Interview with Philip Klein  
(2/26/80)  
(in Mr. Klein's apartment)  

Let's start at the beginning. How did I meet up with Dick Dilworth?  

(WMP: Yes, how did you?)  

Well, Dick Dilworth was the partner of Harry Kalish. And I was a friend of Harry Kalish way back before the war. Harry Kalish had a house down in Bridgeton, below Bridgeton, New Jersey, and he would invite us to share the house with him over the summer. And we had help and he didn't have help so we would take our help down. And it was a pleasant arrangement and so we became very good friends and he became our lawyer.  

We had known each other from high school days anyway; we went to Central High School together. And so we became good friends. And then I met Dilworth and Bob Green, who I always considered to be the bright one...the genius of the firm. Bob had more genius than anybody else in the firm.  

(WMP: He was a nice fellow.)  

He was a great one. And remember, he was counsel in those days for Moses Annenberg.  

(WMP: Was he?)  

Yes, indeed he was. And remember, he was also city solicitor under...was it Barney...no, it could have been the other mayor that followed....the judge who died when he was mayor.  

(WMP: Lamberton?)  

Lamberton. And he was city solicitor then. So Bob was really a smart one. And then when Dick came back from the war, full of vim and vitality and vigor, they decided to go into politics bright and early. And of course, Dick was the one to do it from the office because he had more charisma than anybody else. Dick was the one.  

So there was a small group of us that banded together in back of Dick. We would meet in his house occasionally, up on Delancey Street. Remember he lived up on Delancey Street, in the 2200 block of Delancey Street?  

(WMP: Yes, that's when I first met him.)
And then he teamed up with Joe Clark. The funny thing about Joe Clark and Dilworth...while they were political allies, they were never friends. And their wives hated each other actually. If there was hatred, their wives hated each other. I remember going to one of the Dilworth weddings and standing behind Noel Clark in the receiving line; they were then living down on Washington Square. I was standing behind Noel in the receiving line and it extended way out into the pavement. And I turned to her a little surprised and I said, "Noel, what are you doing here? You certainly don't like Ann." She said, "Oh no, I'm a cousin of the bridegroom."

But it always amazed me that the four of them would go out campaigning together, and never once...and I asked Dick about this...never once did the four of them ever have dinner together. You know, after a hard night of campaigning, did the four of them ever have dinner. I'll never forget when it was a toss-up who ran for mayor and who ran for DA. And Joe got the nod. I don't think Dick ever forgave him for that. I think Dick was very distressed.

But then there was a small group of us; there was Dave Berger, who was part of the group. There was Harry Kalish. Occasionally Andy Farnesi came in. I don't know whether you talked to him at all.

Well, of course, Dick was a great gossip. The greatest gossip you ever saw! He loved to gossip!!! And he had the two perfect people...he had Cliff and he had Natalie, who were even worse gossips than he was! It was absolutely...the three of them would get together and chop everybody up. And when they came out, nobody had a reputation left.

(WMP: The longest interview we ever had was with Natalie.)

Well, of course. Well, she still is, you know; she won't stop talking. Give her a microphone and she'll never stop talking!

But Dick had unswerving loyalties. Once he loved you, you could do no wrong...even though you were caught with your hand in the cookie jar, you were still right. Even though you were caught!!!

(WMP: And if he didn't like you, you were done for.)

Once he hated you, you were dead. Once he hated you, he would go to any ends.

(WMP: I'm afraid I got into that category.)

What?

(WMP: He didn't like me.)
He didn't like you; you bet he didn't.

(WMP: You know why?)

No.

(WMP: Because I, more than anybody else, was responsible, I think, in getting Joe the nomination for mayor first.)

That's right. You're right...you're perfectly right. He told me that.

(WMP: Did he say that?)

Yes, he did. And he could never get over that.

Well, that's how we got involved. It was a strange sort of friendship. Occasionally he'd call and we'd go up to the Midday Club for lunch. And he'd sit there, and he'd sometime be moody, and then sometimes he'd talk and talk and talk. I often thought that he'd rather be a lawyer than a politician. There were times when he looked forward to being a lawyer. For instance, after he was out of the mayoralty, I had a case in that office he insisted on handling. And he handled it so badly, he lost it and I lost $350,000. And I said, "For goodness sake, don't handle this! You must lose!" And he said, "I'm going to win!!!" And it went to the Supreme Court and of course the Supreme Court was waiting for him and they clobbered him to pieces!!! We won in the lower courts; that was easy. But this time, Barbieri had gone to the Supreme Court and Barbieri was waiting to cut him to pieces and he did!!! Oh, we lost it...we should have won. Anybody else had handled it instead of Dick, we would've won hands down. But he wanted to do that.

