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## **Interview with Burton F. Natarus**

Date: 16 June 2010

Location: UIC Historian's Office, 815 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL.

Present: Burton F. Natarus, Dr. David W. Veenstra, and Jason Marcus Waak

### **Corrections by Burton Natarus made August 2010**

Jason Marcus Waak: All right, we're rolling. The date is June 16, 2010. We're sitting with former Alderman Burt Natarus. David Veenstra is in the room. And I'm Jason Marcus Waak. Alderman, if you could just state your name, for the record. Then, begin with a brief thumbnail sketch of your childhood.

Burt Natarus: My name is Burton F. Natarus. I'm a resident of the city of Chicago. I was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin. I went to high school at Wausau High School. Then I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin as an undergraduate. I served a brief period in the U.S. Army in the R.O.T.C. program. I then went to law school. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School. I came to Chicago in 1960 because I acquired a position as a lawyer with a company that was well known in Chicago at that time. Now it's depleted or dissolved. It was called Montgomery Ward and Company.

Dr. David W. Veenstra: When did you first decide to go into politics?

BN: Oh, I've always been involved in politics. I've been involved in politics since I was a youth. Wisconsin didn't have a Democratic Party. It was the Progressive Party under a very well known Wisconsin and nationally known political figure, Robert M. La Follette. He formed the Progressive Party, or the liberal party. La Follette, when he was the governor of Wisconsin, was one of those who enacted the first workman's compensation act in the United States. La Follette was probably the last serious candidate for the president of the United States in 1924, under a third party.

After the war, his son, of course, took over. His Son, Robert M. La Follette, Jr., ran for re-election in the Republican primary. McCarthy ran against him and beat him. The politics up in Wisconsin, at that time, became very conservative. The Progressive

Party disappeared. The Republican Party, for few a years, was dominant. The terrible part of the whole thing was that Robert M. La Follette, Jr. became despondent and committed suicide in Washington, D.C. Then with McCarthy, of course, you know the history with McCarthy. McCarthy was a Communist hunter.

I became involved in politics with the Democratic Party in Wisconsin. I participated in student government. My major, as an undergraduate in Wisconsin, was political science with a substantial number of credits in history. After that, I went into the U.S. Army. And when I came back, I went to law school. I graduated from law school in February, 1960. I came to Illinois and took the Illinois Bar Exam. I practiced law after a two-year tenure at Montgomery Ward and Company. I went into private practice with various firms.

I became involved with Illinois politics purely by accident. It was in November, 1960, when everybody was trying to get Kennedy elected as President. I lived in the Rush Street area. I was walking down Bellevue Place. And I heard a voice as I was dropping off some literature. He said to me, "You're waking up the Republicans. Why are you doing that?" Well, he said it in a different kind of voice. I turned around and I met the precinct captain. I worked with the precinct captain there.

Later, I worked as a Democratic worker in Carl Sandburg Village, where I met my wife. I got married and had kids. We purchased a townhouse in Carl Sandburg Village. And I was a precinct captain there. I was a precinct captain for about ten or eleven years. I joined the Forty Second Ward regular Democratic organization in November of 1960. In January of 1961, I became a precinct captain. And I was precinct captain in various locations.

DWV: You were a precinct captain in 1961?

BN: Well, I was a precinct captain until I ran for alderman. I became friendly with George Dunne. I worked with him. I attempted to become alderman by appearing at their sessions for nomination. And I didn't make it the first couple of times. The first time I ever met Mayor Richard J. Daley was through a fellow by the name of Jack Guthman. He

was heading some kind of independent committee for Mayor Richard J. Daley in the mid sixties. I think it was in 1968, if I remember.

I had a coffee for Mayor Daley. I was really surprised. I had a coffee in my townhouse. I must have had thirty to thirty five people. And he came. We had the thing at my house and he walked into the basement of my house. It was a finished off basement. It wasn't a cellar. It was a basement. We had a coffee there and that's how I met him for the first time. I'm not saying that I was a personal friend of his or anything. But I'm just saying that he came to my coffee.

JMW: Okay. That was one of our questions. As a precinct captain, what were the issues of the day, prior to you becoming an alderman? I mean, during that period, with the Johnson Administration. There was a great deal of money being poured into urban areas.

