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ARIZONA BAR FOUNDATION

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

INTERVIEW WITH
RAÚL H. CASTRO

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INTERVIEWER

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ARIZONA BAR FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: ARIZONA LEGAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL NOTE

Although Arizona was frequently referred to as "the Baby State," due to its twentieth-century entry into the Union, the history of the legal profession in the state is rich and colorful. In the earlier days, lawyers were mostly self-educated men, who practiced alone, or with one partner at the most, and spent much of their professional time alternately defending and prosecuting some of the most colorful characters of the Old West, and trying to collect on bills from people who had come West to escape their creditors.

Through the first half of this century, some of the nation's finest lawyers took up practice in Arizona. As the state's population grew, a law school was added to the University of Arizona and lawyers formed an integrated state bar in 1933. After World War II, the state exploded in development with the rest of the Sun Belt, and the law profession kept up with this growth, experiencing many changes in the process.

Today, there are law firms in Phoenix and Tucson which employ upwards of 100 attorneys, who may specialize in fairly narrow areas of practice. Half of the students in the state's two law schools are now women. Over the years, Arizona's influence on legal matters at the national level has been significant. Several landmark cases have originated in Arizona, such as In Re: Gault, and Miranda. Arizona can claim the first woman to sit on a state Supreme Court: Lorna Lockwood. Two members of the State Bar now sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, one as the Chief Justice and the other as the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

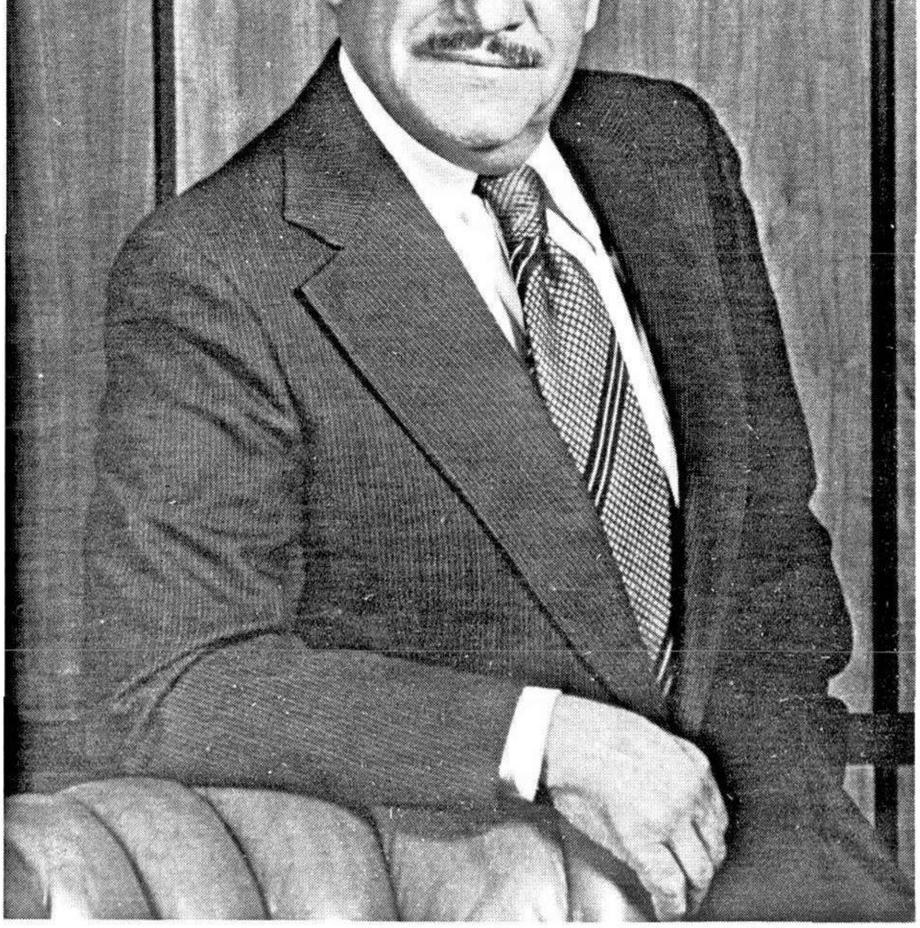
However, because Arizona is a young state, there are still attorneys living who knew and remember Arizona's earliest legal practitioners during Territorial days. Many of these senior members of the Bar practiced or sat on the bench before the profession, and indeed society itself, experienced the changes of the last forty years. In an effort to preserve their memories, the Archives Department of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson developed the **Evo DeConcini Legal History Project**, an oral history project. From 1986-1988, twenty-one oral history interviews were conducted, focusing on the reminiscences of lawyers and judges in the Southern Arizona area.

In 1987, the Board of Directors of the Arizona Bar Foundation expressed an interest in continuing to document the history of the legal profession in Arizona on a state-wide basis. In particular, the Board felt that the collection of oral history interviews with senior members of the State Bar would stimulate scholarship and publication on various topics relating to legal history, such as water rights, land use and development, and civil rights, as well as on the history of individual firms and the State Bar, itself. The Bar Foundation and the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson agreed to work together to expand the DeConcini Project statewide, calling it the **Arizona Bar Foundation Oral History Project: Arizona Legal History.**

Raising funds for two interviews initially, the Bar Foundation designated that the first two recipients of the Walter E. Craig Distinguished Service Award, Mark Wilmer of Snell and Wilmer (1987), and Philip E. Von Ammon of Fennemore Craig (1988) be interviewed in October, 1988. Both interviews were conducted by James F. McNulty, Jr., who conducted most of the interviews for the DeConcini Project.

Because it is open-ended, it is not possible to fully define the scope and content of the Arizona Bar Foundation Legal History Project. However, in order to achieve the greatest depth and balance, and to insure that many viewpoints are represented, every effort is made to include both rural and urban practitioners, male and female, of varying racial and ethnic perspectives. Interviews are conducted as funds are made available. Transcripts of the interviews are available to researchers at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, the libraries of the Colleges of Law at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University, and at the Bar Center, in Phoenix. The Historical Society is also cooperating with the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society in making copies of interviews with Arizona lawyers and judges from their project available to researchers here in Arizona.

The Arizona Bar Foundation Legal History Project is important not only because it is documenting the history of the profession in Arizona but because legal history encompasses every aspect of society's development. To study legal history means to study land development, environmental issues, social and educational issues, political history, civil rights, economic history--in short, the history of our society. All of these topics are, and will continue to be developed in these oral history interviews. They may be seen as a valuable and unique supplement to the written record as scholars begin to write the history of the legal profession in Arizona.



Raúl H. Castro

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Introductory Note

Raúl Hector Castro was born the twelfth of fourteen children on June 12, 1916, in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. In 1926 the Castro family crossed the border into the United States and moved to the Pirtleville, Arizona to escape political persecution. After graduating from Douglas High School in 1935, Raúl Castro enrolled in the Arizona State College in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he received his B.A. in 1939, the same year he became a naturalized citizen.

After speding a few years traversing the country as a professional boxer, Mr. Castro went to work for the United States State Department in Agua Prieta, Mexico, beginning in 1941. After five years, Castro enrolled at the University of Arizona College of Law in 1946. By 1949 Mr. Castro had received his LL.B., passed the bar examination and opened a law office in Tucson with David K. Wolfe.

In 1951, he was appointed to the Pima County Attorney's Office and served under Robert Morrison and Morris Udall, becoming county attorney himself after running for the office in 1954. Mr. Castro was elected Pima County Superior Court Judge in 1958 and served until he was appointed, in 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson to be ambassador to El Salvador. He returned to Arizona and ran for governor in 1970.

In 1974, Mr. Castro defeated Russ Williams by five thousand votes and became the first hispanic governor of Arizona. Three-quarters of the way through his term, he was asked by President James E. Carter to serve as ambassador to Argentina and held that post from 1977 through 1980. He has since returned to private practice in Phoenix in the law firm Castro, Zipf and Marable.

Mr. Ernest Calderón, of the firm Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, conducted the interview with Mr. Castro on June 7 and July 10, 1991.

The original interview tapes and transcript are stored at the Arizona Historical Society Archives in Tucson, Arizona. Copies of the interview transcript are also sent to the University of Arizona College of Law and Arizona State University College of Law, the Arizona Bar Center in Phoenix, and the Ninth Judicial Historical Society.

Raúl H. Castro Interview

Calderón: Today is Friday morning, June 7. I am Ernest Calderón. I am a lawyer in Phoenix who has the honor of helping the Arizona Bar Foundation and the Arizona Historical Society interview you about your career in Arizona, your career everywhere in the world, to reflect your foreign service as well. The Arizona Historical Society and the Bar Foundation have put together a series of interviews of prominent Arizonans and we are very honored to have you as another person in this series.

It's my understanding you were born in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico.

Castro: That's correct.

Calderón: Can you tell me a little bit about your parents?

Castro: Well, my parents, my father was a deep-sea diver in San José del Cabo, Baja California. He never went to school. Then he met my mother in Santa Rosalía, Baja California. They got married. My mother had a third grade education, so my mother taught my father how to read and write, if that's possible from a third grade education, but she did.

Then my father moved in to Cananea, Sonora, and became rather active with the *sindicato*, the labor unions, miners' union in Cananea. He became very politically active, got involved in politics, et cetera. So to make a long story short, he was on the wrong side of the team with the miners' union and was sent to the penitentiary in Hermosillo. It was from there that he was a political refugee. That meant he was allowed to come into the United States as a political refugee. His crime was political, a political deal.

So here comes Papa with about fourteen kids. Well, two were born in this country. My only sister was born in Fairbanks, Arizona prior to the whole family moving to the United States. One brother was born in Pirtleville, Arizona. There were thirteen of us then. We came through Naco and from there we went to Douglas [Arizona]. So that's the story of it.

My father was a huge man. He was about six-two, six-three. For those days it was big. He weighed about two-hundred-and-fifty pounds, but it was not fat, it was all muscle. He was a very muscular man, husky-built man, really. As I say, he was very politically motivated; he loved politics.

Calderón: Do you believe that's where you developed your interest in politics?

Castro: Yes, because he used to, after work he would make me sit down at a chair next to his and he would proceed to read *La Prensa* or *La Opinión*, which in those days were Mexican newspapers and published in this country. He would read the editorial page in Spanish about the activities of labor unions in Mexico and all the political activities. I was bored to death. I was a youngster and I wanted to go out and play or do what normal kids do, but he wouldn't let me. He would just read out loud and wanted me to absorb all this information. So that's, I think, where my first exposure to political life was through my father.

Calderón: What was his name?

Castro: Francisco Domínguez Castro.

Calderón: And what was your mother's name?

Castro: Rosario Acosta.

Calderón: Did they plant this seed of politics in you so you would become a lawyer?

Castro: No, they didn't. My father died when I was rather young. I was about, oh, maybe twelve, thirteen years of age. Father died in Douglas, Arizona, and left mother with fourteen children. Only two of the group were American citizens, the rest were foreign born. Of course we had to learn English from scratch. So my mother was a midwife. How does a mother with fourteen kids take care of the children? We weren't eligible for any welfare relief and we couldn't get any welfare relief because we weren't American citizens.

So Mother was able to provide for the family by delivering Mexican kids. About every Mexican-American youngster in Douglas and Pirtleville were brought to this world by my mother. Now and then I'd help her out, she'd ask me to go help her with the deliveries. So you see, it's been a broad experience even in that sense.

Calderón: What place in the birth order do you fall into?

Castro: I was about the second, third youngest in the order. So most of my other brothers would be about in the eighties to nineties years of age now. There are only two of us left, a brother in Douglas and myself.

Calderón: What's your brother's name?

Castro: Ignacio. He was quite active in the labor movement in Cochise County. He was president of the Miner's Union in Douglas.

Calderón: I recently saw a Public Television show called "Los Mineros," and I think they interviewed him in that.

Castro: They interviewed him. In fact, they interviewed me before and I said, "No, you go see my brother in Douglas." Yes, that's my brother, Nacho.

Calderón: What was it like growing up in a large family with limited income in Douglas, Arizona?

Castro: Well, very exciting. In fact we didn't even live in Douglas, we lived in Pirtleville. Pirtleville's a town five miles out of Douglas, comprised of ninety-eight percent Mexican families. All of them working in the mines or smelters and that type of thing.

Border communities were a difficult life. It was difficult in those days, of course. But one can survive and make it.

Calderón: What did you do for fun in Pirtleville?

Castro: Well, I think number one, don't forget I was rather active in sports. I was very active in sports all the way around, so most of it, I think, would be to get involved with the activities. So that, to me, was the main thing, to get involved in athletics and see what I could do on it.

Calderón: What was the school system like in Douglas?

Castro: Well, the school system in Douglas is a very typical school system in the sense that in a border community you don't, you know, you just don't go anywhere, really. I think you'll find that the border communities are extremely difficult. It's hard to describe them. You have, you're really pegged out as something else and it's just impossible to be able to survive.

For instance I went to high school in Douglas and when I graduated from Douglas High School I remember being lined up and kids giving their names for their diplomas. Every Anglo kid had a middle name and I was embarrassed. I felt, well, gosh I can't be different. I must have a middle name too. So on the spur of the moment when the principal asked me, "What name do you want on your diploma?" I said, "Raúl Hector Castro." My name is not Hector, I was just giving the name of a guy who was a basketball center, he was sort of my model, my idol. So at the spur of the moment I said, "My middle name is Hector." It wasn't. So I've been doomed with that middle name of Hector all my life. Because then I became an American citizen, I became naturalized, and the naturalization certificate had to match my high school diploma, so I took the name Hector. All the way through it has been Hector since then. What a horrible name. I could have done better than that, I think.

Calderón: It could have been Ernest, so consider yourself to be in the hand of . . .

Castro:	I have a brother Ernesto. He's the one that died recently in Sedona. He's a younger brother than I am. He was a high school teacher in Flagstaff, taught there for years.
Calderón:	I read an article in preparation for the interview talking about some of the discrimination you faced growing up in Douglas. Can you recount any of that for us?
Castro:	Well, yes. Border communities are very difficult, you know. For instance, living in Pirtleville, Arizona, which is five miles away from Douglas, they had a few Yugoslavian families and a few Anglo ranching families near Pirtleville. A school bus would pick them up and take them to school. The same school bus would pass me on the way, I had to walk from Pirtleville to Douglas, and the Mexican kids would not be picked up by the bus. We walked while the other kids got a ride on the bus to school. Nowadays that's unheard of, but in those days, that's the way it worked.
Calderón:	Was it solely because of your ethnicity?
Castro:	Strictly. And then in those days, of course, schools were segregated. I had to attend a school comprised of only Mexican children, not a mixed group. So when I walked from Pirtleville to Douglas I went to the school, the Fifteenth Street School in Douglas that was strictly Mexican youngsters. Anglo children had their own schools. Then of course when you got into the upper echelon, say grammar school, then they had the classes divided. For instance, sixth grade would be Six-A one, two, three and four, and automatically all the Mexican youngsters went into the fourth division. One means the top students, two the better students, three the average, and four was the poor students, called special education students these days. But there was no reason for that except as long as we were Mexican-American that's where you went, to the bottom class. So I had to work my way up from the fourth division to the one. It took a few years, but I finally made it. And that's the type of thing that occurred in those days. Then on the playground we had a game called Race-Against-Race. Before you went to class you lined up with the Anglo students on one side and the Mexican kids on the other side for football. Anything went. We'd put rocks in our fists and we'd sock and hit and kick and bite and chew, anything went. By the time we went to class we were all bloody and dirty and sweaty and what have you, and the schools tolerated it. There wasn't any effort made to try to intermingle or assimilate the two races. It was just the opposite. So it was strictly a division.
Calderón:	Did you perceive this division, this unfairness when you were growing up or did you . . .
Castro:	Oh, naturally. When I graduated from high school the principal wanted to talk to me and he gave me a letter that I still have somewhere if I can find it in my files and it said, "This is to certify and recommend Raúl H. Castro highly. He is a very good student, he is bi-lingual, down the line, et cetera. We recommend him

for some type of a job." The same principal told me I should not go to university. He said, "You don't go to a university because frankly you're wasting your money and your time. Nobody will hire you, as you well know, on the border. We don't hire Mexican kids and it's impossible to place you. So why go to the higher education if it's not going to be able to be of service to you?"

So then he sent me to the superintendent of schools. I went to see him and he told me the same thing. But I didn't follow their advice. I still went to the university.

Calderón: Tell me about the swimming pool in Douglas.

Castro: Well, yes, that's the YMCA. I was rather active athletically in the high school teams. I was quarterback on the football team and I was a good track man and I was also a fairly good student. I wasn't the bottom of the class; I was a fairly good student all the way through. So I remember I went to a meeting at the YMCA in Douglas, it was a Junior Hi-Y, and we were having a meeting and the kids said, "Let's go swimming." So they all started going swimming. The old door had a button on the desk and they pushed the button and the door opened. So I started to go in. The fellow at the desk said, "Hey, Castro, you can't go in." "Why not?" He said, "You can't go swimming." He said, "You know, Mexican kids can only swim on Saturday afternoons." That's when they cleaned out the pool. They cleaned out the pool in the afternoon. So right before they cleaned out the pool that's when Mexican kids could go swimming. By that time the pool was dirty and slushy. I looked at the sign, YMCA, I said, "What's christian about this situation?" I didn't see anything christian about it.

So all these episodes added to my emotionalism and also the aggressiveness that one has to develop in this type of environment. Sort of inspirational to the extent that I felt that something has to be done. And my biggest desire was that one of these days I would be on the board of directors of the YMCA, and by god I became a board member, not in Douglas, but I became a member of the board of directors in the YMCA in Tucson, Arizona.