The question of his friends around him...he never bothered very much. For instance, I remember once having to have those commission meetings. Every three months he used to get all the commissioners together and he used to have a commission meeting. And sometimes he would have them in various places. And I'll never forget; once we had one on the old "Commonwealth". Remember the "Commonwealth", the ship that we had; the vessel we had on the river that belonged to the city?

(WMP: Sure did. I used it more than anybody else, I think.)

Probably so. For parties?

(WMP: Well, my job was city representative.)

You remember, that was your ship! Okay?

(WMP: Right. Sure.)

So once we had the "Commonwealth" and we got on board and we
went down to the Navy Yard for dinner. We were going down and I said, "Gee, Philadelphia hasn't a marina." And he said, "You're right." And we were going right in front of the airport, old Hog Island, and I said, "There's a place".

And he turned to me and he said, "Why don't you build one?" And I said, "Okay, I will."

And I started...and almost had one built, got the government to give me money...but once he told you to do something, he gave you utter freedom to do it. He said, "Go ahead and do it", and he never bothered you...unless he started to get gossip and rumors that something was happening.

For instance, when Bill Gennetti.....when he ran into that payola scandal...do you remember the famous payola scandal...it was around the summer of '61, when Bill Gennetti, who had taken over the place....He always said that the Department of Public Property should be in the hands of an Italian. The commissioner of public property should always be an Italian.

(WMP: Why?)

Because historically it was an Italian's job!!! Historically this was an Italian's job. And he had that fellow...remember he was a flower dealer...what was his name? He was in the flower business during the.... It was this little fellow he was in the flower business; I forget his name.

And so, he died. So they put in another fellow by the name of Bill Gennetti. Remember Bill Gennetti, a young lawyer, who was also an Italian. Then Bill Gennetti ran the department for a while. And then he got caught, publicly, they had pictures of him, out golfing with a guy who was in a zoning exploit in the city...giving money to people for zoning, giving money to people for a lot of things in the city...a crook!!

And unfortunately for Gennetti, who came from a nice old Italian family in South Philadelphia...there was Gennetti playing golf, and Gennetti agreed that he took some gifts from this guy...like some golf clubs, which he didn't need!!! And so Gennetti...they had a meeting one Sunday. I was down at the sea shore. It was a hell of a thing....it blew up right in Dilworth's face. And Dilworth didn't know what to make of it. So finally, they said to Gennetti, "We got to fire you!" Berger was, by this time...blood and thunder!!! You know how he can get...how excited Dave can get. He got all blood and thunder about the whole thing, and he said, "You've got to fire him!!! You've got to fire him!!!"...started to scream. This story I got later.

So Gennetti says, "I'll resign." And the most terrible thing about it is...Gennetti's mother and father had this little house in South Philadelphia, where they proudly had his "William T. Gennetti, Attorney at Law". And when this thing broke, the
poor father, with tears in his eyes, went out and took the
sign off the front of the building.

Then they called me...I was at the seashore...Berger called
and said, "Got a job for you." And I said, "What job?" And
he said, "You've got to become commissioner of public proper­
ity." I said, "What happened?" And he started telling me and
I said, "Oh, I read about it in the paper." So I said, "Okay,
for three months."

So Dick got on the phone and he said, "What do you mean for
three months?" "That's all", I said, "in three months it will
blow over and we'll get somebody else".

Of course, after the three months, I appointed Corleto. Re­
member Corleto? He was even worse! They had to send him to
the slammer!!!

(WMP: He was a dealer, wasn't he?)

But the one thing that he did is he let you alone. But the
Planning Commission was a great achievement because our Plan­
ing Commission had great names in it. Bill Kelly was there,
Hoppy was there, Mr. Greenfield was there. Mr. Greenfield
really didn't use it for his own predeliction...I don't think.
At least not too much of it.

(WMP: No, I think he did all right.)

I think he wanted to prove that he could be.....

(WMP: A statesman.)

....a statesman. This was his one place where he wanted to be
the great man, and this was his great opportunity.

Remember too, I knew Mr. Greenfield when...if you look back
in the clips, and you've got to go way back to 1928 for this,
it was Mr. Greenfield who was almost responsible for the nomi­
ation of Herbert Hoover for president of the United States.

(WMP: I didn't remember that.)

Nobody goes back that far, but I do because my brother, in
1926, was Mr. Greenfield's private secretary...my brother
Alfred. So I remember all of these things.

