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INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Carl Mantz (R)

187th District

Berks & Lehigh Counties

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Jesse Teitelbaum (JT): Hi. I'm here with Carl Mantz who represented the 187th District in Berks and Lehigh Counties from 2007 to 2008. Representative Mantz, thank you for being with me today.

The Honorable Carl Mantz (CM): You're welcome.

JT: What I'd like to do is start out by asking you about your background; tell me about your family life and your education.

CM: Alright. Well I was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey but at the tender age of two my dad got a job at, then, Kutztown State College. We migrated – I literally had a very small voice in the matter – to Pennsylvania, living first in Fleetwood and then in Kutztown where I still happen to live, or have my residence, my domicile. Grew up in Kutztown, Berks County; went to public schools in Berks County; went to college at Franklin & Marshall – a college in Lancaster – graduating in 1960. Began law school at Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, but midway through the first year when the draft was still in effect, I withdrew in good standing to enlist rather than face an imminent draft into the army, in which case I got a chance to pick the branch – provided I qualified for – of the army, rather than wind up involuntarily assigned to the infantry. Then, I underwent training as a member of the, then, counter-intelligence corps, then after that it became an independent branch of the army, the Army Intelligence Security Branch and then, ultimately, Military Intelligence. Served here in the United States; was reassigned over to Germany – 513th Intelligence Corps Group, outside of Frankfurt Mine - served there. I got a direct commission and came back to the United States. Went through Officer's Infantry School

at Fort Benning – the first class to go through the new Infantry School at Fort Benning – then, was reassigned a PCS – permanent change of station – to the 116th Intelligence Corps Group in Washington, DC. This is all during the Lyndon Johnson Administration, during the course of which the President of the United States at that time, Lyndon Johnson [1963-1969], decided to introduce land force units in Southeast Asia in Vietnam. I finished my active duty service as an officer in 1965; returned to Berks County, got a job with Gilbert Associates, a consulting and engineering firm in Reading, worked there until the early 1970s, went back to law school, after which I went to Lehigh University, got my MBA, and then got a job with Pratt and Whitney Aircraft – then a division of United Aircraft, now United Technologies up in East Hartford, Connecticut – worked in labor relations field as a labor advisor; returned to Pennsylvania, got a job at the Department of Army at Indiantown Gap, again in labor relations, as a civilian employee of the Department of Army, and then transferred to Carlisle Barracks, site of the Army War College, again, in labor relations personnel. Left the Federal service in 1988, went back to Berks County, opened my own law office, became a court-appointed criminal defense attorney – court-appointed by the panel of judges, the board of judges of Berks County – did that for a number of cases, then took a job as one of Berks County's, then, three conflict counsels, representing indigent criminal defendants that the public defender's office could not represent, due to a conflict of interest. And after that, took a job as a prosecutor in the Berks County DA's office, and did that for several years. Then, eventually, just went into a full-time general law practice in Berks County, all the while remaining as a member of the U.S. Army Ready Reserve, in which I had two program unit assignments; I became the S3 of my unit. I had an opportunity to serve in Korea twice with General [Arnold] Schwarzkopf, as a matter of fact, in the Operation Team Spirit, which was a joint field exercise with the Republic of Korea, the ROK troops, and

the U.S. I-Corps out of Fort Lewis. The first time I went over it was commanded by Schwarzkopf before he went to the Caribbean, now we're talking during President [Ronald] Reagan's [1981-1989] tour, and I went into retirement after 30 years combined Federal active and Ready Reserve service, after 30 years, in the early 1990s. I did additional course work at the University of Pennsylvania, I did some at University of Cambridge, over in England, for several summers and that's basically my education.

JT: Alright. What steps led you to politics?