I was single, I was just out of law school, didn't have any obligations in the evening—I got all the kids from the south side of Tucson, Chinese, Blacks, Mexican-Americans and what have you, and would take them to the Y and teach them how to swim, box, play basketball and I devoted quite a bit of my time to those youngsters. I would take them to my office so they could see law books and, you know, get an exposure to the law practice.

The YMCA officials saw me work with kids for all these years. Then there was a vacancy on the board and somebody said, "Look, why not put Raúl Castro on the board? This guy's in our hair every day of the week. He's here all the time. He knows something about the YMCA. Why don't we put him on the board?" So I was placed on the board. Then I was able to try to modify the policy of the YMCA, and I did.

In fact, I recall one day approaching a Catholic priest. I asked him to come in and try to talk to my kids. That was Monsignor Hughes. He said, "I can't do it, Raúl." "Why not?" "It's the YMCA, and you know, the Catholic Church frowns on the YMCA. We don't adopt it, we don't accept its teachings. We feel it's an effort on the part of the YMCA to steer the children away from the Catholic Church." I thought, "This is terrible. This doesn't make any sense." So before I left the board in the YMCA, we were able to have Catholic priests come into the YMCA and speak to children. Later there was also a policy change wherein priests were able to become members of the Central Council of Churches. So that part was resolved. So I felt something was accomplished.

It was then that I realized that in order to be able to accomplish something it's better to be part of the establishment. Don't be on the outside looking in. Because if you're on the outside looking in, you'll get frustrated and you'll get violent, you want to throw rocks, you want to burn the building and your judgment becomes warped. So I felt by becoming part of the establishment then you can set policy from the inside rather than from the outside.

But the question is, how do you become part of the establishment? The only way you can become part of the establishment is by convincing people of your ability, your aptitudes, and that you have a good background, that it's a good, sound background. By doing that you impress people, then you are invited to become part of the establishment. I took that route rather than going to the outside, screaming and hollering and making a lot of noise.

Calderón: Well the establishment in Douglas told you to forget about a higher education.

Castro: Yes.

Calderón: You ignored that.

Castro: Right.

Calderón: You went to the U. of A.?

Castro: Right.

Calderón: Tell us a little . . .

Castro: I went to N.A.U. [Northern Arizona University] first.

Calderón: Oh, tell us about—that was Arizona State Teacher's College?

Castro: That's right.

Calderón: Tell us about that.

Castro: I had a football scholarship: I used to work at Kress' in Douglas, on the window displays. I worked there as a kid. They paid me little but it was work.

So then a recruiter came in from NAU, in those days it was Arizona State Teacher's College, and gave me a football scholarship, as a quarterback. So I went, and my scholarship consisted of washing dishes three times a day. By doing that they paid for my meals and paid for my tuition. So that was my football scholarship. Then I got promoted to a waiter. Then after being a waiter I got promoted to being a assistant cook, helping the cook and feeding the students. Mother Hanley was the lady in charge of the kitchens.

So that turned out to be an experience. I had this feeling that I wanted to accomplish something and I wasn't being recognized. I felt that I had some ability but yet it was going unrecognized. What could I do to attract somebody? I became a boxer, I became captain of the boxing team. By doing that, there were only two people in the ring, myself and my opponent, and I felt, "I'm going to show them if I can do the job. My opponent goes under and I'll prevail. By doing this I'll get some recognition." And that's how it worked, exactly. I'd get in the ring. I was undefeated, I beat everybody. So I became quite a celebrity on campus for that very reason. And that accomplished what I was looking for, that type of recognition.

My feeling is that you have to be hungry to be able to accomplish anything, really. You don't have room or time to be lazy. You've got to move ahead.

Calderón: Where did you live when you were in Flagstaff?

Castro: I lived in one of the dormitories. I think it was Bury Hall. It was a rat-infested hall. Then I moved to, next to Bury, Taylor Hall, a new dormitory. It was a little better than Bury. That's where I lived.

One of the experiences I remember very vividly while working in the kitchen washing dishes—you know Flagstaff has a Siberian climate, awfully cold climate and quite a bit of snow. Whenever we served eggs to the students, which was on Sunday, the egg would stick to the plate. It was very difficult to wash a plate with the egg on it. You've got to use cold water. So we didn't have the patience. We'd open the window and get the plates and just throw them into the snow. So along comes the spring; the snow would melt; there would be a bunch of plates on the outside that we'd thrown out the window.

Calderón: Do you feel like you have a positive experience from Flagstaff, or negative or. . . .

Castro: No, no. I think the Flagstaff experience was very positive. The school was small; there were only about 475 students at that time. Most of the students were from Morenci, Globe-Miami, Clifton, Douglas, Bisbee, mining towns. The student body was composed of students of lower economic status, there weren't any wealthy kids there. It was a school for the downtrodden, really, so to speak. And I think there was a lot of benefit to it. I enjoyed it. I think there was a lot of personal attention given to the students. Once you go to school, its up to the student. I didn't expect the professor to do the work for me. So that's up to the student to make up his mind and decide what he wants to get out of it.

Calderón: When you left NAU what did you do next?

Castro: Then I went looking for a school job. I wanted to be a school teacher because that was my degree. Of course I went to my hometown, Douglas. I felt that I could easily get a job there because that's where I came from. I think academically I had done very well in school and I felt it would be a cinch to get a teaching job or a coaching job in Douglas. Well, I went there and applied and I was told very clearly and succinctly, "Raúl, you're a great guy, we'd like to help you, but the school board met last night. They're not going to hire any Mexican-American kids to teach school in Douglas. So forget it, we can't give you a teaching job."

I went home. How do I tell my mother who's got all these kids to feed, "Mother, I'm not going to stay. I'm leaving because I can't get a teaching job."

And here, to me, is where the guts come in. I think that I probably inherited from my mother the element of "guts." She got all the Castro clan in the kitchen and we met and she said, "Raúl has applied for a teaching job. He was turned down because he was of Mexican heritage." One brother of mine raised his hand and said, "Let's go back to Mexico then. There's no sense in staying here." Another one chimed in, the one that taught high school in Flagstaff, "Let's get out of here." And here is this mother who is obviously hurt. I'm her son. Mother looked around and said, "Look, let's look at this thing in its proper perspective. We came to this country as refugees. All of you have gotten jobs, you have all gotten an education and you seem to forget that we owe this country something. Therefore if any of you leave this house and don't fulfill your obligation to the United States government, you don't have a mother and there's the door." No one left. We all stayed. And I thank the Lord that that was what occurred. That's where the guts came in.

I recall when I was a student in high school. Algebra and geometry to me were difficult subjects, but I was able to master these subjects. In mining communities the old stereotype that everybody who was Mexican was a "dumb" Mexican. If you were of Mexican descent you were supposed to be dumb. Or if you were a Mexican you were supposed to be dirty. So the prevailing sentiment was that Mexican kids were "dirty and dumb."

I came to the conclusion that the only one who can change that picture were ourselves. It's up to me to change the image. I don't have to go to school dirty and mother would give us a lecture on it. "We may be poor but you don't have to be dirty. Soap and water are very cheap, so there's no an excuse to go to school dirty." She said, "I can't help you with the classes because I don't speak any English." In my house English was never spoken. The English language was never spoken, it was all in Spanish. My father never spoke English and neither did Mother. Spanish was the language at home.

So at any rate, I would stay late and study algebra and geometry until the wee hours of the morning. I wanted to be sharp in class the next day. I recall that my mother would say, "Son, why don't you go to bed and get up early and you'll be fresher, you'll be able to do a better job." My feeling was that I did not want to be a dirty Mexican kid and neither did I want to be a dumb Mexican kid. So when I went to class the next day, I was well prepared and was not a dumb Mexican kid. I felt that by doing this I would change the image.

And that's why I like to tell kids that it's up to us. A lot can be done by us. Don't blame society, don't blame the world, blame yourself in many instances. Don't strike out.

I love teaching. I taught at the university four years. I love teaching because that's where you motivate people, specially when they're young. I remember being in one of these segregated classes in Douglas and a teacher came over and looked at me and put her arm around my shoulder and said, "Raúl, you're not doing what you can do. You have ability but you're not doing it. You're wasting your time." And she looked at me and said, "Come on, you can do better." So when I walked from school to my home that evening I thought to myself, "That teacher must like me. She has an interest in me. Why would she say that?" Well obviously it gave me an inspiration, a sort of a motivational effect. I decided to come back to school and do a better job because I felt I didn't want to disappoint this teacher. To me it's a teaching gimmick that doesn't cost anything, it's very cheap, and that's what teachers ought to do. This is the way you inspire students to move ahead.

Calderón: You had a very powerful mother, and a very powerful challenge to your family. What did you do after you were turned down for the teaching job in Douglas?

Castro: When I was turned down for the teaching job in Douglas, I decided to leave town and become a professional boxer. Strangely enough, in Douglas there used to be a place called the Tenth Street Park. It's a park right downtown in Douglas, Arizona. Later that park was named after me. Now the park is known as the Raúl H. Castro Park. This park was right in front of an Elk's Club. Now the Elk's Club in Douglas does not allow members of Mexican descent to join the Elk's Club. All Mexican families are excluded from the Elk's Club; they can't join the Elk's Club because of racial background. But yet the park across the street now is Raúl Castro Park, right across from the Elk's Club. So it's an irony of life.

And talking about that park, it's a small world. Many years ago I was a youngster in Douglas and they were having a political rally in the middle of this park which is now named after me. It's the only park in downtown Douglas. One day there was a political rally held in the park. Hot dogs, free hamburgers, et cetera, were being given to a bunch of kids, bare-footed kids in the area. Our only interest was the hot dogs and the hamburgers; we weren't interested in the governor's race. Who cares about the governor? At least, at that time that's how we kids felt.

There was a bandstand in the middle of the park and I remember looking toward the bandstand. There was a person, a man with a very light summer suit, a long mustache and a very thick eyeglass and a pith helmet. So I kept looking at him. He was a funny-looking individual. He looked like a walrus. This man got up to give a speech and, you know, with his mustache hanging down, he said, "Good people of Douglas, I'm glad to be here. Who knows, one of these days one of these barefooted kids here may be your next governor." And he pointed towards me. You know, this just happened to be a fate, just one of those coincidences, as many, many years later I did become Governor of Arizona.

Calderón: True.

Castro: Of course at that point in time the whole episode was meaningless. That person happened to be George W. P. Hunt, the first governor of Arizona. That was about 1926, 1927, it was his last campaign. And he is the man that was the first governor of Arizona. I mean, that's fate.

Calderón: Your life has been filled with coincidence and inspirations and you continue to persevere.

Castro: Now that I go back to Douglas, and have gone throughout the years, I see some people come up to me. They're no longer kids, my age, come in and say, "Hello, remember me? I'm so-and-so and et cetera." And it's sad, I recall them very well, but many of those people, those kids then, were much brighter than I, had more ability than I ever did. I don't think I had any ability they did. I had a lot of tenacity and aggressiveness. I had the willingness to stick it out. They didn't. They unfortunately just quit and somewhere down the line somebody failed to steer them the proper path. All those kids could have been saved and been tremendous contributors to society had someone taken an interest. They gave up, they just quit. There was discrimination so they just gave up. In my view I think those youngsters could have been great contributors to our country and to our state but nobody bothered, nobody was interested really. And that's why there are exceptions. People say, "But why are you so critical of the Arizona educational system, when you're part of it?" I say, "Yes, I'm part of it, but on the other hand, that doesn't mean that I approve of what happened in years past. It's been a very poor system." A terrible system, and many of these youngsters were not rescued in time. A lot of them became winos, drunks and many ended up in the penitentiary. They shouldn't have been there if someone had taken an interest.

For instance, in those days it was a crime to speak Spanish in school. It was a misdemeanor. It was a misdemeanor if anybody spoke Spanish on the playground, in the hallway, or in the school ground, it was a misdemeanor, because the official language was English. Then if they ever caught you speaking Spanish in the classroom, the teacher would come over and get a rule and a stick and hit you in the hand. Well by the time we got home my hands looked like baseball mitts. So one got the feeling that maybe Spanish is an inferior language, psychologically, it's bad to speak Spanish, it's bad to be of Mexican heritage. So psychologically the kids were being broken down, steadily.

It didn't work with me because I was the exception to the rule. When I am told, "Why are you so critical when you're part of the system?" Well, I critical because I'm the exception, I'm not the general rule. So don't say it, that you did it therefore it's a good system. I'm saying it's bad. It worked well for me because I'm one of those exceptions.

Calderón: Has Arizona really changed? Because now we have official English.

Castro: No. I think it's changed to the extent that I think the Hispanic community has now become better assimilated in the state of Arizona. There's more professionalism, improved educational techniques. I think young people are beginning to realize that the way to go is to be educated. Without an education you're not going to go anywhere. So that part has improved. People are living better, they don't have to live in a ghetto anymore. You know in my days, you're much younger I know, but in my days you couldn't live in certain areas. In Tucson there were, had the restrictive covenants. If you were of Mexican heritage or Asiatic or Black or what have you, you could not live in the foothills in Tucson and certainly less in Phoenix. Phoenix was worse than most communities. So therefore you couldn't live a decent life. Now that's all changed. Now it's a new world.

Calderón: Did you ever get to teach school?

Castro: No. I taught at the university, the University of Arizona for four years, but not elementary school, no.

Calderón: So after you were in Douglas and they didn't allow you to teach there, did you move to Tucson?

Castro: Well, no. What happened was, when I was not allowed to teach in Douglas, then I caught a freight train and travelled East. I think I went to New Orleans and then Pennsylvania and covered the area, and all by riding freight trains. I became a professional boxer, started boxing for a living. I knew I could use my fists, so I would fight for fifty dollars or a hundred dollars, or whatever I could get, and move on to the next town.

After about a year of that, almost a year and a half, I had a younger brother in NAU who said, "Look, if this is what education has done for you why go to school. I'm going to quit." I didn't want my younger brother to quit school, so then I came back to Arizona, to keep him from quitting school.

Then that's when I got a job with the State Department in Agua Prieta [Sonora, Mexico] on the Mexican side, handling immigration work and that type of thing, in the diplomatic service. I stayed with them about five years. Then I resigned.

I think the good Lord knew what he was doing. When they didn't allow me to teach school they did me a favor, because I probably would still be teaching third grade in Douglas or somewhere. So I didn't. Then when I worked for the government in Agua Prieta, the consul-general came over for an inspection of consulate. He came to me, his name was Bill Blocker, I remember so well. He said, "Raúl, I think you have a lot of potential, a lot of ability. You know, you're wasting your time with the State Department." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "I'm not being critical of you. I'm trying to do you a favor, I'm trying to help you out. I want to see you move ahead. If you stay with the us, you'll never amount to a hill of beans here." I said, "Why?" "Because, number one, you were born in Mexico of Mexican parents." In diplomatic service in those days, you had to be from the east coast, either Harvard, Yale or Princeton, or forget about it. "So the possibility is just not there."

So when he told me that, I quit the State Department. I was teaching at night, you know, I was teaching Spanish in the evening at the YWCA in Douglas. I met a fellow by the name of David [K.] Wolfe, who was then a captain in the air force in the Douglas Air Base. I was teaching he and his wife Spanish. He said, "Raúl, why don't you quit your job? Let's you and I go to law school at the University of Arizona." It sounded good. I quit my job and he and I went to Tucson and I applied to go to law school.

But in the meantime I needed a job, I didn't have enough money, so I went to a fellow by the name of Doctor Victor Kelly, who had been teaching at NAU, was now in charge of the employment office at the University of Arizona. I went to see him and he said, "Raúl, I wish I could help you but I can't. You know how it is on the border, nobody will hire Mexican kids. I can't get you a job anywhere. You're a Mexican kid. Why don't you go see the Mexican consul?" I said, "Dr. Kelly, I'm not a Mexican, I'm an American citizen. Why should I go see the Mexican consul? I have no business with the Mexican consul." He said, "Well, that's all I can tell you."

So I left his office, walked over to liberal arts. The dean of liberal arts was a fellow by the name of Richard [A.] Harvill. Then I went over to see Dr. Harvill. By this time I was getting a little brazen. I felt that—I had a tendency, when I left NAU I felt that I could, by my own background people would form lines to try to get my services. So all I would have to do is graduate and everybody wanted me to be part of their system. Not true, nobody came around. So soon it dawned on me that I had to toot my own horn, I had to go out there and take the bull by the horns and do something about it.

So I saw Dr. Harvill and I said, "Dr. Harvill, I think I can do something for this university." "What do you mean?" "I think I can teach Spanish. I'm Mexican born, it's my native language, I spoke it before I ever spoke any English, I'm well versed in it. I think I have an idea what it's all about and I think I can give the students the proper Spanish accent." He looked at me and he said, "You know, you're awful cocky. You talk a big storm. How can you prove it?" I said, "I just happen to have my transcripts in my pocket. Here they are." So I gave him my transcripts. He looked at them. He said, "You know, I could use you. One of the teachers just got married day before yesterday and she won't be able to teach and classes start on Monday. So here's a contract. I'm going to put you on staff." And I got a teaching job.

Calderón: This is the same Richard Harvill that became president of the university?

Castro: Later became president, that's right. Then as I left his office, going around by in front of Old Main at the University of Arizona, I ran into Dr. Kelly, this person that said Mexican kids can't get a job. I said, "Dr. Kelly, you and I are colleagues." "What do you mean?" I said, "I'm a member of the faculty here." "What are you talking about?" I said, "Well you didn't ask me what I could do. All you said, 'You are a Mexican kid. We can't get you a job.' I got myself a job, so now we're colleagues."

