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Interview with John Weithers

Date: 7 October 2003

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

Present: John Weithers Dr. Robert V. Remini, and Dr. Fred W. Beuttler

Dr. Robert V. Remini: What has your career been like?

John Weithers: I worked for the Midwest Stock Exchange. I served on corporate boards, mutual fund boards, and civic groups.

RVR: I see. Well, do you want to tell us what you've done? Then we can ask questions.

JW: I'm not sure what direction you want to take. The way that I got to know Mayor Daley was in the time period of 1967. There was a mayoral campaign coming up. There was a lot of talk about "Daley is too old. Daley only appeals to the old guys. He's a has-been. His contemporaries are all has-beens." And there were a bunch of young people who hung around, in the saloons I might add, on the near north side. And we all knew each other. We were beginning to see each other in business. We said, "We think he's pretty good, too." So somebody from the mayor's campaign said, "You know, if you guys want to do something, we'll cooperate with you. But you'll be independent. You won't be supported by us. We won't try to influence anything you say or do." So that's what we did. It was a real good group of guys. We had fun doing it. We had social activities and various events. It was called Chicago 67.

RVR: Is that what it was called?

JW: Yes.

RVR: How many did you have?

JW: Well, in terms of those who fully participated, there were probably thirty five to

forty. And then there were probably, at the largest event we had, three to four hundred young people.

RVR: Were you a chairperson?

JW: I was a co-chairperson. I think that's what it was. But there were a lot of talented people. You'll know them when I give you the name. We spent a little time with the mayor. He was of counsel there and busy. That's not why we were in it anyway. We were enjoying the experience in politics and we believed we would be active in the city throughout our professional careers. And none of us intended to stay in politics or be in politics. I was working at the stock exchange at the time. I was an officer. I had a lot to do on my own. I had watched Daley for years and thought he was very good at fulfilling the position of mayor.

RVR: What did you and your group actually do in the campaign?

JW: Well, we had social activities for young people. Most of them focused on the near north side of Chicago. We got together a float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and that kind of event. We tried to get people registered to vote. I think it was the same thing that most campaign workers do. Although we weren't reporting to any aldermen.

RVR: You weren't reporting to anybody?

JW: Nobody. There was a liaison with the mayor's office, if we thought there was some reason he should attend an event, shake some hands, or something. We'd get in touch with that fellow.

RVR: Did you run him up some flyers?

JW: Well no, there were just handouts to the events that we were pretty much involved with.

RVR: But you made it clear that you were helping elect him.

JW: Oh yes. Most of us lived in the near north area of the city. So we would see each other at parties and we would do things together. And there were a lot of small things concocted. We had a block party. We closed down Division Street, from State Street to, I guess it would have been Rush then.

RVR: Was it specifically younger people?

JW: Yes. There were a lot of people coming into the city and living there on the near north side, young professional people. And there were a lot of people who'd lived there for years. One guy, Lou Lerner, who was the son of Lerner Press Publisher, was a wonderful guy. He was a funny guy and the brightest guy you'd ever want to meet. He was involved and was very active.

RVR: Did you help these people get involved in it?

JW: Yes. We had materials that we left at events or distributed where appropriate.

RVR: Did you know some of them?

JW: We did. There were things from people who'd volunteered, who were regulars.

RVR: Were you instructed in any way as to what the best procedures were?

JW: Again, we worked with the liaison that was there of the mayor's office. We were printing materials and asked for review. We said "Well, we would do that if we were regulars. But we're not regulars, so we're not going to do that." One of the guys that was on the committee was Ed Graybeck, who was later head of the plumber's union. He said, "Well, what have you got against the unions (RVR laughs)?" So Lou Learner and myself

were having fun debating with him. It was great friends, talking about little tensions. But we didn't know much about what we were trying to do. We resolved it by having some stationary with union logo on it.

RVR: Did you have meetings to organize the events?

JW: Yes we did.

RVR: Was it all thirty five or so?

JW: There was as many as could make it.

RVR: You didn't have an executive committee?

JW: We did. Some of the people on the executive committee were Lou Lerner and Butch McGuire. They had control of the calendar a lot of the time and were more interested. They were very interested in politics. It was like a hobby.