CM: Well, I'd been elected three times to the Kutztown Borough Council, my hometown, for various Committee Chairmanships as a member of Council for eight years, and I think that began – my service actually began in the year 2000, and eventually became President of Borough Council and while I was President of Borough Council, which was the last year of those eight years, I decided I'd run for the Legislature. What primarily motivated me to run for the State Legislature was my perception and also members of my community's perception that the legislator became more interested in self service than public service. That they were feathering their own nest before they'd take care or address the prevailing public issues – the burning public issues – such as meaningful school property tax reform, which still has not been effectively grappled with and dealt with by the legislature since I've been here – probably one of my greatest disappointments. That's one of the principal reasons I came here, to participate in the meaningful provision of school property, meaningful, substantial school property tax reform. That still has not happened, and that's one of the great deficiencies, I think, of this session and the disappointment certainly to me. We've done some constructive things, I think some

substantial reforms, also; additional reforms. Some progress has been made in that direction, but in my own personal opinion, insufficient progress. And I think the public is still very patiently – the long-suffering public – is still waiting for what has not yet really occurred in significant measure, in my own personal opinion.

JT: What influences shaped you to become a Republican?

CM: I guess, probably, if I had to boil it down into one word is a belief in self-reliance; don't expect too much from your government because then you won't be disappointed. Rely on yourself, rely on those members of your community with whom you primarily deal; face-to-face accountability. No one cares more about you as an individual than you, yourself – absent from psychological problems. *(laugh)* Yeah, I think that people have got to depend less on the government and more on each other and don't look to the government to solve your problems because the more fingers that are in the mix, the more cooks are in the kitchen, the worse the food is going to be.

JT: Tell me about your campaign. Did you enjoy campaigning?

CM: I did, actually. I enjoyed the door-to-door, the meeting the people, the door-to-door work. I enjoyed that once you get out there and start doing it. I like people. I like to talk to people. I like to hear what's on their minds and what their concerns are. I don't have all the answers – I think very few people do – I don't pretend to, but life is complex and many cases, unfair. But I think it is important that the constituents have ready access when they have legitimate problems

and even when they have illegitimate problems, they should be told that they have a problem that government can't fix and it's a problem, perhaps, of their own making that the government is not equipped to address – not to their liking in any way – and produce the result that they, perhaps, unrealistically expect.

JT: As I mentioned, you represent the 187th District.

CM: Correct.

JT: Can you describe for me the district in both geography and in terms of its constituents? What kind of people are in the district? What kind of issues were important to them?

CM: First of all, to describe the district itself, geographically, the 187th consists of six municipalities in Berks County and six municipalities in Lehigh County. The Berks County segment consists of the Boroughs of Kutztown, Lyons, and Topton and the townships of Longswamp, Richmond, and Maxatawny. In Lehigh County, they're all townships, predominately rural with the possible exception of Upper Macungie Township in precincts one, two, three, and five, not precinct number four; that's in an adjacent legislative district. That's, I'd say, more suburban than rural. But the other townships, namely Lynn Township, Lowhill Township, Heidelberg Township, Weisenberg Township, and North Whitehall are predominately rural, except North Whitehall does contain within it Schnecksville. Schnecksville is not a borough but it is close to being one. It's a center of population, it's, I'd say, it's a fairly large town. The whole legislative district has a population of slightly more than 61,000 residents,

individuals. Burning issue? I'd say the most important issue in the popular mind in the district is meaningful school property tax relief, particularly, especially in the Berks County sector of the 187th. They'd like to see school property tax elimination. And they are definitely very interested in farmland preservation, preservation of open space. I'd say, probably, those, and the control of urban sprawl, you know, that sort of thing. And the limited spending, not prodigal spending, not a continuation of prodigal spending on the part of the State government or school districts or municipalities. I'd say those are the three principal concerns and issues of my constituency.

JT: Although you were in office for only one term, did you happen to notice any changes, overall, in the district while you were in office?

CM: In the district or with respect to those three issues?

JT: Well, either. Or both.

CM: As I said, I don't think there's been sufficient or even substantial progress in the meaningful school property tax relief front. Nor do I feel that there has been a control in State spending like there should have been at the beginning of the two year term. I did vote, before the constitutional deadline last year, for a balanced budget – the Republican Balanced Budget Amendment, introduced by Representative Mario Civera [State Representative, Delaware County, 1980-2010], and sponsored by him – it was an omnibus amendment. I voted for that which advocated substantially less money than the Governor finally wound up with in terms of the budget. And I voted twice for a balanced budget, before the constitutional deadline last year,

and I voted against the budget that finally passed the Legislature, because it exceeded the rate of inflation and the rate of the increase in population of Pennsylvania. For the same reasons I voted against the budget that passed for this latest fiscal year. To me, it was prodigal; it was beyond what was necessary, what we could really afford. And the recent turn of events in the last four, five, six months are proving me correct in that Government's got to exercise much more prudence and prodigality. You know, prudence, restraint in its spending practices, and I believe that very much.

