

Ed Jenkins interviewed by Bob Short

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Ed Jenkins

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BOB SHORT: I'm Bob Short, and this is Reflections on Georgia Politics, sponsored by the Richard B. Russell Library at the University of Georgia. Our guest today is Ed Jenkins, who served Georgia's Ninth District in the United States Congress for 16 years. Ed, we're delighted to have you.

ED JENKINS: I'm delighted to be with you, Bob.

SHORT: We want to share with you some of your experiences during those years you served in the Congress from Georgia's Ninth District, but before we do that, we'd like to know more about you and your family and your early life in Young Harris, Georgia and in Blairsville.

JENKINS: Well, I was born in Young Harris, but my family moved to Blairsville when I was just a baby, 7 miles away. But I've always been, my family and as well as myself, they've always been directly connected to Young Harris, because that was my father's home. My grandmother had a boarding house on the campus of the Young Harris College. It later was sold to the college, but for many years she ran a boarding house where a lot of students have stayed. And my father, he had three brothers and three sisters, all grew up there and went to school at Young Harris, as did I later. But in Blairsville, first of all, my father was a barber, and he barbered in Young Harris, and then when he moved to Blairsville, he and Zell Miller's uncle, B.H. Miller, owned a barbershop in Blairsville, and until he went to work for the TVA when I was a youngster, I grew up around that barbershop, so I met a lot of interesting Union County characters and politicians, and listened to them intensely, and really enjoyed my youth there. My mother came from the Choestoe section of Union County, and her father was a revenue officer in the 1920's, and so I also grew up hearing a lot of stories about making whiskey on the mountain slopes from him and my mother. She was Scotch Irish. My dad was Welsh, and really had moved to Young Harris when he was a child from western North Carolina from the Robbinsville area of North Carolina. His father had died rather early, and his grandfather, my great-

grandfather, had moved down from Virginia into western North Carolina in the 1800's. There were six of us children. I have two brothers, three sisters, and all of us love to hunt and fish and play baseball and none of us were the athletes that my dad was. He was an outstanding...

SHORT: I remember your dad. He was a great baseball player.

JENKINS: He was a wonderful baseball player. He...

SHORT: And your uncle.

JENKINS: Tom and Archie and Will, all of those boys played baseball and hunted and fished in the mountains, and I really had a wonderful childhood, simply because we didn't have much money. Obviously a barber didn't make much money. But we had a very close-knit family.

SHORT: So you went to Union County High School and then to Young Harris college.

JENKINS: I did. When I finished high school, there were only eleven grades, so I finished when I was 16 and immediately went over to Young Harris College, where I finished there in 1951, with you, Bob, and Miller.

SHORT: Zell Miller.

JENKINS: An infamous class, I might say. And then I served, before I went to the University of Georgia, I served three years in the Coast Guard in coast guard aviation, and enjoyed that as well, because I got to spend about a year and a half in Alaska in the Aleutian Islands during that tour. Got to fish, and didn't do much hunting because the hunting license cost too much for a 20-year-old, but I enjoyed my tour. That was during the Korean conflict.

SHORT: And then after Young Harris, the University of Georgia.

JENKINS: I enrolled at the University of Georgia, did one year there, pre-law, and then went into the law school, and I finished law school there in 1959. I had went to Emory one year at night because I had run out of money, so I got a job in Atlanta and went to Emory law school at night. At that time they had a night law school. And then I went back to Georgia to finish up, so I was sort of a part of the class of '58 and '59. And then immediately upon completing my law degree and getting admitted to the bar, Congressman Phil Landrum, who served Georgia's Ninth District for 20-something years, 24 years I believe, was looking for someone, a young lawyer, to come to Washington to work in his office. And I agreed to do that, and really had a great experience there as a young staffer. Eisenhower was President, just going out of office when I arrived, and John Kennedy was elected President, and I was at that inauguration and really enjoyed my Washington experience. I was there for about 3 years. Some of the interesting people that were there at the time that I was there, Bobby Kennedy of course, was serving over

on the McClellan committee. He was chief counsel for the Labor Committee over in the Senate, and Adam Clayton Powell was serving on the Education and Labor Committee, and he became chairman while I was there. That was a big controversy, because at first they didn't seat him, you know, and expelled him, I think, because he wasn't showing up, but the Supreme Court reinstated him. And Mr. Landrum at that time was the Number 3 person in seniority on the Education and Labor Committee. And he was one of the chief sponsors of the Labor Reform Bill of 1959, which was an extremely controversial piece of legislation.

