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INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Jacqueline Crahalla (R)

150th District

Montgomery County

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Raymond J. Whittaker, III (RW): I'm here with the Honorable Jacqueline Crahalla, who represented the 150th Legislative District, which included parts of Montgomery County. Representative Crahalla was elected in 2002 and is leaving us here now in 2006. Thank you for being here with us today.

The Honorable Jacqueline Crahalla (JC): You're more than welcome.

RW: I would like to start off by asking you to describe your early life growing up and any influence your family may have had on your career as a public servant.

JC: I had a very unusual growing up because I am older. I grew up in south [New] Jersey and my father was an Archie Bunker¹. His theory was that women never ever went to college unless it was to get a husband. That was my beginning. And my father was a business man—a small business—he owned a real estate company and insurance. I actually grew up in a small town in south Jersey. I had a wonderful childhood, very, very uncomplicated. I had a stay at home mother; it was a different era. Then just to give you a little bit of background, I met my husband, who is a State [Police] Trooper, and moved to Pennsylvania. It's interesting that I went to work at Merck [Pharmaceuticals] and I got my college education at night; I was a non-traditional student. I also raised a family and was involved in politics simultaneously, and it took me thirteen years to get my degree because sometimes I would only take one course. It was a lot of fun too, because, like I said, I was a non-traditional student usually the oldest one in the class. And I always took nursing courses as much as I could because it has been a hobby interest and it was a

¹ Archie Bunker was a fictional character in a long-running American TV show entitled "All in the Family."

lot of fun with the nursing students. I had a very enjoyable time and most of my education I received from Gwynedd-Mercy College. I was their token Protestant. *(laugh)*

RW: So, what influences shaped you to become a Republican?

JC: Oh, my father. I mean, my father was a staunch Republican and basically, I like Republican principals; where people take responsibility for their actions and less government interference. It's very important because right now, I mean, it's getting very serious in this Commonwealth where for the past two budgets, unfortunately, the welfare budget is greater than the education budget. And there it is: we're becoming more of a, I don't want to say, socialist state, but it seems to be leading that way. That's why I'm a Republican.

RW: So, why the House of Representatives? Why did you run for a particular House seat—for your seat?

JC: Well, after I went to Merck, after I got my degree, I went to AstraMerck [Pharmaceuticals] and I had the greatest job in the world. I formed a new Department; their Corporate Contributions Department. I had a million dollar a year budget and I could give out money to worthy charities which was great. It was a wonderful, wonderful experience. Great people and I started a matching gift program, a volunteer program. It was a terrific job. The best I have ever had; the best. To make a long story short, Astra bought out the Merck part. So now, I'm working for Astra of Sweden. So,

Astra of Sweden is looking for someone to merge with and they found Zeneca of Wilmington. So in other words, my job was already fulfilled by someone in Zeneca in Wilmington. It became AstraZeneca and I had two choices; I could either go work for this person in Wilmington and do that lovely drive from Audubon, Pennsylvania to Wilmington, Delaware, down [Route] 202; or, take a package, which was an absolute no brainier. So, I took the package and then I decided; I have always wanted a house down at the shore. I love the shore. So, I started looking and I made it a hobby of looking at homes down there. My husband wasn't thrilled. He is an upstate boy from Wilkes-Barre. So I found a place in Brigantine and so now we have this little home—this little townhouse in Brigantine [New Jersey], which we love. Great view, not huge, but it's substantial and worked out real well. So that's how I—now I am unemployed, technically. I am retired and actually, in the corporate world, they call it forced early retirement, just for anyone's information. And those are the sweetest words in the world. So, what happened was, the incumbent—the 12 year incumbent, John Lawless, [State Representative, Montgomery County, 1991-2002] had irritated an awful lot of our friends and he and my husband kind of clashed. My husband is a local District Justice and whatever my—it was like a jealousy thing, to be honest. Lawless was always very, very jealous of anything my husband did and he actually put in several complaints against my husband for the Judicial Review Board. Such as, my husband is a District Justice—but he was a very dark horse when he ran but that's another whole story. You know, I'm the master of the difficult campaigns. So, I ran for Township Supervisor and for instance, there was a fund raiser. I would have to have fund raisers and it was a lot of fun, because I like to do fundraising. Because I look at it as throwing a big party and making it cheap

enough and having great baskets, which technically are illegal, you know, the raffles. And you just get everybody together and they have a great time. I've been asked, after I have a fund raiser, "When is your next one?"