Now, Mr. Greenfield was then...remember, he was bankrupt, re­
member...he was everything...but then his banks would close,
Mr. Stotesbury closed his banks...you'll remember those days
in 1930. Mr. Stotesbury closed the Bankers' Trust Company,
as it was known in those days. He must have had ten or twelve
banks, and Mr. Stotesbury turned the key on it, because of
what he did to Mr. McCullough down at his bank at Fourth and
Arch Street. See, these are the things you always remember.

And then Mr. Greenfield came back. Mr. Greenfield, no matter who the mayor was....I remember Lou Wilgard, who was the press agent for S, Davis Wilson. Do you remember Lou Wilgard with the bristly waxed mustache?

(WMP: Yes, I do.)

I remember sitting in an office with S, Davis Wilson and Lou Wilgard and Mr. Greenfield, when Lou Wilgard told Mr. Greenfield...he said, "Greenfield, you're a thief!!"

And Greenfield sat there quietly and didn't twitch a muscle. And he said, "WILGARD, I'll be here long after you are gone!" And he smiled and didn't say what........ and he was! And he was!

But Mr. Greenfield was in good company. But in those days, there was a small clique around this town. There was Mr. John Diamond, there was Mr. Greenfield, there was...what's the fellow who's president of Philadelphia Electric Company?

(WMP: Liversidge?)

Horace Liversidge. Who else was there? There was one other. Albert Nesbitt.

(WMP: There was the president of the Reading Railroad...what was his name?)

Rebel Brown. And this was the clique. And every year, they would each arrange to have the other receive all the awards that were given around in town. They would get the National Conference of Christians and Jews Award, they would get all of the awards...All of the awards...each one would get...of the six or seven awards, each one of them would get two awards a year at two dinners. You just got tired going to those dinners because you knew the same faces all the time.

But this is what happened. But Mr. Greenfield was there. But when Dick came in, the Planning Commission was a different one. There was Murray Isard...

(BF: That's my father-in-law! )

Is it really?

(BF: Yes.)

Murray Isard was a great one on the Planning Commission. We had to have a labor member and there, for a while it was James O'Neill, who later went to the slammer.

(WMP: Oh yes, he did get in trouble, didn't he?)
You bet he did.

(BF: Wasn't Joseph Burke on there too?)

Joe Burke was on there before Jimmy O'Neill. And Joe was great. Joe was absolutely great!!! He was head of the Plumbers' Union before Jimmy. He spoke with a Bostonian accent, because he came from up that way. But he was unswerving and honest.

There was Bill Walker from the First Pennsylvania Company.

(WMP: He died, didn't he?)

No, he's still alive. He lives out on Airdale Road. Bill Kelly died. Bill Walker succeeded. Remember there was Bill Kurtz, Bill Kelly and Bill Walker. And if they kept with Bills, they were all right. Then they got to the other president who just retired...Mr. Bunting.

(WMP: Bunting, yes; we interviewed him.)

Well, of course, Perkins, Steve Perkins who chaired it, was an unusual sort of a fellow, because he didn't always agree...everybody thought he always agreed with Ed Bacon, but he didn't really. Because Greenfield disappeared mid-way in the campaign administration.

(BF: What do you mean, he disappeared?)

He just got off the board. He retired and left. He was forceful before...during the Clark administration was when he exercised his force. The Dilworth administration, toward the end, it was a different ballgame...it was a completely different ballgame, because it was a tougher one. Rafsky used to come, representing...he represented...what department did he have?

(WMP: He was a co-ordinator.)

He was a co-ordinator. He didn't have a vote. And they never used to let him sit at the table.

(WMP: They didn't let him in at the table?)

No, until finally, one day, I asked permission. And Perkins looked down at me...Perkins would sit at one end of the table and I would sit at the other end, because Perkins always felt as if I was the administration man, which I really wasn't. Because three members of the administration attended...the legal department, which were the other departments....three departments attended and had representatives on the Planning Commission, and there were six non-city members. It was a Planning Commission of nine.

And the fighting was hard. For instance, the decisions about
I - 95. If we had listened to Bacon...and we just suddenly discovered...Bacon wanted to put it up on a 14 foot sandpile...all the way down. What he wanted to do was horrendous!!!

Or when Holmes Perkins went down into the old city, long before the boom started, and bought himself 10 or 15 houses down there for 6, 8, 10 hundred, 12 hundred dollars. He owned houses down there before anybody knew what was happening down there, because he knew what was going to happen down there.

