

Carl Levin and Eleanor Josaitis

Q: 5:50 on October 19th, 2007.

LEVIN: She takes all kinds of crap.

Q: We're at the McNamara Building. My name is Bill LeFever. I'm the interviewer tonight, and I'm here with Senator Carl Levin and Eleanor Josaitis. Welcome to both of you. I want to talk to you --

LEVIN: So, welcome to my office.

Q: Well, thank you.

JOSAITIS: Thanks. Nice to be here with you, Senator.

LEVIN: It's always an inspiration to be with you, Eleanor.

JOSAITIS: Thank you. A long-time friendship.

Q: I want to start off tonight by asking you both about, especially the start of your relationship with Focus Hope and with Eleanor Josaitis and Father Cunningham. If you would give us some of your reminisces about that.

LEVIN: Well, I was on the City Council in the 1970s. And we had this miracle on Oakman Boulevard that Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis had begun after the riot. We actually had kind of a common origin in public life because my decision to run for the City Council in 1969 was because of the riot. And that's what triggered my decision to try to

enter the public life. I actually never planned on running for public office. I had been active in the Civil Rights movement as an attorney for the Civil Rights Commission. I had helped open the defender's office for the poor people to get legal representation during the 1960s. But I never thought that I would run, myself, for public office. My brother was in the State Legislature. He was planning on running for Governor in the 70s. But the same motivation, which prompted me to run, which was the urgings of people who said that the city could use some people who would help to bridge gaps and help to heal. That's the motivation for the Focus Hope. So, what Eleanor and Father Cunningham. There was something which was a very important side of hope. It was like an eternal spring after a very, very discouraging time in the life of the city. And we're very much aware, but I know that I visited Focus Hope a number of times when I was on the City Council. I don't remember specifically now what specific support we gave. We were inspired by it, but I can't remember off hand whether the City Council or our budget was supportive or not of Focus Hope during the 1970s. I wish I could remember. I hope we were, but I just don't remember. I'm sure we added all kinds of wonderful resolutions supporting Focus Hope, but I'm sure that we may have tried in the way that we were

able to afford as a city to do it. But I just -- but of course we knew Eleanor's father well. I mean our paths crossed a lot of time. But in terms of material support, my recollection is that I was not involved in that until I was elected to the U.S. Senate.

JOSAITIS: Did you remember in City Council when we used to close off Woodward Avenue, and we'd bring people together. And we would start walking from downtown and we would walk to State Fairground and we had the people coming from the suburbs to the State Fair. And you used to always attend those walks.

LEVIN: Oh, I remember that, yeah, well.

JOSAITIS: Yeah.

LEVIN: That was bringing city and suburb together bringing different -- you know, black, white, brown --

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: -- together. That was what Focus Hope was all about. It was always a spiritual movement. It was very practical in terms of providing food immediately after the riot, in terms of training. That was really the heart of the matter. Don't just try to get people who were hungry fish, but teach them how to fish.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: That was always kind of the spiritual momentum of Focus: HOPE. And there was a physical part to it. It was, obviously spiritual, but it was a physical part in terms of providing food for people who didn't have adequate food. But the walk that you mention. I mean, obviously, had going down maybe different streets, but still that walk physically brought people from suburbs and from city, physically together. Where was it? Around the fairgrounds.

JOSAITIS: Right around the -- we then did the fairgrounds. We did that about five years. And then we decided to do it at Focus Hope because we had to get buses to get the people from the city to the suburbs and that was a bit of a challenge. But I remember you were always there, Carl. And you know, what I remember about City Council is that I remember, you were right. It was really after the riots, and it was a very turbulent time. And you and Father Cunningham used to talk. And I used to love to listen to you because it was almost like you were both philosophical about making a difference. And, you knew what we were going to do. And you've always been a very practical person. But two extremely intelligent, and you and Father -- I can remember the conversations the two of you would have.