SHORT: That was the Griffin-Landrum Bill.

JENKINS: That's right.

SHORT: Or Landrum-Griffin Bill.

JENKINS: Depending on where -- if you were in Michigan where Bob Griffin was from, it was Griffin-Landrum. If you were in Georgia, it was Landrum-Griffin. But there were some interesting people on that committee, and very strong personalities. Jimmy Roosevelt was the son of FDR, was a ranking member of that committee from California, and he was supported very heavily by labor. Some of the people from the other side, the more conservative side, Graham Barden who was chairman of the committee from North Carolina, and he was a very conservative Democrat chairman, very bright fellow, and did a wonderful job on the committee.

And of course, Johnson was in the Senate at the time, Lyndon Johnson, and Sam Rayburn was Speaker of the House. So, it was Rayburn, Johnson, Kennedy. You had a wide range of personalities in the Congress.

SHORT: Congressman Landrum, as I recall, was chairman of education, I believe, subcommittee, and on that same committee.

JENKINS: He was the third -- it was a large committee. There was about 35 or 40 members, and he was Number 3 or 4 on Education and Labor Committee at that time. He never chaired the committee because he was elected later to the Ways and Means Committee, and he had to give up his Education and Labor Committee status.

SHORT: But I recall sometime in some research that I've done that he authored a bill that had provisions in it for these book mobiles out in rural America. I thought that was a great contribution.

JENKINS: Yes. He was a leading co-sponsor of that bill that provided for the book mobiles to go through the rural areas. Dick Russell, Senator Russell was in the Senate at that time, and he worked with Senator Russell on the lunchroom program that Senator Russell was very interested in, and he had a lot of powerful people in the House because they were all Democrats and they stayed there for long periods of time and built seniority. So, you had about 8 or 9 very strong

personalities in the House as well as in the Senate.

SHORT: Your friend, Zell Miller, has been a very successful politician and a good friend.

JENKINS: Yes.

SHORT: And I once read in the Atlanta Journal that Zell Miller wrote in your annual when you graduated from University of Georgia that you would be his best friend forever, unless you ran against him for United States Senate.

JENKINS: Yes he did. He wrote that in my yearbook, and that's the only reason I never ran for the Senate.

SHORT: Well, you had an opportunity.

JENKINS: Yes, I did.

SHORT: Yes, you did.

JENKINS: No, I was kidding about that, but Zell Miller and I grew up together and I knew his mamma so well, and played baseball with him and against him and when he was at the

university, I was at the university at the same time, and his wife, Shirley, would sometimes cook spaghetti for us and we would talk politics. He and I were interested in the political realm since childhood, because we had been around the political figures, local political figures. And incidentally, of course, his father had been the campaign manager for Ed Rivers when Ed Rivers ran for governor. I think he might have been a losing campaign, I believe Zell indicated, this was before me, but Zell was influenced early on by the political. And when he was elected to the state senate, Landrum was very close to a fellow from Young Harris in Towns County that was his opponent, Kaiser Dean was his name, and I commenced to try to influence Phil Landrum over towards Zell Miller because I thought that he was an up and coming young political figure and would have a bright future, although he ran against Landrum for Congress, but he became a close associate of Landrum and supporter.

SHORT: How do you deal with that, Ed? Here you are with a popular incumbent Congressman, and having one of your best friends as an opponent?

JENKINS: That was one of the most difficult things that I had ever faced. But I have always been loyal, I think, to my people I work with, and when Zell unexpectedly entered the race, I guess in 1964, I called him, told him. I said, "Now, Zell, I work for Landrum, and I'm going to be for Landrum, and I want you to know that." And the same thing happened in '66, even though I had left Landrum and went in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the time as an assistant U.S. Attorney. But it was a rough time mentally and emotionally, because Miller was one of my best

friends, and I could not turn my back on Landrum, whom I had -- I ran his campaigns, in addition to working for him. So I stayed with Landrum, and I think Miller understood that.

SHORT: Well, with that background when Congressman Landrum decided to retire, you decided to run for his seat.