BN: The big issue, in those days, was Vietnam. President Johnson was terrific when it came to liberal social policies. He established plans for housing and compensation for people who were poor. He even went out on a limb for medical programs. He was very successful. I think that one of the reasons he was very successful was that he had Daley helping him on the local level. Of course, he had a situation where he had a very friendly Republican leader. And that was Everett Dirksen. I think Dirksen, being a senator and knowing the ropes of the legislative body, as a Republican he was often able to deliver the vote for Johnson.

Johnson, of course, knew the Congress and the Senate very well because he had represented both from Texas, before becoming the president. But Vietnam absolutely ruined his political career. He was listening to McNamara about the need for saving the people in Southeast Asia, in terms of saving them from the Communists. And of course, we were coming out of a Communist scare at that time. John Foster Dulles at home told Ho Chi Men that the United States didn't want to support him. Then, of course, he went to Moscow for support. We didn't take a clue at all from Dien Bien Phu when the French got out. That's one of the problems that we seem to have, even today. The French leave. The British leave. And they leave the United States sort of holding the bag because we stay there. That ought to be explored on another venue.

Daley came out against Vietnam. He wasn't one of the early ones but he did come out against Vietnam. But it wasn't soon enough for people like McGovern and the liberal element of the Democratic Party. That was one of the big issues of the Democratic Party in the sixties convention. The other problem that we had here was the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot in Memphis. That caused very terrible social conditions here in Chicago. The African American ministers, out of a sense of anger, told all of the people to burn their houses down. And Mayor Daley couldn't understand that. Why in the world, no matter what you had in your system, including hatred, would you burn your own house down?

And I think the people were so angry. It wasn't their house. Most of the people there were renters. And the interesting part of that is that you drive down the Eisenhower Expressway today. And you look north of the Twenty Fourth and Twenty Fifth Wards, but mostly the Twenty Fourth Ward. It hasn't changed. There has been no development there at all. And it's a shame.

That leads us to the reason why Daley said what he did. I didn't hear him say it. But they said that he said, "Shoot to kill." I say to myself that he loved Chicago so much. It hurt him seriously and personally to see people burning down their houses. He couldn't understand it. Being the emotional Irishman that he was, he gave the consent, "Shoot to kill." Then, when it came to the convention, when all of those people came into town, that aggravated him to no extent. And the police, back in those days, didn't handle the crowds like they do now.

All over the world today, law enforcement officers, when there is a riot, will cordon off an area. And they will let the people let off steam. Our police didn't do that, on Michigan Avenue, in front of the Hilton. They didn't do that at all. They cordoned off the area. But they made the big mistake. They charged in. By charging in, of course, that created a battle. Meanwhile, nobody told you that they were ripping up sheets, they were destroying property.

Another thing that could have been done was let them sleep in the park all night. But things were tough then. There were strong emotions. What they did at eleven o'clock was that they said, "Look. A rule is a rule. You're supposed to be out of the park." By the way, the regulation is still eleven o'clock. Kick them out of the parks."

After they kicked them out of the park, they marched down Clark Street. The liberal element and the McGovern people took over the Democratic Party and decided to punish Daley by barring him and others from the 1972 convention. I don't know why, Daley and his leader Thomas Keane, didn't know about the rules. They thought that they could fight the rules because everybody thought that if you wanted to run for delegate, you could just plain run. Now they have a quota system. Those were the rules of the convention.

When I say we, I was a part of the Democratic Party. The local Democratic Party thought that they could solve it by litigation. They lost the litigation because the courts said, "Look. This is a political party. We're not going to interfere. They're the ones that set the rules." So Daley wasn't able to sit in the convention. He attended the convention as a delegate in 1976. I also attended the Democratic Convention in 1976. Dunne didn't want to go. He said, "I don't want to go. I was kicked out in Miami in 1972. Why don't you go?" So I became a delegate, along with our ward committee woman, who was Mrs. Lena Bruno.

George Dunne said, "You take Mrs. Bruno to New York. I said, "Okay." We stayed at the famous hotel there, the Waldorf Astoria. What I remember about that one is very interesting. We were all there at Madison Square Garden. Everybody came up and shook hands with Mayor Daley and welcomed him back. They were so glad to see him. And he sat there like a pariah for two, three days, or what have you. But they welcomed him back.

The other interesting thing about it was the night that Carter accepted the nomination. They made a little pathway so he would walk up and say hello to Mayor Daley and greet him. He walked right by. A lot of people don't remember that. But I was there. I was in the second or third row. They snubbed him. He walked right by. Jack Touhy, who was the chairman, was really incensed and he used some really bad words.