LEVIN: He had a most amazing blend of spirituality and practicality --

JOSAITIS: Right, right.

LEVIN: -- for one human being.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: It's a very appealing combination. Now, there's a lot of folks who are very, very spiritual who are totally impractical. There's a lot of people who are very, very practical but don't seem to -- and very materially conscious. I won't say materialistic, because he was never materialistic. He was just very practical about the needs of people and meeting needs. And the short term, but also, between the two of you understanding that there was the long term needs that needed to be addressed. There's a connection between people's --

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: -- malaise, their spiritual and physical difficulties and troubles, and their inability to provide for themselves.

JOSAITIS: Right. When hunger was a reality and we were doing all of those surveys to find out why grocery stores were charging so much more in the city than they were in the

suburbs. We were very helpful in that. We learned a lot of lessons along that.

LEVIN: And shared them.

JOSAITIS: Yeah.

LEVIN: And I think it may, at times, look like our town is still got real troubles. And it does. I don't think anyone should deny them. But there's some real hope which is springing up in Detroit. And you folks are one of the institutions which has kind of kept hope alive for this town.

JOSAITIS: Well, you know, I look at the organization and I keep saying, we started with the mission statement. And we said intelligent and practical action. And I think that's what we're still doing today. And I know we're making a difference. And you look at the food program. But you look at all the education and training programs. And you look at the Technology Center and you say, that's intelligent and it's very practical. I mean, give a man a fish, teach him how to fish. And that's an old saying that's true today as it was when it was said years and years ago.

LEVIN: The way Focus: HOPE has spanned the ages, the generations is you got a baby, got a child care center,

which is a wonderful place. I remember when that was dedicated. You had your -- you were still being, started, as I remember, with your supplemental food program.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: Your WIC program. I forgot what it was called in those days. But I think it was Women and Infant Children or Supplemental Food Program. But whatever it was called, you started out with kids. You had, and you expanded it, as I remember. You include --

JOSAITIS: Seniors.

LEVIN: So, you were going from the very youngest to seniors, both of whom had special needs. And then, on the training programs, which you began in a way and not completed -- nothing that you do is ever completed -- but had expanded in a way which I think is unique in the country. I -- there may be places like Focus: HOPE in the country that do everything from food programs, but even more importantly if I could say that, is the future, is the training programs that you do. Are there any other places in the country like Focus: HOPE now? Everyone tries to -- they always ask me, you know, how did this happen? How did Focus: HOPE -- a very, very challenged place in the city, God knows. That it had been abandoned by business. I mean Oakman Boulevard

and Hamilton and that area, Woodrow Wilson (inaudible) people had basically been abandoned. You took buildings which had been abandoned and that's about as stark as one can say. Where hope was gone. Empty building. And you were able to put together the wherewithal with help from all kinds of folks to bring them back to life. Give them a useful purpose. And people always ask me, you know, how they did it and how do they do it? And my answer was they had a couple leaders who had vision against the odds. They had a huge need because the need was there. And it kind of was totally a nonprofit. It was a spiritual, it was an idealistic thing with a very practical bent. And people used to come here, I remember, just constantly, and try to figure out could they do something like this in their hometown. And I don't know that anything quite like this has ever been --

JOSAITIS: You know, people come and sometimes they're a little intimidated by the whole thing, everything we're doing. And oh, I'd say, "take a piece of it. Take a piece of it and go back." And our machinist training institute has been copied in eight different states. The food center is in 32 states and five states want to come aboard. Childcare centers. Some of the people will come and just say, "You know, we could do the food center." I still get

hundreds of visitors coming from everywhere, and I'll always tell them, you can't put Focus: HOPE in a cardboard box with a rubber band and hand it to you, but if they want to come, they can move into my house and stay as long as they want.

LEVIN: Which piece of...?