Calderón: How did your colleague respond?

Castro: He didn't respond. He was a little embarrassed and et cetera and we left. But that's life and that's the way it works. Oh, then the law school. So I went to law school to apply and the dean of the law school said, "Well," he said, "I see you're teaching at the university here. There's no way you can go to law school." "Why not?" "Because my experience, our experience here is that Mexican youngsters do not do well in law school. Number one, they have a language problem, number two, they just are not able to do it. Therefore, going to law school is a full-time operation and you can't go to law school. We're just not going to allow you to go to law school." So then I called the president of the university. I said, "Look,"—Doctor Atkinson was then president of the university—"I'm going to cancel my contract because I can't teach." So then he called the dean of the law school. He told the dean, "Let Castro enroll. Let him prove his worth. If he can't do it, well then flunk him. But if he can teach, let him teach." And that's what happened. Later in life the dean of the law school and I became very good friends.

Calderón: What was law school like?

Castro: Well, law school, of course, was a full time operation. Law school was very demanding of my time and efforts.

Calderón: Was the dean Lyons?

Castro: No, it wasn't John [D.] Lyons. We had somebody else in the law school. He was a teacher, one of the—I'm trying to think who it was. Lyons came after. The dean was McCormick.

Calderón: J. [James] Byron McCormick.

Castro: J. Byron McCormick was then the dean, and then went to, became president of the university. Then Lyons took over. That's the way that happened. In the law school at the University of Arizona most of the professors were rather, I wouldn't say they were old, but they weren't young like they are nowadays. You go to law school today at A.S.U. [Arizona State University] or U. of A. and most of the professors are quite young, young professors. These were older people that had been in the practice of law for many years and started teaching. It was then quite a serious ordeal, I think. When I was in law school my classmate was Mo [Morris K.] Udall, was in the same class I was in. Stewart [L.] Udall, Jack [L.] Ogg was in the same class. Cal [Calvin H.] Udall, who is now with one of the firms, here was also my classmate. I think that class produced many county judges. In other words, Jack Ogg was in Prescott; I became in Tucson; Joe [Timothy J.] Mahoney was in Florence; Frank [X.] Gordon was in Kingman. You know, all pretty well spread out.

Calderón: Did you enjoy law school?

Castro: Well, yes. Law school I think is the most difficult task I've undertaken. Number one, I had been living in Mexico and all my exposure had been in Spanish, correspondence and my work had been in Spanish. It was there that I got the inspiration to become a lawyer, working for the State Department. When Americans got thrown in jail, my job was to go rescue them and get them out of jail. So I worked with Mexican attorneys in Mexico and Mexican courts defending American interests. So that was my exposure to the legal practice. I think the first year of law school was very difficult because I had to change over from English into Spanish and Spanish into English and get accustomed to the terminology. Once the first year was over it wasn't that difficult. By this time I was older. I was by then about twenty-nine years of age. Twenty-nine when I started, law school and about thirty when I finished law school. So it was tricky business. My main concern was, what do I do when I finish law school.

Calderón: Did you experience any discrimination during law school?

Castro: Not in the law school per se. No, I don't think so. The discrimination occurred in trying to get into law school, when I was told I couldn't go to law school. But I think in the law school itself, no, I don't think I had any discrimination in law school. It seemed to work out well.

Calderón: When you graduated, you went into practice with David Wolfe, didn't you?

Castro: David Wolfe was my partner, right.

Calderón: What kind of cases did you handle?

Castro: David Wolfe handled quite a few divorce cases. I did a lot of work in Mexico with Mexican contracts and that type of activity, and immigration law and that mostly was the type of activity that I undertook commercially. A lot of mining law in those days, I did a lot of mining work. Dave Wolfe did mostly divorce and that type of activity.

Calderón: Who were the legal players in Tucson when you started practicing?

Castro: You mean the leading firms, the powers of the area? Tom [Thomas] Chandler was one of the well-known attorneys at the time. A fellow by the name of Bob [Robert S.] Tullar was there. John [F.] Molloy, who then became a judge, was then one of the people in the place. The firm of Bilby, Boyle and Thompson, which is now Snell and Wilmer, was then one of the big firms there. That was about it in those days. That would be the larger firms then.

Calderón: Do you remember Evo DeConcini?

Castro: Yes, Evo DeConcini and I were very good friends. Yes, he was one of the old—by that time he was retired. He had been a superior court judge, attorney general, and also on the [Arizona State] Supreme Court. So he and I were good friends because I had known him throughout the years. I knew him quite well, yes, and all of his family, his wife and Dino and Dennis, they're close friends. Yes.

Calderón: What made you leave private practice and go to work for the county attorney's office?

Castro: Well in those days you could do both. In those days when I became deputy county attorney, Bob [Robert] Morrison was the county attorney and Morris Udall was the next assistant. When I was a deputy county attorney I could have my private practice and also be deputy county attorney. I think a year later they made it full time, so then I became deputy county attorney full time and left my law practice and stayed with the county attorney's office. Eventually when Udall left the county attorney's office, I ran for county attorney and got elected, by sixty-five votes. That was my first political venture on my own.

Calderón: Who did you run against?

Castro: A fellow by the name of [Gordon G.] Aldrich, who had been there before, and a fellow by the name of Bill [William K.] Richey I think, or maybe one of the

Roylstons. I don't recall. I had opposition both ways, Democrat and Republican, so it was a full-scale election.

Calderón: You made quite a name for yourself being a successful prosecutor of murder cases. Do you remember those cases?

Castro: Yes, I did. I tried many murder cases. In those days the county attorney was not an administrative person because the staff wasn't that large. So the county attorney himself had to try many cases, and I did. I tried many cases in superior court. I was a prosecutor. I was there in the prosecutor's office almost seven years, almost eight in fact. So I did a lot of criminal work on the prosecution side. Very good training, I thought, tremendous exposure.

Calderón: There were several cases I read about where you seemed to almost specialize in trying . . .

Castro: Murder trials.

Calderón: . . . murder trials of husbands killing wives.

Castro: Right. Mostly murder trials.

Calderón: Two or three in a row.

Castro: Murder trials, that's right. I saw a few of them die. I think two or three got the death penalty and I watched the execution. My feeling was, if I was to try the case and ask for somebody's life, I should have the guts to sit there and watch them die. And I did. And I also watched them as superior court judge, you know. Some of those people got the death penalty.

Calderón: How did you meet Patricia Norris, your wife?

Castro: My wife is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her mother had asthma and emphysema and she moved from Milwaukee to Tucson because of her health problems. My wife, came to visit her mother in the winter. She decided to stay for a while. Then she was able to get a job in the post office in Tucson as secretary to the postmaster. Then she became a deputy U.S. marshal. By this time I was deputy county attorney and also in private practice. I used to have a mail box. I'd go to the post office to pick up my mail every morning and I'd stop at a drugstore next to the post office to have a cup of coffee. She worked next door at the post office, the federal building, so we met through the mirrors. She would sit at the end of the counter and I'd be at the other end of the counter, and for so many days a week we would see each other through the mirror, we'd smile at each other. Eventually we got closer and closer and started talking to each other. And that's how we met, really.

Calderón: You were a confirmed bachelor at that time.

Castro: Oh, very much so.

Calderón: You were in your mid-thirties.

Castro: I was at least thirty-eight years of age at that time. That's right. I wasn't a confirmed bachelor, I was just too busy making a living and trying to move ahead. My feeling at the time was that if I got married when I was young then I would not be able to support a wife because I didn't have any money, and secondly, that if I got married and had a family then that would be the end of my education. I still had a desire to move on and get a further education than what I had. I wasn't satisfied. I felt the time had come for me to get married. And so we did.

Let me give you an anecdote that's sort of interesting. A fellow in Prescott by the name of John [M.] Favour also was in my class in law school. Graduation time came around and he said, "Raúl, what are you going to do?" I said, "I don't know, John. I'd like to stay in Tucson because I like Tucson." He said, "Why don't you?" I said, "Well, gosh, I don't have any money. I don't have any money to pay the rent now. What am I going to do?" He said, "Why don't we do it this way? Why don't you get yourself a little office somewhere? I'll advance you some money, I'll loan you nine hundred dollars or a thousand or whatever it was. Pay me whenever you can. Don't worry about it." That was John Favour.

So we went over to 199 North Church. It was an old building, a rickety building, two-story building. I rented that apartment and I had an office in front. It was the front office. The middle office room was a kitchen, that's where I cooked. In the back was a bedroom, that's where I slept. John Favour and I went over to the junkyard, got a lot of brick, so we made some bookcases out of brick with some boards, varnished the boards and I went over and got books. Anybody had an extra book to give, whether it was a law book or otherwise, but I wanted something that looked like books so when people came in they'd look at the books. So we finished the room with all kinds of books and et cetera. And that's where I started. Practice in front, cooked in the middle and slept in the back. John Favour found a paddle somewhere, it was a fraternity paddle, so what we did, we cut the handle of the paddle, just chopped it off and somebody painted a sign, "Raúl Castro, Attorney at Law." I still have that paddle at my house. I nailed it to the board,to the house and that was it. That's where my practice started.

Later on Dave Wolfe came in to the fold.

Calderón: You mentioned meeting your wife. That was in around 1953, 1954, and you became Pima County Attorney. How did you enjoy that experience being county attorney?

Castro: Well, I did. I by nature enjoyed, I enjoyed being a prosecutor. I like to work with law enforcement. I thought it was the type of thing that I was interested in and I did a lot of work in those days with law enforcement. I lectured to the police, sheriffs, justice of the peace and everything else in the world. I used to go to the Indian reservation to lecture to the people up there on chain of evidence, how to handle cases and discussed criminal procedure in general. The highway patrol, I did a lot of work for them. I really enjoyed it. It was a sort of teaching episode that I enjoyed, mostly. I thought it was great. I enjoyed that aspect of it.

Then I, of course, wanted to move on. I wanted to become a judge in superior court and I did. In those days you ran for office. You weren't appointed. So I had to run for superior court judge and was elected. I stayed there about two or three terms.

Calderón: Were there any other Hispanics on the bench?

Castro: No. No, I think I was probably the first one in the state of Arizona, I think. I don't know any that, well I know there wasn't any.

Calderón: What type of cases did you handle?

Castro: In superior court you handle everything. Every six months we would change. I would handle criminal law for six months, criminal cases, civil cases for six months, probate matters for another six months. We would rotate. I also spent three years as juvenile court judge. In those days juvenile court judge was part time, two days a week. So I did a lot of work in juvenile court.

Calderón: Do you remember your race for judge against Robert [O.] Roylston?

Castro: Quite well, but before I get there let me remind you, when I was sworn in, I still have the transcript, I remember I was sworn in as superior court judge, my mother was there and a lot of members of my family. Lee Garrett was then the presiding judge. He swore me in and then he proceeded to say nice things about me, as was usually done. I remember Lee Garrett saying, "Mrs. Castro,"—my mother—"I'm embarrassed because I have an idea you don't understand what I'm saying because I understand you don't speak any English or understand any English." I turned around and I said, "Mother, will you please stand?" Mother stood up and I interpreted to her what the judge had said. She said, "Judge, I don't understand one word you're saying, but on the other hand I have a pretty good idea that you're saying some very nice things about my son." That was kind of the story of it, really. I thought that was great. Yes.

Calderón: Who are some of the other judges that you served with?

Castro: Well in those days you only had five superior court judges in Tucson. Number one, you had Lee Garrett was the presiding judge, Herbert [F.] Krucker, John Molloy, Bob Tullar and myself, I was number five. Later on Alice [N.] Truman came on the bench and the two Roylston boys. That's when I left.

Calderón: Then when you left . . .

Castro: I guess I did run against Bob Roylston. I didn't recall that. He was one of our opponents, that's right. And I beat him.

Calderón: Up to now, you've had a very illustrious, successful career in Arizona. But when you left, you made a dramatic change in your environment. In 1964, that would have been the time about of L.B.J. You became an ambassador. How did that happen?

Castro: Everything's got a history to it. I remember being in the park in Tucson, Armory Park. Lyndon Johnson was there, Carl [T.] Hayden, myself and somebody else. It was a campaign political year. Lyndon Johnson was saying a few words, I think he was a candidate for something, for president or. . . . But at any rate, he was there. That's where we first met. Later on he became president and I was at this time superior court judge. Roy Elson was Carl Hayden's administrative assistant. Roy Elson was a boy from Tucson and he had been my student at the University of Arizona. I had taught Spanish and Roy was one of my students. By this time, keep in mind, I'm a judge, superior court judge. The phone rang in

Tucson, it was Roy Elson and he said, "Judge, this is Roy Elson. Do you remember me?" I said, "Yes, I remember you. You sat in the third row, seat number so-and-so in my class." He said, "Judge, I've been told that you would accept the job as U.S. attorney." I said, "Roy, whoever told you that?" I said, "I'm not interested." He said, "Well I was told that you would accept the job because down the line that you would be. . . ." I said, "Roy, I'm judge of the superior court. Being U.S. attorney is a step backward. I don't want to go back, I want to go forward. So I'm not interested in being U.S. attorney." "Well what are you interested in?" I said, "Number one, I'm interested in being an ambassador. Because I have worked with the State Department. I know the ins and outs of the State Department, at least quite a bit of it. I think I'm qualified to be a diplomat."

Calderón: Even though you didn't graduate from Harvard or Yale?

Castro: That's right, at this time, absolutely. So then he said, "Maybe we can work something out. I'd like to see you." I said, "Well see me at the office in the courthouse in Tucson on Monday." He came down. Keep in mind, Roy was the first administrative assistant for Carl Hayden.

Calderón: Carl Hayden was chairman of appropriations.

Castro: He was the most powerful man in Washington. Carl Hayden picked up the phone and called Lyndon Johnson. The story goes, he says, "Lyndon, this is Carl Hayden."

"Oh, yes, Carl. How are you?"

He said, "I want you to do me a favor."

"Carl, anything you ask, you know, we've been old friends." You've got no choice because Carl was the chair of the appropriations committee. President Johnson said, "What is the favor?" He said, "I want you to appoint a good friend of mine, a judge in the superior court in Tucson, ambassador."

"What is his name?"

"His name is Raúl Castro."

"What?"

"Raúl Castro."

"Oh, Carl, I can't do that. We've got the Cuban business. The Cuban situation's exploding in our face, and Raúl Castro is Fidel's brother. This would lose me votes. I can't support that thing. Can he change his name to his mother's name, Raúl Acosta Castro or, you know, move it around so the Castro doesn't appear."

So I was approached on it, if I would change my name. I said, "No. This is the name I came to this world in. I don't intend to change it just to be a diplomat." I kept it.

Calderón: Well you changed it once already. Once was enough.

Castro: That's right, once was enough. So Carl Hayden prevailed, obviously. The person who was going to go as ambassador to El Salvador, they pulled his name out, pulled my name in. I was named ambassador. This happened to be about a

Thursday or Friday before the primary election, no, I guess it was before the general election. Roy Elson was running for the U.S. Senate against. . . .

Calderón: Paul [J.] Fannin.

Castro: Paul Fannin, right. So I had a press conference in front of one of the hotels in Phoenix. I came down, and what Roy wanted was his picture taken with me whereby saying, through my efforts I was able to have Raúl Castro named ambassador. So he'd get some support. That's how I got to be ambassador.

Calderón: There's a certain symmetry to that, because you were contacted by your former student, Roy Elson, who spoke to Carl Hayden. Carl Hayden contacts his former student, Lyndon Johnson and puts you in El Salvador. What was it like shifting gears from being an Arizona superior court judge to becoming the representative of the most powerful country in the world in a small country?

Castro: You know, I already had had the feel for diplomacy from the State Department, because I had been with them for five years. So the ins and outs, the nuts and bolts, of the job were known to me. I already had learned it because I had been exposed to it. I knew the thing quite well. So it wasn't really new, so I had a feel for it. I loved it because, number one, I, you're right, I represented the most powerful country in the world, and the ambassador of the United States of America ordinarily is the second most important person in that particular country. It's the president of the country and then the American ambassador. So you become a celebrity and you are a powerful individual. The ambassador's findings and decisions, they go a long ways. So I think one can do a lot of good. And in those days when I was in El Salvador, Napoleón Duarte was then mayor of the city of San Salvador. Napoleón Duarte then became president, but when he was there he was the mayor and I was the ambassador, so I got to know him well. We became very good friends in that sense.

Calderón: He has recently passed away.

Castro: Passed away, that's right. He had been to Notre Dame, he was an engineer and spoke fairly good English, was a capable person. But I did enjoy it thoroughly in El Salvador. And I went to Bolivia from there.

Calderón: Do you recall any significant events during your time? We know there was an earthquake, wasn't there an earthquake in El Salvador?

Castro: I think I had been in El Salvador maybe about two or three weeks or maybe a couple of months. It was a hot humid tropical morning—I say morning because it was four o'clock in the morning. I lived in a two-story house, a big one. I heard some rattling of the building, followed by another rattling of the building and a third one hit. That was it, things began to break and windows broke, my family started to scream, my two daughters were crying. They were able to make it out the door. They were wearing clothes, I wasn't because it was a sort of a hot tropical morning, and I didn't have the nerve to get outside in the nude. It would be disgraceful for the American ambassador, so I suffered. I went through the whole earthquake until it finished. Glass was broken. I cut my feet as I was walking out the door. It was a difficult situation, there's no question about it.

There's nothing like an earthquake, there's no defense from it really. You can't protect yourself against an earthquake.