JENKINS: I had been a federal prosecutor for about three years and then I had returned to Jasper where Landrum lived and opened up a law office. And had practiced several years, and also at the same time, did a lot of work for Landrum, district work. And when he would have opposition, I would take off and run or help run his campaigns. So I knew a lot of people throughout the district, primarily because I had been active in his political campaigns and had done a lot of his legwork through the years. So, he called me in '76, 1976, and told me in about September of that year, August or September, and said, "I've decided that I'm not going to run for sure." It had been speculated for some time that he would not. "But if you want to get in it, I want you to know ahead of time." So I talked to my wife and didn't tell her how much money it would cost to run through those 18 counties at that time, and in 1976 in our district, it included all of Gwinnett County, all of Whitfield County on the west side. We went east to the South Carolina line, north to the North Carolina and Tennessee line, and so we really had everything in north Georgia in the Ninth District. It's a very sparsely populated area outside of Gwinnett and Cherokee and Hall, but I thought that the time that I could probably run a campaign for about \$75,000. It ended up that it cost about \$130,000, and most of that was money that I contributed,

borrowed and donated to the committee. But there were eight of us in that campaign on the Democratic side, and one person on the Republican side. And it was a very spirited campaign. It went on for several months because I just left the law office and traveled the district for the next 7 or 8 months, and ended up with a runoff with Senator Al Minish from over in Commerce, Jackson County, and was successful in that. But it was a tough decision for me because I did have a good country law practice, and enjoyed it, but I did want to go to Congress because I'd had a little taste of it with Phil.

SHORT: Well, having Congressman Landrum as a friend certainly must have helped you when you got to Washington.

JENKINS: It did, very much so. I knew some of the people in the House from having been a staffer there a few years before, one of whom was Dan Rostenkowski from Chicago. He had been a young Congressman at the time, very active, and I knew him. He was a friend of Phil's. And I decided to try to make a run for the Ways and Means Committee as a freshman, and the way that operates is, each party, Democrat and a Republican, they have a committee called a committee on committees that nominate people for committee slots, and it's always extremely competitive and Ways and Means and the Appropriations Committees are the two committees that are exclusive committees. That is, if you serve on one, you can't serve on another committee. But I felt that the Ways and Means Committee was where I would have the greatest opportunity to influence national legislation, and I ran for it and through a couple of

Phil's friends, including Dan Rostenkowski who supported me as a freshman, he was on the committee, and a couple of people from the Texas state that were supportive of me, I was able to get the nomination from the Steering and Policy Committee for a vacancy on the committee. And then I was contested in the caucus, in the full caucus by a member who had been there about 6 or 8 years, and by that time I had put together, though, a rather interesting coalition of chamber of commerce types, very conservatives, with some labor support, that felt that I would be independent. That came from Rostenkowski primarily, and I was able to prevail in a very close election.

SHORT: Well, that committee had some very serious responsibilities, writing tax law, overseeing Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other types of federal programs. Seems that should be in a full-time job.

JENKINS: It really is. I served on the trade subcommittee of Ways and Means Committee, and when I indicated that it's an exclusive committee that you can't serve on any other committee, there is one committee that, the budget committee, that is made up of one representative from ways and means from the Democratic side, one from the Republican side, and then the others are appointed by the Speaker, basically. But I also served on the budget committee for two terms while I was on the Ways and Means Committee. But my subcommittee appointment, while I had more than one through my 16 years, the one committee that I stayed on, the longest subcommittee, was trade, which I had wanted to serve on, primarily because my district,

congressional district at that time, the primary industry was in the textile field. And I felt that I needed to protect domestic textile industry for a variety of counties from Jackson County, Barrow County, Hall County, up in the mountains in Rayburn County, and a lot of small shops in addition to Whitfield County, which was the carpet industry of the world, really. So I spent most of my time on Ways and Means Committee on the trade subcommittee, and later became chairman, for several years, of the textile caucus, which I didn't make many friends in the free trade area, but I looked after the textile industry.

SHORT: And sponsored legislation.

JENKINS: Many pieces of legislation dealing with the textile industry, some that became law, but some that were vetoed and never became law.

SHORT: Well, let's talk about that. That legislation was in 1985 when you introduced it, with opposition from your committee chairman, as I recall, and later you passed legislation that was vetoed by the President.

JENKINS: That's right.

SHORT: What was your reaction to that?

