nine dollars and ninety-five cents, and I said, "Dad, I really would like to have this bike," you know, getting to the age where you want to drive. He said, "Son, we don't have the money, but if you go out and earn it, you can get the bike," and that's what I did. Fortunately, he didn't sell it and I went out, mowed grass and did all types of odd jobs until I had the money. I was a newspaper boy for the *Sellersville-Perkasie News-Herald* and raised the money and bought the bike. The interesting thing, after all those years, I still have the bike.

RW: Really?

PC: Yes, I do, yeah. It's in very good shape. It's in the attic of the garage that we have at the house. But, growing up and participating in sports, doing things that were family-oriented, going down to the shore, Ocean City, New Jersey, one Saturday out of the year, that was like, that was the best. And, going up to Dorney Park as a family one Saturday out of the year with our uncle and aunt, again, that was one of the best things that could happen to a young person to go on the rides, to go into the penny arcades. So, I grew up in a very stable family and interacted with our neighborhood children, a lot of children on that Hughes Avenue block. So, that's part of my background.

RW: So, you then had the opportunity to go to college?

PC: Ah, yes.

RW: Pursued a degree in economics.

PC: That is true. After attending Pennridge High School, I graduated and then I had the opportunity to go to Muhlenberg College which is in Allentown and majored in economics. I was always interested in the business community, because my father was a businessman and my mother was a sewing machine operator for fifty years. She worked at Lutz's Clothing Factory, which was right at the end of our block on Hughes Avenue, Hughes and Park Avenue, so she could walk in two minutes from her house to her job at Lutz's Clothing Factory, so that all

worked out; that all worked out well. So, business was kind of something I was always interested in, you know, counting money, putting money into my checking account; those kinds of things always intrigued me, saving money for a bike. So, it just kind of dovetailed together. I had four great years at Muhlenberg College. I was so fortunate that I chose the right school to attend and it's a very good school; it's high in academics and athletics and I played football and ran track during my four years there.

RW: You then went off and joined the United States Army for a stint there right after college.

PC: I had a job with a retailing operation for a very short time and then I was drafted; received my papers to go into the military, and I was drafted into the military where I served for two years of active duty and two years of active reserve.

RW: At what point was your first experience, then, into the political realm?

PC: Well, after I was released from active duty, I worked at Lankenau Hospital and working at Lankenau Hospital, I lived in the city of Philadelphia, so there's where I became very proactive within the political party. My many years in Philadelphia kind-of seasoned me to become a, well what I am now, a public official, because you learn in Philadelphia how the game is played very quickly. Not that I agreed with everything they did, but I certainly learned quickly. My father, by the way, was a Sellersville councilman for twelve years and only when we moved from Sellersville to West Rockhill Township where I live in my parents' home, did he have to give that [up]. But, I learned a lot from my dad being a councilman and it was very interesting. So, I

got my baptism of fire, really, in the City of Philadelphia, where I was committeeman and judge of elections in the 30th Division of the 21st Ward.

RW: What influences, I'm assuming from your parents, influenced you to become a Republican?

PC: My father was a Republican and back then, when I turned twenty-one, the county brought the voting agency to each district; you did not have a form to fill out, you had to go down to the fire house, in this particular case, to register to vote. That's how you registered. And, my father said, "You're twenty-one, go register" and there was no doubt –

RW: No question.

PC: – that I would register Republican, yeah. So, really my father who was a Republican, my mother also, but since my father was more politically involved, that was the influence.

RW: What motivated you then to run for the House of Representatives?

PC: Well, I told you I lived in the City of Philadelphia for a number of years and having experienced the political scene down there, interacting with city councilmen and with other public officials, I was at times disenchanted with the way I saw things moving through and I said to myself, "Why aren't they doing it this way because this is the right way to do it and not the political way?" And, that experience and interacting with many people as I was active in civic

associations there in Roxborough, the 21st Ward, I said, I'm challenged to run for public office, but I don't want to do it in this city where I lived, I want to go back home where my parents live and my siblings, many of them live there yet. And, that was the challenge, it was that Philadelphia experience that really provided the motivation for me to go back to Bucks County and run for public office, which I did. And I ran against a very fine gentleman in 1978 named Marvin Widener [State Representative, Bucks County, 1967-1980] and I lost to him, because he was the incumbent and he was well-established. He did not run in the year 1980, so and I think there was four or five others then, ran in the primary and I was fortunate to win the primary.

RW: What types of tactics or experiences then helped you to win that election, being that you had never really ran for a statewide office – well you ran for statewide office the first time and lost – what things changed for that second time that you ran?

PC: Well, I began to develop a volunteer force, so as I was still working at Lankenau Hospital, when I would have weekends and free-time I began to put together a group, a coalition, of volunteers and some of the committee people that I know who supported me the first time I ran to get their support to put together issues, like, I was very much second amendment rights, that was an important issue. I was a pro-life candidate, so I put these issues out there. Pro-business, of course, my father, my mother in the business community. So, I began to define who I was and because of putting that information out early, I was able to get support from the Chamber of Commerce, not as an entity, but members within the Chamber. With that coalition together, also with the firemen, local firemen, working with them, the veterans, the veterans group; putting these coalitions together, showing an interest, not that I was giving them tons of money, but just

supporting their events when they had an event, when they had an occasion to have a fundraiser, to be there and to support them and to interact and to send notes, I felt that, that's still very effective when someone does something that's very thoughtful, drop them a note. So, I began to do those things and then when the year came in the primary to run, I was able to put that coalition into force. We had very little money, I did very little fundraising; it just seems like you just can't raise a lot of money when you're an unknown.

RW: Right, sure.

PC: But, more importantly, the base was there, the volunteers, the goodwill that I was generating, that came. And also, working with people, a faith-based community was important as well. You have to be careful how you use your faith-base as an asset, but just to be consistent in what you are with your religious group; don't deviate from the things that you say you are then, you know, spoil it. So, all of those things put together helped me take that first hurdle.

RW: Well, it was certainly a successful plan. You won that four-way primary, initially, by a little less than eight hundred votes, won the general election by a little less than a thousand [votes] and you were never again challenged in a primary the rest of your career, never, I believe, within six or seven thousand votes was a Democratic candidate. So, how much then did you have to campaign for the rest of your career and did you enjoy it or change things over the course of that time?