RW: Wow.

JC: I mean, I just like having—you charge 50 [dollars] a head or even less and you get a lot of people coming in. Sometimes people just buy tickets and it's great. Well, anyhow, John Lawless's one complaint against my husband was that he used his judicial influence to coerce people to buy tickets to my fund raisers. That, of course, got thrown out and then there was another time, my husband—you know, at the polling place, you have to stand ten feet from the polling place door or something or judges can't hang around. Well, my husband would talk to a couple of our friends and he made a complaint about that. My husband wasn't there long because he knows better. So, this is the kind of stuff that we lived with. So, here I am, unemployed. Oh, what the heck? This is a great story of my beginning. I was so far off the radar. HRCC [House Republican Campaign Committee] did not support me in the beginning, at all, because I was a dark horse. I can see their point and I'll never forget: they actually wrote me off and I did get an E-mail from one of their consultants saying that I was not a worthy candidate. But, they did give me very good voter lists. It was, of course, a program and so, that was fortunate and I went door-to-door. I spent an entire summer going door-to-door. If anyone remembers that summer, it was the hottest summer because, I mean, I would wear a political button and, you know, a cotton dress and I would come back totally drenched. It was that hot

out. I'll never forget that, but that's over the dam now. So, it comes election time and it was interesting because it wasn't a pleasant race. As I recall, Lawless had nine mailers. I had nine mailers. Now, Representative Roy Cornell, [State Representative, Montgomery County, 1979-2004] who unfortunately passed away at the age 60, early on, said, "If you need a map of the District"—because I didn't even have a map of the District. I had no information and he helped me. His secretary did. Then Bob Asher² gave me use of a consultant, just part-time, but it was a huge help because you know if you are going to do a large mailer, you need these mail houses. I had no clue; I've always done grass roots. I've always done local races where we had the lick and stick parties.

RW: *(laugh)*

JC: You know what I mean, but here, you know, I had terrific help. Now, comes the time of the race and, like I say, we each had nine mailers. I walked and, you know, I did that. At the tail-end, I did get some help from HRCC because I don't know if they ran a poll or if Hank Hollowell, who was a consultant, said, "It looks like she is working harder than you think she is." Door-to-door was so interesting, too. I hated it, but I did it. I would go to the door, see some guy kick his dog. I said, "Don't do that. He is earning his dog food." And I said, "I'll take him. Don't do that." And his wife is hovering behind him and I'd take his name. Then, guys would answer the door in their underwear. I mean, I was not one who really enjoyed door-to-door at all and I hear Rep[resentative]s say, "Oh it's so much fun." And I'm thinking, "Yeah, you interrupt seniors having their

² Bob Asher is active in Montgomery County and state politics, as past Chair of the Republican State Committee and Montgomery County Republican Committee, a former County Commissioner and current Member of the Republican National Committee. He is also the CEO of Asher's Chocolates.

dinner.” I mean, you know, but I’ve done it. So to make a long story short, I won by 63 votes.

RW: Wow.

JC: And they kidded me in the Delegation, “Oh, Landslide Crahalla.” So, that’s how I got there, but I had the time and the energy and people were saying, “Somebody has got to run against this guy and Jackie, you’re the only one who could do it,” because, I did very well as a Township Supervisor. You know, I really took it seriously and I’ve never voted in my life—I kept my record clean for tax increase. Never done it and I never did as a Township Supervisor and was on the Planning Commission for four years. Actually, the way I did get involved in politics, and you’re going to laugh at this story, when my sons were small, I didn’t want to go to work right away, so I was master of the part time job. So I got a job working for a daily local newspaper as a writer. I was a columnist for my township. I had to come up with a column every week about local events. Well, we closed Moyer’s Landfill. I got involved in that, which now is a Super Fund Site. Then I got involved in—they put a prison in our—the county decided our county had, you know, they had land there, so we got the prison; which is no big deal. It’s a low security. Thirdly, the Limerick Nuclear plant down the road—and I’ll never forget it. I think it was crazy to put it there and I am the only Republican you will ever meet who demonstrated at the Limerick Nuclear Plant. I took my sons. My husband was furious with me because he felt that he was going to have to arrest me. Because he was still a State Trooper at that time. So, that’s how I got involved in politics. I really got into it.