Calderón: Was there an immediate plea for the representative of the most powerful country in the world to make sure that there was economic aid?

Castro: Oh, sure. Immediately. I think we had to get in contact with the State Department to get some assistance and aid and start building some homes, built homes so that people could move into those homes, and assist them in every sense of the word. Oh, yes, there's no question about it, we did. We offered a lot of help.

Calderón: Was there the intrigue and political turmoil in El Salvador then that we read about now?

Castro: Oh, yes. There were problems with other Central American countries. There's no question about it.

Calderón: What was the relationship in El Salvador then between the government and the Catholic Church? Do you recall?

Castro: The relationship between the Catholic Church and the government wasn't a very good one. The relationship was very, very strained. Before I left for El Salvador I remember having a meeting with Bishop Green in Tucson, who was then the bishop of the Diocese of Arizona. We had a meeting and he said, "Raúl, there's a lot of work to be done in El Salvador because we've got so much poverty and I think the time has come for the Catholic Church to start coming in and doing some social welfare work, start working with people who need help and assistance."

When I got to Salvador, I sort of realized that the church itself had been patronizing the elite families. The true fact was that the church really wasn't giving any spiritual guidance to the poor people.

It was then during my tenure in El Salvador that the whole thing changed. One of the bishop's letters came out. I remember the bishop reading that letter saying that the time has come for the Catholic Church in El Salvador to give spiritual guidance and work for the people that need the help, and let's see what we can do to make it a better world.

I remember being at a reception that night at one of the elite families of El Salvador. They were condemning the church. They spoke of starving the church out. Their attitude was, without our help the church cannot live. Once we cut the assistance to the church, the church will fold. It was then that the battle started about the church in taking the side of the peon, the coffee picker and the poor individual. The encyclicals came out saying, "We must do something, help these people out." Bishop Romero, I got to know him, the one that was executed in El Salvador, I got to know him well.

Calderón: Bishop Oscar Romero?

Castro: That's right. I got to know him very, very well. So the attitude changed completely. The church unquestionably, at this point, since then has been very mindful of the problems of the population of those countries and are willing to do what they can to assist them to make it a better life.

Calderón: At the time while you were in the foreign service L.B.J. was president. I think in your reception area you have a picture of you standing next to Averell Harriman. Many New Dealers were still in government. Did you receive any sort of instruction or specific political agenda how to handle your role to be ambassador to El Salvador?

Castro: I already knew it because I had taken a course at the State Department. The course covered this type of activity and how to work with the people in the country and also the different parts of the world, et cetera. So I think there is, there are classes that one has to take to be able to deal with the situation.

It's the same with your wife. If your wife would join diplomatic service she'd have to attend a course, take a course in Washington to be able to handle diplomatic events. A course in protocol is very vital and essential to a wife.

The pictures that you saw outside was of Angie Biddle Duke. He was then the dean of protocol and protocol plays a very important role in diplomatic service: where you sit, where you stand and where you go. That's very much part of it.

Calderón: It seems that the Biddle family has had a role in American protocol for generations.

Castro: Very much so. They were part of a tobacco family, the American Tobacco Company. So in those days they were a very well-known family.

Calderón: What were the relationships like between the countries that you served with? I'm particularly thinking about El Salvador's relationship with Nicaragua.

Castro: You know, we dealt with the Central American Common Market, so I'm experienced with Common Market affairs. You've got five countries no bigger than Maricopa County, small countries. And yet an effort was made once upon a time to form this confederacy of Central American countries. It didn't work and I don't think it will ever work because the individualism and nationalism of each country is so strong that it just can't bind. The Honduran's a Honduran, a Salvadoran's a Salvadoran, a Nicaraguan's a Nicaraguan, and down the line. So it's extremely difficult. These countries are the extreme opposite of Argentina. They carry their nationalism to the absurd. They're very small, and yet each country has got to have its own airlines. Economically unviable, but you go to Salvador they had TACA, and then you go to Nicaragua and it's NICA, you go to Honduras it was TASA or something else. Airlines for these small countries is a source of indebtedness. The presidents go to the airport and see an airplane with their own flag emblem on the aircraft and, feel a sense of pride. Why worry about being in debt.

Calderón: Were you in Central America during the soccer war?

Castro: Yes, I was there during the war between Honduras and El Salvador, the start of it. One of the wars, they had several skirmishes. In order to avoid difficulties I told the president, "Why don't you invite another Central American country to play soccer on a Sunday? By doing that all the population goes to the soccer game and they have no revolutions. And that's where you dissuade them." People are very strong followers of football, soccer, and if you have a football game on Sunday there won't be any revolution.

In Argentina you have two things that Argentines believe in and agree on: Las Malvinas and soccer. Beyond that, forget it.

Calderón: The Malvinas, the Falklands and soccer.

Castro: The points of agreement in Argentina are very few. But when it comes to soccer and Las Malvinas, on that they agree. That's where Galtieri made his mistake. He felt that he had it in the bag and that Margaret Thatcher would not respond.

Calderón: It's my understanding that it was your suggestion that they have a soccer game on a Sunday to help pacify the crowd.

Castro: So they don't have a revolution.

Calderón: But in turn, didn't the war actually start based on the results of a soccer game.

Castro: The results, that's right. But had the soccer game extended a little farther, have another one the following day, then you keep postponing it. They're strong followers of, really I think it's—I was in Argentina when they had the world soccer tournament. Henry Kissinger was my guest. He was at my house. He was in our home there for a week, Henry Kissinger and his wife and one son. Believe it or not, that year Argentina won the world tournament. They really did. On it's own merits, because they had a very good team. They actually won it. No, that's the sport, really, there's no question about it.

Calderón: What do you recall of your relationship with L.B.J.?

Castro: L.B.J. spent one week of his life at the embassy residence in El Salvador. Lyndon Johnson, his wife and Lucy. I found that man to be very knowledgeable politically. He had the whole world at his fingertips. He knew what was going on in every part of the world. A very difficult man because he was strong-minded, had the language of a marine sergeant, and strong. He was just like a bull. He was just unyielding. That's the word. What he wanted he got. He knew how to play the game. He knew how to handle power, which I never learned.

I remember being in El Salvador, we were on our patio, having a cup of coffee or a drink or something, and he said, "How would you like to work for me in the White House?" I said, "Mr. President, I'm a foreign service animal. I like to be overseas. I'd rather be in the foreign service. I don't think I can do any service to you in the White House. I can do a better job in Latin America." I was fearful of working for him. He was a strong-minded person. He was very knowledgeable, a very capable President. He could manipulate, he could handle people, he knew how to do it. All the techniques in the world.

We sat down and he inferred that he was not going to run again. He said, "With the Vietnam situation I do not intend to pursue this any farther." I think it was in the following week that he made the announcement that he was no longer running.

I had admiration for his ability, though. He was capable. He knew how to run the government.

Calderón: What was your relationship like with his successor, Richard Nixon?

Castro: Richard Nixon. I was in Bolivia when Richard Nixon was president and [Henry] Kissinger was then the chairman of the Security Council. He and I would disagree over the Bolivian problems. I remember telling Kissinger, "Look, you're a European hand, you're not a Latin American expert. What in the blazes do you know about Latin America?" We got to be good friends. We got to know each other well. He also spent one week in the embassy residence in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Nixon was about ready to get another ambassador to Bolivia. Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin and everybody else plead to Nixon not to get rid of me in Bolivia. Barry Goldwater told President Nixon, "We want this man in Bolivia. We have a free lawyer because he does a lot of work with the American mining and oil companies that have a huge investment in Bolivia. It doesn't cost us a thing because he's the ambassador and he happens to know the mining business fairly well. He can be a help to us. Number two, if this man goes back to Arizona, he's going to clean our plow. He may end up running for public office in Arizona. If he does, he's going to beat the Republicans. And he shouldn't do it." Well, eventually, Nixon didn't listen to Barry Goldwater and I got my cable saying, "We accept your resignation." So I did come back and ran for governor.

Calderón: So Nixon didn't listen to Barry Goldwater when Barry Goldwater went and asked him to resign too, didn't he?

Castro: That's right, he didn't.

Calderón: How did you get the shift from El Salvador to Bolivia.

Castro: Ha! That's another interesting episode. We were in the limousine with, here's the president of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, myself in the back seat, the secret service in the front of the limousine, then there's the secret service on the side of the limousine running as we were proceeding down the capital. He looked at me and he said, "You know, how long have you been in this country now?" I said, "Mr. President, I've been here five years in El Salvador, and I'm ready to move. I want a change." He looked at me and he said, "You know, you're right. I need you very badly somewhere else." He said, "You're going to Bolivia." I said, "Mr. President, I thought you were my friend." Bolivia is a very difficult country. Oh, impossible! He said, "Look, I'm looking for someone that's got political expertise. You have a political background. I can use you in Bolivia. Che Guevara's raising hell in Bolivia right now. We've got a problem with Che Guevara. The teachers are on strike, the people are demonstrating. They have tremendous problems in Bolivia. And then your language is Spanish, so you can do well in Bolivia. I'm sending you to Bolivia."

So the ride went on, he said, "By the way, have you got a good man that runs your house, the *mayordomo* that operates the embassy?" I said, "Yes. He's Chinese." "I want him." That's the way he works. "Mr. President, he doesn't speak Spanish, he doesn't speak English. He has a very sweet smile and he's a good bartender. He does everything. A good cook. Can run anything." "I don't care. Next time you go to Washington I want that boy with you." I took him with me.

And talk about being demoted and deflated by being an American ambassador, I got to Miami and the moment the plane landed—of course first class as an ambassador—there was the secret service, the immigration, you name it, everybody was there, an entourage. I thought they were there to meet me. "Have you got so-and-so with you, Wong Hoy?" I said, "Yes. He's coming around." They had a little golf cart waiting for him, the whole works. They were taking out his baggage and they completely ignored me. The hell with me. It's this little Chinese cook getting all the attention. Lyndon Johnson wanted that guy. They put him on the cart, took his suitcase out, he went. And there I'm stuck on my own trying to get through the inspection. It suddenly dawned on me that in the United States I was nothing. The cook was way ahead of me. That's how I met him.

Calderón: And then you went to Bolivia?

Castro: I went to Bolivia. Before I went to Bolivia, I worked in the State Department about three months. There was unrest in Bolivia because of Che Guevara, and demonstrations and unrest, terror was pervasive. Washington, D.C. is not one of my favorite towns. I wanted to get out of there. I finally said, "Look, when do I go to Bolivia? I've been here now almost three months." "You can't go to Bolivia because if you go you'll be killed." The demonstrations and shootings and what have you. I said, "Look, Bolivia's in Latin America, isn't it?" "Well of course it is." "If Bolivia's in Latin America I can guarantee you, I can go on a Sunday and nothing will ever happen." "Well, what do you mean?" I said, "I'll tell you what I mean. If it's Latin America and there's a revolution, nothing happens on Saturday and Sunday because the generals have to go to the beach or wherever it happens to be. Monday, the revolution starts all over again. If I go to Bolivia on a Sunday, it'll be peaceful, nothing will happen. I can get there and I will not be killed." "All right, if you insist."

I went to La Paz, Bolivia, on a Sunday. There wasn't a noise or not a sound to be heard. Peace and quiet prevailed. Nobody was around. Everybody was off on the weekend like I said. The only one to meet me was the Nuncio, who is the Pope's emissary. He had been the Pope's ambassador in El Salvador, when I served there. He met me at the airport and we went home. Not a squeak. Monday morning all hell broke loose. Which was exactly what I had said, If it's a weekend in Latin America, nothing happens. Generals don't work on their leisure time. You know, if there's a holiday, they want to take advantage of it. Monday they'll start all over again, but on weekends, no.

Calderón: Did you have enough security with the Marine Corps guard there?

Castro: Oh, yes. I think it's one of those things, you learn to live with it. That's part of it.

Another interesting episode was Rockefeller, Nelson Rockefeller wanted to go to Bolivia. Nixon had sent him on a tour through Venezuela, Peru, all over the place. He sent me a cable from Ecuador, that he wanted to come to Bolivia. I sent him a cable back, "You cannot come to Bolivia. You should not come to Bolivia for security reasons." The Vice President of the United States was insisting on visiting Bolivia. He already had been rejected at some other country. He had political ambition and he didn't want to be rejected by another Latin American Country. So I wrote back, "Your life as well as your wife's would not be secure in Bolivia." Finally I suggested he visit Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz is on the Argentine border. Vice President Rockefeller insisted on visiting La Paz.

In La Paz, Bolivia, the airport is about fourteen thousand feet up in the air. It's flat as that table. There isn't a blade of grass. The only thing you can see is a llama out in the hinterland. It's flat. There's a lack of oxygen. You can't breathe, really. And I thought to myself, "Here's the airport. You come to the edge of the airport, you look down and there's a hole in the ground about a thousand feet down. That's La Paz, Bolivia." It's a bowl. It's a city of a million and a half population. There's only one road, one road from the airport to La Paz, Bolivia. There's no other way. And all you have to do is to stay on top of the mountain and roll a boulder down the hill and kill someone. There's no way one can protect anybody. And helicopters don't operate too well, because of the air currents. At that altitude helicopters are miserable. So that's another difficulty one has to confront.

It was made clear to the Vice President security would be weak. There is always a group of malcontents in La Paz, Bolivia, who are protesting against 'American imperialism.' Don't forget the Rockefeller family strongly identified with Standard Oil.

The Vice President went to the airport in La Paz, Bolivia. He got to the airport, we had the meeting there. The president of Bolivia was there, the members of the cabinet. Had a reception at the airport. Had a few toasts. Got in the airplane and left. He was there with his wife, Happy.

Calderón: And that way, he could say he had his sweep of the Latin American countries.

Castro: That's right. He's been to Bolivia. No lie. When I met him in the White House, one of my trips, he had already written a book, a memorandum of about a hundred and fifty pages, on Bolivia.

Calderón: Was Che Guevara alive when you were in Bolivia?

Castro: He was killed at the time there. He'd just got killed. There was a rumor that it wasn't Che Guevara, who had been killed. His fingers were cut off to take his fingerprints. By his fingerprints he was identified as Che Guevara. You know, Che Guevara was from Argentina. He wasn't a Cuban, he was from Argentina. A medical doctor. We had our troops from Panama sort of watching the operation. So he got killed. There's no question it was Che Guevara.

Calderón: Your service in Bolivia was abruptly cut off by President Nixon.

Castro: Yes. I received from him the acceptance of my resignation.

Calderón: How did it feel to have proven yourself to be very successful in the diplomatic corps, yet not have the opportunity to continue?

Castro: Well, it was difficult. There is no question that's it's difficult, because, number one, I wanted to be part of a team and now I wasn't.

Calderón: Was your mother alive when you served in El Salvador and Bolivia?

Castro: No, my mother was not alive at the time.

Calderón: What do you think she would have said if she had been around to know that here you were representing the most powerful country in the world?

Castro: I think Mother would have been very proud. She'd have been a very proud person.

Calderón: After you left Bolivia. . .

Castro: After Bolivia, I returned to Tucson where I practiced law. It was from Tucson that I decided to run for Governor. This was my first campaign. I did not go to Argentina until I resigned as Governor in 1977.

As the saying goes, I could never keep a job more than two years. I was sort of restless, I wanted to move on to something else. Talking about the different posts, I think the most intriguing post to me was Argentina.

Calderón: And that's where you wound up under the Carter administration.

Castro: The Carter administration. I worked with Jimmy Carter, I have a strange story about Jimmy Carter. I had just gotten elected governor of Arizona. I had a suite at the Embassy Suites on Seventh and Thomas. I lived there for about a year during my campaign. I had just gotten elected and the phone rang and a fellow said, "This is Jimmy Carter. Can I speak to Raúl Castro?" I said, "This is Raúl Castro." He said, "Well I'd like to talk to you for about ten minutes." I said, "Mr. Carter, I'd like to accommodate you but I can't. It's five-thirty, I have a six o'clock appointment. I'm inaugurating the Plumber's Union Building. John Frank got me involved in that deal. I've got to be there by six. So I don't think I can see you."

"Oh, no, no. I know what you're going through. I promise you it won't take more than ten minutes." I said, "If you can make it in ten minutes, I'll see you."

Calderón: Now this is the president of the United States you're . . .

Castro: I didn't know that at the time. I didn't know who he was. He wasn't president then.

Calderón: Oh, he was running then?

Castro: He was running. I never heard of the person. He came into my room and received him. He had somebody else from Georgia with him. He said, "I'm Jimmy Carter, et cetera. I know what you're going through. I used to be governor of Georgia." Fine. "I know what has to be done, et cetera." And he said, "I'm running for president of the United States." I said, "Oh no, another nut. Geez," I said, "Mr. Carter, I don't have time for you. I'm shaving, I'm getting a shower, I've got a six o'clock commitment." I said, "You've got to be fast otherwise I can't talk to you." He said, "I understand." I practically pushed him out the door. I wasn't that patient. I didn't have the time. But I thought

Jimmy Carter running for president, "What chance does this person have? I never heard of him." He left.

From then on he kept communication and contact with me and I worked with his campaign in Texas, New York, all over the place, California. I remember flying from San Francisco to Los Angeles in his plane, Peanut Number One, that was the name of the plane. It was a big plane and I sat in the front part of the cabin with the president at a little table. He said, "I know your background and you have strong ties to Latin America. I want you to be my advisor on Latin American matters, et cetera, down the line." "Fine." He looked up and he said, "When I get inaugurated on January the twentieth, when I get sworn in, this is what I intend to do." Well, I was saying to myself, "This guy's really a nut. I've been in Texas and California and Illinois, he doesn't have a chance. This man is going to get beat. He's going to get tromped. He can't get elected." But yet he was so confident he was going to get sworn in.