PC: No, when I started running in 1980, I didn't stop and I'm not stopping in the year 2014. My agenda is very busy until now and November 30th. We do a Veterans' Day program, maybe talk about that a little bit later on, but that's on November the 11th, so that's a major event and I continue to do that. You know, one of the things I brought back from the Philadelphia experience was that people were very down on politicians. I mean, their own politician was one that they could always accept, but I said to myself, "I got to really show them that people in government can be different." Different, not accepting the definition that we have from maybe the press or the media in general, but just to be down-to-earth people, that's what I wanted to be. I wanted to show them that they could come to my office, we could settle problems, we could get involved in major issues, but they never had to be intimidated or feel paranoid to come into my office. I wanted to get that into my district; I'm just a regular guy, I'm nothing special. You elected me and here I am to serve you, not to serve the higher interests.

RW: I'm glad you just brought up your district. Let's talk a little bit more about it, the 145th District; talk to me a little bit about the people, the businesses there, the geography, demographics, that sort of thing.

PC: Well, it, when I was first elected, my district was much larger than it is today, because of population growth; you know how that is, every ten years they shrink you if you have growth. But, my district involved three school districts: Pennridge, Palisades and Quakertown, and all the communities that were connected. So, it was really the Upper Bucks community. That, over the years, well, I maybe represent half of what I originally occupied because a lot of it is geographical. Nockamixon Township is huge, the population is not that great, but when they

took that away from me, it took a large part of my geography. But, getting back to the point, it was rural and somewhat suburban when I first ran in 1980. Many, many farms and the businesses were the clothing – just mentioned that – clothing manufacturing was still a very good business. In Sellersville, we had the U.S. Gage which employed over two thousand people and a lot of machine shops at that time. Of course, they were still machine shops, but techniques for making products have changed dramatically; that was very important. Of course education, we had teachers and we had two hospitals, we still do, so they were large employers as well. That was the genesis of it. Gas stations, service stations, we had many of those privately-owned; that has changed in the graphics as well. So, as the years went by, the farmland began to go up for sale and, of course, the housing development took place. But I want to say this, that back in 1981 or [19]82 when Penny [Penrose] Hallowell, who was from Bucks County under [Governor] Dick Thornburgh was Secretary of Agriculture, we were able to push through the Farmland Preservation Bill. That was really an important piece of legislation, at least for us in Upper Bucks, because we still had all this open space and so this was something that enabled us to preserve many farms. Though those farms are not farmed by the owners, there are farmers that go in there and till the soil, so that has been really a blessing for us. In addition, the founding fathers of our Upper Bucks communities purchased a lot of game land. We have, I don't know, thousands of acres of game land, not to mention State Park which is part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that was done back in the [19]50s and [19]60s where they flooded an area in East Rock[hill] Township, Haycock, Bedminster; so we had fifty-seven hundred acres and it is a great, great park and great asset to the community and it's still today. So, in some areas, nothing has changed and Nockamixon and Haycock some development, but it's still, because of the state farmland and of the game land and those municipalities, housing has not been developing hand

over fist. But in other areas it has grown, so we have many people coming from outside the county into Bucks County; our schools have grown and things of that sort. But there is one thing that we have that has not really changed and that is they're great communities. You can go there and you feel safe, you feel secure, you feel a neighborliness; that has not changed even with the influx of many people from outside the area. You come into the Upper Bucks community and there's a sense of quietness, of peace – not that we don't have problems – but there's no fear; you don't have a fear of something bad happening to you or some neighbor throwing a bottle out of the window at you, you know what I mean? We still have our problems with the DUIs and drug abuse, but what community doesn't? The other aspect that has grown so wonderfully is the Penn Foundation. It was in its infancy when I ran, and this is a foundation for behavioral health care that grew right next to Grandview Hospital, a vision, a number of doctors who said in addition to treating their physical needs we need to treat their mental needs, because that's really a serious problem. And today, it has a huge complex there across from the Grandview Hospital, I don't know, maybe fifty, sixty acres, and it has satellites in four other communities, reaching out. We train workers very compassionate, and it started under the auspices of the Mennonite community; they were the people who were involved in getting this started. Today it has over four hundred employees and is doing a super job in treating people. I think we would have many more problems in our society if it weren't for the Penn Foundation and for their interaction treating these patients, open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, you can get treatment. They have people on staff to make certain that there's an emergency and someone needs service, they can get that service and they have facilities on this huge complex where they can put people and housing to treat them. So, I needed to bring that to attention as well.

RW: Well, what types of things do constituents, types of issues that they bring to you whether in the district or here in Harrisburg, what kind of concerns do they have?

PC: How much time did you say we have?

RW: Pick out some of the more –

PC: Alright, sure; PennDOT [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation] is the big issue. I'm blessed with trained, good trained people, back in my Perkasie office and in my Harrisburg office – since this is going to be on history, I'll have to put those names in the record: Eileen Crick, my executive director in Harrisburg; in the Perkasie office, I have Pat Wolf, who is my executive director and Debra Zylstra and Norma Aviles is also one of my fine people in the Harrisburg office. Have you mentioned that, we do PennDOT, all kinds of PennDOT: people lose their little sticker to put on their license, their driver's license is expired, they didn't get their driver's license, or they had a DUI problem and PennDOT didn't send back their driver's license, or they went and bought a used car and the used car dealer gave them false information, so they're in to talk to us about it. So, it's the car registrations, the vehicle registrations; that's part of PennDOT. And the other part of PennDOT, which we've seen an increase, are the pot holes these past several years, this year in particular. So, that's been an issue and we've been in routine contact with PennDOT trying to get those pot holes fixed. Bridges, because of the transportation bill that passed, are now being fixed, but it doesn't mean that people are happy with them because they don't want that bridge closed for two years before they start working. I think they can endure the bridge being repaired or reconstructed if it's done that day, if they start

that day, they'll wait the four or five months, but don't close it down for three years. And, PennDOT, to its credit, is over the hump there. So, that is one area. Property tax, rent rebate, which is the lottery fund, a lot of people, believe it or not, are not sure how to handle that, older Pennsylvanians, so they come in and they talk to us and we help them fill it out, we have the forms right there. And, of course, paying taxes, the increase in real estate taxes for the school district, that's something that I have to handle but we get a lot of calls on that. Like, you know, "I can't afford to pay the taxes," and that's an issue. Sometimes they have a problem with the county or the local municipality where they live; it could be on water and sewer lines, it could be on something that the county has not fulfilled, so they come into the office. I'll schedule time if my secretaries cannot handle it and we kind-of will go from there. We do a lot of work for the Boy Scouts of America, for the Eagle, those who are becoming Eagle Scouts for the Court of Honor, getting a citation, I go to as many as I possibly can – I missed very few – because, I think it's so important that we recognize these young men for their achievement, for their core values that now have been immersed in their minds about how their behavior is, what they're to do in society, I think that's very important, we do a lot of that work. And, of course, just attending many, many events as all legislators do; Chamber meetings, I mean a whole litany of things. So, those are just some of the issues. Sometimes, people just want to talk about something they read in the paper, you know? I do a town meeting and I get a lot of calls after that town meeting about, you know, "We want to know more about this issue in education," or "Are the local police really going to have radar to use?" So, we have just a wide variation and it's good; I'm glad to hear them speak out and they speak out on why we should have the state store privatized, you know? I'm a 'no' vote on that, but they tell me I'm wrong, they say, "You've got to vote 'yes,'"

and so, I listen to them and I listen to what they have to say before I make up my mind. So, if that gives you a genesis of what we do.