JOSAITIS: The commodities supplemental food program. And now they're also working with the community to straighten up their area and economic development. You know, we just opened a fifty-five unit senior apartment right down the street, which is wonderful. And I'll tell you, it warms your heart to see the little kids coming down to the park and watching the seniors come down and the seniors come out of the food center and they go out there and pick flowers with the little kids. You know, that's what we want. You can remember when we had the tornado?

LEVIN: Do I?

JOSAITIS: That rode through. And how we rebuilt again and how many people were so thankful that we didn't move out of the area. Instead we just kept rebuilding it.

LEVIN: Yeah. What an inspiration. You have been -- I remember, when we got, Clinton there. When we got Rob Brown there. When we got --

JOSAITIS: Yep. Colin Powell.

LEVIN: -- Colin Powell there. And the meetings there. I remember, literally, the tears in the eyes of Colin Powell and Rob Brown. And when they -- literally. I'm not talking about, you know, that I imagined this. They were very teary. They were overwhelmed by the opportunity that you'd been giving to people who had not had opportunity. People of color. Young, women, who have -- what their percentage of women are in your classes --

JOSAITIS: Thirty percent women.

LEVIN: Just probably surpasses anything in that particular area of endeavor. I mean, your machinists and engineers. And when they saw that, and of course Clinton was totally enthralled. He was there twice, as I can recall.

JOSAITIS: Yes, he was.

LEVIN: So, you know, we'd been able to get a lot of resources from the federal government for the Center for Advanced Technology, for the Machinist Training Center. We got that equipment that nobody thought we would ever get. When we -- there were four agencies that were involved with the training piece there. And we had to get --

JOSAITIS: Education.

LEVIN: -- four federal agencies that were never --

LEVIN: -- particularly worked together.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: Talk about miracles on Oakman Boulevard.

LEVIN: That's a miracle in Washington to get, what was it?
Education, Labor, Defense --

JOSAITIS: Also Commerce and Defense.

LEVIN: Commerce. Yeah. To get them to work together. They
gave -- there actually may have been an agreement, but I
don't know if it was a literal --

JOSAITIS: They signed a memorandum of understanding --

LEVIN: There was, yeah.

JOSAITIS: But it took, what? About eight, nine years before we
were able to pull it off.

LEVIN: Yeah.

JOSAITIS: But all of the equipment that we got, you got from the
defense department that --

LEVIN: Yeah. There's the defense -- it's a security issue.
That's the way we sold it. The amount of funding we have
gotten for the Center for Advanced Technology and Machinist
Institute. This is the right thing to do for the country,
clearly. I mean, this is what's inspired people. But we
also had a practical bent to it. And that was we need an

industrial base in this country. We need engineers. We need people who are machinists. We have to be able to move quickly in the event of an emergency and being on the Armed Services Committee then and chairman now, I feel very keenly about this aspect of it. I happened to know -- and you, yourself are very much a critic of our current military operations in Iraq, the decision to go. I thought it was a terrible mistake, but that's not the point. The point is there are times, such as Bosnia --

JOSAITIS: Yes.

LEVIN: -- such as going into Afghanistan where you do need to use military force and you darn well better be ready. And through the symbol of this. The military usefulness of having this kind of industrial base capability is the ability to be the mobile parts hospital.

LEVIN: That is an extraordinary thing which you put together and we've been able to help fund through the defense budget and I don't know how many parts have actually been made out in Iraq now. I mean, you probably have the numbers, but the idea that we can actually machine a part with deployed troops, instead of having to send an order back, trying to find out where would that part, which may be obsolete now, where could it be found. And then wait for it to come back

and ship back. The idea that now there's a mobile parts hospital, which is Focus: HOPE's baby and genius. Sort of symbolizes the value of having this kind of --

JOSAITIS: But it also shows the tenacity of you in front of the (inaudible) and Focus: HOPE. Because look at how long it took somebody to convince that Catholic priest and a senator could put together Center for Advanced Technologies. I mean what did either one of you know about that.