RW: What a story.

JC: Yeah, then I got into the Planning Commission because where I live, sprawl is the name of the game and that is probably my biggest surprise when I come to Harrisburg. That 75 percent of the Rep[resentative]s come from rural areas and would kill for some sprawl. We have traffic congestion that you can't believe, and they want it. I mean, total opposite of, you know, where I come from. So, the southeast is very unique. It's very different from the rest of the state and it's—so, that was a learning curve and a learning lesson and so often people back home say, "Well, why can't you do something about this?" I say, "Trust me, we try." We have the (*inaudible*) school districts. Our school taxes are unreal and people don't understand, you know, how bad it is in the south east because we have growth. Tremendous growth; it's good, but it's got it's down side.

RW: In any of your races, did you ever, as a woman, see it as an advantage or disadvantage? Or has anyone tried to use it against you or did you use it?

JC: Never, no but I did when I did my door-to-door. I was very, very surprised. So many women said to me, "I always vote for the woman candidate." And I'm thinking; I never did. I go by the candidate.

RW: That's interesting.

JC: But they actually said that to me. But, I have never used it, never. When I went for my re-election, I had a funded opponent and I understand Governor Rendell [Edward G.; Governor of Pennsylvania, 2003-2011] put 300 thousand in her race. Beautiful young girl; I have to say this, very pretty young girl. And I'll never forget the TV ads that were on at the end and it was getting—they used age because she was adorable. I have to say it: pretty as a picture. There she would be with Rendell in these ads and the caption—and he would say, “A fresh face for Montgomery County.” And I used to think, thanks a lot fellow. But this was on every other minute and so, I kind-of felt that they were doing the age thing, too. Because now I'm 66 and I'm just thinking, hey guys, you know, have a little respect here. But, I think that was used as a card here.

RW: You talked a little bit about your District. Could you describe some of the demographics of your District and what those people do, job-wise, in the 150th?

JC: Well, that's another interesting thing. I have two large pharmaceutical companies in my District. I have Wyeth [Pharmaceuticals] and GlaxoSmithKline [Pharmaceuticals], but I also have the part of Norristown that's the toughest area to deal with. I have the southwestern part of Norristown and then I go west and I have farms. So, I have a wonderful District. I have Lock 60 in Upper Providence which is a historic canal. It's a wonderful District. I have Ursinus College. Terrific district. I have a lot of vote splitters that way. I mean, thank God, because in the Presidential campaign and also in the Gubernatorial, I mean, they went for the Democrats, yet I did very well. So, I'm very, very thankful for vote splitters. I think I've got an intelligent constituency, I think my

group, with the exception of those diehards in Norristown which we'll discuss, was a real good group. Very bright and my district, like I say, I love it. My people are, like I say, very bright. They're very tuned into the environment. That's a very big issue. Clean air, clean water and I think it's great that they do. So, I kind of fit that very well.

RW: Didn't you have a District office?

JC: Yes, I had a District office; the house that Jack built. We would have occasional leaks. The rent was cheap on Ridge Pike. Great office, great location, lots of parking and because it was such a great location, I would often get other Rep[resentative]'s constituents because they are passing by my office. It's right there on the main drag and my successor has chosen a different location.

RW: What types of requests were most common; did you field there?

JC: Oh, oh, oh, the funniest ones were all kinds. People with problems with their insurance companies were common. PennDOT [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation] problems constantly, and then we would try to interface if someone's electric or whatever was turned off. That was basically most of it. You know, that kind of problem and I always had a very good office staff who would do what they could to help out. I was very lucky. So, that was the main problem, but how many times people would come in and say, "I don't know why my license is being suspended." Okay, we'd check it out and it turns out, good reasons and more than once and this is serious

violations. They would get mad at me and say, "I'm going to go see the judge," which is my husband (*laugh*). I'd say, "I'll tell you, don't waste your time." But, that was their attitude sometimes. So, I would kid my husband and say, "Did you see so and so today?" Because I would say, "They weren't happy with my response." Of course, there is nothing you can do. You know, the law is the law. So, it was interesting.