JENKINS: Well, this was a long-fought battle. I was attempting in this piece of legislation to establish some quotas from the cheap labor countries that were exporting to us a lot of textiles. And I knew that the textile industry could not survive if that prevailed. So, my piece of legislation would have slowed that down, and by establishing quotas. My subcommittee chairman, Sam Gibbons of Florida, was adamantly opposed, because he was a free trader, and did a good job in that field. Rostenkowski was opposed, as was the Speaker of the House. So, the only thing I had was a majority in the House, which I could override them and prevail, which I did. And was able to get it passed in the Senate, and it went to President Reagan, and he vetoed it as I knew that he would. And when it came back to the House, as the sponsor of the bill, I did something that was a little bit unusual. Instead of having an immediate override vote, which I knew that I could not win, because I couldn't get two-thirds of the House, I checked with a parliamentarian about a specific date for an override, and he said, "Yes, you can do that." So, I asked for, and they didn't really realize, I don't think, on the Republican side, what was happening. I asked for an October date, if I remember correctly. At any rate, fairly close to the election in November. And we had an interesting override vote, but it couldn't get out of the Senate, which I knew. But it was a good piece of legislation, and to follow up on that, even though it probably went a bit too far than even I would have preferred in the ideal world, it would have postponed the demise of the textile industry, and as you know today, of course, we don't have a textile industry to amount to anything in the entire state, or in the country.

SHORT: You think we can ever bring it back?

JENKINS: I'm somewhat doubtful. I think the primary objective today ought to be to try to preserve some manufacturing, regardless of what it is in, because I think it is a mistake for a nation to lose its manufacturing base. We are fast (indiscernible) that, and a lot of it has to do with the value of the dollar, which is very low today. That impacts us adversely. And it helps us in exports, but it doesn't help us domestically a great deal with domestic industry. But I'm doubtful that textile, and certainly the garment industry will not come back. The rest of the textile industry could survive, parts of it. Certainly carpet can.

SHORT: What about poultry, which is big in your district?

JENKINS: Poultry was and is a big thing in our district. We had several major poultry operations throughout the mountain counties, and a lot of that industry really helped the standard of living of the mountain people, because people could grow poultry, chickens, and at the same time, operate at home. And most of the husband and the wife, many times worked within the poultry industry, and that gave a lot of income to a world of people in mountains, and in addition to the processing plants that operated out of Hall, Habersham, several counties, but it was a wonderful area of employment, and it still is within the district now.

SHORT: There was a coalition of congressmen, mostly from the South, known as Blue Dogs.

Were you a Blue Dog?

JENKINS: No, I was not a Blue Dog, although I probably voted with the Blue Dog group a great deal. The Blue Dogs were and are an extremely conservative group of Democrats, which I was also a conservative Democrat. But honestly, there were some things that, while I was conservative on the budget, on spending, there were some things that I disagreed with them on. I mean, I didn't take an active part in that. But they are in existence today, and as a matter of fact, have increased their numbers in the House, and they do a good job in trying to bring moderation to spending bills, primarily.

SHORT: Let me read to you a quote that I just read the other day. Someone said, "According to my records, Jenkins has not made a single speech in favor of increasing the federal deficit, raising taxes or adjourning the army." So it seems to me that you had a reputation of being a pay-as-you-go, lower taxes, strong defense member of the Congress.

JENKINS: No question. All of that is true. I am a great believer in a balanced budget on the federal level, unless there is an unforeseen emergency such as a war that causes one to deficit spend. And even there, I agree, like Lyndon Johnson when he imposed the surtax during the Vietnam War, to pay for it. I think this nation today is on the precipice of a very, very difficult time financially. And it could weaken us severely, and I believe that when I served, I believe that it was important that we not overspend, so many times I would vote against a spending program that I may have believed in, simply because I thought it would cost too much money at

the time. And being on the budget committee, I saw a lot of areas that I felt there could be a reduction in spending. As a matter of fact, when I was on the committee, Barber Conable, a Republican member from New York, who later became President of World Bank after he left the Ways and Means Committee, he was the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee on the Republican side. He also felt much like I did on spending, and he and I sponsored a balanced -- it was called Balance the Budget Committee Bill, and passed it in the House. It did not get out of the Senate, but while it would not have mandated a balanced budget every year, it would have provided that you could not increase spending more than the increase in the national increase monetary capacity, so that you would have probably on any year you have 3 or 4 percent more that you could spend than you did the previous year. It would have brought us into a balanced budget over a period of time, and I still believe today that we really have a problem right now with overspending. As far as the military is concerned, when I went there, there had been for the first 3 or 4 years of my service, there had been a great decrease in military spending. I felt that it was important that we had to increase military preparedness, and therefore the military budget had to be increased, and I was a supporter of that.

SHORT: As I recall, you served under three Speakers.

JENKINS: That's correct.

SHORT: Tip O'Neill from Massachusetts.

JENKINS: Yes.

SHORT: Jim Wright in Texas.

JENKINS: Yes.

SHORT: And Tom Foley from Washington.