RVR: How many people were on that executive committee?

JW: There were about fifteen. And probably nobody made all of them.

RVR: Did you meet regularly?

JW: Well yes, it was understood that we would meet regularly. We would set the next meeting based on an event.

RVR: Did you meet every week?

JW: Oh no. It was probably every week and a half or two weeks. Then there were specific events that were going on that some of us would be involved in. People had ideas

for get-togethers. It was fairly loosely organized. But everybody that came in knew somebody else who was already involved.

RVR: When you say young people, what ages?

JW: Well, I think we were probably all twenty eight to thirty two.

RVR: They were that young?

JW: Yes.

RVR: And you said you really didn't know anything about politics when you got into it?

JW: No. I don't think any of us did. Maybe a few had experiences, but they did not dominate.

RVR: What did you learn from the experience?

JW: Well, I learned that the experience could be fun. Daley used the group for publicity, too. He was fighting this notion that he was the old out of touch politician.

RVR: And he would point to you guys?

JW: Right. And he included us in a couple of his photo ops.

RVR: Did you have an official name.

JW: Chicago 67.

RVR: Chicago 67. Do you think that you made a difference?

JW: I think so. I think that we made a difference in terms of a lot of people our age and especially a lot of the ones who weren't originally from the city, who weren't that involved in politics at all. If it was a Cubs' game, that was something we'd all be involved in. We were all beginning to understand a little bit about politics. We all had a stake through our companies in the community. We were trying to be involved. But I don't think any of the guys really wanted to go into politics.

RVR: Did any of you continue?

JW: No.

RVR: Once that campaign ended, that was it.

JW: Right. Well, Daley did another thing. When it was over, he asked some of us and appointed some of us to different bodies in the city.

RVR: Were they paying jobs?

JW: No. They were all volunteer jobs.

RVR: What kind of job did you have?

JW: Well, there's something called the Public Building Commission. You've probably never heard of it. But it was a creation in which Daley had played a part and through his experience with the legislature where he had cut his teeth, I guess. In friendships he had made down state, he was instrumental in passing legislation. This was sometime before we were involved. I found out this history later. The legislation allowed for the creation of a public building commission, city or county operating it. It was a vehicle to issue non-referendum debt. It meant that everybody who wanted a school in their backyard would scream at the alderman and scream at the legislature, "Don't put any money on the table for that project," or whatever. The vehicle worked very well. Its first effort, which was

before I was involved, was a civic center. After that, there were schools. Many schools were redone. And how it worked was that the taxing body, say the board of education, they originally had to have a public referendum for capital investments. But they did not have to go to referendum to sign leases. So the school board would come to the Public Building Commission and say, "We want this kind of school in this location to provide facts about the local need. There were a staff of architects and other financial people on the Public Building Commission staff. In fact, I've brought you some of their reports that you can look through. It was very successful on being able to move forward on a lot of funding for necessary projects.

RVR: What did they do? I'm not sure I understand what they did.

JW: Well, what the group did was receive the request from say, the board of education. All of the financial details would be worked out and projected, the building costs, and so on. Then the Public Building Commission would receive a lease. It was a hell or high water lease, meaning that they couldn't walk away from their lease payments, even if the school burned down or couldn't be used, not that that would be an issue. But from the bondholder's standpoint, a come hell or high water lease meant that there would be a steady flow of revenue to the commission counted to. The rental income to the commission would be designated to pay for that particular facility until it was paid off. The building commission would revert it to the original public report when they asked them for it.

RVR: When you had the lease, who was it from?

JW: It was from, in the case of the school, the school board.

RVR: It was from the school board?

JW: It was approved by the Board of Education. One of the things they did was redo Soldier Field. When I say redid, I mean they pasted it back together. But the Chicago

Park District paid rent. When I was on there, I think we came close to nine hundred million dollars of debt in facilities that were run through the public building commission. The bonds were paid off to the last penny. It was marvelous.

RVR: How many were on there?