RW: Do you remember your first Swearing-In Ceremony and your first impressions?

JC: Yeah, it was beautiful. All those flowers and it was overwhelming. The Chamber is magnificent beyond belief, and beautiful. And I think that's one of my happiest memories is how gorgeous the place was, but as you go into late night Sessions, it becomes less gorgeous and cold. We jokingly used to refer to it, "back to the meat locker." (*laugh*)

RW: I haven't heard that one before. What legislation do you feel is your most important or are your most important ones?

JC: Well, one that I proposed this Session [HB 2179 of 2006] that didn't get anywhere [be]cause we were waiting for the sunrise evaluation, but it would license financial planners because one big problem in my area are these free lunches and dinners for seniors and then they get sold insurance annuity products they don't need. This was going to try and weed out the people who took, you know, five hour sales courses and just milked the seniors. I mean this would have taken care of a lot of problems in the

financial industry with my seniors. Unfortunately, again, we were constantly waiting for the sunrise evaluation that has to come from the Rendell Administration, so it kind of lingered and went nowhere and then, I would assume that the Chairman of Professional Licensure would have definitely wanted to have hearings on it. We never got that far. That was a good bill. I did have my Anti-Terrorism Bill [HB 462 of 2005] where people who aided and abetted terrorists would also be subject to prosecution and there is no such law right now. So, I am hoping my successor or someone in the House takes this over. Then, there was most recently the infamous Pigeon Ban Bill [HB 2998 of 2006], which I cannot tell you how many times I have been razzed, but it's a barbaric practice. We outlaw dog and cock fights and this is truly sitting ducks. They let them out of cages and shoot them at thirty yards. Excuse me! I have even checked with my hunters and tried to argue at Caucus. I said, "My hunters don't call this hunting or a sport," and so I tried to get into that and, of course, that went nowhere because of all of our macho types in the Caucus. I guess you'd call them that, but it was just, you know. My one interesting bill was—I did finally get—I had two signed by the Governor. One was just a correct language, an environmental bill [House Bill 1597; Act 25 of 2004]], but the other one was an Anti Blight Bill [House Bill 2315; Act 161 of 2004] which would have helped Norristown considerably. Ironically, in my re-election after my bill passed, and it was a darn good one and, you know, became law, Norristown was the district where I did the worst. So, you can tell they're staunch Democrats. They're regardless of anything and as the expression goes, "They are Dead Squirrel Democrats," meaning they would vote for dead squirrels as long as it was a Democrat. That's a Harrisburg expression. I didn't know it before.

RW: What are your thoughts about working with both Democrat and Republican House and Senate along with the Governor's people to pass laws? What is that process like?

JC: I think that our Democrat side—I've met so many lovely ones; they work with us. I mean, if it is a common cause, we're all together. Take, like, Growing Greener II. I mean, we were all together on that. As a matter of fact, the southeastern Pennsylvania crew was actually more of the Democrats on that, you know. There has never been a problem, but what does come to light, too, is that the southeastern Democrats are more conservative than the southeastern Republicans. Just keep that in mind because our people are a little more moderate and they are conservative and more frugal. It's a great group. It's a real eye opener because we truly are a microcosm of the United States. I mean, it's a great state, but we're like little countries. Now, as far as the Governor goes, you know, I can't say too much. I have had very little, if any, interaction with him, very little. So, I really, you know—he was busy, he never was in Harrisburg. He was okay. I mean, of course, he wants Democrats in and so, I would say there was really no sort of relationship that I can speak of.

RW: Could you talk about some of the work you have done in your committees? You were on four committees. You were on Consumer Affairs, Urban Affairs, Aging, Environment.

JC: Yeah.

RW: Could you talk about some of your work?