Then he called Corretta King, who was in the same plane. She was in the back. He called her to come in and sit with us. We got to Los Angeles and then we had to see Brown, Jerry Brown, who was then governor of California. So he had to give a speech there on the street and that type of thing. That's where I got off his plane and returned to Arizona. But later on, every time I'd go to the White House, he'd always remind me of, "Remember when we first met in Phoenix." I didn't want to be remembering because I was embarrassed.

Calderón: You were afraid then, in Phoenix, that you'd offend the plumber's union and . . .

Castro: That's right, rather than—who'd ever think that he'd be president of the United States. And he did..

Calderón: After you left Bolivia, you came back, you were practicing law in Tucson. To many people, having served as an ambassador to two different countries, having served as a superior court judge . . .

Castro: To three countries.

Calderón: Three countries. I guess at that time it would have been two. Having served as a judge, a county attorney, that would have been the pinnacle of a career and they would have sat back and probably just wanted to rest on their laurels. Why did you decide to run for governor?

Castro: You know, unfortunately, and I think that it's unfortunate, but I think the poorest moments of my life have been, economically speaking, in public office. I have the greatest of pride and, I think, respect for people in public office, because the pay scale is, it's not remunerated properly. I think it's, the demands are great and severe and they have a tremendous scale to live with and they are exposed to the public. And it's just not paid. So therefore the time comes that you can't absorb it anymore.

I resigned in Argentina, I just couldn't afford it. Where I lived was a beautiful home of a hundred and fifty rooms, it's a mansion. Had several chauffeurs, many gardeners, many bodyguards, and many servants. I had to pay half of their salary, and you also pay your rent. Part of the rent is paid by the ambassador. So that means that in order to be an ambassador there I was paying a great portion, a good substance of my salary went to that expense. And your representation amount, income, is never enough. So therefore I felt, after the end of Argentina, that the time has come to go home and get down to reality and live a peaceful life. I felt that I already had done what I could on behalf of public office.

So really, it sounds rather corny, but why does one run for office? Well, Ernie, you'll understand it, a guy coming out of Mexico, living in a border community, where I had heard all my life that this can't be done, you can't do this and you can't do that. I had the feeling that it could be done, that I could do it. So for me it was a personal thing. I also felt, naively or otherwise, perhaps I was on my white horse and charger, but I felt I could do something on behalf of the Hispanic community. I felt that discrimination was rampant, that I might be able to play a role in it, in trying to get things a little better for a better way of life. It is a sacrifice. You do it. You take a lot of abuse that goes with it. On the other hand there are benefits. There's no question, I think.

When I go to different schools now, and I remember being lecturing in Stanford and I did in Harvard, on the question of law school and business school, about the Hispanic Community. They had in those days, I remember, in Stanford the first three rows, I guess, were Hispanic students—the same way in Harvard. When I walked in they were defiant. They looked at me as though, "You don't understand our problems. Who are you? What do you know about our problem?" Their feeling was that—they had sent out a biographical data where I had been a former banker, a former district attorney, former governor, former judge—who are you? You don't know what our problems are. So these kids assumed that, really, that I was born into something that wasn't there. So I felt by doing this that I could perhaps give it a fair shake and improve, improve, make it a better world, life for people.

Calderón: Well the early seventies in Arizona were full of a lot of, there was racial tension, the United Farm Workers were very active . . .

Castro: Yes.

Calderón: . . . and you took on a very popular governor, Governor Jack [John R.] Williams.

Castro: I remember that, Jack Williams, yes.

Calderón: Why did you sort of roll the dice against the odds, and running against Jack Williams?

Castro: Because I was confident. I could do it. I had met Mr. [Eugene] Pulliam before, before he had left his office, and his wife. They had a feeling. I remember Mr. Pulliam talking to me one day, he said, "Raúl," amazingly enough he said, "Look, I've never met you and have never known you, but I like your background, and I think that the *Republic* and *Gazette*, we're not going to endorse you, but we're not going to buck you. If you do it right we'll see to it that you get a fair shake and fair treatment. That you'll get equal publicity with whoever runs against you." And he kept his word. I think he was good in that sense.

Calderón: So Gene Pulliam, the chairman of Central Newspapers that ran the *Republic* and *Gazette* basically said, "I like you, I can't endorse you, but we're going to make sure it's a level playing field."

Castro: That's right. In other words, what we want to do, is if you do a good job you get accolades. If you do a bum job, we'll take you to the cleaners. That's what I wanted, to be fair. And he was. He kept asking, "What do you think?" and et cetera. The guy actually believed in me. I think he was interested. It was when he died that things got a little turbulent for me. Once he died, then of course it was a free for all.

Calderón: Was there a change?

Castro: Yes. No, I think for me running for public office was rather inspirational to the extent that I felt throughout that it could be done. The feeling in the Hispanic community always has been, "We don't have a chance. Our votes don't count. Why bother with it, why even bother to vote. It just doesn't make any difference." My feeling was, it does make a difference. When I ran for county attorney in Tucson and won by sixty-five votes, members of my family were fourteen, only three voted for me. The other ones didn't. I said, "Why didn't you?" "Because our vote didn't count. We assumed that our vote wouldn't count," and, "Why bother with it?" Well, it did count. I only won by sixty-five votes. And this is the type of thing that I felt could be done, could be enhanced and that I could spread throughout the community. In those days we didn't have any Hispanic officials in public office. We had, in Tucson we had a member in the city council. I forgot his name. None, the rest said, "That's it. Forget it." Then in Tucson, and in Maricopa County it was worse, nothing here, it was afterwards that Val [A.] Cordova got in on the superior court, I think. But that's long afterwards. Then Lopez got on the board of supervisors, I think. That's subsequent. These are afterwards. But originally there was nothing, nothing to be heard of.

Calderón: So you were alone out in front of the parade.

Castro: I was a lone wolf. I think things have changed, and even to now, Ernie, because don't forget, I'll be seventy-five years next week. I'm not as active in the Hispanic community as I should be because, you know, after forty-five or fifty years you're pretty well worn out. The time comes for someone to take your place, leadership to be involved.

I recall when I'd go to a lot of these things, I'd look at the young people and they'd say, "What the hell does this guy know about our problems?" He lives up on the north end of town. He lives in Paradise Valley. He's not one of us anymore. He doesn't know what the hell we stand for. He does not understand our problems." Their concern is chicano studies or Pancho Villa works or something else and in my day it wasn't chicanos. In may day it was making a living, opportunity. To be able to go to school, to go to law school, to be able to get a better job, to get an office job. To get away from the, and to be able to live where you wanted to live. Those are the things that were before me at that time. Now that's a luxury, now these young people have those. Those are not impediments, so therefore you can gloat and say we want chicano studies, to be better understood. We want to identify ourselves, who are we, you know. I've always known who I was. I know where I came from and I know what the problems were. I didn't need anybody to say, "Look we know who you are. I want you to find yourself."

My idea was that, find yourself by doing something. Be a participant, be active. Be part of the mainstream. Get involved. That's the way to do it. As governor they would see me and say, "Look, we have a committee coming in. We want more professors at the university." I said, "I'll go for that one. But don't see me about getting chicano studies and getting this so we know who we are, find our identity." I said, "All of you know your identity. You know who you are. You know what the problems are. All we can do, and I agree with you, I'm with you a hundred percent, but let's proceed on an intellectual basis rather than on another type of a wingbang that goes the other way."

So basically, my career has been based on dreams, on ideology, on the basis that I wanted to achieve something that hadn't been achieved for the benefit of myself and somebody else, my people, I guess.

But you know, one gets hurt. I have a Black lawyer, Sid [Sidney T.] Marable, in this office, from North Carolina, a very ambitious young guy, very bright, good lawyer. He drives a little Mercedes-Benz, he lives up here north and et cetera. I said, "Sid, one of these days you're going to be deeply hurt." "Why?" "Because your people will turn you down. They'll say, 'He's not one of us. He doesn't understand us. He lives up there at the end of town. He lives well. What does he know about our problems?' They assume that you have neglected them and you're no longer interested, which is not the fact. But in order to be able to be a model, you've got to be a model and say, 'Look, I live well and I have a better way of life. It can be achieved by education. It can be done through effort and through success, through initiative, through aggressiveness."

There used to be a fellow in Tucson, Frank Robles, he used to be a legislator. He had a newspaper. He would ask me, "Raul, why don't you come over with us and down Main Street in Tucson, drink beer with us, get drunk, mariachis and be part of our team?" I said, "Frank, nobody likes mariachi music better than I do and I enjoy my drinks, I enjoy having a good time. I'm the first county attorney who's ever had the name of Raúl Castro in Pima County. If I go down the Main Street with you guys and proceed to get drunk and I end up in the gutter, it'll be the first and they'll say, 'Look at this. This guy's a disgrace to the human race.' So therefore my standard's a little higher. It has to be a higher standard, because I'm looked upon, the public expects of me something a little higher than the average person. If I goof up I've ruined the human race. And that's the reason I'm not there with you getting drunk every Friday, because it's just not my role. It can't be done. It's a standard I have to maintain."

Calderón: How do you develop a thick skin?

Castro: Well that goes with political life. You know, Ernesto, I used to be a boxer, a professional boxer, and I was a fairly good boxer in my life. So really, fighting was, to some extent, my way of life. But I learned in political life that you can't fight your way that way, through your fists and through aggressions and violence.

I recall crossing the street in Tucson going to Valley National Bank and three cowboys were going down the road and as I was walking I was campaigning. One told the other guy, "I'd rather vote for a dog than for a Mexican." He wanted me to hear it. I went, "Woof, woof." All I wanted was their vote. And I got elected. Talk about a thick skin, that's a thick skin. I think I—it hurt.

I'd walk into a bar, you walk into a bar and try to shake hands with everybody. I'd get some very insulting remarks from some people in the bar. But it wasn't my role to fist-fight with them. I felt that was the wrong thing to approach.

So therefore, that's the thick skin we're talking about. You've got to be able to endure it and live with it. And that's life.

Calderón: What do you remember of the election in 1970, travelling around the state?

Castro: Well, I remember when I announced when I'd run for governor I was in Tucson and I wanted to run for governor, I remember that I was told specifically the election time, you know, trying to find the role of. . . . Let's see, that was in 1970 when I ran for governor or, now I'm trying to think.

Calderón: It was 1970. In 1970 you ran against Jack Williams.

Castro: In 1970?

Calderón: In 1970.

Castro: Yes, I guess it was in 1970. Jack Williams, that's right. What was the question on the Jack Williams episode?

Calderón: Well I'm just wondering, you were a diplomat and you returned to Arizona with its relatively small towns . . .

Castro: Yes.

Calderón: . . . to campaign. Is there anything in the campaign that you . . .

Castro: Oh, no. I think that I sort of deviated from it. I think the question was that when I announced for, I was met at the airport by John Molloy, coming from Bolivia, and also by a fellow by the name of, he was secretary of the YMCA in Douglas. They said, "How would you like to run for governor?" I said, "Oh, these guys are crazy." They said, "Yes, you ought to run for governor here." Then we came into town. So finally they convinced me I should run for governor. I had a press conference in one of the buildings in Tucson. The people who attended was myself, another lawyer from the office and nobody else. They thought it was crazy, there's no way I could run for governor and get elected. So they weren't interested. Nobody appeared.

Calderón: There had never been a Hispanic governor.

Castro: Right. So I got into my car and drove to Phoenix, had a press conference at the—they had a big hotel on Central Avenue that's now a . . .

Calderón: The Adams?

Castro: The Adams. Not the Adams. The other one up here on, it's now a senior citizens home.

Calderón: The Westward Ho.

Castro: The Westward Ho. Had a press conference there and who attended? Three people attended. I was ridiculed. They thought, "This guy's crazy, that he has to run for governor. He hasn't got a chance." From there on I drove in my own car to Yuma and I hit all the towns and started campaigning, you know, I didn't have any funds. I made a remark, and I remember Bill Close being on Channel Eight also ridiculing me with the fact that, "This guy's crazy running for governor. Why the hell does he think he's going to succeed?" But my answer was, if there were three people on the street I'll stop and talk to them and solicit their vote. Well, I got elected. It works. I've always felt the American public prefers an underdog. If you're an underdog and give the American public a chance, they'll support you. If you convince them that you've got the criteria, you've got the attributes and the ability to do something, the American public will support you. And that was the way I worked, on that basis, that I felt the American public, if I could convince and persuade them that I didn't have any horns, that I could do a job for them. And I think that's, you've got to believe in yourself, actually is what does it.

Calderón: In 1974 you beat Russ [John R. "Jack"] Williams for the governorship and Arizona had its first Hispanic governor, and its last Hispanic governor. How did you feel, having overcome the years of bias and prejudice that you talked about earlier?

Castro: Well, I think it indicated to me again that, I had a feeling that I think I knew the psychology of the American public and the American constituency and especially Arizona, that most Americans will support an underdog if they're satisfied that they have the credentials and the background and they will do a job. I heavily relied on that, I had full confidence. If I was able to persuade the public that I didn't have any horns, that I wasn't the devil and that even though I came from Mexico that still, nevertheless that this was my country, I was an American, that they would support me in the final analysis. And I think that that turned out to be correct.

Calderón: Did you identify a segment of the population that was opposed to you because you were born in Mexico?

Castro: Oh, you know, when you run for public office, especially minding my background, there will always be certain areas, certain spots in the community that won't support you for ethnic reasons. And on the other hand, there will be other areas that will support you for the same reason. So it balances off in the long run, why it pays off and there is a balance to it. But I think we're a little naive in thinking that people don't think sometimes in racial terms. They do. But where you're weak in one spot, why you pick it up in another spot. In fact, in the political life there are some areas and, I know for a fact, some religious groups, of course, would not support me, and for good reason. Being of Catholic background, they felt that they were not going to support me, and they didn't, and I think that certain communities that I could spot after the election was over, it was very clear that this was a wave of opposition against my election. But that's political life and one accepts it and that's the way one goes.

Calderón: We know that John Kennedy experienced discrimination based on his Catholicism and recently President [George] Bush nominated Judge Clarence Thomas to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Several groups have opposed him based on his Catholicism.

Castro: You know, it's hard to believe, but I was campaigning in Yuma and I was interviewed by one of the local stations and one of the questions asked of me was, "Isn't it true, Mr. Castro, that if you're elected governor, you will be following the mandates and dictates of the pope." Now this, to me, was inconceivable how a mentality of that nature could ever exist in the state of Arizona in this day and age. Their feeling was that, in other words, I wouldn't be myself, I would be following orders of the pope.

Calderón: I think it's safe to assume that the pope never contacted you . . .

Castro: No, the pope never contacted me.

Calderón: Well we know a lot of people contacted you because they wanted to serve as judges. If possible, I'd like to talk a little bit now about some of the people that you have placed on the bench. Tell me about Judge Val [A.] Cordova.

Castro: Well, Judge Cordova had been in law school with me, he was two years behind me. I can tell you about Val. He was a very diligent and a very well-disciplined individual, a good student, a very bright student. Very capable. I remember walking to have a cup of coffee with Val and his wife, Gloria. We were in a booth at the drugstore at University between Third Street and Park Avenue and we were having our coffee when an alarm went off, clock alarm. I said, "What the devil?" I said, "Val, you shouldn't do that. I'm a former boxer here, you ring a bell on me, why I may come out fighting." He said, no, he'd set his time. He allowed himself x-number of minutes for a cup of coffee, from law school. And he was so methodical that if he went somewhere he only allowed himself so much time so he could go back to his classes and study. The rest of us cared less, but Val indicated he had a very disciplined mind and very good, very capable. So I was very impressed with Val.

Calderón: It was my understanding that he served on the superior court and then resigned his judgeship and was in private practice, and you resurrected his judicial career.

Castro: That's right. Then he went back to the superior court. I think he was considered for the appellate or the Supreme Court. I think he was considered for the Supreme Court and for some reason he didn't quite get there. That's when I appointed him to the superior court. But Val was one of the best legal minds I've ever seen in the state of Arizona.

Calderón: Later President [Jimmy] Carter elevated him to the federal bench.

Castro: Right.

Calderón: I recall that, oh, maybe about seven or eight years ago, you were with a select group of people that honored Val by helping establish the Val Cordova Scholarship.

Castro: Right.

Calderón: What about the pressures you and Val faced as superior court judges? Do you recall any people that didn't feel you were going to equally dispense justice?

Castro: Well, the concept most people have is that if you are of Mexican origin or any other origin, any ethnic group, that you might have a tendency to favor those of your same ethnicity or same origin, native origin. That's not the case. Lawyers don't work that way and the mind doesn't work that way, really. So that's one of the things one has to overcome, and I think unfortunately.

I remember a lady that came in to see me. Her son was being sentenced by me on a drug charge, I think it was marijuana. It was a typical poor lady and a lovely human being. But I remember her addressing me and the court saying, "Why, you're one of us and et cetera, and therefore I'm sure that you're going to let my son go free because of you're of Mexican descent and so is my son, and et cetera." That type of thing was quite prevalent among the hunger families, you know, the poorer families. It just doesn't work that way and unfortunately sometimes you have to do the opposite of what they expect. By the same token, I had now and then some priest would get in trouble and as lawyers do sometimes think, they always would want to find out who the Catholic judges were. I ended up sentencing somebody in my court because he was Catholic and had a Catholic judge. The assumption being that if I was Catholic and the person before me was also Catholic, that I would tend to play favorites on them. It just doesn't work. But that's one of the things, one of the pressures one has to consider in superior court.