RW: What do you remember of your first Swearing-In Ceremony or your first trip to Harrisburg as a legislator?

PC: Well, the first thing I do remember was – there's two things: how great an experience it really was, because then my mother was still living at the time, my father had passed away, but my mother was living and all my siblings could come at one time, so they were all there. All the people who worked for me, we had a bus that came up and filled with volunteers and workers, committee people, so it was just an awesome experience to be there and to be Sworn-In. And, of course, when you walk into the room and you see the place totally decorated with flowers, you know, beautiful bouquets, that is really a sight. That has never really left me in the seventeen terms I've served, walking into that hall of the House and to see the beauty of it. It's beautiful to begin with, so now it's more so. That was really a great experience, just having everyone there that helped me get elected. Because, as you mentioned earlier, it was a tough campaign, I had a very tough Democrat, and so we were at it for six months right after the primary, it never stopped. The other thing was when I walked into the House, a thought that came into my mind and I don't know why it did, but I thought this is a hall of the imperials. I don't know why that expression came in, but it looked like it was beyond regular society, this is something that I was blessed to be with and that was my expression. I thought, I cannot imagine why people would not want to continue to serve as long as they could, because I was so impressed with the magnitude with the members that were there, with the staff, with the Speaker. It was just

overwhelming. It really was, because remember, I'm coming from Sellersville. Now I'm coming to the big city, though I lived in Philadelphia for a good number of years, but it was still that kind of awesome experience. I just thought how blessed we were, I was anyway, to be part of the process.

RW: Who were some of the people early on that mentored you through the process, through drafting legislation on different topics? Who were the people who were your early mentors?

PC: Well, I'm going to have to say Sam Hayes [Samuel E. Hayes, Jr.; State Representative, Blair, Centre and Huntingdon Counties, 1971-1992; State Secretary of Agriculture, 1997-2003] who was our majority leader at the time. He was a great leader; he watched over you, he made sure that you were doing things that would help you in your reelection efforts, try to watch your votes. I mean, you were there to vote on issues, but sometimes if the votes were already there, then why put up your vote if it was really something that would not do you well in your district? So, Sam Hayes was there. He continued to give us good advice, he was not silent, he kept us apprised of issues, what was happening. So, he was one and Joe Pitts [Joseph R. Pitts; State Representative, Chester County, 1973-1996; U.S. Representative, 1997-present] was another, now a Congressman, I think out of Chester and Lancaster Counties. Joe became a very good friend and he was someone that I grew very close to and was a mentor. I would say those two in particular. Another person would be Ed Burns [Edward F. Burns, Jr.; State Representative, Bucks County, 1973-1990], still living, he was a legislator from Bucks County and we roomed together early on. So, Ed was a person who would give advice. He was with the Education Committee at that time and one that I respected. Bucks County delegation, at large, Jim Wright

[James L. Wright, Jr.; State Representative, Bucks County, 1965-1990), Ben Wilson [Benjamin H. Wilson; State Representative, Bucks County, 1967-1988), they were all senior members that kind-of just looked after you a little bit and just said, “Here’s a way you should vote on some issues, because of the area you represent,” though, on the major issues it was really up to you. But, they were there for your advice. They were not people that would walk away, but you could consult to. I found their advice always very helpful.

RW: You stated a lot of the things that you ran on as personal issues; how did they reflect then the committees that you were ultimately assigned to or wanted to get into?

PC: Well, as a freshman, you’re at the bottom of the barrel so-to-speak when it comes to committee assignment, but I did get on Consumer Affairs, I did get on Health and Welfare, and I believe it was State Government. I think that committee has been abolished and it’s been renamed – Federal-State Relations, which was not very proactive – but, Health and Welfare was very proactive committee, one in which I had seen some very interesting experiences. When we were doing one of the bills, the protesters came in to the state capitol and they actually took over the rotunda. I don’t know if you remember that or not? But they slept – this was during the Dick Thornburgh administration – they actually slept over and they hung up their wash, they put up clotheslines. I wished I would have taken pictures just for my own sake, for history, but I didn’t and I thought that was quite interesting an experience. So, as we were trying to do welfare reform, we had this opposition that was there. But, it was just getting your feet wet, trying to understand issues. The budget was very important, that came up quickly, because you’re no sooner Sworn-In than in February or March, I’m not sure – it’s February now, but it could have

been March – that the Governor came before the joint session and gave his budget address and so you had to spend time with that. And of course, you’re working with your constituents, because that first term you have to identify with, as you just mentioned, with the issues that you were running on and now you said if you were on the committees or not, you want to do your best to move those issues forward, so that was very important.

RW: Over the course of your career, you’ve been fortunate enough to chair, be a chairman, of three committees: State Government, Education, and Gaming Oversight. What are some of the major issues you tackled as a chairman in those committees?