LEVIN: About technology. (laughter)

JOSAITIS: (laughter)

LEVIN: Well, Father Cunningham. I remember I was dazzled by how much he knew. I used to be amazed because I'm a total illiterate when it comes to technology. But I remember, now that you mention it, listening to him, and he would describe in details the operations of machinery. And I was almost embarrassed that I knew so little --

JOSAITIS: But did he --

LEVIN: -- and he knew so much about how machinery operated.

JOSAITIS: But do you remember when he was putting together the Center for Advanced Technology and we would go in there and talk to you, and he would just go on and on about this

grandiose idea. And you would call me that night and say,
"El, would you explain to me what Father said?"

LEVIN: (laughter)

JOSAITIS: Honest to God. I remember --

LEVIN: I'm sure I didn't understand it, but it wasn't because
he was complicated, but he had a knack at being able to
explain things. There are very few people who --

LEVIN: -- are able to understand the technology. I mean,
with the advanced machinery came in.

JOSAITIS: That's true.

LEVIN: And he would tell Dr. Vera on a number of them, when
we brought, came with a number of folks like Rob Brown and
Colin Powell and so forth. But he would describe, and the
idea that he would know something well enough to be like a
well-trained lawyer going into a courtroom. When the
moment you're going to be examining or cross-examining your
witness, you're supposed to know enough about that subject,
as technical it is, that you can communicate to a jury.
Father Cunningham had that ability --

JOSAITIS: He could do that.

LEVIN: -- to sort of boil down to the -- and make it
inspiring. I mean, he turned some piece of equipment into

something which could open up a window on the world. He made it almost a religious experience. (laughter) It is a religious experience. I'm not the most observant Jew in the world. But there are -- observant or religious person, period. I'm a proud Jew, but not an observant one. But Father Cunningham, it was like a spiritual vision --

JOSAITIS: Mission for him.

LEVIN: -- to go to a Center for Advanced Technology like you're walking into a church, almost. That spiritual.

JOSAITIS: I remember when we borrowed the airplane from Ford Motor Company, and we brought all the scientists from Education, Labor, and Commerce. And it was when we first bought the Center for Advanced Technology, which was the old Ford industrial engine plant. And we were carrying umbrellas because the pigeons were flying and the rain was dripping. And these scientists came, and Father is standing in the middle of this thing and he is explaining this is going to be the most visionary building, and it is going to be wonderful. And on and on he's going. And I remember just seeing these scientists with their hands folded and saying, "I wonder which planet this guy was flying off of."

LEVIN: Yeah.

JOSAITIS: But that's the truth -- you helped us out all the time, because you would get us the appointments that we needed to go and visit this admiral, this general. I mean, you did it all.

LEVIN: And they'd come and be inspired.

JOSAITIS: Yeah.

LEVIN: I used to tell the guys who I would get here to come, you know all these admirals, generals, defense department people. And I'd say, "I want you to go out to Focus Hope," described it the best you could. It's kind of hard to describe Focus: HOPE. People think you're exaggerating. I mean, you say, "just imagine if you can, an area that was abandoned, decimated by abandonment." And then describe what's happened on Oakman Boulevard. People kind of think you're exaggerating, so they're a skeptic. I just -- I only can tell you this, "when you come back, you will thank me. I'm asking you to go as a favor. And that's true. I want you to go, General or Secretary of Defense. Whoever it is. I want you to go. You're doing me a favor. And we'll do some other defense stuff out there while you're there. We'll run over to TACOMB and do some other things. But you will -- I promise you -- when you come back, you can say thank you for getting me to Focus Hope, because

it's going to change your life, and I hope it will change your budget, and you'll do some things, which you otherwise, you know, might not have even thought of. But it will give you a real lift." Invariable, that that was the response that the people felt that, "thank you for getting me out here because, my God, what a commitment, what a faith." And that's why, it's a spiritual place. I've always felt that. The most practical. Looking at machinery is a spiritual place. How often is that? And I remember you and Father Cunningham would talk and when the Center for Advance Technology was coming, we were talking about the possibility, also, of some environmental advances.