JT: Going back almost two years, do you remember your first impressions of the Legislature, the House, the Capitol Building itself, when you first came?

CM: Very impressive. I'd been here in my youth, when I was, I guess, in Junior High School, I'd seen it, but you don't have the appreciation in that stage of the game as you do later on. But, it's a beautiful structure probably, as Teddy Roosevelt [President of the U.S., 1901-1909] described it, probably the most beautiful capital in the United States. I have not visited all 50 state capitals; as a matter of fact, the only other state capital I've visited is Maryland. But, that's a beautiful structure too, but not as pretentious as this is, I guess. But, it's definitely a beautiful structure, it's remarkable.

JT: Do you remember your Swearing-In ceremony?

CM: Yes.

JT: Impressed?

CM: Yes, yes, very much. Of course, there are 203 of us standing there, but it was very, very nice.

JT: Did you feel if you had any mentors when you came? Was there anyone that you formed a strong bond with?

CM: Several members did give me advice, but I had to do a lot of sorting, I think, to find those individuals whose advice I could really rely on, I think, as people I'd want to go back and talk to. And one in particular that stands out in my mind was Dave Steil [David; State Representative, Bucks County, 1993-2008]. I thought the patient guidance that he gave me when I asked for it was very, very good and useful to me. In particular, I'm sure there were several others, but he stands out in my mind immediately. But there are a lot of good people, that, you know, bits and pieces, from time-to-time, pieces of advice that I respect and I was very happy to have their guidance on.

JT: While in office, you were on different Committees: Judiciary, Labor Relations, and a couple others.

CM: Right.

JT: Did you have a favorite?

CM: Yes, I'd say Judiciary and State Government was a close second. But, they were both good Committees, they very busy Committees. I think, particularly Judiciary, very productive, I think, next to Rules and Appropriations, understandably. We reported out more bills, I think, out of the Judiciary Committee according to my recollection, next to Rules and Appropriations, because that's the nature of those Committees, than any other Committees of the Standing Committees of the House. But, I particularly enjoyed my membership in the Judiciary Committee. The people that I served with on that Committee, particularly the Chairman of that Committee, Tom Caltagirone [Thomas; State Representative, Berks County, 1977-present] from Berks County and Ron Marsico [Ronald; State Representative, Dauphin County, 1989-present], excellent individuals, very cooperative. Probably the least partisan Committee that I've served on. Good people, both sides of the aisle. I enjoyed that committee particularly well.

JT: Good. Tell me about some of the legislation that you were either involved with indirectly or even prime sponsored?

CM: Yeah, well, several pieces of legislation. Two in particular spring to mind; my House Bill 2289, which addressed the problem of the desecration of veteran's graves, particularly the theft of those bronze medallions that hold the flags that are placed by the American Legion, V.F.W., bought by the counties themselves, but supplied to the V.F.W. and Legion – to community chapters of the Legion, posts of the Legion – to place on graves on various cemeteries in the community. There'd been a rash of those decorative items, both bronze, plaques, whatever, particularly in the Slatington area, there were something like 60 to 68 taken off the gravesites of