JENKINS: Washington, yes.

SHORT: Tell us a little about a congressman's relationship with the Speaker.

JENKINS: Well, when I went there in '77, that was the first year that Tip O'Neill commenced to serve as Speaker. He was elected during the same (indiscernible) during my freshman year, and you got to know a Speaker a little bit better when he was up for election, but he had not served before, because normally if they've been in office a while, the freshman members don't get to associate too much with the Speaker. But I got to know Tip O'Neill, once again, through Dan Rostenkowski more than anybody else, because I went on the Ways and Means Committee, and Tip did not support me for Ways and Means Committee, and he was the incoming Speaker. So, I had defeated him in going on the committee. But I liked Tip O'Neill, even though he was a very

liberal member. He was really a labor-oriented, from his district in Boston, was a very heavily labor-intensive district, and labor unions. He rarely went against what the labor unions wanted. But Tip was a Irish, good, jovial person, and could make friends with anyone, and he had a great relationship with the Republican minority leader at that time, Bob Michaels, from Illinois. And many times he would call me during his ten years as Speaker, I believe it was ten years, on major bills to see how I felt the South would go, and I'd give him a read. That's normally what the whip did, but sometimes he would call me. So I got to know him, because I supported some things that he was for, but I opposed a lot of things that he was for. I think there was a degree of respect on both sides. And he would sometimes eat out with -- there were about five of us, six of us, that ate out on Tuesday nights, sometimes more than that, but the so-called Tuesday night crowd. And Tip would be a part of that, and I was the token Southerner, I guess, in that group. Which incidentally, a lot of that group have gone on to the Senate. One of them is Barbara Boxer and one is Chuck Schumer from New York, and Rosty and myself. Occasionally, not too often, but occasionally Tip, and John Lewis occasionally would join that group when he came to the House. But I got along, and the average member, I think, from both sides liked Tip O'Neill. When Jim Wright was elected after Tip had left, retired, this had been a very contentious election each time that Jim Wright -- Jim was elected majority leader by one vote in 1977. And his opponent at that time had been Phillip Burton, Congressman Burton, from California, who was a more liberal member, and there were two other people also running that were eliminated before the ultimate runoff. But Jim Wright won by one vote, and from Texas, he had been chairman of the committee in the House, and had made a lot of friends from both sides of the aisle, but he had

more support from the moderate to conservative group because the liberals had gone with Phil Burton. And when he became Speaker, he had some opposition from within the party, some people who were not too fond of him. Jim Wright was a very scrappy guy, and a lot of people didn't know it, but he had been a pretty good boxer in the Navy, I believe, military, and he didn't mind to mix it up with you, and he did occasionally with some people, that almost came to fisticuffs a time or two. But about the same time, Congressman Newt Gingrich had come to the House, and he put a different flavor on the Republican side, in my view. First of all, Newt Gingrich was very able, a very good Speaker and a sharp mind, but not one of my favorites at all, because I never felt that he would not stay where he said he would be. He was sort of an opportunist at times, in my view. But at any rate, he organized the House Republicans, and was moving Michael gradually out of office, as the minority leader. He did this in several ways. First of all, he was very conservative and he grouped the conservatives on the Republican side together, and they stuck together and they liked Gingrich, because he did have a lot of ideas. He's a brilliant guy in so many ways. But the most important thing, I think, of his rise to power, in addition to his own abilities, was the practice of televising the House chamber. That happened under Tip O'Neill's -- when he was Speaker, and Congressman Gingrich, in my view, saw the importance of this from a political standpoint, and at the end of a session, you always had the opportunity to have time on the House floor with CNN televising the House chamber. He would organize speeches by himself and others on any particular subject, and speak everyday. And he became nationally known from doing that, and it was a ingenious type of operation that they had, and they organized and they would have a certain group everyday to do this. And then he

decided to go after Jim Wright, and everyday there would be an attack on Wright, Speaker for any personal defects or any failures or anything, and finally drove him out of office, because...

SHORT: And out of Congress.

JENKINS: And out of Congress. And so I would say that Jim Wright's service was more contentious and more controversial from within and outside the party. I liked Jim Wright myself, got along with him. I had differences with him too, but we had mutual respect, and he's still in Texas today. Incidentally, he's not in good health. Tom Foley was more of a peacemaker, and he was not a strong leader, he got along more with both sides. He had been chairman of the agriculture committee in the House, and a lot of Southerners liked him very much.

SHORT: Who were some of your colleagues from Georgia?