PC: Well, one of the things, we’ll go with State Government Committee, that was a very proactive committee. We did do hearings in Philadelphia because we were given the bills early on on the riverboat gambling, so we were down in Philadelphia, I know, for three days on testimony on that issue. That was a very, very interesting issue as we brought in people both pro and con on, “Should we legalize riverboat gambling?” because that had just broken out in Illinois and Iowa. That was one issue. Another issue that we worked was HAVA – Help America Voting Act – that was to go from the voting machines – the lever machines that we were now using – to more sophisticated, computer-type machines. There was opposition to the change because some people, they were so familiar with the lever machines and they knew that you can’t have any fraud, but they were telling us when we became more sophisticated, there’s ways that they could tap in, they could destroy the brain of the computer, or whatever was making it function, so, we were given all these sad stories about how corruption was going to be rampant in Pennsylvania if we went to it. But to secure the federal money, we had to make these

movements and it was the right thing to do. And, today, I think you know you don't hear anything about the corruption. And the other issue was, as State Government, we did a lobbyist disclosure, which was a very important bill. We had to bring in the pros and cons on why this bill was important, and you can imagine there was strong opposition to it, but we were able to work out a compromise to bring about some meaningful lobbyist reform legislation. Then we were also dealing with the pensions. The pensions early on, were an issue because – I'll tell you why we had to look at it, because there was this support to increase the pension for the retirees and we weren't certain – I wasn't certain – if this was really a way to go. I know they needed an increase, but what would that mean to the system? I mean, what would the actuarial study actually show? Is this something that we could do? We did one or two pension increases today because of the problems we had with the pension bill, so that was another important issue that we dealt with, so, it was a very busy time. Those were some of the highlights of our State Government committee. The other issue that we did a lot with was transfer of land. That had to be done very carefully, too. Where the state would be transferring land to a local municipality because they could develop it, they could bring jobs, they could bring tax growth, so we had to make sure we got the fair value, and at the same time, when municipalities wanted to transfer land maybe to the state or to another municipality, and we were involved in that transaction again, we had to make certain that there was no misfiling of information or that there were games being played that would benefit one side over the other. So, that was another important issue. That's just State Government. Chairman of Gaming, we had already put in place an expansion in small games of chance, we had put in place the slot machines, the table games, so there wasn't an awful lot that I really did. I couldn't get some of the bills moved that I really wanted to. One of the bills I had was to put a ten mile buffer around –

RW: Gettysburg.

PC: Gettysburg. And I couldn't, as chairman, couldn't get the bill out. But we wanted to protect the Gettysburg battlefield from encroachments and from people taking the name Gettysburg and using it for their own benefit. My bill is still there today. Another bill that we tried to move – and we did move it out of the House but it died over in Senate – was a fellow by the name of Bill Tierney out of Northeast Philadelphia, he was an addicted gambler and he lost thousands and thousands of dollars and it ruined him, his business, and his family, but he had a monthly report to be sent by the casinos to those people who had lost – the bill was over five hundred dollars or won five hundred dollars to the house, so they would know that here's someone who is losing money and maybe needs help in their addiction or that has won money as well – again, we did get the bill eventually over to the Senate but that's where it died. That was an important bill that we had looked at. As chairman of Education, I would just – we can dovetail back on that later – but, most of the issues there are charter schools, cyber charter schools, private schools, faith-based private schools, home schools, and of course, our public schools. Dealing with those alternative forms of education is a challenge. Each one has an important part to play in the role of education in Pennsylvania, but we want to make certain that the federal government is not coming in and telling us how to run our public schools through different legislation and they can't, but we have to be certain in no subtle way are they hijacking the education in Pennsylvania, public education, and setting their agenda. That to me is very important. And just to make certain that those other forms of education are available to the parents, because the parents have the responsibility to select the education process best for their

child; not the government, but the parents. It's very important to know that, to understand that. But we don't want abuse as we've seen in some charter schools and some cyber charter, so that would be a challenge. But, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as chairman, because it deals with the heart and soul of Pennsylvania, that next generation, what are they going to be when they take over the reins of leadership? Are they going to be responsible? Are they going to move the state and their communities in a direction that historically been in the best interest for everyone or are they going to just become careless and allow things to deteriorate?

RW: Under the bills that you authored and were passed into law, what were some of the ones that you highlight as personal achievements?

PC: Well, the one that I – and much of my time in the legislature has been co-sponsoring bills or opposing the gambling bills. I've spent years and years just fighting off the legalization of casinos, but in my latter years, the bills that I look back on, one is on human trafficking. That was House Bill 235, if I'm not mistaken, because that's a problem today that is very serious and we need to make mention as much as we can to people in our society, that they play a role in trying to cut back on these people who abuse these women. What makes it even more tragic, I mean any woman who is involved in human trafficking is really, it's horrible and it's despicable that someone would use these women in such a disrespectful way, but it's the young children, you know the thirteen and the fourteens; those were ages when we talk about. My god, how can a man – and that's what they are, men – who could use these children in such a despairing way, so that was one. The other one would be one that we just signed into law not more than two weeks ago – the Holocaust Bill, House Bill 1424, where I had the opportunity to sit down with

Governor Tom Corbett at a Jewish community center in Philadelphia and he signed the bill into law. That is so important, because it no longer speaks to the Holocaust but the genocide. When I was growing up, you know, my father talked to us about World War II and about how the Jewish people were persecuted and as a businessman, he knew Jewish people and he knew how distraught they were during the War, that word was coming back about, in some cases, relatives that were being persecuted and killed. So, that was something that I knew about on a first-hand experience, growing up as a child and then to have this bill signed into law was something that I felt was very rewarding. The other thing about it is that the genocide today, we don't think that people that are being killed because of their race or religion or creed, but it is happening and the recent experience in Northern Iraq with the Christians and the cities and other religious minorities, genocide, religious genocide is just horrible. So, that to me, and that was to have this issue taught in the public schools, let's get to the heart of the problem; the meaning of the bill was to encourage the school districts, public schools, to teach about the Holocaust.

RW: You've mentioned it before your statement there, that a lot of your bills that you were heavily involved in didn't get passed but there were some very interesting topics such as ignition interlock systems, and the pole tax, and battling against the legalization of gambling; could you talk about some of those and the struggles that you had getting those through the process?

PC: Well, the interlock, we, it was a young student who was a sixth grader in the Quakertown School District that had brought the idea, to my attention. He has now graduated from Quakertown High School. I've introduced the bill most every session and we just couldn't get the votes for it. You know, the lobbying lobbied heavy against it, but it was to have an interlock;