veterans last year. Out in Lawrence County, on the Ohio/Pennsylvania line, something like 200 were taken and at 28 to 30 dollars a pop, you take one of these bronze medallions to a scrap dealer, you're talking about over 10,000 dollars just in that one haul of 200 out there in Lawrence County. And there have been more recent incidents in Lehigh County that I just learned about. So, I thought it was imperative that this type of legislation, which I was really inspired to introduce by a letter I got from a retired veteran who was also a retired Pennsylvania State Trooper from up in the Slatington area, just beyond my district, but nevertheless he wrote to me, and that prompted me to move on this particular piece of legislation. And it was, as it turned out, you couldn't get more bipartisan support because it unanimously passed out of the House Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Management Committee, Chaired by Representative Tony Melio [Anthony; State Representative, Bucks County, 1987-2010] and co-chaired by Russ Fairchild [Russell; State Representative, Snyder and Union Counties, 1989-2010], very helpful, both gentlemen, in moving that legislation forward. It was brought up in the House Floor for a Floor vote with the gracious assistance of Representative McCall [Keith; State Representative, Carbon County, 1983-2010; Speaker, 2009-2010] and Representative Caltagirone, who assisted me, and, as I say, this was a bipartisan effort and a constructive effort, at that. Brought out, received – I think it was on the Fourth of July of this year [2008], unanimously passed the House; 202 to nothing. One member was excused that day; as a matter of fact, the fella that sits right next to me. And was then referred to the Senate and signed by the Senate Secretary, I assume, to Senator Lisa Baker's [State Senator, 2007-present] Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness where, I think certain amendments were put in – which I agreed with – but then reported out of her Senate Committee to the Senate where they made further amendments. I was closely monitoring and keeping in contact with certain Senators on

the progress and status of the particular measure that I originally proposed and the modifications that occurred along the way, and finally it passed the Senate, as amended in the Senate. That was reported out of the Senate Committee with those amendments, but was further amended on the Senate Floor, and then came back to the House for a concurrence vote, I think, on the 8th or 9th of July of this year and unanimously concurred in by the House and then went on to be signed by the Governor, I believe, on or about the 9th of July, and I guess it became, what, Act 116, was it? Of 2008, I believe? I can double check that. Yes, Act 116 of 2008.

JT: Great, great.

CM: The other bill – actually it was an amendment to Senator Pat Browne’s [Patrick; State Representative, Lehigh County, 1995-2004; State Senator, 2005-present] measure to prohibit the taxation of residential leases – a measure I had an amendment to that which was concurred in. I also introduced a piece of legislation that would be appropriately titled Municipal Service Grant Legislation to assist municipalities that hosted any one of the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Universities like Millersville, Kutztown, East Stroudsburg, Slippery Rock, Mansfield, Lock Haven – wherever in the state – to assist them in funding such municipal services such as police protection, code enforcement, even infrastructure repair and maintenance because of the additional demands placed upon those services by the ever-growing State University student populations in those institutions. Unfortunately, I originally introduced it as an amendment to the public school code, and then separately – which passed, incidentally, that particular House Bill, which initially, I think the number of that was 2235, 2235, House Bill 2235, as an amendment to the public school code – I reintroduced as a standalone measure as

House Bill number 2571. That, 2571, unanimously passed out of Bob Freeman's [Robert; State Representative, Northampton County, 1983-1994; 1999-present] Local Government Committee; the same measure having unanimously passed, previous to that, out of the House Education Committee as 2235. Well, 2235 wound up in the Appropriations Committee together with about 90 other bills, sort of the graveyard. The standalone measure, which I subsequently introduced – the 2571 measure – wound up in the Rules Committee because of the time of year that it was acted on. [It] came out of Committee, was reported favorably, unanimously favorably, out of the Local Government Committee. So, the first measure wound up in the Appropriations Committee where it stalled, and the standalone measure, 2571, wound up in the Rules Committee, stalled, and didn't receive any further action. I was told that it was brought up – although this is second-hand, I have no way of verifying it – that it entered into discussions during budget negotiations, since I asked for three million dollars for this fiscal year that we're in right now, I was told it was put on the table but it wasn't acted on. But, that's all second-hand. I have no way of verifying that or corroborating that. I have to accept what I'm told, I guess. I hear what they say, I don't know if it's true or not. But, I was disappointed that more progress – and that measure had more than 60 cosponsors. Every Representative has within his or her legislative district one of those 14 State System of Higher Education Universities that cosponsored that bill. I worked that bill, as I did my desecration of Veteran's graves measure. I had over 70 cosponsors on that piece of legislation. They were both good pieces of legislation. Unfortunately, the municipal services grant bill asked for money, three million dollars, as I said, as a startup. Actually that bill, the municipal services grant legislation, is a re-work of Scott Boyd's [State Representative, Lancaster County, 2003-present] 1418, House Bill 1418 of last session, the prior session. But, we reworked the distribution formula for those funds among these municipalities adversely impacted