With Daley, of course, one thing about him was that he never, ever swore. I never, ever heard him swear. He was just not that way. He patted Touhy on the shoulder. He said, "Now look. That's the way it is. We're not going to get a single appointment in Washington. And we didn't, other than Christopher Cohen. He got an appointment. He was the H.E.W. representative here locally. What happened there was that he was Wilbur

Cohen's son. Wilbur Cohen was the professor from the University of Michigan, who helped write the Social Security Act. So that's what happened. Meanwhile, when Carter ran for re-election and he lost to Reagan, Cook County carried for him ten to one. But that didn't seem to make any difference.

I know some personal things about the mayor, but I didn't know him personally. One of the things that I was impressed with was this. When I first came into office in 1971, he invited me to come into the office. And he invited all of the aldermen. I suppose they would criticize it and everything else. But he said to me, "I want you to work with me. And I'll work with you. If you ever call any of the commissioners for service, I'll see to it that you get the service, if they don't give it to you." And I was impressed with that.

You have to understand that when I ran for office, I never wanted to be anything else but an alderman. Don't ask me why. I had some thoughts about going on the bench someday and all of that. And I never made it. But I always wanted to be an alderman. I could stay home. I could be home every night with my kids and my family. It was a really interesting district. First, I represented the near north side, then Cabrini Greens. Then there was a scandal in the First Ward. Mayor Richard M. Daley decided that he wanted to re-organize the Loop. And I became the alderman for the Loop for many years. At one time, I went all of the way down to Cermak. Then they moved me up to Jackson. And I went a little bit on the west side. I enjoyed that kind of career.

JMW: At any point, was UIC part of your district, or no?

BN: UIC was part of my district, I believe, in the nineties. It was "L" shaped. It went all of the way to Ashland. I met Florence Scala then. Florence Scala, of course, was the leader of the neighbors that didn't want UIC to be built. Richard J. Daley was adamant about the creation of UIC because he was absolutely adamant about education. He went to night school and became a lawyer. He specialized in bookkeeping. He was the Director of Revenue under Henry Horner. He knew the numbers. One thing about him that was rather interesting was that everything was on a smaller scale.

But he used to meet with his commissioners once a week. That's the way he operated. He didn't have too many staff meetings, so I was told. But he would meet with

Streets and Sanitation one day, police another day, and this and that. The other thing is that he was the one that consolidated and re-organized the Police Department. When they had the Summerdale Scandal, he took action right away and he brought in O.W. Wilson. The first thing O.W. Wilson did was that he put all of the policemen in cars. Another thing was that there were a lot of branch stations that were closed down.

I remember there was a Hudson Avenue station. That was consolidated. It went to the three hundred block of Chicago Avenue. Then, later on, they built the large station over there on Larrabee and Division in Cabrini Green. They moved over there because there were severe problems in Cabrini Green. Eventually, it really didn't serve any purpose because they eventually tore Cabrini Green down. When they tore it down, I was not the alderman of that area. They had already moved me down south.

I did represent UIC. I helped smooth relationships between neighbors and the university. I, too, agreed that education was important. The difficulty with UIC being there was that it intensifies the adjoining neighborhood. There's an awful lot more traffic. There's also a lot more traffic created by the fact that they built Rush and that they expanded Rush, which was both an educational institution and a medical institution. So he was a big believer in education. But he also had a very unique, human side. I'd like to demonstrate to you what that human side was.

JMW: Sure. I need to step out. I've got to go and lecture. I look forward to reading the transcript.

BN: I've heard that you're a very tough grader.

DWV: He's not. I am (DWV laughs as JMW leaves the office).

BN: Anyhow, there was very much of a human story. My son was in high school and he had to write a paper on government. On a fluke, I called up the mayor's office. And he responded by spending an hour and a half with my son. And he said to me, "You sit in the back." I said, "Okay." He spent an hour and a half with my son. My son wrote the paper and got an "A." I'll never forget that one as long as I live. He was very religious. As many



people have told you, he was at St. Peter's, I think, every morning for mass. Incidentally, my committeeman George Dunne was the same way. He used to attend mass every morning at Holy Name Cathedral.