the first time a DUI, that interlock system would be put into the car and of course you had to breathe into a breathalyzer to get the car started, you know, if you breathed in and you were sober then you could start the car. Well, the people who were opposing it said, “You got to give them a second chance.” Well, in ninety-nine point nine percent of the cases, this was not the first time they were DUI-ing, they just were never caught. Now they were caught maybe on their third or fourth time and we’re saying we want to save lives; we don’t want people killed out there. And so, we battled hard but we could not get the bill passed. You know, I just assumed it was the beer industry, alcohol industry that lobbied against it and that was very unfortunate. I think you said I had a number of bills that dealt with the gambling bill, what we wanted to do was, we wanted to, I think with the bill dealing with the table games, for example, because we’re always looking for more money for the general fund, I put a bill in so that our percentage cut on the table games would increase, that way it would go to – let’s say it’s twelve percent now, we’d go to sixteen, I’m not sure, bring in millions of dollars more to the General Assembly. And then we had the corporate give away, that was my bill that would have an auction on the casinos before they would get their license to put in the slot machines, have it go to auction because we had a very knowledgeable speaker from Chevy Chase, Maryland, who came in and spoke before both the House and the Senate committees – I forget what they were, maybe the State Government Committees – and said, “You need to do this and I can assure you, instead of getting fifty million dollars, you’re going to get two-hundred and fifty million, three hundred million dollars for these licenses.” He said that, “You need to do this,” but of course, the fix was in and we couldn’t go beyond fifty million and the licenses for five million for the tourist licenses for the two casinos, he says, “They’re worth fifteen, twenty million dollars,” he said, but again, you know the way that the bill was being developed, we could never go beyond those

dollars that I just mentioned. But I have put in a lot of bills. One of the bills that I did I put in did pass the House, got over into the Senate and it didn't go anywhere, was that all of the United States flags and all the Pennsylvania flags that we give out – legislators and the Commonwealth uses thousands of these flags for all their state buildings and to give to Boy Scouts and fire companies, to non-profits – that they be made in the USA, because we have, last count, we had two great companies, one in New Jersey, one in Pennsylvania, that made these flags. Now, we haven't deviated – credit to General Services, they still buy these flags from these two USA companies – however, I don't want to see someone in the Governor's office or in General Service say we can save forty percent if we buy these foreign made flags, so that was the reason to keep the jobs here in Pennsylvania. So, that was a good bill but it never made it through the circle. I think there was another bill you said I had.

RW: Oh, the pole tax.

PC: Oh, the pole tax was interesting. That is a very interesting bill and that came about, not because it came out of the blue, but because of an actual experience that happened in my district. On Route 663, which goes through Milford Township and it's a major thoroughfare, a lot of businesses and you get the turnpike, turnpike exit's right where I want to talk about this location. They, a group of business people, misled the township and said they were going to put a restaurant in there and they were putting in a gentlemen's club and that was something that we didn't need in Milford Township or anywhere in Upper Bucks. I was very opposed to having a gentlemen's club – it's a strip club, you know – and there's school children that go by and it's in close proximity to a very nice neighborhood and because I just mentioned where the turnpike

exit, right almost in front of this location, so you get people from out of state and maybe from out of the community who would come and visit this place, and we didn't want them. We didn't want that type of crowd there drinking and doing what they do at a strip club. So, the genesis of the bill came about if they're going to have it, we're going to charge them. So, I think it was a five dollar fee and they copied it from Texas. So, I got a lot of friendly flack on this and I still do about Clymer's Pole Tax, but that's what we wanted to do, charge each of those people who went in, who went in, charge them a five dollar fee just as a way to say you know, you're not welcomed here. And, at the meetings we had, where the community had a chance to speak and I had an opportunity to speak at every one, we told the people, we told the business people that were there bringing in, you're not welcome, there's no welcome around here. Take your show and go somewhere else, but this is not the community to bring it into. So, that's how that pole tax came about.

RW: There has been, especially with this being your last term, there has been numerous big issues that the state has been trying to tackle. We're still looking at Marcellus Shale and schools and the pension issue, legalization of marijuana possibly, you're looking at still some internet gaming, a lot of different ways to generate money into the budget, some of these huge issues. What are some of your thoughts about the issues at large that the state of Pennsylvania is dealing with currently, now in your last session?

PC: Well, all of those issues to raise money, I'm opposed to each one. I'll talk a little bit about them. But I am for the pension reform; I think the governor is absolutely right. Mike Tobash [State Representative, Berks, Dauphin and Schuylkill Counties, 2011-present], I talked to him on

numerous occasions, Representative Tobash, and his bill is a good bill; I will support it, I will vote for it, I asked some of my colleagues when I have opportunity to say, you know, we need to get this done. A forty-seven billion dollar hole is not a good idea to keep carrying around. I say we need to do it. So, hopefully we can get that done before the end of the year. And, that's a very important bill. There is a bill on internet gambling which is a disaster and I hope that we don't even touch it and if we do touch it, I hope there's enough votes in the House and the Senate, the Governor included, to vote no on it because it is bad medicine. The other one is the bill on the privatization, is a bill, fortunately it's not in the House, it's over in the Senate; they have to deal with it. You know, we're looking for them to come up with a resolution, if they can, and then we'll take a look at that bill. Another issue is House Bill 1177, the two dollar cigarette tax for the school district of Philadelphia. That passed again in the House, went over to the Senate, and they put an amendment into it, which they should have just let the bill clean. Pass it, get it to the governor's desk, and if the city of the first class wants to charge two dollars more per cigarette pack, then that's up to them, but we need to fund the school system, the Philadelphia school system, so it has the dollars and it will open on time according to the superintendent Bill Wright. Also, there's been a lot of misuse of taxpayers' dollars by the Philadelphia School System, I mean, as chairman I've seen so many instances where they just blew the money and they can't do that. I mean, they can't expect to keep coming back to the Commonwealth and say more and more and more when you're not responsible for the monies that you've already given. We're going to give them, in this school year, one point three billion dollars, that's fifty percent, fifty-two percent of their total budget and Pennridge, Quakertown, and Palisades would get twenty-one percent. Alright, they're going to get the money but use it wisely; use it in a way that we, as legislators, say yes you have used the money wisely and good for you. On marijuana, I

oppose the legalization of marijuana. Statistics have proven that it's going to affect the mind, the body. Why would you want to legalize something that's going to give you, supposedly, an increase in funding when it's going to destroy the human mind, the human body? Why do you want to subject our young people? It's all about those who just want to feel, who want this gratification of using marijuana; that's all it's about. Not about money for any particular state agency, so I will continue to oppose it until the Federal Food and Drug Administration puts their imprint on it and says "Yeah, it doesn't do any harm, there's some medical use." When they do it, then we know, then we have justification to legalize it but until then, I'm a no vote on that issue.

RW: Being here for seventeen terms, you've seen a lot of reforms to the process. What are some of the ones you think helped and what are some of the ones that you think need to be still put in place to help the process work maybe a little bit better.

PC: Well –

RW: Or is the process fine the way it is?