LEVIN: I don't know whether it's worked out or not, but that's not the point. The point is the Division was there, and (inaudible) worked out practically, I don't even know. But you were talking about, like, recycling back then or reusing --

JOSAITIS: Cogen.

LEVIN: -- Cogen. Cogeneration.

JOSAITIS: Yeah. Put it in.

LEVIN: I don't know whether it's been worked, as a practical matter.

JOSAITIS: Yeah.

LEVIN: But that's what? Fifteen -- no, it's --

JOSAITIS: Uh huh. Its got to be.

LEVIN: -- about ten years ago now? Yeah. About what, '93, '94. The Center for Advanced Technology. You had looked -
- that was when it was opened, so you probably, would be
the early 90s.

JOSAITIS: Yeah. '90.

LEVIN: So, that's fifteen years ago.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: Talking to people with no roofs, and the shells of
building. And talking, not only about putting it in, but
about cogeneration in the early 1990s.

JOSAITIS: Do you have things that you want to ask us?

Q: Well, I do know that we talked --

LEVIN: (inaudible)

Q: One or two. Eleanor and I talked previously about her
political education over the years with Focus Hope and how,
and you talk about Joseph Sullivan and how you felt like a
babe in the woods, at times.

LEVIN: Which Joe Sullivan?

JOSAITIS: Joe B. --

LEVIN: Yeah, you're right. Joe B., right.

Q: And what you learned over the last forty years at Focus Hope. I wondered if you could talk about some of the influence Senator Levin has had, and conversely, some of the things you've learned over the years politically from Eleanor.

JOSAITIS: When we first moved back into the city, Judge Joe B. Sullivan lived across the street and we were just starting then. And I had never, ever in my life attended a political rally or anything like that. And Joe B. would let me come over at night, and I would tell him what we were doing during the day. And I could ask him all the questions, and he would begin to educate me on politics and what I needed to know. He never made me feel like a fool that I didn't have the right answers or so forth. But my role, Bill was the visionary, and I was the one, the doer. And so, if we had to get into politics, I had to know how we were going to do this. And there were three people that really changed. Number one was Joe B. Sullivan, he taught me. Judge Joe B. Sullivan. And the other was Senator Phillip Hart, who told me one time, when I was ready to just kick Earl Butts. I wanted to bodily harm him, and he called me

aside and took me to lunch. And he said, "Eleanor, you've got to outsmart him. You got to learn to outsmart him." And that was another piece of politics that really helped me a lot. But all the time that you and I worked together all these years. I mean, with Richard Fieldhouse. And, you know, Chuck Cotolla (sp?). I never felt like a fool when I came in there.

LEVIN: Well, you were teaching us, that's why you didn't fool like us.

JOSAITIS: Well, see --

LEVIN: You were teaching us about, hey, commitment and role of the spirit, being kind of translated into practical action. You probably didn't even know it.

JOSAITIS: See.

LEVIN: But you should talk to any one of my staff, they'll just say what an impact you've had on our lives.

JOSAITIS: Well, boy, that's a real compliment because you've taught me so much.

LEVIN: Yeah, you mentioned Phil Hart, by the way. And Joe B. I was actually close with Joe B., close to him for a lot of reasons. But anyway, Phil Hart was sort of a mentor. And I probably met Phil Hart only three or four times. Phil Hart -- he passed something on to you, and I guess it came from

maybe the experience with Earl Butts. Was that the Secretary of Agriculture? And the way you bring people together -- you do it every time you have your annual meeting, your annual parade. You bring together people who probably are so angry with each other. (laughter)

JOSAITIS: Yeah, right.