JC: And I was more recently on Labor Relations. [I was] just trying to be a moderate voice that reflects my District on those. Environmental was interesting; they all were for one type of thing or another. Consumer Affairs got interesting when we got into the Comcast³ verses Verizon⁴ business, but again, so much of this stuff that goes on, you know, it's such a lengthy process. I'm used to the corporate world. I'm used to efficiency. I'm used to things starting on time. This has really been a tough, tough time for me because I really get frustrated sitting around. I don't sit for any great length of time, ever. [I've] got to move and all you do in this House is sit and wait for the decisions of the Leaders of the four Caucuses. So, very frustrating.

RW: Since you came in at the height of the technological restoration, I guess you could say, of the House, what role do you believe technology has played with the laptop computers and the BlackBerrys⁵ and the cell phones?

JC: Good subject. Besides the fact that our employees—now let me get on this, our employees are tremendously underpaid, okay? And what is really interesting is I found out the Democrat side, staff, the Caucus pays them COLA's [Cost of Living Allowances]. Our group doesn't. Okay, now we are getting to the technology question. Okay, and

³ Largest cable company in the US and second largest broadband Internet service provider, with headquarters based in Philadelphia, PA

⁴ American and multinational broadband and telecommunication provider, formed after BellAtlantic bought GTE in 2000.

⁵ Wireless hand-held device introduced in 1999 which supports wireless information services such as Email, faxing, telephone and text messaging.

when I was first elected, you know, we are all friendly with the freshman class and we're intermingling a lot with the other side. They are talking about their BlackBerrys; they're talking about their laptops. Great, you know? So, we go for the great moment and we're in line for our Swearing-In day. You get a nice little pin that I'm not wearing and you get a little brief case. A laptop case minus the laptop: no laptop. If you want a laptop or a BlackBerry, guess what? You buy it yourself. I mean, the Democrats got them, we didn't and I always laugh because now I have two great laptop cases. I bought my own laptop years ago, you know, and I probably need a new one at this point, but it still works. So it's kind of funny the way technology does play a role. I think that the other side is much more attuned to technology than we are. We had this great system of constituent logging. Logging in stuff with constituents, called a Rep-Net when I first was elected, and I got onto that. Boy, if somebody called me, I logged the call myself. I didn't give it to my staff and especially if I got a nut. So I put it in, you know, just let whoever was going to deal with this person next know what's coming. And what happened was, then they changed it to this new system of constituent service. Dear God, I mean the most complex, strange stuff. You know, I mean, very, very user unfriendly, so I've dealt with it, but, I mean, it's not easy. Now, back to technology again, though. I worked at Merck, supposedly a wealthy pharmaceutical company. Why on earth, in our East Wing, we have three color copiers that can even fax and do the rest of it; this totally blows my mind. For one wing, three color copiers. You know, we are always talking about how we are going to save money. Why do we need three color copiers? Merck would only have one, if that, and, you know, that's a huge company with a profit. And I

never really got a good answer except that this is what we're doing, (*laugh*) but I'm just saying, sometimes I think our technology group could stand to be a little more sensible.

RW: Fiscally sensible.

JC: Fiscally sensible and also practical.

RW: Practical.

JC: You know, I mean, I've been too long in the corporate world. Maybe that's my problem. I was there twenty five years, so I mean—we looked for ways of saving the company money.

RW: So, as far as being a woman in the Legislature, are there obstacles that you think you have faced being only one of maybe a dozen or so women in the House?

JC: I do think that they—the men—let me put it this way: after Session, women would go back to their offices and work or they would go to their respective apartments or hotel rooms and work. The guys go out and network, to put it nicely. Some of the women do. The newer ones do, I think, but for the most part, it is a little more isolated if you don't golf. Let's be honest, you know—so, it is a little different, but not a big deal. It's probably no different than the corporate world.

RW: Well, with approximately eight more women coming in this freshmen Session, do you see that changing?

JC: No.

RW: No?

JC: No, not at all; not at all. The new women coming in may get more into the networking.

RW: What would you say to a woman that has thoughts about coming into the political spectrum?

JC: Keep you sense of humor. *(laugh)*

RW: That's fantastic. What relationship do you have with the media? Could you comment on that? What are your thoughts?