Mayor Daley was very close to his wife, Sis Daley. She was one of the only people in my entire career that said I did a good job. She said that. She said, "You did a good job, alderman." It happened at the Briatta funeral. She just walked up to me and said, "I think you're doing a good job." She was in culture and music. That's why they converted the main library to a cultural center. Eventually, under Mayor Harold Washington, they built a brand new library downtown. Everybody was very saddened by Mayor Daley's death. The funeral was rather extensive. And the President of the United States came, along with many high level officials. I remember his son Mayor Richard M. stood by his coffin for hours to greet mourners.

He was very shrewd in his relationship with Washington, D.C. He had a close relationship with Dan Rostenkowski, who was Chairman of Appropriations. Rostenkowski helped him get the money to build the expressways, like the Dan Ryan and the improvements on the Kennedy. He was very much interested in transportation. He had a very unique plan, which I always thought was going to take place, whereby there would be a roadway and a train down the center between O'Hare and Midway. And that was called the cross town. I don't know if it was because of political rivalry. But the subsequent administrations didn't follow through.

That was also hooked up to another plan. I really agreed with this one, and that was tearing down the Loop "L." I happen to believe, and so did he, that if you tore down the "L" you could really open up those streets and it would be beautiful. Some people thought that the "L" was a landmark. And maybe it was. But if you look at it, it's a lot of steel. And it hides the sunlight from the streets. You can't even grow trees down there. But that never took place. They also were going to build a third level of subway. And that was called the Franklin Street connector. That never took place, either.

A subsequent administration abolished those plans. The architect that led that was Harry Weiss. I can remember reading in an early Chicago Sun Times paper somewhere that Weiss came up with the idea that he was going to enclose the thing in glass. It looked like a pointed roof. It never took place. He had ties to the Carter Administration. The

Carter Administration killed the project because they required an environmental study. That would have gone on for years. Then, the money just dissipated. I don't know what else to tell you.

I thought that he was a great leader. I think he was of the old school. And it's ludicrous to say that he didn't bring minority people into the administration. He had an alliance with the Jewish people. He had an alliance with the African American people. The Hispanics started coming into the city then. They had people from Spanish origin in the administration. The treasurer, at one time, was Clark Burriss, and then Joe Bertrand. Naturally, the mayor was friendly to the Gaelic people, the Irish, because he was Irish. He was Irish from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet.

He loved parades. He was in all of the parades. I thought he was a great American. I thought he was a great leader. I thought he was a pretty smart person, although everybody knew that he had a temper. So do a lot of other people. I think his temper was caused by his deep, emotional feeling for the city and the Eleventh Ward. He started very humbly. He worked in the stockyards. He grew up. He went to the Catholic schools. I think it was De La Salle. I think he came out of DePaul Law School. So he was very loyal to his people. And I think he was very loyal to the people of Chicago.

There was another thing he did. I'm sorry that I didn't bring this out in the beginning. He was the one who started the renovation of the Loop, more than anyone else. That renovation started with the building of the courthouse. I know he had some buildings tore down on Randolph Street. And he built the courthouse. I remember there was one restaurant there called Henrici's. There was also a pool hall on the second floor, where they played snooker. That's pool with the small balls. But that all went down and he built the courthouse. The next step, of course, was the Sherman Hotel. Then they later built the State of Illinois Building, the Thompson Building.

Oh yes, this is very important. I'm sorry. Mayor Daley was the one that started the movement for the Constitution of the State of Illinois. He began that movement. They went down and re-wrote the constitution. In re-writing the constitution, it was very important to grant large cities like Chicago revenue status. The City of Chicago was given taxing power that none of the other cities had. And that was important.

I think he had a very close relationship with Governor Richard Ogilvie. Ogilvie was the one that delivered for him the state income tax. There's no question in my mind, by creating that tax under the constitution, that Ogilvie lost the election to Dan Walker. There's no question about it. I also think that the other change was that the mayor initiated the budget. Prior to that, the city council initiated the budget. They used to go to Florida. They had a meeting down there. They would come back to Chicago and come up with a budget.

But after the 1970 constitution was passed, it was the mayor's office that presented the budget to the city council. And the city council would approve or amend the budget. Nevertheless, it was the city council that really had the power. It still has the power. It can defeat the mayor's ordinances. The mayor has to obtain a larger majority, if he wants to overrule them. But that was a very important move. That's because before that time the major source of revenue for cities was the property tax. Though it probably still is.