(WMP: What was his job?)

He was chairman of the Planning Commission. That's right!!! He knew what was happening down there!!!

These were the days when the city was really run...every commissioner had his job to do, and Dilworth never bothered them. One of the things Dilworth wanted to do, he wanted to get the Municipal Services Building started, before he announced himself for governor. Vincent Kling, you'll remember, was the architect. I was at that time commissioner of public property for these three or four months; I only stayed about four months. He called me in one day and he said, "Can't you do something about it? Kling has been trying to get this thing off the ground and everybody's..." I said, "Give me two weeks." So I got Kling and I said, "Have your plans ready?"

He said, "Yes, but I can't get them approved by Licenses and Inspections". I forget who Licenses and Inspections was,.....oh yes, the little fellow with a beard...Morton...Morton...

I went to him and I said, "The mayor sent me here and we want this thing cleared in two days." "It can't be done". I said, "Well, if it can't be done three days from now, you can't have this job!!"

He said, "You don't mean it!", and I said, "Don't I?"

I went to the phone, dialed the mayor, and I said, "Dick, I'm in Morty Whateverhisnameis's office, and I said I want this thing cleared in two days, and he said he can't do it."

And he said, "Let me talk to him." And I said, "Before you do, I told him if he can't do it in two days, in three days he's going to be fired." And I said, "Here, listen to it from your boss!" And he said, "He's right!!!"

And so, before Dick retired to run for governor, we had the whole thing cleared away and Dick turned over the whole thing.

Now, you ask about Greenfield and governor. You remember the first time when Dilworth was supposed to run for governor. That was when.... when Lawrence ran for governor. That was
'54, I think. Could that be '54? Because Dave Lawrence out in Pittsburgh...he was governor for two terms, wasn't he?

(WMP: I think he must have been.)

Okay. So that must have been in '52 or '54. I don't know. At any rate...

(BF: I thought Dilworth ran for governor before Clark was mayor.)

No, he did not run; he wanted to run. This is the story I wanted to tell you, about the time Lawrence ran...the first time. This is after Leader.

(BF: That would have been in the '50s.)

That would have been in the '50s...because I was at the college then, so it must have been in the '50s. I remember I had lunch with Dick that day, and we talked about Dick running for governor and he said everything is all cleared. And I was to be treasurer of the campaign, as I was treasurer of the campaign when he ran for governor. Everything was all clear. I went to the college late that afternoon and at 5 o'clock I got a call from Dick Dilworth. He said, "I just left Mr. Greenfield, and he pointed out that I can't win, and I've decided not to run for governor." And it was because of Mr. Greenfield ... and he could have won, because Lawrence won.

(BF: Why did Greenfield think he couldn't win?)

Because he didn't want him as governor. That's a story that hasn't been told before. They were both friends and they were both enemies...Greenfield and Dilworth. He never gave him that much money...he never really gave him that much money. I mean for campaigning. You would have thought that he would have given him much more, but he never did.

(BF: We interviewed Richardson Dilworth junior, and he was saying that he felt his father really maybe, subconsciously, didn't really want to be governor because he kept messing up his campaigns when he ran. And he said that the last time he ran for governor, he knew...young Dick knew that he didn't really want it. Did you have that feeling too?)

Well, I told him not to run. I told him not to retire as mayor. I told him he was making the greatest mistake of his life...not to run. And I was the treasurer of the campaign. And I handled all the money...nobody could tell stories that I won't tell....more than I can tell. Remember, the treasurer of the state in those days was the distinguished former ambassador...late ambassador...to Ireland, Matt McCloskey. And the machinations I had with Matt are unbelievable...in the handling of money, because Matt was most skillful at that.
When did he die?)
I don't know when Matt died.

(BF: What were you going to say about when he did resign from mayor to run for governor. What were his considerations?)

He worked hard at it...he worked very hard at it. And he had a working staff when he ran for governor.

(BF: This was in '62?)

'62. Let me read off some of the names. Milton Shapp, Otis Moore...remember he used to chair the state committee, Dick, myself, Sidney Dexter, Pete Licouras, who's now running for United States senator...(identifying people in a photograph)...she's now the tipstaff...she was a secretary...that's Jerry Lawrence, the governor's son...that was a secretary they stole, there's Natalie, there's Cliff, there's another secretary, there's Dilworth's old secretary and that's her husband, there's Klenk, there's Jean McSomebody...she's also got a job. And this was the campaign group. That's Sidney Dexter; he was head of the Civil Service Commission.

(WMP: He was a nice guy.)