JC: I was a member of the media. I think they're lazy. I really do, they—we're such easy sitting ducks. "Guys," I keep telling the media, "look at what other people make." Like in my township, take the pay raise issue. My township manager makes a 120 thousand [dollars]. Our school superintendent makes, I think, he's now up to about 160 [thousand dollars]. Our teachers make 80, 85 [thousand dollars]. And, you know, "Guys,

do your homework. Compare. You think we make a lot?” I’ve been very vocal. I think these Rep[resentative]s deserve more. I think they deserve the 80 thousand [dollars]. I do think the Leadership thing—the 34 percent—was way too much, but there was an up or down vote. You had no choice and we really had no negotiations in that. I understand committee Chairs were the ones who made the final decision. Whether that’s true or not, but that’s kind of the gist. But, I think the media needs to—and I’m working on this—look into the salaries of the people on the Gaming Commission. “Excuse me, guys, but, I mean, if you ever want to see interesting—” The Chief of Staff to the Majority Leader: his wife has a very lucrative position at the Gaming Commission. One of our ex-researchers has a very lucrative position. I mean, you know, it’s interesting to see how the positions get, you know, appointments and I think they should watch to see what ex-Rep[resentative]s get jobs.

RW: Sure.

JC: But they keep coming back to the Legislature to borrow money. Excuse me. I mean, we’re borrowing from the lottery fund, as I understand it, and, “Guys, why don’t you do your work?” This is a job for the media, isn’t it? I mean, it’s my take on it.

RW: How about—what role do lobbyists play? What interaction have you had with them?

JC: Okay, they get a bad rap. I like lobbyists. Lobbyists know what's coming down before we know it. I really have appreciated and I have been up front with them. If I tell them I can't vote for what they represent, they're fair. I like them. I could never do it because it's a lot of, pardon the expression, "butt kissing," but I really like them. They come in [and] they present another side that we may not get from our Leadership, which is good. It's always good to hear all sides before you cast a vote. So, I like lobbyists. Like I say, they get bad raps and I've never really made out well [with] like, super duper junkets like you keep hearing about. I don't know who does. I mean, I never went to one of those Legislative conferences. I never went on with any of the junkets, mainly because I was always too busy. I mean, there were always meetings at the District office. This job—and this is for the media, back to them—they say its seventy-seven days a year. Like hell. It is twenty-four/seven, no matter where you go. I can't go to the damn grocery store without getting asked for a handicap placard, you know, application. I mean, it's just nuts and it's just so busy.

RW: It goes back to technology, as well, being in constant contact with your constituents and everyone else.

JC: Yeah, yeah. One thing I did learn to dislike at the end were these for me mails. I used to answer every one, but towards the end, and some of them were so ridiculous because you can tell they went onto the PennPIRG Web site⁶ and, oh, Lord. You know, some of those groups don't have their facts straight either. Because, you know, we know more about what's in the legislation. But technology, I think the Republican Caucus

⁶ The Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group: <http://www.pennpirg.org/>

needs, number one, to greatly improve their public relations. I come from public relations, because my job back in the Merck days was in public relations which became public affairs, which became external affairs, and you know how they change names. Anyhow, it was like damage control and we need to do much better public relations. Real good stuff. The Democrats have it down far better than we do.

RW: What would you say is the part of your job as a Representative that you like the most? That you enjoyed the most?

JC: When the kids came up to Harrisburg, I loved it. They'd go into the House Chamber and just watching their little faces was wonderful. That "Wow, look at this," and they were all fourth graders. They're not jaded yet. It was a great, great experience and I always made sure that I was here on the days that I heard tours were coming up because they were a lot of fun. I enjoyed that. I enjoyed the day that the Huey came to town; the Helicopter Huey⁷. I didn't even know what it was. I didn't know it had a name and that came in. That was marvelous. I'm happy to have been here for the Bicentennial. I was lucky. And the Christmas tree that they were putting up today, that was gorgeous. I mean, the place is just beautiful, but I had a great time here.

RW: How about the least?

⁷ Technically called the UH-1H, this US Army helicopter, manufactured by Bell Helicopters, was popularly used throughout the Vietnam War.