JW: Well, they're listed in here. But the commission was made up of representatives from one of the five major taxing bodies in the city. There was the board of education, the park district, I should say Cook County. We had the water reclamation. Who am I forgetting?

FWB: Was it the forest preserve?

JW: No. The forest preserve went through the county. We did Cook County Hospital renovation. It's required that the title come to the committee, the commission, the lease, and all of the legal stuff to be worked out. It was not a limelight kind of thing. Just move it along. It got a lot of good work done and it well controlled of a power.

RVR: Was that Mayor Daley's idea, to create it?

JW: I was told by the lawyer for the commission, and I don't know if this gentleman is still alive, that it was Daley's idea. He noodled it all out. Then he gave it to a fellow who had served with him in the legislature from Peoria. The guy from Peoria went to the legislature and said, "I need this to build buildings in Peoria." The Chicago papers had nothing to do with it (laughs). Daley got him all the votes he wanted. And we had the public building commission. That was before I got on it. I did go through a description of the startup of the commission.

RVR: And all of you were volunteers?

JW: No. The head of those taxing bodies were politically designating the position from Daley.

RVR: They were appointees?

JW: No. They were statutory. They were involved. The school board, whoever the head was. At the time, had ultimate input of it.

RVR: How did they get their position as the head of the faculty?

JW: Well, some of them were appointed. Many of them were appointed. But they had statutory responsibility once they were appointed.

RVR: And you were appointed, too?

JW: I was appointed. And they had room for disinterested.

RVR: No political or professional people could make a contribution?

JW: Right.

RVR: And it worked very well?

JW: It worked very well.

RVR: How long were you on it?

JW: It was until after Daley died.

RVR: And afterwards? Did you resign?

JW: Well no, I stayed on. George Dunne, President of the Cook County Board, was senior and he took over then. We came to be very good friends working together there.

RVR: Tell me about Mayor Daley himself. What experiences did you have with him? Did you interact with him?

JW: I did. Part of the responsibilities that I had weren't defined responsibilities. But the way it was organized was to meet with the mayor before every meeting because inevitably there would be something financial on the agenda. So I would go over to his office maybe an hour in advance of the meeting. We didn't see each other every day. We didn't play golf together. I'd see him on the street and we'd talk. We'd be at a civic committee meeting and we'd talk. He was always very nice to me. He went out of his way because he knew that I was a kind of a fish out of water (laughs).

RVR: And you weren't looking for something from him?

JW: I wasn't looking for something. I never asked him for anything.

RVR: Did he personally ask you to serve on his committee?

JW: Well, he did. He personally approved, yes. He had gotten to know me. And I had known him a little bit at a distance. There was a junior group of people working on Mercy Hospital. He was involved there, too. So he was not on this group. But I mean he was very supportive of it. I would see him at civic things and at church (laughs).

RVR: Were you going to the same church?

JW: I was living down in the near north side at the time. But for later years when I was on that commission, I was living out in Oak Park. My wife and I were dating in 1967. We got married later that year. Then after a baby or two, we moved out to River Forest. I would come down on the "L" and walk right by St. Peters on the way to work. I'd stop in for a visit to the church. Daley would be there many times on the other side of the church.

RVR: But that was not your parish church?

JW: No. I went to a church on the near north side. It's terrible, the indoctrination that they put you through (RVR laughs). You've got to go to church three mornings a week. You had to check in on a roster at the door to the church (RVR laughs). It's a habit. But it's a good habit. And I'm still doing it.

RVR: So he got to know you?

JW: Well, it was just saying, "Good morning," and casual.

RVR: Well, give us your impressions of him.

JW: Well, he was a very nice person and had a great sense of humor.

RVR: He did?

JW: Oh yes.

RVR: Can you give us some examples of his sense of humor? That I don't recall being mentioned by anybody else before. And I didn't think he did.

JW: He had an infectious little, almost high-pitched laugh.

RVR: We do have some tapes of his laugh.

Fred W. Beuttler: It's his laugh. Yes.

RVR: It seems more artificial.

JW: He tried to control it. He'd almost shake before it came out. But he was a nice person.

RVR: Do you remember any incident that showed his sense of humor?