PC: Well, I think it's something like education; we talk about money for education and more of this and more of that but it really, it's the parents have a major role to play in education. I mean, they have to be with their child or children to make sure that they get up in the morning, that if they don't have a meal then that's a problem, but school today will furnish meals for them. But, they have to be involved in the process to make sure that their child gets the best education. And

the members who are elected have to make the decisions, you know, what is in the best interest for their districts, for the Commonwealth at large, or the people at large. So, it really depends a lot on, on the members. I don't think we need to do a lot of regulations, I know we have to do some, perhaps some standards, you need that because in order to function. But, I think the bottom line really is going to be drawn right with the people who want to serve Pennsylvania in the House or the Senate and then who come here and get the job done. Now, having said that, we have made some important changes. One of the changes that we made was, in my early days we were here all night on the budget, two, three, four o'clock in the morning; we'd see the sun come up. That was bad. That's not the way you function in passing a budget and that has been changed where eleven o'clock at night, we draw the line, we're done, come back in the morning fresh and ready to do the people's business. Another thing we did, I'm not totally clear on this, but I think that in order to, there has to be a time frame from when the bills move from the House to the Senate; you have to have the first day then you have to have a second day of a reading of the bill and then a vote on the third day. I remember early on that somehow we were able to pass bills the same day they were brought over from the Senate, maneuvers through the Rules Committee, playing those kind of legislative games. That has been eliminated and we are more deliberative now and our staff, as a Republican, we send out a notice when the bills are going to run, we get that in advance on a Friday before we come in, I'm sure the Democrats do the same, but, that helps us. Now we have a fixed Calendar and it runs according as to the bills that are positioned there for each day, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. So, those things have been, I think, something that has made the system better.

RW: We certainly seen a change in technology in the way business is run from just telephoning or writing someone a letter to email, computers, cell phones being used as ways of communication. Have you used those to connect with your constituents or to get your information for a particular piece of legislation?

PC: Well, we are in the information age, there's no question about it. I have a cellphone, of course, and I use it all the time. I mean, you wonder how could we have gotten by in the past without a cell phone, but it has been a great help. The computers, I don't have a computer at home, from my own personal reasons, when I leave here, I will get a computer. But, yes, I am not computer-savvy, I'll be the first to tell you that, but my secretaries both in Harrisburg and Perkasie are up to par, so I do a lot of emailing – they do the emailing for me, but we do it every day. I mean, it is such an important convenience; I get emails, I can write notes right on the email, send it right back to the person unless I need to go to staff or it needs a more definitive answer. But, high communications, I do use my laptop on the Floor House to get information, I can do that, and that's a big help. We don't have all those papers. I remember when I came in on a certain day, especially if it was amending, we'll say, amending the budget, you'd have a whole pile of papers on your desk – that is gone. You know, we've saved the trees, as they would say. And, we can get all the information off our laptops.

RW: Have you noticed over the course of your time here in terms of partisanship and the way the caucuses have worked together or have not worked together seems that has gone in flux over the course of your career; what are your ideas or thoughts about that?

PC: Well, there have been some changes and some things have stayed the same. When I reflect back on some of the, I call them the giants – not that I’m disparaging any of the members who are in leadership today – but certainly, Matt Ryan [Matthew J. Ryan; State Representative, Chester and Delaware Counties, 1963-2003; Speaker, 1981-1982 and 1995-2003] was a great leader, as was Jim Manderino [James J. Manderino; State Representative, Westmoreland County, 1967-1989; Speaker, 1989]. He was a person that was widely respected on the other side of the aisle for the people, same as Matt Ryan the Republican, Jim Manderino, a Democrat, served at the same time. Then we had Leroy K. Irvis [K. Leroy Irvis; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1959-1988; Speaker, 1983-1988], the first Afro-American to become a Speaker in the United States, a House Speaker. I mean, that was something really special that we can be proud of here in Pennsylvania, that he was elected by the body of legislators to have to very important position. I remember I participated in softball games that I have pictures of with Democrats, Republicans, not against each other, but we’d be playing softball, basketball, and it was a more friendlier time. And then it began to become more partisan I would say, because, I think, leadership became so important. Who was going to be in the majority? That became overriding. When the stakes became higher for whatever reason to be in the majority, then however you get there is justified. If you’re going to be harsh on candidates in order so that yours can win, you kind of change the rules, then they’re going to retaliate. Now, the other side wants to step it up one more notch, they step it up, now you want to step it up one more notch. So, getting to the winning, scoring the winning goal so you’re in the majority, that has changed. But, my relationships with my own members and the democrats haven’t changed. I can walk over to the other side of the aisle and say hello to Joe, to Jim, to Mary, to Betty, and have a good conversation, I mean, that hasn’t changed. I feel, you know, that partisanship that has been there,

that has seemed to be taking place, hasn't affected our ability as individuals to communicate to one another. We can still have that good relationship. I send them emails sometimes joking about things, sometimes about a House Resolution that I said you ought to be adding this to it rather than that to both Democrat and Republicans. That has not stopped me from becoming a friend. Running their bills in committee, Democrats, you know, we look at the bill, make certain it has merit and that it's going to do something for the process. So, I'm comfortable in doing those things but there is that glimmer of partisanship that is growing and hopefully it will not become such a force that it distracts from the business of the General Assembly.

RW: You seem to have a certain affinity for history; you sponsored numerous historical events based around history and you've sponsored numerous resolutions like Archives Month, National History Day, things like that. Where does that affinity for history come from?

PC: Well, I guess from my high school days, really. I was always interested in the early history. You know when you're studying, some students become interested in science, some in mathematics, and for me it was history. You know, we have Washington's Crossing, which is in Bucks County, and we have Penn's home down at the bottom of Buck's County, so those are two very important areas that are part of early American history that mean so much to the founding of our country and our state. So, it like was natural, I just wanted to learn more and the more you learn about history, about individuals, then you want to learn more. You want to read another book, you want to read this book, and so I just enjoyed learning about our forefathers, about all the things they did. Two other notes, my sister-in-law, Joan Clymer, who is a family historian, is trying to make that connection yet as we sit here with George Clymer, the signer of the

Declaration of Independence, because he came from the part of Germany, his family, where my father's family came from. So, there is this, she's trying to get some connection there. The other thing about history is that Isaiah Clymer, who was a large farmer in Sellersville, was a great-great uncle and served two years in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, did you know that? You didn't know that did you?

RW: I did not. That's great.