by the ever-increasing student populations of the various 14 State System of Higher Education Universities, particularly because institutions like Shippensburg University and Kutztown University and the municipalities that are impacted adversely by virtue of increased demands of the student population are geographically uniquely situated and distinctive from the other 12 State System of Higher Education Universities, in that, no part of the main campus of either Shippensburg University or Kutztown University of Pennsylvania lies within the Borough of Shippensburg, in the first instance, or the Borough of Kutztown in the second instance. But, instead, 99 percent of the main campus of Kutztown lies in Maxatawny Township. And yet, all the students have to do is cross Main Street, from the main campus, and they're in the Borough of Kutztown, where all the watering holes are, all the shops are, the movie theaters, et cetera, restaurants. Shippensburg, they have to travel a little bit further, but it's the same situation; the Borough of Shippensburg and Shippensburg Township, the main campus of Shippensburg University lies wholly within the Township of Shippensburg, not within the Borough of Shippensburg, but the borough gets the primary impact of the student population, you know, when they migrate, or when they go into town. So, that was one of the principal reasons we adjusted that formula, the distribution formula.

JT: You were also involved with some of the proposals for reforming Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation system.

CM: Yes, I introduced two measures. One to statutorily define what constitutes willful misconduct for unemployment compensation purposes, and also what constitutes a voluntary quit, as that term is used in the Act. Unfortunately, well, I know that the grounds of willful

misconduct is probably the most litigated portion of the Unemployment Compensation Act, and willful misconduct is another frequently litigated aspect of provision of that particular act. I've represented clients who were discharged for alleged willful misconduct, which turned out not to be, unfortunately, the client had to pay, of course, for me to take it through the appellate process onto the Commonwealth Courts before it took – and this costs, of course, the client money when you have to take a case that far before the law is accurately applied to the facts of the case.

Unfortunately, the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review misapplied the law, as did the referee down below. You had to take it up to the administrative – and that cost money; that costs clients money and you'd expect a little bit more from accuracy from the Commonwealth agencies but you don't always get that. Unfortunately, that took an appeal to the Commonwealth Court to set the Board of Unemployment Compensation Review straight, which they should've known that, and so on and so forth.

JT: You may have touched on some of them already, but in your view, what are some of the obstacles, with regards to having your legislation – your sponsored legislation – or even legislation you're involved with, passed through the House?

CM: The obstacles that I've had?

JT: Yes.

CM: Well, I think – and this is the politics of this institution – although it was a good piece of legislation, I, being the prime sponsor, am a Republican. And unfortunately, I think the mantra

is here, not so much what gets done, but who gets credit for the little that does get done.

Although it had wide bipartisan support on its merits, I'm a member of the minority, not the majority. This is my criticism of, I guess, the way this legislature operates today; measures aren't necessarily acted on that should be acted on legislatively for the right reasons. All too often it's, as I said before, it's a matter of who gets the credit and, politics being what it is, Republicans like to get as much credit as they can, and the Democrats like to get as much as they can. And when you're not in power, the Party who has the majority gets to run the Calendar, run the Committees, appoints the Committee Chairman, the Committee Chairmen have the discretion as to what comes up. Some Committee Chairmen are very fair-minded and even-handed about what they bring up. Tom Caltagirone, in particular, is very even-handed, very fair with both Republican and Democratic measures. Not all Chairmen are like that, or Chairpersons, I say, because several women are. But, that's probably one of the more regrettable features of work in the House and the Senate.

JT: Is that one of the reasons you're not running again?

CM: Yes.

JT: Are there others?