One of the disadvantages, of all of that taxing power, is the taxes that are collected with these taxes go to Springfield. Then, it's sent back on a certain percentage. Of course, with the property tax, that's not true. Once they extend it and put it in the books, the check is issued by the Cook County treasurer and the treasurers from the various cities throughout Illinois. It doesn't go down to Springfield to be used in other ways by the state legislature. And I think that was very important to Mayor Daley in the running of the city's programs. But of course, that was typical of Mayor Daley. That's because Mayor Daley was a very sharp person when it came to money.

DWV: I think that the money issue is absolutely a key. He always found the money for building, whether it was from the state level or the federal level.

BN: Well, he had a sharp pencil.

DWV: Okay. What about Mayor Daley in government? You said that he was from the old school of government. What do you mean?

BN: Well, he was authoritarian. He wanted to run the show. Of course, the organizations were strong then. We had a patronage system. But you can argue about which is good, patronage or civil service? Now, everybody says this, even today. They say that we shouldn't have patronage, everybody should get a job. But you know, beginning with Nixon, they just loaded the government with federal civil service employees.

One of the problems that we're having now is that we can't get these federal civil service employees to do the job. They know that they have lifetime tenure. They can't be fired. And somehow or another, we have to have a combination of both civil service and merit patronage. They've got to get these people. They're just loaded. There are millions of people working for the federal government. You wonder, even today, where was the federal power commissioner? Where was the administrative agency that was in charge of issuing these permits? Where were they? Why weren't they on the ball? Mayor Daley was interested in doing a good job. Every move that he made was designed and calculated to do that.

DWV: I always thought that, in 1968, the "Shoot to Kill" was because he was a building mayor. He built the Loop and all of those things you were talking about. And the kids that came in here were bent on disruption.

BN: No. I don't think he was an insensitive person. I think he was trying to understand human beings. Why in the world would you burn down your house? Why would you burn down the place that you live? What happened there, people don't understand. When I first came to Chicago and I worked for Montgomery Ward, I used to walk down Division Street and Chicago Avenue. There were white people living in Cabrini Greens. It was mixed, federal housing. And people wanted to live there. Now, after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died and the west side burned down, it changed. It became one hundred per cent African American. Also, in doing so, a lot of the gang members moved in. I was present and witnessed a lot of the gunfire and shootings over there, back when I was representing that area. Then, of course, the federal government walked away from it in the Nixon Administration, the Carter Administration, and the Reagan Administration. It was just too bad. The federal government built those buildings and then they walked

away from them. Now, if you go there, everything is torn down. As a result, we have a terrible shortage of low income housing. You're right. He was a pro-development person. But it was more than that. He just couldn't understand why you would want to burn down your own house.

DWV: That's interesting, because we've done a number of these now. And we've seen different facets of Mayor Daley. One of them is visionary, for the Loop, and building up Chicago. But I think another one that's come out is that he was a master of people. He understood people. He listened.

BN: I think he was a master of people for the people at that time, and the mix at that time. But one of the big problems that his son has is that the complexion and the attitude of people has changed. One of the things that Mayor Richard J. Daley didn't have to experience was that the attitude of people changed after Vietnam. Vietnam was the beginning. You talk to some of the veterans that are here that survived Vietnam. They said that Vietnam was hell. Nobody could understand why we stayed there.

I think President Johnson was really given a bum rap. I think his military people lied to him. I don't know if McNamara is still alive. But he said he was wrong. He came out and absolutely said he was wrong. But you know, there's another facet of this that doesn't have to do with Mayor Daley. You have to understand, we never really understood Communism. Now, there are different forms of Communism and different liberal attitudes.

For example, the big problem we've always had in Central America was not Communism. Many of the guerillas were land reform people. What they wanted was to give two acres to each person. It was a land movement, which is the key to Marxism. Another thing we didn't understand was that it was a land movement when the French were in Southeast Asia. What happened was this. John Foster Dulles was another individual who was a Secretary of State who had blinders on. What happened was that Ho Chi Minh came to him and said, "Would you support us?" He said, "No!" And he threw him out of the office.

He went to Moscow. We were so wrapped up in this anti-Communist attitude that we failed to realize that there are people who aren't necessarily Communists. But they want some kind of social welfare relief. We should have taken that signal from Dien Bien Phu when the French left. And we didn't. I don't know if I'm talking like a radical or not. I don't believe I am. But some people would just like a piece of ground.