LEVIN: They've been fighting all year over things. You know, you bring in legislators and members of the congress. And these are people who the press plays up as always fighting with each other. By the way, we don't fight as much as the press makes us look, but nonetheless, there's still plenty of fighting and anger, sometimes, and resentment, and very harsh political campaigns. These political campaigns are vicious at times. And your -- how many institutions are there that bring together all these folks and kind of humanize us. And we all get together there on your stage on Oakman Boulevard, and you introduce everybody and we're all kind of unified by the common cause. We all feel good about being in places. Not too many institutions would do that. So, that's a very valuable role that you play, actually, in doing that.

JOSAITIS: Remember when Vice President Bush came to visit, when we were just opening up the Machinist Training Institute.

You were there for that, too. And that's something that we always wanted, and we felt that we had to work with democrats, republicans --

LEVIN: Absolutely.

JOSAITIS: -- and all of them.

LEVIN: I wish, frankly, that there was more of that, there were more institutions that not just talked about it, but were able to, through their own operation and their own commitment and their own work, were able to unite, unify...

JOSAITIS: And to learn politics. I remember when we were fighting for the food program, and I remember going to visit with Senator Hart. And he was asking a whole lot of questions about have you done this and have you done that. And he said, "Have you seen Senator Griffin yet?" And I thought that it was politically incorrect for me to go and talk to the republican side if I'm there talking to the democratic side. And he said, "No, no, no. You've got to get over there." And I thought, "Oh, there's another lesson learned."

LEVIN: Absolutely. Your cause is not a partisan cause.

JOSAITIS: Nope.

LEVIN: I know you've got your own political feelings, and thank God you do. But that's not the point. You've got

to, you know, this is what it means to bring people together in a common cause. And it's missing in Washington to a significant degree. God knows it's missing in Lansing. At least the perception is. So, that's an invaluable side of it. I remember -- this has got nothing to do, particularly, with anything we've talked about -- but I remember there was something you guys were doing over there about working for, I think it was, you were doing a General Motors, something on their transmissions or something.

JOSAITIS: Right, right.

LEVIN: Repairing transmission. I don't know what you said, you said something, which just triggered this. But it's not relative to Phil Hart or politics. But I remember that you were so good at distribution. You had the best food distribution system.

JOSAITIS: Right.

LEVIN: It was so phenomenal that General Motors wanted to use you to bring in Transmissions, as I remember.

JOSAITIS: Right. And we're still doing it.

LEVIN: And you're still doing that? And repairing them, I think. And then getting them back out. That -- just a footnote which should have been mentioned maybe at a

different part of our conversation. Something you said triggered that.

JOSAITIS: (inaudible) have to go soon because (inaudible).

Q: Can you give us a single best memory of Father Cunningham?

LEVIN: Yeah, I remember -- I don't want to talk about visiting him in the hospital.

JOSAITIS: No, that's good though.

LEVIN: That's not the best memory. I mean, that's not something you want to -- that's not the way I want to remember him, OK? So, I think I want to remember him as someone who had the ability -- and it goes back to this ability of his to take the most specific concrete need, describe it, and to persuade people who are frequently very practical, sometimes hard business people who've heard all the pitches in the world about why they should get involved in something, heard it all. And to transform that conversation into something which people really wanted to participate in. I mean, he's talking about machinery at the one part, and you're talking about training people. And then we're talking about training people, frequently, who haven't even finished high school. And taking people who are short on math and science and verbal skills and a whole lot of things. People just haven't had opportunity. And

being able to transform that and to talk about that in a way which, blend of idealism. What its purpose is. But the way in which there was discipline to it. I remember him talking about discipline. And when you joined this operation, if you're late once maybe, maybe you'll get away with it. Don't try and come late twice. And it was sort of that combination of, based on the love of people that he was helping to train that was an amazing skill. And I -- very unique in that way. Some people -- he could be harsh, and he's very disciplined in terms of the training, as I remember. But he also -- his motive was so pure and his purpose was so clear. And the opportunity he was trying to give to people who had been denied opportunity --

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Q: -- in the office.