CM: Well, that frustration, number one. And at the time that I had to make this decision, namely, late last year, early this year, I had a health issue; I was concerned about my health. I lost 44 pounds, I was taking some medication, as a matter of fact I'm still on, but I think I've got

that under control now, I do have that under control, I think pretty much. I feel much better, regained my weight. I was concerned about my health. That entered very significantly into my decision at that time. I never quite had that kind of issue to face before in my life, but I felt, at the time, the only responsible decision I could make for my own welfare was not to take on the rigors of another campaign, when I wanted to regain my physical wellbeing, and I think it was the correct decision at that time. I don't regret it. I don't like the prospect of coming back into a House when I'm a member of the minority. No offense to the Dem[ocrats], but I think there's a rather different kind of leadership I understand today than in days past, when there was less partisanship, less bickering, less internecine fighting between the Parties, where there was more cooperation, more compromise, less divisiveness. But I think that this infects the climate, the legislative climate, today to the disadvantage and disservice of the Pennsylvania Electorate, the citizens of Pennsylvania. I think they expect and deserve much more than they're getting because of that political internecine fighting. It's become a blood sport and it shouldn't be that. I don't think the public wants it to be that. But unfortunately, that's what it's come to, on a national level too, on a national level. There was much more, I know, in the early [19]60s when I worked in Washington; I worked on Capitol Hill, I worked in the White House, I got to the Pentagon as well. Much more sense of collegiality then than there is now; same way here.

JT: Well, what aspects of the job did you like the most?

CM: Of this job?

JT: Yes.

CM: The legislative job. I liked working bills. I liked working with other members on the other side of the aisle, and get their cooperation. There were some fine people on both sides of the aisle that I enjoyed working with and I enjoyed that aspect. Working the legislation through, getting the cosponsors, advocating for the causes I believed in, the issues I believed in. I enjoyed that very much. I enjoyed working on the Committees too, particularly the Judiciary Committee, particularly the State Government Committee. And I'm also a member of the Labor Relations Committee. Representative Belfanti [Robert; State Representative, Columbia, Montour & Northumberland Counties, 1980-2010] is a fine gentleman, he's a veteran, a fellow Vietnam veteran; a good man. He's a little more, I think, fixed about and firm and I don't fault him for his principles, but they're a little more pronounced, I think, in political consideration in certain bills, but he's a fine man. I like him, I like his staff; Vicki, a good person. I respect them; I respect them all.

JT: Do you have an opinion on the advanced technology that's found within the House? The laptops on the desks, the constant television feed, PCN; how do you feel about that? Is it good?

CM: Yeah, I see no problem with any of that. I mean, It's as much transparency, as much openness, as much public access to what actually goes on up there – the better; I have no problem with that. I think that's good. Sometimes I question the motive of certain members of the press, whether they're really trying to deprecate the House at large, what their motivations are. I think some reporters are far more fair than others in their reportage and the slant, and the opinions they express, and even their motivations in certain cases. I worry, really, about the true

independence of the press. I'm very much in favor of a free press, no question, but I think there should also be competition within the press. And I think that, unfortunately, is being eroded in the United States at large today, the media. Too much of a concentration, I think, too restrictive, not enough competition within the press itself. And that is a concern of mine. I think there should be more newspapers, more reporting, more coverage, more – because we're talking about human beings and they have particular axes to grind, their biases, their prejudices, and I think that does bleed into much of the reportage that goes on and I'm concerned about that. I'm concerned about that.

JT: Did you have a good relationship with your local media?

CM: I would say I did, particularly, with the *Parkland Press* and the *Northwestern Press*, which served primarily the Lehigh County sector; the larger population sector of the 187th Legislative District. I thought my local newspaper in Kutztown was – they did not, as I would have liked them to, regularly publish each one of my monthly columns that were sent to them for publication, unlike the *Northwestern Press* and the *Parkland Press*, allegedly because of space demands and that sort of thing. But, I can't accept that; that's baloney. I think they could have been much more objective and forthright and less cute in their excuses for not putting in – but that's –

JT: Do you have a fondest memory of your time in the House?

CM: Well –

JT: Or a favorite time, favorite event?

CM: I know I enjoyed a lot of the personalities, I enjoyed the people. I think I made a lot of acquaintances here that I hope will continue in the future in the future and that I'll see some of these people. I can't name one particular episode that immediately jumps out though. I mean, I've had some very pleasant associations, very personable people, very enjoyable people that I hope I continue to deal with and see and work with. Yeah, I have good memories, you know, of the people. I'm talking about the people.