DWV: No. I don't think you're talking like a radical. You said that the attitude has changed. The people's attitudes have changed from the seventies. Could you explain that a little bit?

BN: Well, I think that the morals are different. The behavior patterns are different. One of the reasons for that is the volatile news. I always wonder sometimes whether or not there are more murders and rapes now than ever before. Well, one of the reasons may be because we have more people. But I also believe that the news people are all over the place. You can't walk down the street or even spit on the sidewalk without having a camera. So I don't know if there are more or not.

The other thing is science. We're finding out more through science, DNA, and what have you as to whether people are really misbehaving or not and who it is. I was watching television the other day. I was really upset with this little boy. It was in Seattle or somewhere there. He just disappeared. We can't find him. The other thing that they're doing is that they're discovering misbehaved situations that we never thought existed. So there's a great deal of misbehaving in terms of the relationship between older people and younger people.

The other thing is that there's a great deal of violence today. We have a drug problem today that we've never had before. We have a weapons problem, an arms problem that we've never had. So the times are different. The other reason the times are different is that there are more people than when Richard J. Daley was the mayor. There are more people in Chicago. There are more people in the world.

BN: You helped push for the anti-gun ordinance.

BN: Yes. I was in the first Council that killed it. Maybe they passed something after that, because they maybe wanted an administration bill. Sometimes they want the administration to do it rather than one person. But I filed an ordinance in 1973 saying that you can't possess a handgun. And the interesting part of that is that the Supreme Court has really misinterpreted the constitution. That amendment to the constitution had to do with state militias and federalism.

But the point of the matter is that it clearly says that the National Guard and the state militias have a right to exist. That was back in the day when the states were stronger and they didn't want their militias to be taken away from them. They didn't want national government to take over. The proof of that is that you look at the state constitution and the bill of rights.

They have an arms provision there. But it doesn't say the same thing. It says that they can pass reasonable gun regulation. The second to last sentence talks about reasonable regulation. Comparing that to the federal constitution, that proves that that was trying to preserve federalism. So if the states wanted to impose more regulations on arms, they could do so. And that's quite clear.

The state constitution talks about reasonable regulation. And I think it's reasonable to say you can't have a handgun. Why? That's because if you want to be a hunter, it doesn't say you can't have a rifle. If you want to go out and shoot ducks or deer, which I don't like, but who cares, you can do it. But what they don't want is for people to have pistols in the house because they're small. Children can get hold of them. They can be concealed. And it's a source of crime. You can always protect yourself with a rifle or a sword.

DWV: Or a lock on the door. There are alternatives. I agree. What would you consider Mayor Richard J. Daley's greatest accomplishment?

BN: Oh, I think starting the function of making Chicago a worldwide city. It was by building the Loop. It was by organizing the finances. It was by organizing government. It was by public relations, announcing that Chicago is great and that Chicago is a different city, and that Chicago is a tourist mechanism. I think what he did was that he gave

Chicago stature, more than anybody else. It was a great place to do business. And the conventions started coming here.

DWV: You said organizing government. Are you talking about the tax revenue?

BN: Well, it was not only tax revenue. He consolidated the police department. He put them in districts. He set up district stations. He did the same thing with the fire department. He had a great fire chief, who was Quinn. He had a great fire department. Of course, Chicago has always had one because we had the Chicago fire. And we learned an awful lot from that. I think he was the one who started to clean up the river. He liked fishing. I think he was the one who started the idea of cleaning up the river so you could fish in it, and cleaning up the lake. I think he's the one who started the building boom, more than anybody else.

And of course, he was the one that started UIC. I think by bringing UIC to Chicago, which is a big city, I don't think he was trying to take it away from Champaign. But I think he always thought that Chicago should have a great university. After all, this is the third largest city in the United States in terms of population. He also brought UIC here so that students locally didn't have to go down to Champaign or didn't have to travel to get their education. And maybe it was so they could work at night and go to school during the day. He also worked very hard to build hospitals. He was a big backer of the University of Chicago. He was a big backer of Rush and Northwestern Hospitals. So I think he was the one who started the movement to put Chicago on the map.

DWV: He put Chicago on the map by facilitating growth, with education facilities and transportation.

BN: And it was not only that, but it was facilities and growth, in light of our tax structure, by building buildings, and building tall buildings. By building the Loop, he increased the tax base. And that was very important.