JW: Well, there were many times in the meetings where something would come up. Somebody would do something or make a mistake in a presentation or something. And it would be kind of a humorous way to let this person off the hook. Somebody would come up with a wisecrack or Daley would say something. Then he'd laugh and shake a little bit. I remember one event. Jimmy Carter was running for president. I was at the Stock Exchange. I was probably president at that time. There was a fellow who was on our board, Alan Boyd, who was the head of Illinois Central. Alan had been the Secretary of Transportation under John Kennedy. He asked me to buy a ticket to a thing they had in Chicago for Carter. I went over there to be nice to Alan. I really wasn't that interested in Jimmy Carter. I wasn't against him. But it was a favor to Alan. I think that his wife was with him, too. She was a lovely lady.

RVR: You mean Sis Daley?

JW: Yes. I never called her Sis Daley. She was always Mrs. Daley to me. She still would be if she were alive.

RVR: I never called her Sis Daley either (laughs).

JW: Right. But she was a lovely lady. She was always pretty friendly and outgoing. In a lot of the things we did go to, like civic things, she was especially nice to my wife and myself. We were pretty young. We weren't part of the organizations and so on. He came over to me and said, "I'm surprised to see you here. Do you know Carter?" I said, "No. I didn't come to see Carter. I came to see you." He laughed. He called his wife over and said, "Tell her what you said." He had a good sense of humor. He was a regular person.

RVR: Besides his sense of humor, would you characterize any of his other personality traits?

JW: I think he had a pretty good temper. He never used it.

RVR: Did you ever see it? We have tapes of it.

JW: I'm reluctant to say this. But you've got to give me on this one because it hits close to some other people. I was at one of our meetings one day. I was visiting with him before the full meetings. It was like several days before we were going to have the meeting. We were sitting in his office. He had a speaker in there. It was the size maybe of that screen. But that speaker was playing the city council goings on into his office. We had completed our business and for some reason he wanted to talk. I don't know why. Later, I guessed why. He started talking about someone who was in politics and how he was disloyal, this person. I said, "I don't know much about your business. I don't think that this guy is disloyal." Daley said, "When he made this mistake," there was an event that was publicized, "He embarrassed me. And that means he was disloyal." And boy, he was red. The phone rang and it was his wife on the phone. And boy, he just came down like this. He was just so nice and considerate of her. He said "Yes, I've got the prescription from the pharmacy."

(There is over two minutes of audio static on the video and the voices are inaudible)

RVR: He had very good friends who loved him.

JW: Yes. The other thing about that is up until the next day, the papers were full of news that Daley had missed his first council meeting since he'd been in office.

RVR: Was that close to the day he died?

JW: No. I mean, he didn't miss the council meeting to spend any time with me. He missed the council meeting to be able to get out of there as quickly as he could and get his wife the medicine and himself back home to her.

RVR: Could you describe any strengths you thought he had that made him such a great man in your mind? Why did you feel he was a good man?

JW: I felt that he was always prepared. He wasn't just perfunctory about doing anything. It was not that he read through every prospectus of every one of our bonds. But he met with the people who did it and he got from them what he needed to know. He would make use of them making his decisions. He was always well advised and tried to be well advised. He had a lot of great advisors. One of the fellows that was in Chicago 67 was a guy by the name of Dave Stahl.

RVR: Yes. I know that name.

JW: He went to work with Real Estate Research. But he worked with Daley. He was involved in real estate. A fellow that worked for the public building commission was Bob Christensen. He was a very talented guy. He would make sure the mayor was well advised.

RVR: (his question is inaudible).

JW: It was not in front of me. I don't know. Maybe the only failure I can see is that not enough people knew he was warm and a regular person as he was.

RVR: He didn't project that.

JW: He projected that to people he worked with. But I had the opportunity to be with him like we are here.

RVR: Do you know of the many different books that have been written about him since his death?

JW: Yes.

RVR: Do they show and portray the man that you knew?

JW: I think some parts of the ones that I've read portray some of it. I didn't know him in his early days obviously. And I think there's a difference maybe.

RVR: Was he the boss?