Calderón: When you were on the superior court, you served with [R.] Porter Murry from Greenlee County.

Castro: Right.

Calderón: Judge [Frank E.] Thomas from Cochise County, Judge [William C.] Truman from Pinal County.

Castro: Correct. The old-timers.

Calderón: Judge [John F.] Molloy.

Castro: Judge Molloy from Tucson and Lee Garrett from Tucson, and [Herbert F.] Krucker. Frank [X.] Gordon was in Kingman, Don [T.] Udall was in Navajo County.

Calderón: Tell me a little bit about Judge Molloy

Castro: Judge Molloy was not in law school with me. He already had graduated, had been in the navy, after the war he was already out. The judge is a tremendous scholar, John Molloy is a very good scholar, a good legal mind, well-disciplined too. It's like Val Cordova. Very firm in his thinking. Sometimes unyielding, not quite as flexible as most judges, but a very fair man. I think Judge, in my estimation, Judge Molloy is one of the better judges, has been one of the better judges in Arizona, an outstanding person.

Calderón: It's my understanding that you built a friendship with Judge Molloy when you were on the bench and that friendship carried forward through your political career.

Castro: Oh, yes, we're still very good friends. John has been interested in Latin America and has a lot of interest in Mexico, from the viewpoint of personal interest. He and I, when he flew, he's a pilot, I would fly with him to Mexico now and then, he and his wife and et cetera. We've been rather close. We're always comparing notes on what can happen, the relationship between this country and Mexico, et cetera. So he's a scholar, he's in every sense of the word a good scholar.

Calderón: He was one of the people that talked you into running for governor.

Castro: You're right. I remember coming in from Bolivia and John Molloy met me at the airport with a person with him. I can't think who the person with him was at the time. Somebody else came in and asked me if I would run for governor. I said, "John, I'm not going to run for governor. It's just impossible, I can't do it." But it turned out it did, and John was—it turned out fine. No question about it.

Calderón: Tell me a little bit about Porter Murry. He was the Greenlee County Superior Court Judge when you were in Pima County.

Castro: Yes, Porter Murry. I knew Porter out of Florence, Arizona. Porter did a lot of court work in Florence and I also was presiding over trials in Florence, Arizona. So Porter and I got to be very good friends. Again, Porter is a very good lawyer, that did a tremendous job as a judge. I think, my feeling is that I think probably I learned more from Porter Murry than any other judge I have ever seen. Because I was close to him, I admired him and I used to, when I was in law school, I used to go watch him when he was presiding over cases in Pima County. A lot of the things that I learned in how to be a good judge, to want to be a good judge, I probably picked up from Porter Murry.

Calderón: How about Judge Truman from Pinal County?

Castro: Bill Truman?

Calderón: Yes.

Castro: Bill Truman. I'll never forget the day when Bill looked at me and he said, "You know, Raúl, you're going to be in court sometimes presiding over a case, and some of these cases are very dull, are very difficult, they can't keep you awake, and you've got to be able to stay with it and see what you can do with it." He said, "It will be so bad one of these days, that somebody will make an objection and you won't know what the objection will be." Bill Truman made a remark to me that I'll never forget. He said, "Look, Raúl, let me explain something to you. Whatever you do when you're on the bench as a presiding judge, and somebody makes an objection, and you're not quite there, you're a little sound asleep or not quite wide awake, just tell the attorneys, 'Counselor, please rephrase your question.' By this time the attorney has to rephrase his question and you won't look ridiculous before the jury because you were not listening, you don't know what the objection was." So then, I think I've taught that to many lawyers. Just say, "Rephrase your question," and you can't go wrong.

Calderón: You can't go wrong.

Castro: You can't go wrong that way.

Calderón: I was reading an article that was written right about the time you were elected to the superior court in Pima County and it appears that your fellow judges petitioned Governor Ernest [W.] McFarland to appoint you to the bench early.

Castro: Right.

Calderón: That is rather unusual. I don't think you see that collegiality among judges these days. How did Governor McFarland respond?

Castro: Governor McFarland, I think at the time, I remember—well he was governor at the time, I think—he wanted me to be on the bench. McFarland had tried several cases before me in Florence, in Pinal County, as an attorney then. I was on the bench, he was attorney, so he appeared and tried cases. I remember, in reference to your case, going to the capitol building and asking Governor McFarland if he would appoint me to the bench. He was a little hesitant. He said, "I don't know about your request. I don't think I can honor it." I said, "Why not?" "Because I don't think that I can appoint you." I think at the time somebody else was being considered for the bench, a Mormon, of the Mormon faith. He said, "If I appoint you to the bench as superior court judge, this is going to incur the wrath of the Mormon community and I can't take that chance." This was McFarland. So, at my request, he never appointed me, really, that's the opposite answer.

Calderón: So you had to wait until your term actually started?

Castro: I had to wait until I ran for office. He never appointed me, I had to run for office and get elected by the popular vote. But McFarland was a little hesitant. He was afraid that if he appointed me why he might hurt the Mormon community or other political allies.

Calderón: He was a politician himself.

Castro: Oh, yes, he sure was.

Calderón: He was a former Senate majority leader of the United States Senate.

Castro: No question about it. Right.

Calderón: Since we're on the topic of judges, you appointed Judge Frank Gordon to serve on the [Arizona] Supreme Court. He's now leaving the Supreme Court.

Castro: Correct.

Calderón: Would you share some of your observations about the justices?

Castro: Well, let me tell you. My relationship with Frank goes way, way back. I was a superior court judge in Pima County. Frank, I think, had been county attorney before that in Mohave County. His father was an attorney in Kingman, an old-time attorney there. Frank got on the bench, was appointed or elected to the bench in Mohave County.

I remember one day—I had already met him because I had been in Mohave County as a superior court judge—in making my remark to Judge Gordon I said, "I would recommend that now that you are just newly-appointed judge of superior court in Mohave County, that you try your first case in Pima County." "Why is that?" I said, "Frank, let me tell you something about it. Kingman is a small community and you're bound to make some mistakes in your first case. Why don't you go to Tucson, Pima County, where nobody knows you, try the case there. You'll make some mistakes, but who cares. The errors won't be that noticeable, they won't be that obvious. You can do a good job there." That's exactly what happened. We used to exchange.

But that particular day I wasn't in Kingman. I stayed in Tucson. He went to Pima County to try his case and I sat in the courtroom to watch him. I became very convinced that Frank unquestionably would be one of the outstanding judges in the history of Arizona. For a man who had just got elected to the bench, took over the seat as a superior court judge, he did absolutely an outstanding job in picking a jury and trying that particular case. I think it was his first case, and as I say, he was absolutely outstanding.

I knew him as an individual, as a person, besides being a judge. We were close friends of him and his wife. I had known his father. And we made it a point that when we had cases with a conflict of interest that he would go to Tucson and I would go to Mohave County. So we did quite a bit of exchanging. I did quite a bit of juvenile court work in Mohave County. I was interested in working with young people, with juveniles, so I did a lot of work of that nature in Mohave County, a lot of juvenile court hearings.

It turned out that Frank turned out to be an outstanding Supreme Court Judge, no question about it. He has the right temperament.

You know, he went to Stanford University and then U. of A. [University of Arizona], I think, law school. Frank is a tremendous swimmer. He was a great swimmer. He was known in Arizona for his swimming ability. A very capable guy.

Calderón: You mentioned judicial temperament. Define it for us.

Castro: Well judicial temperament, you know, on the bench you have to be even-keeled, you can't be emotional. You have to be able to sit there and absorb the facts and listen as it's coming in, and be courteous to attorneys, courteous to everyone as much as possible.

If an attorney gets out of hand, and sometimes they do, to have enough sense to not show your anger or hostility towards the attorney. Be courteous at all times. Then dismiss the jury and ask the attorney to come into chambers and talk to him in chambers. But never embarrass an attorney before his clients or before a jury. I think that can be done very discreetly in the chambers and I think that's the way one makes good lawyers, by getting the attorney to recognize that he's erred and therefore he's got to correct his methods.

Frank was good at doing that, mild-mannered, low key, never demonstrated any hostility or anger towards anybody. He gave a ruling, but the ruling was even-keeled in every sense of the word.

I think to me that's judicial temperament, to be able to keep that flow. I think the days of slinging a gavel and banging on a desk, well those days are gone. There's no need for that. I think attorneys know it. They recognize that if the judge means business, that's the way it's going to be conducted.

I recall on the bench many times I had—well, I knew most lawyers, in fact I still do, some of the old-timers—some lawyers had a tendency to make an objection if you asked somebody their name. It was a continuous objection. Therefore you never finish a case, it's prolonged forever. I would make it a point before the trial started, to tell the attorneys, "Look, I don't expect—I want this thing to be run in an orderly fashion. Time is of the essence. I expect you to make the proper objections, but whatever you do, do not get out get out of hand and have any theatrics in the courtroom. I don't want any screaming or hollering." They knew I meant it and I think we always had a very good session that way. I think it ran a good trial.

Calderón: I asked my father-in-law, who was a young lawyer in Tucson in the late fifties, about Judge Castro. He said, "When you were in Raúl's courtroom, you knew who was in charge."

Castro: Yes. I have always been firm. I was very firm, I think, and the attorneys knew it. But I think it's unfair to let them think you're going to come in and vacillate and procrastinate. They knew that the courtroom was a courtroom and there was business. If the trial started at ten o'clock, they're to be there at ten o'clock unless an automobile accident or something happens. But that was it. They find out it's a courtroom. The jury was dismissed and, you know, offers of proofs were made and things were conducted properly and well. And that's right. I think that's. . . .

And I did it the same way in juvenile court. I had the pleasure in juvenile court of having very difficult cases. But the young people coming in before me recognized that I meant business and was firm but tried to be fair. A sense of fairness always prevailed in that sense. And I think my approach was to try to impress the young people that they had an opportunity.

I had, I remember Black kids would come into my courtroom. They were defiant and hostile because they felt, we don't have a chance. Some of these kids were husky, big, high school kids. I remember asking them, "Look, what do you mean, 'you don't have a chance?' You ought to be at school, the university, but, you're not. You come in here with a dirty jacket, you look dirty, you don't take care of yourselves. Why aren't you in school?" They'd say, "Well, we don't want to go to school because we feel that we don't have a chance because we're Black." I would get some of that from the Hispanic community, too. I said, "Let me ask you one question. How many probation officers do we have in town, in the community, that are Black?" "Zero." "How many dentists?" "Zero." "How many lawyers?" "Zero." "How many superior court judges?" "Zero." "You know, you have nothing, and therefore I can guarantee you today that if you go to the university and take a course and graduate, I can give you my job tomorrow. I'll guarantee it, you'll take the job over. You'll be a probation officer. But you've got to go to school. So don't tell me there isn't a chance. There is a chance, but you've got to be able to prepare yourself."

Initially, I'd say my words were rather harsh to them. They wouldn't like it. But then after a while they'd recognize that it was done in good faith. I said, "I identify with your problems, I've had some problems in my life too. So I'm not saying this out of the clear blue sky." Amazingly, after I left the bench, the number of young people who are now grown people, including members of judge's families who appeared in my court, they come up and thank me for what I did to them in juvenile court. They felt this was their ability to get off and get started and get going. So I think fairness is important, discipline is important, as long as they recognize that it's a fair shake, it isn't done in anger. Anything done in anger doesn't do the job.

Calderón: Who were the bright young lawyers who practiced in front of you as a superior court judge?

Castro: Well, the ones that I had really, were outstanding, that I really brought into my office as county attorney, number one, Marvin [S.] Cohen, who is now in Phoenix. Marvin Cohen was a tremendous lawyer, trial lawyer. He did a lot of the work for the Board of Supervisors in Pima County, was a reviser.

Bob [Robert C.] Stubbs in Tucson, who does a lot of highway work, condemnation proceedings, has done an outstanding job. Bob Stubbs worked for me for years.

Paul [G.] Rees did a lot of, he was Mo [Morris K.] Udall's partner, did a lot of p.i. [personal injury] work, an outstanding trial lawyer in the same way.

All those people were absolutely outstanding. I think, you know, in my opinion I had the cream of the crop at the time and they proved it.

Dick [Richard D.] Grand in Tucson, a controversial figure, but I think you give the devil his due. Dick Grand, his first job in life in the legal profession was under me. He came in to me, in my home in Tucson on River Road, and said, "Look, I think I can be of help to you in your office, in the county attorney's office." I said, "What do you mean?" "I think I can try a case. I'm new in the legal profession, but I am energetic, I'm ambitious, I have worked hard. I think I can do some good for you."

I hired Dick and believe you me, where the other lawyers were hesitant trying drunk-driving cases or petty cases. Dick Grand would come over to me and say, "Look, Raúl, I'll take that case. I want to go to court." And he went to court at every opportunity, every time he had a chance, he'd end up in court, to polish up on his skills. The answer is, now he's one of the leading trial lawyers in Arizona. An outstanding job. Dick is a hard worker. His cases were always well-prepared and well-done. He tried several cases before me.

You know, Tom [Thomas] Chandler in Tucson tried many cases before me. Bob [Robert S.] Tullar, an outstanding lawyer. No question about it. So all the—Dick [Richard M.] Bilby, who's now on the federal court and was the senior federal judge, appeared before me several times, tried several cases in my court. A good lawyer.

I used to come to Maricopa County too. I remember trying cases with Marvin—oh, he went to law school with me; I can't think of his name now. John [J.] Flynn, of course, was a classmate. He tried many cases before me. Criminal, he did mostly criminal work. John Flynn was outstanding in every sense of the word.

Calderón: When you were a judge did you see many discovery disputes?

Castro: Well, talk about discovery. In those days there wasn't any discovery. You played the game. I say "game," you shouldn't use the word game, but it's the case. Discovery was at a minimum, really. Now I like the modern method. When you go to court you know everything that the other lawyer has, and he knows your case well. So there's no need for shenanigans or shams of any kind. As county attorney, the only thing we ever gave as county attorney in those days, was a list of witnesses. That's all they got, "These are going to be my witnesses," and that's about all. Forget about depositions. Forget about giving over confessions and statements and exhibits and what have you. That just wasn't done. It was sort of a process of secret, you know, "I'll surprise you in court." So I think we've come a long way in the way of discovery. I think discovery is a tremendous procedure. It's abused sometimes, but it wasn't what we had in those days.

Calderón: Did you ever have to arbitrate any sort of a lawyer-lawyer conflict when you were judge? Did you ever have conflicting personalities that would force you to step into the middle of a fray?

Castro: Oh, yes. Of course I did. And you know, now that you mentioned that, I think another lawyer that I wanted to mention was Charlie [Charles E.] Ares. He was a professor at law school, still is, at the university. He was also practicing with Morris Udall. I think Chuck Ares tried his last personal injury case in my court. It got to be quite a battle case, a heated case. I guess he felt he'd had it, and after that he resigned and went to teach at the law school. He had been on the U.S. Supreme Court; I think he had been Justice [Hugo L.] Black's or Justice [William O.] Douglas' clerk.

Calderón: Law clerk.

Castro: That's right. Chuck Ares did a good job. He's an outstanding. . . .

Oh, yes, a lot of times I would dismiss the jury and call recess, ask the lawyers to come in chambers, and I would arbitrate with a hard hand. We'd work it out. Yes.

Calderón: Who's the best judge that you've seen on the bench?

Castro: I think one of the better judges I've seen was a federal judge, [James A.] Walsh, Judge Walsh in Tucson, who was a Phoenix lawyer initially, a superior court judge here. Had been with Snell and Wilmer for many years. Then he got on the bench and moved to Tucson. Unquestionably, I think he was the image of a outstanding judge. I think he was low key, quiet, firm. You walked in the courtroom, you'd know he meant business, no wasting of time, no shenanigans, because you knew where you stood. You knew the rules of the court. I think he did an outstanding job. In my opinion, he was one of the best judges I ever met.

Calderón: We got back on the topic of judges because we were talking about Frank Gordon. There's a debate now as to the type of action a judge should pursue. Should judges be activists, should they create new law, or should they just interpret the law? When you were governor, did you have a particular perspective on the types of philosophies you wanted your judges to have?

Castro: Yes, I did, because, number one, there are many statutes in the books that I didn't particularly care for, don't like. I had no choice, the statute was there and I had to pursue it and follow the statute as the legislature had passed it, trying to reach at a reasonable interpretation, something that would promote justice. I think the ultimate goal of every judge should be justice, to seek justice, and that it's reasonable and that the person's getting justice. So you interpret, you go around it and give it an interpretation. I don't think we can be a substitute for the legislature. You interpret the constitution, you interpret the statutes the best you can, but the interpretation has to be a reasonable interpretation, one that makes some sense, that's endowed with good judgment. I think to me that's the vital, that's where a good judge comes in, to be able to interpret a statute and give it the feeling the interpretation is one that promotes justice. That it's a reasonable interpretation that promotes justice. And that will do it, I think.

Calderón: What if that interpretation of the statute, as part of finding justice, means a very radical change in the way society has interpreted the law?

Castro: Then I would say, I certainly would say when the case is over, off the bench, whatever may be, and make it known to the attorneys, that unfortunately I'm not satisfied with the statute as it stands now, as it's written. It's causing a lot of inequities, and therefore I think we must find some legislative relief somewhere down the line. An effort has to be made and brought to the attention of the legislature that this is a very poor law, poor statute. It's got to be amended and modified. I'd throw it back at the legislature.