LEVIN: Look at that. It's (inaudible).

Q: The time. (whistles) Anyway, you were talking about Father Cunningham and --

LEVIN: Yeah, and that I think is the unique characteristic I remember him having was that combination. With a training program of kind of tough love, but I guess is what you

might call it these days. Discipline for the sake of the student.

JOSAITIS: Do you remember when we opened up this Center for Advance Technology and Father was up on stage talking about it, and we didn't think we'd ever get him off. (inaudible) just going on and on and on. But he ended up crying and just -- you know, he was standing there crying for everybody that everyone was saying, "Father, jump off the stage." That was my job to go and --

LEVIN: That was your job.

JOSAITIS: -- pull him off.

LEVIN: Eleanor was tough love with Father.

JOSAITIS: Yeah. Tough love to him was extremely important because he always used to say, "What good does it do to pat them on the shoulder and --"

LEVIN: Yeah.

JOSAITIS: "-- except the dog or the cat or whatever the excuse is." Nobody (inaudible).

LEVIN: Yeah.

JOSAITIS: And it was tough love when he started the drug testing for everybody. Oh we took a lot of criticism for that.

You're a charitable organization. Why are you drug-testing people?

LEVIN: For their sake.

JOSAITIS: That's exactly right.

Q: Eleanor does talk about some of the fights that she and Father Cunningham had behind closed doors and sometimes in public. Cunningham was a crusader, and that made him, I'm sure, sometimes, tough to take as well.

LEVIN: It was well hidden from me.

JOSAITIS: (laughter)

LEVIN: Probably Eleanor took the brunt of that for the rest of us.

Q: Well, she was also (inaudible) enforcer within the organization.

LEVIN: Enforcer with him. Probably the only one who could give him some discipline too. Yeah, I'm not surprised but that, I don't think it ever showed, which is a testament to Eleanor's ability to use tough love with him, too. I have no doubt that he was kind of a -- not mercurial figure, but he is I'm sure very, very strong and very difficult to focus. I guess the Focus Hope -- maybe the focus applied to your focusing him.

JOSAITIS: See, he had a vision and mission, and he would go for it, and he didn't care about all the other details.

(inaudible)

LEVIN: The details that you -- probably the channeling to you --

JOSAITIS: Yeah.

LEVIN: -- so you could channel his energy.

JOSAITIS: But I can remember when he said to me, "El, I'm going to be the good cop, and you're going to be the bad cop." And that was the disciplinarian. I had to say, "We're going to do it. We're going to do it."

LEVIN: I think people always sensed that. And that's why you never came across as a bad cop. Even though -- I know exactly what you're saying. I don't have any doubt that that was your role. It was a very useful role.

JOSAITIS: And I didn't come across that way?

LEVIN: No, because people, I think understood or sensed that you were the one that had to keep the trains running on the time, and you is the one who dreamt about a train being put on a track where there never was a track, there never was a train. But you were the one that kind of had to keep the focus on what was achievable and, therefore, deserved equal credit with Father Cunningham for what's been done. I

think you sensed that. I think you sensed the love that people had for you. You always tell us how much you love us. How we're all unique. We're all the best person in the world. You never miss a chance to tell me that.

JOSAITIS: And I mean it.

LEVIN: And you mean it. The moment you say it, I have no doubt that you mean it, as a matter of fact. (laughter) And I know you mean it when you tell the next guy or gal the same thing. You mean it, and thank God you do mean it.

JOSAITIS: We're making a difference, pal.

LEVIN: Yeah. I better run.

Q: Well, thank you for your time.

LEVIN: I hope you got enough.

Q: Thank you, Eleanor.

LEVIN: Hope you got enough. Hope this thing works OK for you.

Q: Oh, well, it was a Godsend.

LEVIN: Well, if it doesn't --

End -- Carl Levin and Eleanor Josaitis