JW: He was in charge in a very nice way, a proposal put on the table that made sense. He would say, "You don't want to do that, do you?" When he was the conducting business of the Public Building Commission, he would not say, "We ought to do it this way!" He would say, "Don't you think we ought to? George Dunne, what do you think? John, what do you think?" I don't know if he would have ever come undone. But he was patient.

RVR: Was he a machine politician? Is that how you would characterize him?

JW: I'm not a political person. I don't know where that begins and where it ends. He certainly understood that politics was the way the city worked. And it was the way his job worked.

RVR: What would you say was his biggest contribution to the City of Chicago and why he was such a good man?

JW: Well, I think he always made progress. I mean, he might get knocked down. He was resilient. There was the Public Building Commission, which I happened to pay attention to because I was involved in it in a clear sense. He took criticism for everything. If a window fell out of the Civic Center, Daley was a guy who let the window fall. And some

did. But it was something that was happening to all of the buildings that were using that same kind of steel. And the expanse between the main supports of that building are extremely large. And they were, from an architectural standpoint, moving a little bit. But at the same time, four hundred windows had fallen out of whatever building that was in Boston that had that terrible problem. And eventually nobody was hurt. That was by the grace of God. I mean, it had happened. They took precautions with certain conditions. They redid caulking and stuff I'm sure the best that they could. They went through a process of taking the windows out, after everybody discovered it, not that it was important for us to discover it.

But he wanted it fixed. He took an awful lot of heat on it. He took heat when he put that Picasso out there. I mean, it was Daley's folly, Daley this, and Daley that. Then there were a body of business leaders who really went full out to get that structure here in Chicago. They cajoled and persuaded Picasso to do it. And that was something that caused a little problem, too. Somebody, without getting a license from the public building commission, put out a gold charm. It was a large size Picasso statue. He thought that was kind of nice. But then somebody said, "We've got to preserve the copyright on this and the ownership because now it might be used for something else." It was a law firm here in Chicago that brought the case against the city to obtain its artistic independence. They won it in court, or they stopped pursuing it in court. The Public Building Commission stopped trying to exercise its control. Daley's worst fear was that it would be something pornographic or wild (RVR laughs). And we had no control. So he was upset and frustrated that he couldn't preserve that. And that was all. He was trying to preserve the reputation of the sculpture.

I don't think that the arts and churches of every denomination were looking for help that they should have received, he was right up there trying to do it, and quietly. If he wasn't quiet, he'd probably get everybody into controversy because they really were probably attacking him. You know, it was an opportunity for headlines. As one of my friends used to say, it was grist for their mill every time he got involved in something. That reminds me. One of the guys who was on Chicago 67, a fellow by the name of Jack Smith, I think he was with Kellogg at the time. He was in the public relations department. I think that he heads up ABC News nationally now. He's originally from Chicago.

RVR: With Chicago 67, did Daley personally thank you for your contribution?

JW: Yes. He did. He wanted to slow the "public" involvement in the project.

RVR: Were you appointed to the department immediately thereafter?

JW: It was pretty soon thereafter.

RVR: I just wondered.

JW: I wasn't the only one. I mean, there were several from our group. They were all non-paying jobs.

RVR: Daley had a lot to do with the status and the creation of this university, that you may know. Do you know anything about this?

JW: No. I remember reading it.

RVR: When it had gone to the public, they had nothing to do with the contracts or the acquisition of land.

JW: I don't think so.

RVR: Did Daley ever speak to you about it?

JW: Not that I recall.

RVR: Did he ever talk to you about policies, that he was trying to do specifically?

JW: No. I can't remember it. I mean, I'm sure there were city and civic organizational people who were on his commission who were invited. He was always very nice to my wife and myself. There were always a lot of political people there. Mrs. Daley was always nice to my wife.

RVR: She was there?

JW: Yes. She was always kind of knew where you were.

RVR: She knew who you were?

JW: Yes. We were not part of the usual group. She went out of her way to make us comfortable.

RVR: Do you have anything for him?

FWB: Yes I do.

JW: Before I walk out with this, I do want this back (retrieving things from his bag). I probably have more of these. But those are reports from the Public Building Commission. You see the cover there. We did the library, too. The Public Building Commission did.