Well, he was a practical politician, too. He took everything that came.

(BF: Do you think Dilworth really wanted to be governor?)

Do I think so? Yes, he wanted to be governor. He wanted to prove that this was going to be...you know, the last hurrah. This was going to be the last hurrah. But he could never make it.

(BF: Why do you think he couldn't make it?)

There were too many people against him.

(WMP: Why were so many people against him?)

He had too big a mouth!

(WMP: I guess that's it.)

Well, for instance, the Italians. Remember he called one of them a greaser. There was an Italian magistrate who was supposed to go to jail. He called him a greaser. Lost the Italian vote....like that! Then he went down town and he said, "I've got a great idea. Sell stickers and let people park on the street." That didn't go over. Then he was out in Pittsburgh and he made a great speech. And it was a great speech; he said we ought to recognize China. That was a great mistake
in those days. Recognize China!!!

(BF: And that had nothing to do with running for governor.)

Nothing to do with running for governor!!! But he had a big mouth! And that settled that! Ann would turn up occasionally, but Ann was....well, she came from a very rich family, as you well remember. She came from a very rich family.

(WMP: Somewhere in the middle west, she came from.)

Yes, I forget the name of it now, because this happened so long ago, and my memory's failing. And after all, they spent damn near...in those days...damn near a quarter of a million dollars for that house down on Sixth street.

(WMP: Yes, a beautiful house.)

Beautiful.

(BF: It was that much when they bought it?)

No, it wasn't that much...they built it! The things she wanted...absolutely useless!!!

(WMP: It's still standing, is it?)

Oh, it's still standing; it's now the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Dental Association. They just bought it. It's outrageous what they spent on that place.

But for instance, you ask about civil defense. I was not supposed to be the civil defense director. Dick said, "I want you to take a job." I said, "Look, I don't need the job; let me alone." He said, "No, you've got to take a job of some kind." So I said, "All right." She said what do you want to be?" And I said, "Well, I'd like Walter Phillips' job."...which is fine. I said, "I'm well equipped for it; I was in the advertising business and public relations business all my life. I've now retired, I have enough money; I can afford to do it."

So he said, "That's fine. I'm glad you'll do it." I said, "I really don't want to do it, but...okay." But he said, "You've got to promise to do something." So I said, "I promise I'll do something, but this is what...if you'll ask me what to do." He said, "Fine."

So, one Sunday afternoon, about a week before announcements were being made, I got a call. He said, "I'm ashamed of myself." I said, "Again?" He said, "Freddy Mann just left." I said, "Yes, I know; he wants to be city representative." He said, "How did you know?" I said, "Well, if you're ashamed of yourself and you mention Freddy Mann, you don't have to tell me anymore. I wasn't born yesterday." "Well", he said, "Freddy is, you know, such a good salesman, and you didn't
push too hard, and you really don't care... et cetera... and Freddy and Sylvia cried... and they put on..." he said, "I never saw such an act between the two of them." And I said, "Well, if he's having so much fun...." He said, "You've got to do something." And I said, "Well find some little job... innocuous job."

So the next thing I know, one day I read the paper..."Philip Klein has been made.... is now the Civil Defense director!!!" You know, I'm the least war-like person in the whole city!! So...I became Civil Defense director.

Well, I started, and it was held by Bert Hartenstein. You remember Bert... who loved the job. Bert always held a city job... after he left the university, he always held a city job of some kind or another. So they found another. He held it under Joe Clark; he held it under Samuel... he held it under everybody... this was his way of life. $12,000 a year; that was the price... 12,000... 12,000... 12,000... never wanted more... this was it. So, finally they found him another job. And they said, Well, you've got to take this and re-organize this whole thing because it's coming into importance. You've got some friends in Washington." I said, "Okay."

So I became Civil Defense director; I also kept my job at Harcum. You know, no bother... and I re-organized the job, which didn't take too much because Bert was never around. Bert was out at the university... his interest was greater out at the University of Pennsylvania...

(WMP: And then he died pretty soon.)