DWV: He has been criticized for putting so much money into the Loop and not enough into the neighborhoods. You were the alderman of the Loop. What do you think about that?

BN: Well, I admit that being the alderman of downtown, I did everything I could to build my ward up. But you have to understand, there are aldermen who don't necessarily want development. I shouldn't say this. But it's true. With the aldermen in the outlying districts, many of them want to keep it the way it is. Many of them want to keep single family houses. That's how they stay in office. Those are the people that vote them in. And it's very political.

But there are many outlying aldermen that don't want development. They don't want things to change. They want it just the way it is. Even with his Eleventh Ward, you don't see any high rises in the Eleventh Ward. And that was his ward. Everything that was built down there is low level. People don't understand this. If somebody wants to build a building a little taller, a little wider, or a little more dense, at least in this day and age, they have to contribute to a fund.

Now, that wasn't during his administration. But they have to contribute to a fund now. We have two funds. I don't know how much money is in there now. But that was backed by his son. There's an education fund and there's a low income fund. But back in the days of Mayor Daley, in the seventies, there was really no need, other than maybe Cabrini Green and the low cost housing on the south side. They were built by the federal government. And there was no need to build any additional low cost housing. So what happened was this. And this is what really hurt Chicago. It had nothing to do with Mayor Daley.

The federal government walked away from it and abandoned it. We found out in the city that we didn't have enough money to maintain it. And we're talking about government owned housing. So I don't think it's a fair analogy. I think that's newspaper talk. Then, when we later developed the TIF Program, the outlying districts didn't want to use the TIF money.

DWV: Okay. It was the TIF money that financed that helped finance south campus over here.

BN: But there's nothing wrong with that.

DWV: No.

BN: That was especially in light of the fact that the university can't tax.

DWV: Yes. I agree.

BN: And this is tax free land. Isn't it?

DWV: Yes.

BN: Okay. You know, they've done a lot of things in later years. Everybody wasn't excited when they tore down Maxwell Street. Maxwell Street was really going down. But look at it now.

DWV: Oh yes. I'm going to take a break right here. I haven't got much left on the tape. I'm going to pause and change the tape.

BN: How long do you want to go one?

DWV: I don't know. How long do you want to go on with this?

BN: Oh, I don't know. I don't know if there's anything more to say, unless you have more questions.

DWV: Well, I do have other questions.

BN: The other thing that you didn't get into was the fact that Richard J. Daley was the one that started O'Hare Field. And it was the ingenious of Richard J. Daley that built O'Hare Field. And how did he do that? Well, what he did was that he floated bonds. And the bonds were paid for by the airlines in landing fees. That's another thing that made Chicago the center of the world. And that was O'Hare Field. He wanted two airports. That's why wanted the crosstown expressway to connect the two airports. What his plan obviously was that the local routes would be at Midway Airport and the long distance flights would be out of O'Hare Field. But he did that with bonds.

DWV: Yes. But as I understand it, the crosstown expressway died under Jane Byrne, I believe.

BN: It had, with a subsequent mayor.

DWV: It had. And then, a lot of those headquarters went out into the western suburbs. I'm talking about those corporate headquarters that, in my mind, could have stayed here. They would have been closer.

BN: Well, that's true. Some of them did. But on the other hand, under subsequent mayors, particularly the son Richard M. Daley, we got them back. We got Boeing back. They came downtown. Then there was another problem that arose. It had nothing to do with Mayor Daley. When I say nothing to do with it, I mean it wasn't his fault. What happened was that a number of the corporate headquarters went out on Wacker Drive. So then, what do we do with La Salle Street? The La Salle Street business owners came in and said, "What are we going to do?" So, what Mayor Richard M. Daley did was that he shifted money over there to La Salle Street to keep it going. Now it's coming back. And he was criticized for that in The Reader, for example. The Reader doesn't understand how TIF works. How a TIF district works is that members of the board are able to transfer money to projects. And if there are no projects in the outlying wards, then you can't transfer the TIF money out there. The outlying wards did not form TIF Districts or promote meaningful development.

DWV: Can you talk a little bit about when Mayor Richard J. Daley died? What was the landscape?

BN: Well, the problem with that was who was going to become the mayor? The law required that, temporarily at least, you were required to elect an alderman. And we did. We elected Michael Bilandic. And that was because we thought that was a good follow through.

\*\*\*\*\*END OF INTERVIEW\*\*\*\*\*