Now for instance, I think Stan [Stanley G.] Feldman, who unquestionably will be the next, probably the next justice of the Supreme Court in Arizona . . .

Calderón: Chief Justice.

Castro: I know Stan Feldman quite well. He is from Tucson and he appeared in my court I don't know how many times, tried many cases. And let me tell you one thing, I happen to know him quite well as an attorney, I don't think you'll find an attorney as sharp and bright and knowledgeable about the statutes and the law of Arizona as Stan Feldman. There's some people object to him, the fact that he has a tendency to interpret the thing. They say he's liberal. I don't quite go along with that term of being liberal. I think on the bench you have to interpret that statute with a feeling, "Am I promoting justice?" and be able to look at the thing and try to—not to the left or the right—but give it a significance and the feeling that the person before you that's going to be impacted is getting a just shake before that courtroom. I think Stan is good for that and I think, I don't question him at all. I think there's a lot question in some of the firms, but I know him, I'll tell you, he's a good lawyer. I think that—he practiced before me many, many years and I found him to be a heck of a good lawyer, a good trial lawyer.

Calderón: Do you think that as a chief executive officer appointing justices to the Supreme Court, in order to achieve that justice there should be some sort of geographic or ethnic or gender balance on the court?

Castro: I don't think a judge should be appointed basically just because of his race, but on the other hand—in fact I had that discussion this morning with Mr. Marable—I think the average American constituent will accept and buy the fact and recognize that all segments of the population should be represented. There's got to be representation. You can't have a legislature in Arizona if twenty per cent of the population is Hispanic or Latin and Black and Indian, how can we have a legislature devoid of any representation of that particular ethnic group? I think the same thing would be true of most of the courts. So therefore, I'd say in making an appointment to the court, whether the supreme or superior court—remember the governor makes the appointment on the basis that, well, we have twenty per cent of the population is Hispanic or Black, whatever it may be, can't we find a person in that segment of population that knowledgeable about the law, that has a concept that's compassionate, has a feel for justice and can give it a good representation? If that's the case, if a man is qualified and capable, why not? I'd say then make the appointment. But not strictly on the basis of race. No, I think it would be wrong. I think if that's the case, you can appoint someone to the bench because he's black, purple or blue and set the human race back a hundred-and-fifty years.

Now whether we like it or not, civil rights is very much of our domain these days. It has to be considered, it's there, it's part of our way of life, and therefore I think if you make an appointment of someone to the bench that's going to set back the civil rights movement a hundred-and-fifty years, that would be wrong, in my opinion.

Calderón: Following the same theme, you were the governor in Arizona when the early years of merit selection was in place.

Castro: I think it started with me.

Calderón: Has merit selection de-politicized the selection of judges?

Castro: No. I think the point has to be dreamy-eyed. Number one, I've been through the role. I was elected superior court judge in Tucson by the mandate of the people, by the vote of the people. They voted me and that's it. So you do feel a sense of responsibility to the public. You have a close tie to the public and you're responsible, you're answerable to the public. And this is what you'll be doing on the bench, dispensing justice to the public. I think the merit system, the effort is good. I think an effort was made to make it work, to get away from, in other words, to get away from judges getting contributions from attorneys who practiced before them, getting contributions from interested groups who will be appearing before them. That's the objective behind it.

But let's get down to political basics. If I'm governor of Arizona and I have the opportunity to appoint the nominating committee and that committee, six are lay people, or five lay, whatever, I forgot the number. Let's say six. Six of the people are lay people appointed by the governor. Who will the governor appoint? The governor will appoint those people who are his friends, who helped in his campaign, or perhaps he feels are good citizens, people who are good citizens and who are knowledgeable about the court system of some kind. Then the Bar appoints three, three people from the State Bar. Well it's quite apparent that the membership, the numbers of members of that committee will be dominated by whatever policies the governor wants to pursue.

If the governor wants to be discreet or wants to be meritorious or he feels that he recognizes someone in the group that could be a very good judge, he could through some third party let the members of the nominating committee know the governor's preference.

To make a long story short, when the committee meets, and they have the interviews, then the committee recommends three people to the governor, and rest assured, one of those three will be one that the governor wants to appoint.

Who are we kidding? Things haven't changed and won't change and this is political life. So anyone that wanted to believe that the merit system is strictly de-politicized is wrong. It's not correct. It just isn't the case. There is some political maneuvering done, still yet.

Calderón: Do you think merit selection should be revisited or refined?

Castro: It should be refined and I think it ought to be modified. I think it should be modified to some extent. How, I haven't gotten to the conclusion yet. I don't think that the elective system is the best because of what we explained, getting contributions from big law firms, vested interests, et cetera, that certainly doesn't help. But on the other hand, neither will it help to have the governor making those appointments that he tells his committee, "These are the people I want." That's exactly what he's going to get. If he appoints six people to the screening committee and he tells them, this is what I want, that what he's going to get, and it's still political. And it's worse because the political aspect comes from the governor's office and nowhere else. At least when people vote for you there's a whole population that's voting for you. But when it's the merit system as it is now, it's the governor who's making that determination.

Calderón: You mentioned people voting for you and from that comment I draw the sense of accountability to the public when they vote for you. Recently the state has been shocked with a case of a judge who displayed some misconduct.

Castro: Yes.

Calderón: Do you think that judges were more accountable to the public when they were elected or now they're more accountable through merit selection?

Castro: I think they're more accountable through merit selection. I think since I was on the bench since now, I think the ethics have changed a little bit. For instance, when I was on the bench it was made clear to me, and I pursued it rather diligently, that I would not be consorting with other attorneys, that my life, it was going to be a lonely life as far as the legal profession was concerned. I would not go to parties or dinners or functions that were mostly attorneys. I would avoid it as much as possible. I think I would avoid accepting invitations to go fishing with other attorneys, be seen publicly with them, with regularity, with certain attorneys. That's something I never did.

My former law partner, David [K.] Wolfe practiced in Tucson, and when I got on the bench that was the end of David Wolfe. I felt that my relationship with him had been severed, that he was a friend and et cetera, I had a lot of respect for him, but I didn't want him trying cases before me, and neither did I want to be in his house every day of the week, or other attorneys.

To me that was the ethics of the bench, and I find they're a little loose now. I find judges and attorneys consorting rather regularly with each other. They may say, well, maybe it's, you're trying to use a narrow judgment on them, but I don't think that's true.

I think it's—the image of the public is another one. You have to be concerned with the image of the public. If they see me with you constantly, then the public gets an idea, there's an image-building procedure there that's going to be a negative one rather than positive.

So I am inclined to accept the old theory that if you're on the bench, stay on the bench and make yourself lots of friends, but don't make them with members of the Bar. I think members of the Bar have their place and it's going to be in the courtroom.

I say that because I am used to living in South America, fourteen years of my life, wherein if a lawyer has a case he thinks nothing of coming in before a judge, discussing his case with the judge, without the other counsel being present. They just come in and have a chat and discuss the case back and forth and out he goes. Then the next day the other lawyer comes in and kicks around his case. To me this is abhorrent. It's just, it's repugnant. It's contrary to what I think a judge should be.

Calderón: When you appointed Frank Gordon to the Supreme Court, either intentionally or unintentionally you created a very big ripple on the pond. Justice Gordon distinguished himself as an excellent jurist and eventually ended up presiding over the impeachment of a sitting governor. Did you have any concept at all that your appointment of Justice Gordon, or for that matter any judge, would have that sort of long . . .

Castro: No, I sure didn't. And you know, the mention that, for instance, I consider Frank one of my closest friends, Frank Gordon. I appointed him to the Supreme Court and I don't think I've seen Justice Gordon, to be frank with you, I've never been to his home. I don't think he's ever been to my house. He used to be in my house before when we were both superior court judges. Frank would go to my house, I would go to his house. We had a very good friendship. But since he's been in the Supreme Court I've made it a point not to follow that relationship. I think it, to me it was wrong. It just shouldn't be. Everyone knows that we were close friends, but yet, as I say, I haven't been to his house, he hasn't been to mine, and I keep that relationship at distance, on the legal basis. The same way with Justice [James Duke] Cameron. I think Justice Cameron is a close friend of mine, I've known him for years, quite close. We have the same relationship. We don't make it a point not to—we see each other socially somewhere else, but not in our homes.

Calderón: You seem to have a very clear way to distinguish between proper roles. You distinguish, in a sense, between your role as a member of the executive branch in Arizona and you contrast that to your friends on the bench who are part of the judicial branch and the dichotomies there. You talk about the dichotomy between attorneys and judges. Does that make life more easy to deal with or does it create obstacles that constrain you?

Castro: No, it doesn't. I think, really, that everybody recognizes, when I run for the superior court judge I recognize that my role would be as superior court judge to be one with the public and not with other attorneys. Other attorneys I will see in the courtroom and that's exactly what was my relationship with them, or in chambers. You get away from your own profession in that sense, and I think you learn to live with it. People respect and see it. One has to accept it. It's like becoming a Catholic priest. If I accept the vows as a priest I know that I am not going to get married and I have to follow the precepts and concepts that exist in the church and must pursue them. I felt the same way about being a judge, that there are certain rules and regulations that have to be presumed and I must abide by them. I think you've got to practice what one preaches and I think that's been my role in life all the way through.

At this point I think I'll ever be any happier than I am now, because, number one, I'm out of political life strictly, I don't worry about the editorial page first thing in the morning, and you don't worry about smiling at everybody or shaking hands with everybody. You're your own, you're your own person in that sense of the word. I reached the point that I felt, unfortunately, and I think it's an unfortunate situation, that I felt that too many superior court judges or other judges were being, to some extent, pushed and shoved by the media, by the press, that they were reading certain opinions et cetera, certain articles and were being pressured to take an action that wasn't their legal action, wasn't their judicial action. They were reacting to something that appeared in the print and taking, following that instead of following their own inclinations. To me that's the danger of it. I think the judge has to be able to follow his own dictates, give his own rulings. If he's wrong, he's wrong and if he's right, he's right. I think that's what we have appellate courts for. But I think he ought to be able to do his own ruling without taking pressure from the outside. And I'm afraid too much of that occurs now from the media, in that sense.

Calderón: Governor, as chief executive officer in the state, as the head of government, here you are a diplomat, a statesman, a revered judge, a very, very good lawyer, and you're serving as the captain of the ship. At the same time we had a young attorney general by the name of Bruce [E.] Babbitt. What were the relationships like in those years?

Castro: Oh, I think, Bruce has a very good educational background, very bright. He's an intellectual in every sense of the word. I think at that time when he was attorney general I had a feeling that, and one has to be careful at that age, that you get overcome with the political ambitions or the, what will I do next, what's my next step, and have a tendency to overcome, perhaps overlook your mission which is to be attorney general or governor or judge, whatever the case may be.

I had the same view with Mike Dukakis when he was governor of Massachusetts. Mike and I were very good friends when we would have these governors' conferences. I remember one meeting we had in New Orleans and Mike Dukakis made a presentation and when he was finished I said, "Mike, I have a feeling that what you're telling us today is of national impact. It's got nothing to do with Massachusetts. You're ignoring your constituency and apparently you're looking ahead for something else"—this was before ever anybody thought he would run for president—"and I have a feeling that if that happens, you're going to get beat because it's become rather obvious that you're not concerned with Massachusetts, you're concern is on a national basis. They're not going to vote for you for governor of Massachusetts." And sure enough he got beat the next term for governor of Massachusetts. So he was more concerned about making an impact at the national level than he was on his own constituency. And I think that's the problem we have now, I think, in many instances, with the young people who set out a program and completely forget that they'd better do the job they're doing now good, well-done, then take the next step. But don't forget the mission you have at that very moment. People elected you to do a particular job and not do something else.

Calderón: When you were governor and you looked at the actions of the attorney general's office or, for that matter, rulings that came down from the court, did you look at those rulings as a judge first or as an administrator?

Castro: Well, you don't get away from it. Of course you have to—don't forget, as governor of Arizona I got sued about every day. Every prisoner in Florence I think filed a lawsuit against me because either the living conditions were poor or the food was terrible or the cells were not good cells, were not taken care of properly or they weren't getting enough education or something. So every lawsuit was filed against me as governor of Arizona and also in my individual capacity. So therefore Bruce Babbitt as the attorney general would defend me as governor, but he wouldn't defend me in my individual capacity. So I, Raúl Castro, had to worry about looking at those complaints to be sure that my end of the line was being protected, as an individual. So therefore, I never did quit practicing law, really, so therefore I did both. I was an executive, at the same time I was still lawyer. The same would be true when I was ambassador in Argentina. I would get lawsuits filed in Arizona years before that, served upon me in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I was being sued because I was governor of Arizona. Well the attorney general wouldn't defend me. I had to sit there in Buenos Aires and draft my own pleadings and file my own answers and et cetera and send them back to Arizona to be filed in court. So you can see I never quit practicing in that sense.

Calderón: Well since you mentioned Argentina, I think this is a good time to talk a bit more about Argentina. You were the first Hispanic governor of the state. You were shaping the state in many ways. And as you stated last time, then-President Jimmy Carter asked you to serve in Argentina. Was it a difficult decision to leave the governorship?

Castro: Yes, it was, for one reason, and I think I've searched my soul many a time on this one. Don't forget, I'd run for governor the first time against Jack Williams, lost by four thousand votes, at about four o'clock in the morning. Then I ran the second time. The second time, by that time people thought I could win. So I did win. It's the only time that I have ever seen, and I've been in this state many years, that I could find that really truly the Hispanic community solidified, went as one unit and supported me one hundred per cent. They walked the streets, they rang doorbells, and I can tell you they took deep pride in the fact that I was running for governor of Arizona. And you know as well as I do, Ernie, that the Hispanic community is divided in several ways. We hardly ever agree on anything. But this time I think that there was agreement. There was a consensus that they wanted to support me. And they did. So therefore, when I resigned as governor of Arizona to go to Argentina, I searched my soul with a feeling that these people worked so hard for me, they were so proud of me that they felt this was the only time we had an Hispanic governor in Arizona, here he's resigning, leaving us behind and moving into Argentina. To me that is the query, that's the cross I had to bear and it bothered me and there's no question about it. And those were the after effects. People felt that it was wrong of me to resign, leave them behind to go to Argentina when they had worked so hard for me. That I had betrayed them in that sense.

Calderón: Was there anything that tipped your decision in favor of Argentina?

Castro: Well, I think what happened—well, Argentina. Number one, I had been in diplomatic service before. You know, I had been in the consular service when I was twenty-one years of age. When I left NAU and graduated and I had a teaching degree and they told me I couldn't teach school because I was of Mexican descent, they couldn't hire me. Then I became a professional boxer. I started making a living as a boxer. Then I came back and got a job with the State Department at Agua Prieta, out of Douglas and pretty well, I felt, did most of the work in the consulate there, everything in the world to be done. And that's what inspired me to be an attorney. I did a lot of work with Mexican lawyers in

Mexico. Americans would get in trouble and I would go to court, I would go with lawyers and get them out of jail, I did, what do you call it, protection work, protect the American interests abroad in that sense of the word. And that gave me the feeling I wanted to be an attorney. And that's how I got the inspiration to become an attorney, by working with Mexican lawyers and working in Mexican courts. So my first contact, really, was not American courts, they were Mexican courts. That's where I worked with Mexican lawyers. Translating of documents and doing that type of thing. So I thought I became rather well-versed with the code of Sonora. I knew that law quite well. I worked with it every day of the week. So I had a feeling that after that happened that I had a yen for the international world, the international side of life.

So when the opportunity arose, you know, I searched my soul as governor as to whether to quit or stay. I felt that my impact, that with my background I could do a better service for my country, for the United States of America, as an American ambassador. I knew Latin America, I had covered it before. I knew the language, a native speaker. I had done a lot of legal work and I knew the Mexican code well, the Napoleonic code, I was familiar with it, the terminology. I felt rather comfortable. I had been through several revolutions. In Mexico you had one every three months. My father was involved and some of my family involved in revolutions, so I had that exposure.

So when the opportunity arose to be an American ambassador again, I felt, "This gives me an opportunity to do something at the national level." I would be representing Arizona, I would still be from Arizona, as an American ambassador, one of the highest ranks in the world, in American government, an American ambassador. I would be representing the president of the Unites States of America. I'll be his true representative in every sense of the word. So it would be a broader job, a broader scope, broader responsibility than as governor of Arizona. I felt by doing that I might be able to perhaps inspire or do, get the feeling of the Arizona community, be a role model that others could follow my steps in that sense of the word. So to me it would be a step upward rather than backward.

But on the other hand I do have to consider the fact that the feelings and sentiments of the Hispanic community were hurt because they felt that I had abandoned them and I had left them behind after working so hard. And there's merit to that. How many times have they had a governor of Arizona that has an Hispanic background? Never. We hope that it happens again sometime. It's not that simple, but I think—I think what it did, it solidified the Hispanic community. It's the only time I've seen it. I haven't seen it yet. I follow the elections rather closely. I have not seen the Hispanic community come in as a unit again. They had a reason, they had a cause. They believed in the cause.

Calderón: What was your greatest achievement in Argentina?