Oh, he stayed alive for about eight years. But we re-organized it and I got a lot of things going. And pretty soon the government gave me a couple of million dollars to make a survey. The government became greatly interested because I had a number of friends down there, and the next thing I knew I was elected president of the United States Civil Defense Council which is head of the whole group. And then the government sent me to Europe a couple of times to represent them at these international civil defense meetings. I was going great guns!!! You know, all of the sudden, for a guy that really didn't care... except I made it understood, when Dick ran for governor, I said, "I know you're going to run for governor",...this was in '62..."and I know you're not going to win. But if you do win, I want a job! I want it understood; I'll be treasurer... I'll do all this work. But I want a job this time and there's no scaping out of it like you did before." He said, "What job do you want?" And I said, "I want a certain job and I want you to promise it to me, or else, I quit right now. Do you promise it to me?" He sat back and said, "I don't trust you." And I said, "Well, I wouldn't trust me either, under the circumstances. But either you promise me this job without me naming it, or else I quit now." And he said, "Well, I need you." And I said, "You bet you do."
So he said, "All right, what's the job? You can have it, but what's the job?" And I said, "Adjutant general!" He said, "You????? Adjutant general????? I'll be run out of the state!!!!" I said, "But you'll be governor for at least four years." He said, "A Jewish adjutant general that's never been in the Army?????" I said, "Don't worry, you'll never be elected!"

(BF: Were you serious?)

I was very serious! I was very serious, because by that time I was amusing with Milton Baker, and I said, "Wait, Milton, some day I'm going to be a general!" And Milton said, "You a general??"

Well that was how the Civil Defense... But we spent a lot of money in Civil Defense. The government poured a lot of money into it.

(WMP: Baker was sort of an armchair general.)

Well, he ran Valley Forge. And he and General Eisenhower were very close. Eisenhower's children called him Uncle Miltie. You know, he was very close. And he was close to all the installation....the whole Army installation.

(WMP: He was a very nice man, actually.)

He was nice. I'll never forget; I tell a great story. Actually, Saturday night we were out with George Leader. And I was reminded of the story...George had as his adjutant general Tony Biddle...you remember Tony Biddle?

(WMP: Oh sure.)

...who we used to call Mr. Medals. When Tony turned up, he had grapefruit from here to here. You know, I used to say from his chin to his navel! So one day...by that time, Milton was a major general. So one day, Tony, who was adjutant general, goes in to see George, and said, "George, would you sign some papers for me?" And George said, "I'm very busy." And he said, "Well then just sign them...I'll just hand them to you...." And George kept signing papers, signing papers, signing papers....he said, "I must have signed forty papers for him."

"A week later," he said, "I get a call from somebody...he said, 'George, you've got rocks in your head! Baker, an ardent Republican...he hates the ground you walk on...he'll do anything to defeat you! You know what you just did? You just made him a lieutenant general!!'" He says, "I what?? You just made him a lieutenant general!!" He says, "I did not!!! He says, 'You certainly did!!!' Get Tony Biddle!!"

So Tony comes in...he says, "Tony, what did you do to me?
"'Ah,' he said, 'George, it doesn't mean anything!'" And that's how Milton became a lieutenant general. And I see George quite often...in fact, we spent ten days down in Florida in his house.

(BF: We interviewed him, too.)

Who?

(BF: George Leader.)

Oh yes, he's great! Well, of course, some of the changes that came over the city...oh gosh...what changes came over the city? Well, the old city...everybody says the old city is great...everybody talks about the new restaurants. Everybody talks about the new restaurants as one of the greatest changes happening in the city. But they come and they go. You know, when a new one opens, an old one closes. And they're practically the same restaurants...with a new name! And they're changing...they're opening and closing like mad. What worries me in the center of the city is, we're losing a number of apartments in the center of the city...not gaining them, but losing them...and people are moving out of the center of the city, not moving back.

(WMP: Well, in some parts they're going back.)

The old city? Well, there're not that many new houses down there...you know, who can afford $200,000 or $250,000 for a house...except you?

(WMP: I haven't got one! My sister has one but I don't.)

But new apartment houses...now they're making condominium out of them. The hotels...look at what Gus Amsterdam did to our hotels. The Ritz...the Greenfield hotels; Greenfield owned the Ritz, the Sylvania, the Adelphia, the Vendick, the Bellevue, the Saint James, and the Benjamin Franklin...seven hotels. Of them all...well the Fairmont has been reopened but he doesn't have that anymore. Of them all, the only one left in the banner is the Benjamin Franklin hotel and you can buy it today at a very cheap price. And if I were younger, and more entrepreneurially indicated, I would buy it and make it into housing for the elderly. It's losing money every year. Everybody talks about the new hotels going up...well, we need them. We've closed so many; we've closed seven...not seven, but we've closed five of the seven. The Fairmont's open, but...Benjamin Franklin's.....

(BF: Why did they close.)

Why? Because Philadelphia isn't a hotel town and never has been...never will be. Look at the Sheraton. I'll bet the Sheraton doesn't run 50% a night. The Latham does, but that's
damned cheap. You can always get rooms at the Barclay and that's supposed to be pretty posh, but you could always get rooms at the Barclay.