PC: Something very interesting happened that was almost just a miracle onto itself, but about four or five months ago – I go to these auctions, and this one auctioneer came into my office and, get this – and he had pictures of Isaiah Clymer, the cards showing his face, because we never saw him, you know, we had no pictures of him. There he was handing out these cards that we – you know, name cards – with his name on it and asking to vote and he was Republican, that was the other thing. It was so neat. Of course, I immediately sent this to all my family and friends. But, that was kind of, that was just it couldn't have happened at a better time. To get this information about our relative who served two terms in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, from Sellersville, Clymer Avenue was named after him in Sellersville. So, where were we on that issue of –?

RW: Just your affinity of history.

PC: Of history, yes. So, history became very important to me and of course in Gettysburg we have the Civil War, the Great Civil War, World War, Spanish American War, Teddy Roosevelt,

the sinking of the Maine, all those things, I just wanted to know more about it and learn about the people who were in government at the time. I visited Teddy Roosevelt's place in New York State and I like to collect the signatures of Presidents and other artifacts, political pins. They're learning too, you collect political pins, they're a learning process. I was involved in raising money for the – I'm trying to get this – the Gettysburg Monument Battlefield Preservation Advisory Committee.

RW: Okay.

PC: This happened a number of years back and we were able to raise, I think, about a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars to help in the restoration of the – there was some vandals that had come in and, believe it or not, had done some damage and so, in a bipartisan way, we decided that we needed to raise the money and restore these monuments, so we did that, yeah.

RW: You also chaired Capitol Preservation Committee during your time here.

PC: Yes.

RW: What are some of the things that you oversaw in that process?

PC: Joe Pitts, when he left for Congress, graciously said to the Capitol Preservation Committee, "I think Clymer might be able to do the job. Why don't you give him a chance?" So, in 1997 is when I became the chairman. There were many, many projects that we had accomplished here.

I don't know if, when I tie these in, if Joe was still the chairman, but I was on the committee. The total restoration of the rotunda, I mean, that was classic to bring in these preservationists to do the Edwin Austin Abbey paintings which are invaluable, to clean them up, because deterioration on the walls had set in and it was running down on these beautiful paintings. Getting them cleaned up was just absolutely a remarkable job. And then doing all the work in the rotunda, just putting that back into the way it was in 1906 was something we'd be proud of. The other one is the flags, almost four hundred battle streamers we have from the Spanish-American, but especially the Civil War, the restoration of every flag and we have as far as we know, ever banner used by Pennsylvania troops when they fought in the Civil War and they're stored in a safe place here in Harrisburg, but open to the public with temperatures and security, so that they do not deteriorate. That was a major accomplishment. And then I think one of the most interesting and fascinating was bringing Ms. Commonwealth down from the top of the Capitol, using a heavy-duty helicopter they brought it down, right down there on Commonwealth Avenue so everyone could look at it. It was there for, I think, twenty-four hours so the public can take a look before it went up to New England to get restored. The interesting thing is that Ruth Ann Kemper, who is our executive director, said when the workmen took it down, it had four bolts in it; two of the bolts had come out, they were just deteriorated, the one was like half-way out and was only being held by one bolt, secured by one bolt. So, we were very timely in getting that out and getting it restored. Now it's beautifully restored. Another part of the accomplishments just recently was South Park, right here on the Capitol grounds. We did some very important renovations as sidewalks, water drainage was very important, we replanted some trees, made some beautiful flower beds, put out some benches, restored the Mexican monument. So, when you walk out there, you just feel you're walking into a little paradise that fits the great

capitol here that we call Pennsylvania. So, Violet Oakley, her great works restored. She was the first woman artist from Philadelphia that had a major contract and she worked some twenty years here doing some beautiful paintings in the Supreme Court Justice room and the Senate, and her works are just absolutely wonderful. So, we did a lot of conservation work in the House, in the Senate, in the Supreme Court Chamber, in the rotunda, in individual rooms, the Governor's room, Lieutenant Governor's. We totally restored this Capitol so it can be considered a palace of events. For people to work here, to come here, I think is just very special.

RW: Why was the time right now to decide to retire from your House service?

PC: Well, it was a very hard decision, not an easy one when you're here all these years. But, I felt that when you begin to pass the birthdays more quickly than you would like, you know, they come up too much too quickly, I said to myself the one thing I don't want to do is if I have to leave, that they have to carry me out on a wheelchair, put me in a wheelchair – I'm not saying anything derogatory about people in wheelchairs; my mother was in one her last few years – but I didn't want to do that. I wanted to leave when I felt good physically and mentally and I do. Perhaps I could have served another term, but I didn't want to risk that because the body does age and you know, things do happen to you physically and mentally and I didn't want to be in that position because it's like a fighter who he wants to do one more fight, he thinks he can do it, and then he gets knocked out and that's what they remember. They don't remember his great career; they remember him being knocked out by an amateur. So, I didn't want to put myself in a position where I was struggling to get the job done and I didn't want to ever ease the pace at

which I set for myself. I didn't want to become working at sixty percent proficiency; that would not be fair to the taxpayers and to the people who expect me to be here on their behalf.

RW: I'm assuming you're still going to stay active; what does retirement have in store for you?

PC: Yes. Well, in the fall, in the spring I was elected to the State Committee, Republican State Committee, so we're meeting four times a year, sometimes oftener. I'm going back to my roots as a committeeman in my township; I'm going to work for the Bucks County Republican Committee, because they do a lot of the campaigns and I want to stay proactive in campaigns. We do the Halloween Parade which is a Republican event in my district, I'll participate in that. We want to do the Veterans' Day program; we think we can do that. I'll work with the one person who replaces me on that. I do a Lincoln Day dinner, which is a huge event and I want to see that continue. I'll work with the person who will be elected in my place to see what position he wants to play in that. So, there are a lot of activities that will keep me very busy. But, I also want to take some time to travel and visit historical places.

RW: Right.

PC: That's something I want to do. I want to do more reading; I love to read and history and I have books that I'm challenged to read that I'll have more time to do. And I love Ocean City, New Jersey, a place where our parents took me when we were just little toddlers, so.

RW: What aspect of your job as a PA House Member did you enjoy the most and then the least?