JENKINS: Bo Ginn from down in Savannah, who had also worked on the Hill at the same time I had. He had worked for Talmadge, and before that he had worked for a House member, but I knew Bo from years ago. And he was on appropriations committee and did a fine job for the state, because he was important in getting projects through and funded, so I knew him real well. Dawson Mathis from down in Albany was a very good member. He also was on the agriculture committee, but he was close to Phil Burton, the liberal member from California, even though

Dawson was extremely conservative, but they were good allies, and Dawson served as our Steering and Policy member that named members to various committees. Every zone had a member, and he was on the Steering and Policy Committee when I became a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and he was very important to me. Doug Barnard from Augusta served with me for many years. He was on Banking Committee, did a fine job there. Buddy Darden came after I had been there a couple of three years from Marietta, and he was on the Armed Services Committee and was a well-liked member of the House, did a fine job, I think, for his district and for the state. Jack Brinkley from Columbus was there for a couple of terms before he retired. He, incidentally, was a friend of mine from Young Harris College days. He had finished a couple years before me at Young Harris, and I knew him from there, and he was a very outstanding person. Morality of the highest degree. A very honest guy. I thought a lot of him. He still lives in Columbus now, I think, or in that area. Who have I left out? Jack Flynt was there when I first went there. Jack is now deceased, but he chaired the Ethics Committee at one time. Incidentally, I also served on the Ethics Committee. They say you have to serve a sentence on the Ethics Committee. I served two terms on the Ethics Committee. But Jack Flynt at one time was a chair of that committee, I think. He was also on Appropriations Committee.

SHORT: Speaking of Ethics Committee, several incidents occurred in Washington while you were in Congress. One was Koreagate. One was Irangate.

JENKINS: Right.

SHORT: And tell us about those.

JENKINS: Well, the Koreagate thing, I was not on the Ethics Committee at that time, but that had to do with some alleged bribes of members of the House by a Korean supporter for Korea in the military field, and the undercover FBI sting operation offered money to several of these members from both sides of the aisle, and there were about three or four, if I remember correctly, maybe more, that were later indicted for bribery or attempted bribery, and were either expelled from the House and later tried in their districts. Some of them either pled guilty or were convicted. One of the areas when I was on the Ethics Committee that came up was the page scandal. There were, as you know, we had, at that time, we had a page dormitory more or less, where all of the pages lived, and they were normally 16, 17, 18, could be 19-year-old kids, that were pages. And there was very lax supervision of the pages there. They did have a couple of members that were -- committees that had oversight responsibility, but it was not very good, and not very active, and a couple of these pages had had affairs with, or allegedly had affairs with a member of Congress, and that was brought up while I was on the committee. One of them had to do with a Republican member from the state of Illinois, and a 17 or 18-year-old page, both of whom admitted and was chastised by the House -- not the girl, she had already left. One of the things that hindered that investigation, incidentally, it had happened several years before, and she was a housewife and mother and didn't want anything, obviously didn't want any publicity, but the member was charged and he lost his election that year because of that. Also, there was a gay

member that had an affair and that person was likewise chastised by the House in the same manner that the Republican member had been with the female. That brought about great changes in the page system, which was really needed, and greater supervision and oversight, and that's good. The other thing that came up, I guess, during that time that I was on the committee was the so-called bank. It really wasn't a fraudulent thing. What happened was that the House has a bank and the Senate has a bank, and most members would have their salary check automatically deposited each month in that bank, and if you over drafted, there was not a great deal of care because they knew the check would be coming the next payday. So a lot of members that had financial difficulties made a practice of overdrawing their account, and the FBI was brought in once again to check every member and their accounts to see if they had ever over drafted. Fortunately, when the FBI came to me and said, "You have never overdrawn," I said, "Put it in writing. Give me a letter." Which they did. But that hurt a lot of members of Congress, and it really wasn't that much of a breach. It was a breach, but it wasn't as severe as it was publicized. And the Iran-Contra Committee -- later you mentioned Irangate...

SHORT: Now, you were appointed to that, what, special committee by Jim Wright.

JENKINS: That's right.

SHORT: Yes.