Last night you couldn't get a room in all New York...you could not get a room in all New York!!!(WMP: Why? What was going on?)

Well, they've got the boat show over there now; that's one reason...but not a room!!

(WMP: You keep an eye on everything, don't you, Phil?)

Well, you say what are some of the other changes? Other changes are, a lot of our middle class are moving out of the city.

(WMP: That's been going on for a long time.)

But it's continuing. Now, will this auto crunch and the high price of gas stop that? It could be...because gas is going, certainly, without a doubt, it's going up to $2 a gallon. No doubt about it in my mind. And when that happens, you're not going to be able to go to Bucks County and spend $4 a day driving back and forth. Or even if you're using the train, the trains are going to cost you almost that, for transportation. And if you're up there, your wife is going to be stranded if she doesn't have a car. These two-car families are going to disappear...because the guy who's even making $20,000 a year, he can't afford it...even if he makes $20,000 a year. What's a guy going to do who has to drive to work every day? A guy who makes $15,000 a year...a carpenter, a bricklayer? He's got a couple of kids...price is going up at Catholic high schools...the diocesan schools. I presume you've been to the markets lately and you know what's going on there.

Well, the movers and the shakers of Society Hill...who were they? Well, Heller did a great deal down there; nobody seems to know about him. He made some money; he lost some money. McCloskey started...he went broke...McCloskey went bankrupt!! Can you imagine...the great House of McCloskey???

(WMP: He didn't go bankrupt, did he?)

I think he went into chapter eleven, yes. The new names like Keating. You never heard of Keating ten years ago. Now Keating is the biggest one in the city.

(WMP: He was in plumbing.)

That's right. Now he's the biggest constructor in the city...building palaces in Saudi Arabia...$80,000,000 palaces in Saudi Arabia! They come to Dan Keating! Imagine that!!
He gets his money; it's deposited before he moves. But who were the movers and shakers down there? They come and go. There's a new one every day...a new guy. What's the name of that architect...Van...Van...Van Something-or-other...they were down at 2nd and...right across from the Head House, on the west side of the street...Van Arkel...they were supposed to build a hotel down there, right around 2nd and Lombard...a fifty room hotel and restaurant. Never built. Everybody was supposed to do that. They built that beautiful place down there...that new place that's just been reopened again. They built it; it was a failure. Now they've rebuilt it and they think they're going to put new life in it.

(BF: What kind of a place?)

You know, right across from the Head House. What do they call that?

(BF: Newmarket.)

Newmarket. You know, first it was a flop. Now they're going to try to revive it. But can they? I don't know. Everybody runs around as if they've just discovered the Italian market. I've been buying at the Italian market for fifty years!

(BF: I hope nobody changes that.)

Nobody'll change it; it's still dirty...and fortunately, we're keeping it that way. And that's the way it ought to be kept.

But the names...new names that you never heard of. Sure, you've got fellows like Bronstein who tried to sneak in. But Bronstein's a crook...he should have been sent to jail. He only missed being sent to jail by this far. They sent Tom...Tom...used to be head of the FHA here,...to jail, because he took money from Bronstein. He went in the slammer for three years. He's one of the guys who built down there...built a lot of houses down there.

(BF: Did you have any connection with the Tate administration?)

As soon as Jimmy Tate got in, he fired me...from the Planning Commission. Now I sit next to Jimmy Tate at the meetings every month at WHYY. I'm one of the few people who still call him "Jimmy". I guess there may be four, five or six of us. I speak to him every once in a while down in Atlantic City. His mother-in-law just died. She was buried yesterday. So I couldn't go to the funeral. We're very friendly now. And I'll wait at the meetings of WHYY...there'll be twenty, twenty-five people sitting around and he'll be sitting next to me, and everything will be quiet...nobody saying anything...then I'll turn to Jimmy and I'll say, "Jimmy, why were you such a
miserable son-of-a-bitch and fired me from the Planning Commission?" Then that dull silence...and everybody says "Er, uh...uh", you know? Nobody wants to say anything. And he laughs and I laugh! We start our business again...that always breaks it up!!

But he, like most mayors, he was not exactly the self-effacing fellow; he was determined...a determined Irishman. He was going to do it his way...nobody was going to tell him what to do. He got this kind of spirit when he was presiding officer of City Council. He was really the presiding officer and he presided with a firmness...with a great firmness. But now he's realized that his day is done. The last hurrah! He's through. He's moved away from the city; he doesn't even vote here anymore.