JC: The least—sitting. That is the hardest thing. It's been the hardest thing for me here in the House. I go crazy on the House Floor. I just get antsy sitting for ten hours. I'll never forget the day, and I said this in my farewell speech, that we started at 9:15 on a Saturday morning, July third, and got done at 7:15 the next morning. That's when they passed the Slots Bill; two am, or was it one am? But anyhow, where was the media complaining about that? That Bill was terrible. I was a "no" [vote] and (*laugh*) it was atrocious and, you know, excuse me, but I mean—and I'll never forget that day because after that, I went home to two parties. Drove home—it's 7:15 [a.m.]—after being up that long, and then went down to Brigantine to see my husband for the first time in about a week, but this is just a part time job you see. Only 77 days a year.

RW: Well, along the same lines: any regrets?

JC: Any regrets while here? I probably should have gone to one of the junkets. You know, I mean one of the [National Conference of] State Legislature conferences. I probably should have taken the time, but there was never time. Constituents came first and the thing is: the name of this game is you got to get re-elected every two years and I truly – the big regret is that I kind of missed four years of my grandchildren. Now they're sixteen, fourteen and twelve and they're not so much fun anymore as they were when they were littler. I miss seeing some people who I was too busy to see, family-wise and, you know, it's interesting. I mentioned this in my farewell. Everyone thinks we, who voted for the pay raise, and I defended it because I am not going to listen to the bully pulpit, the media, but anyhow. I told them as it was. You had to make your decision by

last Christmas whether or not you're going to run for re-election. Right before that, my husband and I attended four viewings of good friends. Two of whom were younger. My sister-in-law, who's younger, passed away after a four year bout with cancer. I just looked at him and I said, "What the hell am I going to Harrisburg for, you know? Family comes first." I mean, we all—the Representatives can be replaced so I made a point of saying, "No more." I hate the drive. The truck drivers drive me crazy. I'm doing 75 [mph] and they're passing me like I'm standing still. Excuse me (*laugh*), whoa and I have a lead foot of my own, but they out-do me. So anyhow, it was time. I really think that while I am still able, I want to have fun. I want to enjoy the shore. I love the ocean.

RW: That's my next question. What do you plan to do now?

JC: Clean out my house. Get rid of stuff, simplify. Be more with the people I love. Cook, I like to cook. Never had too much time to do it, but I enjoy it. And I truly believe that God leads us to something else. Now, Atlantic County politics—Atlantic County, New Jersey [is] very interesting. They have these things called messenger ballots which is another whole discussion. So I just thought, you know, I am a political animal. Newspaper junky, you know, so I'll probably get into something wherever I go, but for now, enough of waiting around here. I mean, I just feel like we waste so much time here and I don't think I have that much time. Who knows?

RW: Right, sure. Well, what have you learned about Pennsylvania politics or Pennsylvania people in general?

JC: Pennsylvania—oh, it's just so many different types. What I have learned about—I never realized or appreciated how tremendously rural Pennsylvania is and when I hear the tour guides, who—I love them, they are wonderful people—do their spiels, that agriculture is the number one industry and I don't think people notice or realize that. We have a beautiful state. I just think, basically, it's a great state. I hate to see all the new taxes that are on the horizon. I'm sorry that I'm not going to be here to be a continual “no” vote. *(laugh)* But outside of that, you know, it's been a wonderful, wonderful experience.

RW: Well, lastly, how would like to be remembered as a State Legislator?

JC: I don't know, that's a good question. Just that I tried to do the best I could for my people and I hope to maintain some of the friendships that I've made here. I really do. I don't know if it will happen, but I would like to be remembered as being my own person. I mean, I cannot tell you, even last night, a certain person came up and said, “I need your vote.” I said, “I can't vote for that. It's a no.” And boy, “I'm your friend.” I mean, give it up. Come on, why one vote? I'm one of two hundred and three. I don't know how many were, you know, they were dying like flies last night. Excused, excused, excused, you know, so I thought—they never ran the bill, they didn't get the vote, but anyhow, I just feel like I've always done what I wanted to do and no one's ever told me or maybe I just haven't listened. So, I'm kind of my own person and have done my own thing. I never needed this job. You know, I've already retired once and I've always maybe had a

little different attitude than most which may have been to my detriment as far as Leadership is concerned, (*laugh*) but that's me.

RW: I think that's a great place to end. I want to thank you so much for being with us.

JC: Oh, well, you are more than welcome and I've enjoyed it.

RW: Thank you.

JC: Thank you.