Castro: I think the greatest achievement we had was, number one, given the feeling that here I came in from Arizona—they never heard of Arizona, they heard of

Tombstone and the Wild West in Argentina, American movies. Then there was the novelty, a novel situation to have someone come into Argentina as the American ambassador—Argentina was a powerful country once upon a time, a great country—and here is a man coming in who speaks Spanish as well as they do, their native language, Spanish, understands the culture of Argentina well, in that sense of the word, communicates with them perfectly well. And here's a man who was born in Mexico of Mexican parents, and their query was, "How can it be? How is it possible for you to be the American ambassador? You were born in Mexico of Mexican parents, how can you represent the United States of America?" Keep in mind, in Argentina and the other countries of Latin America, even though you're born in Argentina or born in El Salvador, of that one I'm sure, of foreign parents, if you're born of foreign parents, if your parents came from a foreign country, you'll never be allowed to hold a public office, even though you're native born. For instance in El Salvador, you're born in San Salvador of parents of parents who came in from Poland, Prussia, France, Germany, Italy, it doesn't make any difference, even if your parents came from a foreign country, you're born in that country, you can never hold a public office. You are considered a second-rate citizen.

Calderón: You are providing a testament to the brilliance of the American constitutional excellence.

Castro: That's right. My reaction was, "Look, I'm an American. I'm a naturalized American, I'm an American citizen regardless, so I am an American. That's all there is to it. I'm here as the American ambassador." To me that was the most shocking thing for anybody from Mexico down to Tierra del Fuego. They couldn't see how ever I could be an American ambassador, because I wasn't born in the country.

I got to Argentina, to Buenos Aires and the first three months were miserable. Nobody would accept me. The Argentines were angry. In fact it appeared in the newspapers, "Why would the president of the United States of America send in a Mexican as an ambassador to Argentina?" After all, they're a European country. And they didn't want a Mexican as an ambassador. They wanted a lily-white, freckled-face, Anglo-type individual.

Calderón: They wanted somebody from Harvard or Princeton or Yale.

Castro: That's right. So the first three months weren't easy. I remember coming into a reception in Buenos Aires and this lady came in with all her diamonds and et cetera and she looked at me and she said, "I understand that you are the American ambassador." I said, "Yes."

"And I also understand that you're 'muy macanudo.'"

Well, as a Mexican, I said, 'Macanudo?' How the hell does she know if I'm 'macanudo' or not?" To a person of Mexican descent the word "macanudo" carries sensual overtones. In Argentina the word connotes a person is "simpático" or charming. This lady also asked me if I was from Salta. Salta is a province next to Bolivia. In Salta they tend to be a little darker, you know. Bolivia is about seventy-five Indian origin. And there's a little pocket of indigenous people in the Salta area. In a joking manner I also told the lady I was from Salta and also from Jujuy. Jujuy is in that same area. So she left. But I knew what she was driving at. It's very commonplace in Argentina for total strangers to immediately inquire about your pedigree. Who cares? But that's the first question asked.

Here's my wife from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a German-Irish girl. "Mrs. Castro, where are your parents from?" She said, "Milwaukee, Wisconsin." And they get on by, "What nationality? You know, what's your origin?" "My father was German and my mother was Irish." It went on. I thought, "What the devil's wrong with these people? They all, you know, the first thing they want to know is, where do you come from?"

When I was addressing a group of bankers in New York. It was on my way to Buenos Aires. All the leading bankers of Argentina were at the Waldorf Astoria. They wanted to meet me. As I met each one coming down the receiving line, they introduced themselves, "So-and-so, Spaniard." "So-and-so, Italiano." "So-and-so, German." But nobody said they were Argentines. I said, "What the hell is this? When do I meet anybody from Argentina?" So it gave me the feeling there was no pride in the country itself. That all these people wanted to be something else, but not Argentines. Nobody wanted to be recognized as from Argentina. They wanted to be from Europe but not Argentina.

I was sitting next to the wives of some cabinet members of Argentina. They said, "¿Usted es español?" *[Are you Spanish?]* "Yo no tengo nada de español. Absolutamente nada de español." *[I have no Spanish blood. Absolutely no Spanish blood.]*

"¿Pero como no? Usted es Raúl Castro, embajador. Embajador Raúl Castro es español." *[What do you mean? You are Raul Castro, ambassador. Ambassador Castro is Spanish.]*

"No, no tengo nada, ni una gota de español." *[No, I do not have a single drop of Spanish blood.]*

"¿Pero como que no?" *[But how could that be?]*

"Yo no, Señora. Yo soy indio mexicano. Cien por ciento indio mexicano." *[I am a Mexican Indian. One hundred percent Mexican Indian.]*

Calderón: Raúl, what was her response to that?

Castro: Then I turned to her. I put it the other way around. I said, "Let me ask you, where were you born?" She said she was Spanish. "Where were you born?"

"Buenos Aires."

"Where was your father born?"

"Buenos Aires."

"Grandparents?"

"Buenos Aires."

Calderón: Bueno, ella no era española. *[Well, she wasn't Spanish.]*

Castro: I said, "What's Spanish about you?" There's nothing Spanish about you. "Usted es Argentina. Dígame que es Argentina y la acepto con todo el corazón, pero no

me diga que es española. ¿Que tiene de español? Nada." *[You are Argentine. Tell me that you are Argentine and I will accept you with all my heart, but do not tell me that your are Spanish. What part of you is Spanish? None.]* And this goes down the line. It's very, very typical.

Calderón: Bolivia and El Salvador, were they . . .

Castro: Well, let me tell you about Bolivia. I was in Bolivia to present my credentials as an ambassador. I was there with the foreign minister waiting for the President to receive me. Then, I thought it was going to be "simpático," at least try to have something in common with the foreign minister. "Somos ministro. Usted y yo tenemos algo en común, tenemos una afinidad." *[We are both ministers. You and I have something in common, we have an affinity.]* He said, "¿Que es eso?" *[What is that affinity?]* Digo, "en la sangre mia corre la sangre azteca, en la suya, inca." *[In my blood runs the Aztec blood. In your blood runs the Inca.]* Bolivia is Indian country. I could see he just turned red. I offended the man. He was insulted. There's no way anybody wants to claim one ounce of Indian blood in Bolivia.

Calderón: So when you suggested that you . . .

Castro: I offended him.

Calderón: . . . had mutual beginnings . . .

Castro: Because we were both Indian background. Oh, it was the wrong thing to say. I thought I was going to last twenty-four hours in the country. But I didn't. The only country that accepts and is willing to accept the Indian background is Mexico. You go to Guatemala, which is next door to Mexico, if you wear a shirt like what I'm wearing then you're a "ladino." You're no longer, Indian. I used to tell my wife in the limousine as we were driving, I said, "Pat, don't use the word indio, please." "Well what do I use?" I said, "You use "campesino" in Bolivia. Don't say indios, say campesino. Because indio is offensive to them."

And I have a classic remark to you, that one day Henry Kissinger was in Buenos Aires for the *fútbol* tournament, staying with me at the house in Buenos Aires. I think we were having a cup of coffee. Our wives weren't up, his wife wasn't up and neither was mine, so he and I were having a cup of coffee alone. He looked at me and he said, "Raúl," he said, "you know, you and I can never be president of the United States." I said, "Why is that?" He said, "Well, you know I was born in Germany, and you were born in Mexico, so we can never be president of the United States." There was a little silence and he said, he looked at me and said, "You know, but you speak English better than I do. You don't have an accent like I do." I looked at him and said, "Henry, it's because I'm brighter than you." Because that will be the day! He's one of the brightest guys I've ever met. He's a tremendous person.

Calderón: I want to start to close our interview and ask you just some general questions.

Castro: Yes.

Calderón: If you could provide advice to a variety of people, I'm going to ask you to do that. I'm going to start off by saying, if there was a young lawyer, a young lawyer beginning his or her practice, if you could leave one bit of advice with them that you feel will help them through their lives, what would that be?

Castro: I think the advice to a young lawyer is that the practice of law is very difficult. It's a hard practice, there's no question about it. I think you've got to recognize that it won't be the dollars and cents that one expects to, that the practice of law is all about. You know, I recall very vividly in Tucson, coming in where a lady would pay me with tortillas. She would come in and say, "look," and leave the tortillas in the room saying this is what she's going to pay you for, or whatever it was. So I'd say, being a young lawyer, you've got to recognize that you've got to do the best you can. You move forward, you become part of the nation, part of the country and that's where the benefit comes from. I think that's it, really.

Calderón: What about a new judge, a person freshly appointed to the bench?

Castro: What would be my consensus about a new judge?

Calderón: Your advice to a new judge, what would that be?

Castro: I think my advice to a new judge would be, really to, every sense of the word, I've always felt strongly that a new judge has to be a compassionate and considerate individual. Courtesy, to me, is extremely important with a judge. You know, when you sit there as a judge, your word, is the word. I had a feeling in too many instances the tendency in some judges to try to castigate or chastise the attorneys in the courtroom or try to ridicule the witnesses who are testifying. I mean, that's not the role of a judge. I think my advice to a new judge is, be yourself, be humble, low-key and just be courteous, be courteous at all times. I mean, courtesy is the answer to it.

Calderón: What advice would you give to a young political aspirant?

Castro: Well, I think that's quite a broad question. Number one, to a young person that's looking at the political career, I would advise them it's going to take a lot of hard work, a lot of sweat and thunder and everything else. To a young person coming into political life, number one, he's got to consider the fact that he has got to be able to go out there and meet the public, be part of the public, be with them in all sense of the word, and be part of the establishment. I think that, to me, is the answer.

Calderón: A lot of your friends will be retiring from their positions. For example, Frank Gordon, and others. What advice would you give to people who are exiting public life?

Castro: You know, it's hard to make the adjustment. I think my advice to them would be that you've got to accept the fact that glory moves rather fast. I think, for instance, Frank Gordon is retiring, he's got to recognize that as a retiring person that he can't, he's just got to be humble and forget about the glory. He has to recognize that when he leaves the bench, tomorrow Frank Gordon's going to be just another individual. In other words, it's going to be hard for him to get acclimatized to the fact that when he goes to the grocery store the people won't recognize him, won't know who he is, and that's going to be hard for him to accept that fact that he's no longer one of the big wheels involved. That's hard to accept, really it's hard to take. There's a tendency to. . . .

Calderón: Who does Raúl Castro believe he is in his heart? Is he a lawyer, is he a judge, is he a governor, is he a diplomat? Who is Raúl Castro?

Castro: You know, I've always made the remark that I can never keep a job more than two years, because I'm a restless individual. I get bored with whatever I do and then I try something else. But I always come back to the fact, number one, I think basically I want to be a school teacher. I'll tell you why—and I've been a school teacher, a school teacher and a lawyer—number one, I've always loved—remember, I taught sixth grade in Flagstaff—being with young people. Fine, you shape them, you mold them. I've taught at the University of Arizona four years. Nothing has given more satisfaction and enjoyment than teaching at the elementary level.

When I sat before a classroom of forty-five kids in Flagstaff, Indian, Hopis, Navajos, Mexican-American, Spaniard, because it's a conglomeration, but no Anglo kids because they were segregated schools, but Hispanics of all, and Indians, same class. And I sat there looking at forty-five children and trying to motivate them. How do I motivate these youngsters? You try everything in the world. In those days it was wrong to use the Spanish language, it was a misdemeanor to speak Spanish in school. English was the language. But some of those kids could not understand. Even in those days the word refrigerator meant nothing to a youngster because he didn't have a refrigerator at home. He didn't know what a refrigerator looked like, so therefore it meant nothing. So then I would interpret in Spanish, "*refrigerador, hielero.*" And then see their eyes bug open, "Oh. yes." So to me it was a means of communication and I got tremendous satisfaction out of motivating kids. A little Indian kid who was stoic, I couldn't get any reaction out of him, to charge him up and get him to move and come in and be part of the team, that's what I liked about teaching. I still enjoy it. I think it's good.

And to this very day, Ernie, if somebody calls me, I could be found in Pascua Village talking to fourth graders, you'll find me in Cashion, you'll find me in Litchfield Park. I just came back from Hayden, talked with the high school kids in Hayden. And this at my expense and my time, mind you. But this is the thing that I feel that the kids need to motivate them. They look at me and they say, "Why, gosh, you look like I do. You look like one of us." I say, "Yes, I'm one of you." And give them the feeling that they can do it, that it can be accomplished, it can be done. Get them away from the defeatist attitude.

So in reality, I think basically, my feeling is, if I can motivate people to do something, to me that gives me great satisfaction. Unfortunately, I think money has never been the basic concern of my life. Probably if I had never gotten married I probably would be living in the Salvation Army. But my wife has another conception. She's concerned about economics. (laughter) Concerned about the bills and et cetera. That's another story. But to me individually, that has meant very little in my life. But it has meant the fact if I can motivate and move people on, I'm happy.

Let me give you an illustration. I grew up in Douglas, Arizona, where it's a mining community. Prejudice was rampant in those days. I attended a school there of—again, strictly a segregated school—forty-five Mexican youngsters. The only language we spoke was Spanish. A lot of these youngsters were much brighter than I was, sharper IQ's, and what happened to them? I go back and see them on the street. They come in and say, "Raúl, do you remember me?" I said, "Yes," and I gave him his name. The individual was a wino, a drunk, I think he had been in prison three or four times, et cetera.

Now here was a youngster who had all the ability in the world, capable, sharp and bright. Had that young man been lead the right path, just encouraged him, he could have made a tremendous contribution to this nation. But nobody cared. When the bell rang, that was the end of the story, so he floundered. Then he bucked, he faced discrimination and didn't have enough guts to be able to face it and accept it. He just couldn't cope with it. So the answer took him to alcohol or whatever it may be. So he ended up being nothing. To me this is the type of thing, that many people are salvageable. They are people who can be saved, you know.

Sunday I was going to breakfast with my wife and one of my daughters. I saw a man coming on Forty-fourth and Thomas. He was not Hispanic, he wasn't Black, he was an Anglo individual that walked with one shoe on, another one off, hair down to his shoulders, dirty. Obviously he was hungry. That person left an impact on me I haven't forgotten. I saw him this morning going back the other way. I said, look, here is a case where, we talk about running government like a business. You cannot run the government like a business. We don't want a government to make a profit. We run a government to give service to the public, the constituents. We want to give them service. That means that there will always be a certain segment of the population, in every state, that has to be taken care of, that have to be provided for. Whatever reasons you want to give them, whether they're drunks or alcoholics or addicted, we have to furnish as a government, institutions to provide for those people. They're either deaf or blind or handicapped, they have to be taken care of, and we can't be saying we're running the state of Arizona to make a profit. You don't want to make a profit out of it. You've got to keep the government in good shape economically, but at the same time be concerned about giving service to the public and giving service to the public means everyone. It doesn't mean me living in Paradise Valley or somebody else, it means everyone. The little guy at the south end of the track who needs help, he's got to be concerned with. To me this is the fact of life I've always been concerned with, you know, that situation.

Calderón: Let me ask you one last question. I want to bring this back to where we all began. We began talking about your mother and having the entire family around the kitchen table when she said, "Now Raúl has been denied an opportunity to teach here in Douglas." If your mother were to read our story, our transcript, what is the last thing you'd like her to read?

Castro: I'm like a person in Pascua Village in Tucson, I was with him in the car and we had an anthropologist with us. The person was Juan Velasquez, was the chairman of the tribe in Tucson. I remember he was drunk. We stopped the car and I said, "Juan." He mumbled, "Raúl." "I want you to meet someone who is an anthropologist, he is doing research work." He said, "Hiccup, huh! An anthropologist!" This guy had been studied so many times in their life that he didn't need any more studies. He needed some action. So the obvious answer I think, when they, I've been evaluated so many times on motivation, the obvious answer is, I go back to my mother. Because my father died when I was a young man. He wasn't around. He left Mother with fourteen kids. Mother had enough—she was a midwife, you know, and delivered every Mexican kid in that area—had enough gumption about her to say, and had enough guts and you know, like that day we were around the table, to look at us and say, look, when one door closes, another one opens. So the door has been closed to Raúl today, but another one will open tomorrow and therefore you forget that this country has given us the ability to work and get an education. So we owe this country something and it's up to you to go out there and do the job. Now that's what I call sheer guts. And I think some of that, I think I inherited that from my mother, really. I mean, those are things that one absorbs.

When I was working my geometry classes and algebra at two or three o'clock in the morning and I was trying to figure it out and I had difficulty, Mother would come up and say, "Look, Son, it's three o'clock in the morning. Why don't you get up in the morning at five when you're fresh, or six, and do the work." And she would tell me, "Look, you can't go to school dirty. You know, soap is cheap, and water. Always go to school clean." Now these are the concepts, this is the molding process we're talking about, that I like about teaching, where you can get young people and bring that into their life and say, "This is the way to go." Those things, you never forget.

It's like telling your daughters if you have any children, that they'll look at you and say, "You know, you're from another era, things are different now." They may be different, but the basic concepts of morality are the same. What was good when Columbus discovered America is still good. Therefore they assume that you haven't been through those problems. I said, "Look, I faced all these problems in my life, and I hit my head against the wall and it hurt me. I don't want you to get hurt. I'm telling you these things because I've been through it already, and don't do it because you're going to get hurt."

I think, Ernie, this is what we're talking about in life. In my life at least, it's the concept of the ability to work with people and inspire them and let them move ahead and make it a better life. So when I identify with myself, I always identify with being a school teacher with young people. I wasn't crazy about university students because I think by that time it's a little late. They're already molded, they think they know all the answers. That's another story. They're thinking for themselves. But when they're young, I think you can do a lot of blending. It's really marvelous to see young people smile at you and say, "Oh, yes." I can see their eyes when you're communicating with them, they understand it and see it.

Calderón: Well, I would say, Governor Castro, Ambassador Castro, Judge Castro, Lawyer Castro, Teacher Castro, Boxer Castro, on behalf of the Arizona Bar Foundation and the Arizona Historical Society, thank you for letting us interview you.

Castro: Oh, it's been a pleasure and I hope that something develops from it.

End of interview.

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