(WMP: Has he moved out of the city?)

Moved to Atlantic City and he's treasurer of the Democratic Party of Ventnor!

(WMP: Is that right? That's interesting.)

He wants no part of Philadelphia. He comes up a couple of times a week.

(BF: He doesn't keep his apartment here anymore?)

No more. He wants no part of Philadelphia.

(BF: How's his health?)

He's bouncing back fine! Comes up a couple of times a week...plays golf a couple of times a week. His wife and he are doing fine.

The cultural life of the city is booming, except everybody's running out of money. The Drama Guild's in trouble...whether they operate next year, nobody knows. The Pennsylvania Ballet...they always are in trouble, but they always manage to get enough money to open the city.

(WMP: How about the Haas Fund?)

The Haas Community Fund spends a lot of money; they give away a lot of money. But I'll tell you who's doing even better; The Glenmede Trust...the Sun Oil. They have $40,000,000 a year to give. And they're giving it to so many cultural activities it's astounding!!! It's like a great breath of sunshine like you've never realized!! They're giving not small amounts...$30,000, $50,000, $150,000, $250,000.

(WMP: That's really Sun Oil?)

That's the Sun Oil; the Glenmede Trust. They have to give
away $40,000,000 a year. And they're trying to devote all of the money to this area. To this area!!

(WMP: When you say area, what area do you mean?)

This particular area...Philadelphia...you know they're very generous in this city. They give much more than the William Penn Foundation which is the Haas group.

But no matter how much you have, it's never enough...never enough...because everybody's having a campaign for funds. But it's coming along lickety-split. They're able to exist.

The Philadelphia Orchestra...every time they give a concert, they lose $12,000...every time they give a concert.

(WMP: Who makes up the deficits?)

Well they have an endowment fund; they raise money all the time and they cover the losses. They have enough at the end of the year to cover their losses.

(WMP: You're an active member there, I guess.)

I'm a member of the board, yes.

(BF: You're a member of about how many boards?)

Too many! Too many.

(BF: What have been your civic activities that have been the most important ones to you?)

It's hard to say. It's hard to say because I've never said this is more important than this. Right now I'm spending a great deal of time with the Pennsylvania Historical Society, trying to revitalize that. Harold Saylor is the president; Harold's pretty sick.

(WMP: I was going to say he's not young anymore.)

He's not young; he's eighty-four. We need a new president. Now I've been spending my time calling...we're getting ready for a $4,000,000 campaign. Well, $4,000,000 is a lot of money for an organization that's never had a campaign before, and it's an old fluddy dduddy 135-year old organization that's never had a campaign before. How do you do it? I don't know. But we'll do it.

Then there's the orchestra. They're having a $4,000,000 campaign this year. There's everybody having a campaign, and you say, ...well, you split yourself up.

For instance, right now, I go out to Harcum. There's a girl out at Harcum...one of the students...who would like to talk to me about the old buildings at Harcum...either torn down...
or reconverted over a period since 1952. She wants to do
the history of these old buildings. And I said, "Well that's
a nice thing to do because somebody ought to do this history
now, before it's too late." See what's important?

There're so many things happening.

The Walnut Street Theater. I rebuilt that. I did it...you
know, almost myself. Sure, the William Penn Foundation gave
me $4,000,000 or $5,000,000, but I did it.

The International House. I did that. But it takes two years,
two and a half years. And when you go back and say what was
the most important thing you did...you say, "My golly! Where
did I ever get the time to do this?!!"

And I can go right down the list. I'm very active with the
United Seamen's Service. We operate clubs for seamen all over
the world.

(WMP: What's your base really...the most important part of
your basis?)

This is it! I really don't say I do one thing particularly.
I just gave a recitation of how my day is spent. WHYY...I'm
head of the building committee. We've taken that building
down there, and I spend...maybe...over the period of a week
I'll spend six or seven hours down at the building at 6th and
Race street.

(BF: The Living History Building?)

Living History Building.

(BF: How's that building working out for you?)

Well, we've just started our building. But every time we do
something, there's another problem.

(WMP: But you think it's got good prospects?)

Oh, it's got great prospects! But there's another catch.
Every year...when I became treasurer in 1952, we had a budget
of $220,000. Next year our budget will be $7,000,000. Now
we have to raise $7,000,000!!!

(WMP: How do you do it?)

I'll be damned if I know...but we do it every year! And I'm
treasurer...I'm still the treasurer, after all these years.

Where is the base? I have no base.