JT: What do you think is the most difficult issue facing the legislature right now?

CM: Dissolving what seems to be this festering partisanship and a concentrated effort to cooperate and compromise in the creation and formulation of legislation that addresses the predominant issues, the burning issues, the important issues that Pennsylvanians want to see addressed. What Pennsylvanians want to see addressed, like meaningful school property tax reform; access to affordable, quality health care; the energy issues, which we have addressed to some extent this past session, the energy issues. But they're two issues we really haven't – only a day and a half was dedicated to – on the floor of the House – to school property tax relief; a day and a half in January out of two years. Only a day and half this past January, and nothing was done. Although one amendment, Representative Perzel's [John; State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1979-present; Speaker, 2003-2006] amendment to assist those Pennsylvanians 65 years and older who have an income of 40,000 dollars or less. That

amendment – that measure to give those individuals very, very significant school property tax relief, and basically, said they pass their school property tax bills over to the State and the State will pay them out of the gambling revenues – passed on second consideration; passed by a majority vote of the House, but was never brought up by the Democratic Leadership for a third and final vote and passage onto the Senate for political reasons. One example. But only a day and a half, a day and a half of session days was dedicated to that particular issue and that is one of the main issues, if not the main issue, that inspired me, encouraged me to run for this office. A day and a half. Now, I'm not on the Appropriations Committee, I'm not on the Finance Committee, I'm not on the Appropriations Committee but that's neither here nor there, but I was, nevertheless, very interested in that particular measure. My constituents were very interested in that particular measure, but that was given the short shrift by the Leadership because, of course, the majority, at the time, run the Calendar; they run the Committees. And, there could have been compromise and there should have been more compromise, I think, on both sides. I think Representative Levdansky [David; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1985-present], very reasonable individual, very well-met, easy to talk with and Representative Rohrer [Samuel; State Representative, Berks County, 1993-2010], whose plan was the elimination of school property taxes. If there had been greater effort, and greater, perhaps, encouragement by management on both sides of the aisle for these two people to come together, it could have been done, it could have been done if there would have been a willingness on both sides to compromise and produce a measure. And both people – we make sausage here, you know? A greater willingness to come together and make those kinds of adjustments and accommodations and compromises necessary to produce a piece of legislation, it would have at least addressed the problem that our constituents expect to be addressed throughout Pennsylvania, you know, whether it's based on

the costing out study, how much it takes to educate the average student anywhere in Pennsylvania, all of our 501 school districts, whatever it is, you know, create a measure, introduce it, debate it, and let's get something done. It doesn't have to be perfect; we can refine it down the line, but just move in that direction. We have not made a substantial move in that direction and that's important. We have not done that and that's a deficiency of this particular session. We have not done that.

JT: Do you have any plans for retirement?

CM: You know, I'm going to go back, I think, resume my law practice to a certain extent. I expect to do some travel; I'd like to do some reading; do a little relaxation. I'm not saying this is necessarily the end of my political career. I'm still very much interested and I'll certainly follow the things. We'll see what happens.

JT: Excellent. Final question: what would be your advice for someone who is interested in being a Member of the House of Representatives?

CM: Well, come in and observe its operations, know what you're getting into before you jump in. Don't go into it with the expectation of – for your own personal aggrandizement, your own selfish, self-regard. Go into it with an idea that you have something to construct, constructively contribute to the legislative process by way of selling an idea that appeals to your constituency or championing a position that the overwhelming majority of your constituents would like advanced. Feel that, understand or believe that you have something to materially contribute to

the advancement of that particular concern within the legislature. Be willing to sell that idea to not only members of your own Party but members of the other Party. Be primarily interested in advancing the public's best interest rather than your own personal self-interest. Don't want to make it a career; don't make your own political survival a precondition about how you vote on every particular issue, have the courage of your convictions, regardless of the consequences to your own political future.

JT: Representative Carl Mantz, I'd like to thank you very much for participating in our Oral History Program for the House of Representatives. I wish you luck with everything that you do and again, thank you for sharing your stories with us.

CM: You're welcome. Bye-bye.