JENKINS: The Speaker made the appointments to investigative committees, and the senators were appointed likewise by the leader in the Senate, but Jim Wright was Speaker when Iran-Contra conflict came up, and he appointed Peter Rodino, who had been active, of course, in the Watergate years before, he named him as chair. And then he named subcommittee, our committee, chairman to that committee from the Democratic side. And you had almost every standing committee chairman such as Jack Brooks, who was chairman of banking, I guess, at that time, Lee Hamilton, Democrat from Indiana, and a host of others. And he called me one day, the Speaker called me and said, "I want you to serve on Iran-Contra." And I happened to be speaking in Georgia at the time when he reached me down in Marietta, and I said, "Well, Mr. Speaker, I haven't even thought about this, because I've never asked for it." He said, "I know you haven't. You're probably the only Democrat that hasn't asked." But he said, "I want you because of your background as a trial lawyer," and he named me to that committee. It's a fascinating committee. There were a lot of things involved that were not right. Reagan had reached the point, in my view, there were some vacancies because of retiring people over in the National Security Council as well as Secretary of State. Schultz had come on as Secretary of State, and he didn't totally have a grasp of everything, because he didn't know everything that was going on. And to make a long story short, a young lieutenant colonel by the name of Ollie North was in the White House as a young staffer, more or less, and he saw that there was a vacuum out there, and he was very active in the Contra at that time, conflict, and the House had been curtailing expenditures in Central America, did not believe that it was proper. I had been on the opposite side and had been supportive of Reagan in the fight against the Contras, but the

law was that you couldn't do it. And really there was a way to circumvent it, not legal, but nevertheless Ollie saw the opportunity that we could make some money, or they could make some money by selling some weapons to Iran through Israel. And they did that, and they would charge Iran more than what they really cost, what Israel was paying us for them, and they would take that extra money and use it and sending it to the Contras in Central America. All illegal. And Ollie was one of the real operatives in that, because he pretended, told everybody in the White House that the "old man", the President, was asking him to do these things. There's just no truth to that, I don't think, at least we didn't find that Reagan had specifically told him. Reagan later said that he was aware, if you recall, that some money was being spent there. But at any rate, the investigation went on for months. Dick Cheney, incidentally, was on the committee on the Republican side, so I had an interesting group, and from the Senate, George Mitchell. Give you a little interesting sidebar comment. We would select people that we would cross-examine. There was like 50 or 60 members, and I had selected, being the freshman, the only non-chairman on the committee, I selected last. Of course, from the Democrat side, so everyone already had the Secretary of the Defense and Secretary of State and Undersecretary of State, and Ollie and all of the others. But Ollie had a wonderful lawyer by the name of Sullivan, and he would have Ollie in his full uniform everyday, at attention, and he became a sympathetic hero to the American people because they watched it everyday, and the Congress, this committee, became scapegoats more or less, because we were attacking this wonderful guy. And George Mitchell was going to be the person to cross-examine from the Senate, and one of the older members, the chairman of one of the committees, was going to be the cross-examiner from our

side. And on Thursday before Ollie was to report on Monday, the Democratic caucus met and said, "We believe that Jenkins would do better to cross-examine Ollie North than the one who had selected him." And they told me this and wanted me to do it. I said, "Well, fellows, first of all, I understand what's going on. Y'all are running for cover, and I want you to know that first and foremost. I understand the process and you want me to be from the House side," but I said, "I will do it even though I haven't concentrated upon his particular area of what he did." I shall never forget. I rented a place at Jekyll Island that weekend, one of those houses, and I took all of these transcripts, these were volumes, and tried to go through before Monday, when I flew back to Washington. But George Mitchell and I then cross-examined Ollie. And I really enjoyed it, you know, and a lot was not discovered, I guess, during that cross-examination, although I did ask this series of questions of Ollie which really made Brendan Sullivan upset. I asked Ollie, I said, "You know I've supported the Contra aid, as you have." And he said, "Oh I know that." They had done a good job of researching me. I said, "But of course I believe that we ought to follow the law," and I said "Now, the Speaker didn't know, Speaker of the House, my speaker, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee on the House side, didn't know anything about the supplying of money to the Contras or this program which you had." And he said, "No." I said, "Did the Senate Intelligence Committee know about it or anybody in the Senate?" And he said, "No, we kept that because we didn't want it to get out, obviously." And I said, "What about Vice President Bush? Did he know about it?" And he said, "No." I said, "Did the Secretary of State know about it?" He said, "No." I said, "What about the President? Did the President know about it?" And Ollie said, "Well, I thought he did at the time, but I discovered since then

that he probably did not know all the details.” And I said, “Well, are you telling this committee and the American people that not a single elected official of the United States of America knew what y’all were doing?” And he said, “Well, I guess not.” Words to that effect. But at any rate, the committee, as you know, made the recommendations. We did not seek -- a lot of people from the staff level and also a lot of people that were anti-Reagan really wanted to go after the President in an impeachment process because of this, but the Democrats which controlled the committee at that time -- we felt that that would be a mistake. We had just been through a Watergate in the early ‘70’s, ’71, ’72, ’73, through that Nixon impeachment, and very honestly, the committee on both the Democrat and the Republican side felt that the country couldn’t withstand another impeachment process at that particular time, and I think that was correct.