RVR: You mean the Harold Washington Library?

JW: You mean the Cultural Center? It was the old library.

RVR: Oh yes. It was the old library.

FWB: I have a couple of questions. You were very closely involved with the business community. What was your position? You were at the exchange for a long time. I'm trying to get a sense of Daley's relationship with the business community as you saw it,

not just on the Public Building Commission. But sort of broader because you obviously were closely connected with that part of the city.

JW: I think that they were very supportive of Daley. They liked his effectiveness, they liked the things he was doing, and the way he was doing them. Now they had other things that they wanted to try. Daley was a very powerful person in Washington, even though his office was in Chicago for part of that time. There wasn't a business in Chicago that didn't need to have a voice in Washington at one time or another. I think he felt that the business community was trying their best. In 1967, there was a fellow from the securities industry who was trying to become a candidate for mayor. I never heard from anybody in the industry about, "Why aren't you backing the guy from the industry there?" This person I knew and know his family still. He was a nice man. I didn't want this to hurt that family. Nobody ever said, "You're a dummy. You're a traitor for not backing a guy from our industry." Nobody ever said that. I got a lot of congratulations. I think people in the city did not want to get cross wise with him for Daley. It wasn't the securities industry that was against him or the banking industry that was against him. The financial industries weren't against him.

FWB: One of the things in the city was that after about 1970 you started to see a longer turn in an economic climb in Chicago. And that affected the business community very clearly. It affected most major urban centers. How was that perceived in the business community about the mayor's role? Was the mayor as effective as the business community hoped him to be?

JW: I can't answer for all of them. I do think they were generally. I'm sure that at a given point, there was something that was bothering them. Maybe other issues were regarded to be more helpful. But I think on balance, they all respected him. I think they were smart enough and well-read enough to know. And I don't remember exactly what period you're talking about. But the demographics were changing probably all around the country, probably some of these people with branches and so on. They did pretty good in Chicago.

FWB: You were involved in Chicago 67 to reach out towards younger, more professional, and generally a more Republican group of people, it sounds like. What about in 1971? Were you called on for a similar kind of group?

JW: No.

FWB: There wasn't?

JW: No. I probably went to a couple of events with Daley. So did the other guys.

FWB: But there was no real get up and go among urban professionals?

JW: No.

FWB: It was the same in 1975?

JW: Right.

FWB: It was pretty much Daley when Daley was alive.

JW: No. It was a thing that worked very well. I don't think anybody felt like recreating it. I mean, we all had young families by then, most of us.

RVR: You had other things to do.

JW: Yes. We were busier. But we still saw each other. We still see each other.

RVR: When you were a member of the Public Building Commission, there was a lot of money involved. Did you ever see or hear anything that you felt as though influence was being made?

JW: No. The Public Building Commission did eventually approve of the contracts. They all came through with recommendations from the body, who was currently the lease/debt for his vehicle. There was one that was designed to be protected. Look at the people that are on it. I mean, George Dunne didn't want it. And neither did the head of the school board.

RVR: Excuse me for asking.

JW: No, no. I'm not trying to say that those things didn't happen in Chicago. But there were probably reasons that I don't understand. To the best of my knowledge, it never did.

RVR: Let me ask this impertinent question then.

JW: Sure.

RVR: Do you regard it as a kind of rubber stamp for what's already been decided around?

JW: No. I don't think so. There were things that were denied and were difficult to deny because there were political allies involved.

RVR: So you did say no at times?

JW: Yes.

RVR: You were not going to accept it?

JW: Yes.

RVR: And even though there was somebody who had to say something?

JW: Oh yes.

RVR: That's what we had heard before.

JW: I've heard the same thing. The Mayor would say things that would indicate he was concerned about it because of honesty or being smart and way out there. I don't think he tried to run together. I mean, he always tried. This was at public events. He always showed the greatest efforts to handle the other ones. He always showed respect individually to everybody at all of those meetings. There were no events that were controversial. There were times when things were tabled and they got back at it again. Modifications were made. It's the kind of thing that happens in any business.