PC: Well, I think there's several things that would vie for number one; I don't know if I can isolate one issue or one section of the job and that is working with staff. When you work with your staff there, they're great people; they make your life better than it should be because they are so knowledgeable and so talented; and working with members. That relationship – and I'm including staff both at Capitol Preservation Committee, the House Education Committee; great people on my staff in my district and Harrisburg office – and then the friends you develop here on both sides of the aisle. Those kind of relationships are very, very important and that's really something I really enjoy. And the lobbyists come in, I don't always agree with them, but just having them around and talking to them and picking their brains on issues; that relationship is very good. And that's why I have to put that as an important part of my job. Then the other part is the fact that Pennsylvania has the longest running General Assembly; it goes back to 1683, I think, when William Penn convened the first General Assembly after he settled here in 1682. That, to me, is just profound. To think that we are continuing, in Pennsylvania, this great legacy and it still continues to function and work when you see other nations they can't even get four or five years consecutively running without corruption and crime and murders and all kinds of things that take place. Here we have this great history. One of the things that, early on when you had asked me what impressed me when I first came here, is that we were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Capitol being built, that was in 1981, and the 300th anniversary of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Well, I guess they took 1681 as the first year but, be that as it may, for 300 years back there now we're well into 334 years running. That to me is so important because a lot of men today, and women, have made great sacrifices more than I'll ever make, to give us the type of government that is based on freedom, on liberty, religious freedom, economic

opportunity and to be part of William Penn's holy experiment, because he got persecuted in England and Charles II gave him this charter through the influence of his father, the Admiral, to come here. So, we have this great state and religious freedom. When you think about what's happening in the world today you just appreciate the sacrifices William Penn made for Pennsylvania and for the people of the world, because they all came here not because of any benefits they could get, but for their freedoms that they could enjoy. I hope history teaches that. But they came here because they wanted that freedom, they wanted a new life and they knew this America had offered it. With all the problems that we have as a nation, William Penn set this in motion and he did it right and our Founding Fathers are to be commended. So, I'm part of that great heritage of legislators who have made this a great nation and a great state.

RW: What have you learned about the politics or the people of Pennsylvania that it will be something that you'll take with you?

PC: Well, first of all, one of the things you should be able to do is listen. If you can't listen, then you're not going to make it because when you listen, then you understand what people are telling you. The wisdom and the talented people that we have in this state is totally underestimated. When I sit down and someone wants to come in and talk to me, certainly you have those people who get a little off on a tangent, but the overwhelming majority come in, they sit down, they want to talk to you, they have a problem. When you talk about other issues, these are people who have raised children, have done a good job in raising children, and I'm impressed with who they are; they worked at their jobs, they don't complain, you know they have a problem now that they want me to get involved with, but for the most part they've just been solid

citizens and that is something that I think – and good Americans. You know, they appreciate the country, they have done things that we just take for granted that this is what they would do, but I just admire these people who have shown this skills and the talents and the knowledge that they have and that's what I'll really take with me. The World War II veterans – if I can interject – some years ago, we did several series and we were helped out by the General Assembly here to do that, we did interviews on World War II veterans. Not only World War II but Vietnam, Korean veterans, most were World War II. And, these were just average men – there were some women – but the men who fought, it was just amazing to hear their stories and their testimony and I knew them, of course most of them were from my district, and how they came back and the greatest generation. What they did in their lives, I mean it was truly, truly amazing. So, I guess I take with me is that the people of my district and Pennsylvania, Bucks County, are great people, great Americans across our nation. Sometimes, we don't really give that the kind of significance that we should.

RW: Any disappointments or regrets that you have after serving for thirty-four years?

PC: Well, I guess there is one that, we legalized casino gambling. You know that was going to come – that we provided casino gambling. Because that is, that's a downer. I mean, in the end, it's going to be someday like Atlantic City. They're going to close their fourth casino; they're not going to get the money now that they've been getting in the past and the Governor is going to have to look for ways to fund his budget. Someday it may happen here, but it's the number of people that we say we need their money even though if they become addicted. That, to me, just makes no sense. That we know and we have over six hundred now on the disclosure list where

they don't want to come they say don't send us back to the casinos, keep the doors closed, that we ruin their lives and we know we're going to do that, but we say it's okay because they go to New Jersey and do it. Well, we make decisions that affect Pennsylvania; not what they're going to do in New Jersey or Maryland or New York, we make them for Pennsylvania. So, that's been a disappointment. I was disappointed that we could not hold a line on that. That, to me, is one of the major issues. There have been other disappointments in the way votes have gone on certain bills, but that's to be expected. I mean, that's part of the process; you win some, you lose some. But, I think that would be the one that has disappointed me the most. I mean, not that I dwell on it; I don't, but at the time it was a major defeat.

RW: What would your advice be for new members coming in or how would you encourage more people to get involved in the political office?

PC: Well, one of the things I've told people in the past, especially this last time when there was like five or six who ran for my position in the primary and I told them, they asked me, "What should they look for?" I say, "What are your core issues? What are really important to you and to the community? Write them down, write them down, you know, what is it? You know, is it being a pro-life legislator? Is that important to you? Where do you stand on the expansion of alcohol?" Of course now we have the problem with the drugs, I said, "Where do you put the families, where do you put your faith-based religion? How important is that to you?" I said, "And do you think character building is important in the schools?" I said, "Write down the things that are important to you and then you got to say to yourself, 'I'm going to take these values, these attributes that I consider to be priorities, I'm going to take them to Harrisburg and

then I'm going to try to live by them and to implement them whenever I can.'" It's not so much about if they can do these things, balancing a budget will come, how they vote on all issues will make sense to them if they have these values and if they've allowed themselves to listen to, you know, parents or their pastor and they have a mindset that is very important before they even go out and ask for the first vote and then talk to your wife and if you have children, you know you're going to be in Harrisburg, you know it's going to be a sacrifice; are you willing to make the sacrifice? And I said, "You have to talk that over with your wife because if you don't, you're going to have marital problems." So, those are the things and I tell them to listen. I said, "You don't have all the answers and don't ever think because a person as you look at them coming into your office that they're kind of insignificant, you're going to blow them away." I said, "You can't do that." I said, "They're a person; they're taking the time to come to you and if your secretary can't help them and they want to talk with you, talk with them, give them the time, because you can't be that busy that you have to exclude them." So, if that makes any sense.

RW: Absolutely. And lastly, how would you want your tenure as a State House Member to be remembered?

PC: Well, I think that I did what I promised the people thirty-four years ago at Mars' Restaurant in Quakertown, which is no longer there, but I said if they would elect me that I would try to make them proud of my service, that I would try to do the things that would be in their best interest, bring honesty as much as I could, integrity as much I could to the process. I would not, you know, there's always compromises, but I would always represent them and I would always be thinking about them; not the special interests, but they would always be in my mind, in my

thoughts, in my efforts as I worked as their state legislator in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

RW: I want to thank you again for sitting down to speak with us. It was a terrific interview and I wish you the best.

PC: Well, thank you very much; thanks for inviting me.