RVR: We'd like to talk to Mr. Dunne. We hope to.

JW: He's a nice man.

RVR: Yes. Have you seen him lately?

JW: I saw him several months ago on the street.

RVR: Is he well?

JW: He looks terrific. We just talked for a minute on the street. He was with Ray Simon. Do you know Ray Simon?

RVR: No. I know of him.

JW: He worked for Daley about that time, too. He was a young guy and he was a lawyer. He might have been city corporation counsel.

RVR: At this point, we're waiting for people to come to us. We'll hear from them and then probably have to go and ask them to see us. Michael Daley has been interested in this.

JW: I brought you a picture to show how young Daley was (JW hands RVR a black and white photo). That was a Chicago 67 picture.

RVR: Are you in the picture?

JW: (Laughs) You don't recognize the skinny guy with the bald head?

RVR: Is that you?

JW: That's me. The guy on the other side is Lou Lerner. God bless him. He died. He went on to become the Ambassador to Denmark. He died at a very young age.

RVR: What year was this?

JW: That was in 1967. That was a Chicago 67 event.

RVR: Oh there you are.

JW: That's from my wife's album. The guy on the far left is Jack Smith, who I think is the head of ABC News now nationally.

RVR: You mentioned that.

JW: And the guy on the far right is the guy from the A.F.L.-C.I.O. (RVR holds up the photo in front of the video camera). I think he heads up a political group.

FWB: Is there a way that I could take this for five minutes?

JW: Sure.

FWB: I'll bring it back.

JW: Sure.

FWB: I'll make a copy of it (FWB leaves to get the photo scanned).

RVR: You don't mind if we make a copy of it?

JW: No. I don't mind if the other guys don't mind.

RVR: Excuse me for not recognizing you, even with the bald head (laughs). You've been bald for some time. And you went to Notre Dame, you said?

JW: Yes.

RVR: When did you graduate?

JW: It was 1955. Then I went into the Navy for two years, as everybody was doing in those days. Then I came out and went to DePaul.

RVR: So you had a Catholic education, didn't you?

JW: Yes. Well, it was very convenient.

RVR: How so?

JW: Well, I mean, I was working downtown. DePaul is doing pretty well now.

RVR: Yes. And you're helping it?

JW: I hope so. I think I might have a committee over there (RVR laughs). It's not easy. I get enough of the literature. There's always concerns (pointing to the rest of his photos). You're welcome to...

FWB: Can we borrow these for a while?

JW: Yes.

RVR: We can borrow them and return them?

JW: Right.

RVR: Yes. I'm interested. If you think of anything more that you'd like to add...

JW: You know, I don't know if they're still alive. But Daley had two marvelous women working for him in his office, Katie Quinlan and Kay Spears. They might both be around town. I don't know if the Daley boys, well they must have remembered them.

RVR: Oh yes, I would think so. And they talked about getting some help in going through the papers for their actual things here. And you said their names were?

JW: Their names are Kate Quinlan and Kay Spears. And Tom Donovan was one of the mayor's assistants during those latter periods.

RVR: There were a lot of Irish.

JW: Well Donovan is still around in the city. I think he runs a bank on the south side somewhere.

RVR: Well I thank you very much, sir.

JW: Well, it was nice meeting you gentlemen. I loved doing this. I have kind of an interest in Chicago history.

RVR: Good for you.

JW: Yes.

RVR: It's a fascinating subject.

JW: Yes. It is to me.

RVR: It's one of the most extraordinary cities. A lot of it is due to Mayor Daley, having kept it from bankruptcy. He brought a great university to the city.

JW: What's the total student enrollment?

RVR: It's about thirty five thousand.

JW: Is it true that you guys are going to be bigger than the campus down at Urbana (RVR laughs)?

RVR: Moneywise, we're about twenty five thousand students. Because of the medical school and the research college, it's bigger.

JW: A lot of nice things have happened in this state. There's the business community. I'm not talking about myself. I'm talking about Montgomery Ward and people who protected the lakefront. They've been pretty responsible citizens. I think they've generally supported some of the important things in the city, like the museums. Okay gentlemen.

FWB: Thank you.

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