SHORT: You failed to mention the fact that you went to Congress the year Jimmy Carter was elected President.

JENKINS: That’s correct. And Jimmy Carter had a lot of difficulties with some of the staff. Good people, but in my view, some of them were probably not given the right position at the time, and he had a lot of difficulties with the Congress with his own party in the Congress. If you recall, of course, he had sort of run against the establishment, and that had alienated, I guess, some people. But he was never close to anybody on the House side, or even the Senate. He had a lot of legislation, obviously, that came before the Ways and Means Committee, some of it very good legislation, and I as a member from Georgia, attempted to help him with some of that, even

though it was more liberal maybe in some areas than I wanted it to be, but he did see a lot of the problems, for instance, on the medical side. He had a hospital cost containment bill that was very controversial, but passed out of the committee by a very close vote, one vote, I think, which I supported him on, even though it had some provisions that I didn't like. It was killed in the House, full House. He had an energy bill that was geared primarily towards conservation and mandates as to surtaxes on large automobiles. That was in 1978, I believe. And he had a world of legislation dealing with trade and with taxes generally. I didn't support a lot of the tax measures because I really believed that the tax schedules were too high at the time. And as a matter of fact, if you recall, after he left office, I led the group that reduced capital gains taxes, and while I think there is certainly a argument for capital gains taxes being of some kind, I didn't, you know, there is a large number of people that don't believe there should be any tax on capital gains. I felt that the tax rate at the time was much too high, and should be reduced to attract more industry and more capital to this country. But Jimmy Carter had a tough time as President with legislation. He didn't have the right sponsorship, if you will, in the Senate or in the House with most of his legislation, and it was very difficult to get it passed. He was not close to Tip O'Neill as Speaker. He was not close to many of the committee chairmen, and there was little effort made, in my view, to make allies out of them, rather than opponents. And he didn't have support from the South, strangely enough, that he needed in most of his legislative proposals.

SHORT: So it's fair to assume that if you run for President as an outsider, when you get to

Washington, you well maybe become an outsider.

JENKINS: I think so. You need to know how to deal with the legislative branch, and if you don't, you won't accomplish much.

SHORT: Let's talk for a minute about the first Gulf War. You were a member of Congress when that war came about, and if I'm correct, you voted against funding that war.

JENKINS: I did. I voted against the resolution to go to war, actually. It was what was used to go to war. I've never been totally convinced that that conflict with Iraq, it was a lot about oil, in my view. Now, there can be no question that it was also about human rights and the conflict there with the neighbors of Iraq. But I felt that since we had been supporting Iraq in its war against Iran, with some weapon systems and some money through the years, that to turn around and suddenly attack Iraq because it was threatening Kuwait was not justified as an all-out war. I've been very cautious during my tenure as to looking after the United States of America, but to stay out of a lot of conflicts in the Middle East, and therefore I opposed it, as did Sam Nunn, incidentally. You know, over on the Senate side. On the House side, and Sam was chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate -- he's like me, he's not absolutely 100 percent certain that it was the right vote, but it was the right vote as far as I was concerned with me intellectually. Well, first of all, I didn't think that we would attack and then withdraw. I figured that we would go all out in Iraq, and which we did not, as you know. We just defeated them and

turned them back. Think my thought process was correct as to the dangers of going into Iraq, as we have under this administration, and turmoil that it has created, and the money that we have spent and we still are not certain as to whether or not we were correct.

SHORT: So in that war, besides showing a awesome display of military power, we actually didn't accomplish much.

JENKINS: No, I don't think so. We saved Kuwait, and I guess the oil there, which we are somewhat dependent upon. So there's some positives and some negatives, but I have traveled some to Pakistan and to Afghanistan primarily with Charlie Wilson, who has become a little bit infamous in the last few years with the book and movie, but I have met a lot of the Taliban in Pakistan and Islamabad and in Afghanistan, and very honestly, I was never convinced that you could depend upon these people. It appeared to me that we were pouring a lot of money -- that's the time that they were fighting the Soviet Union, and of course we wanted them to prevail against the Soviet Union, and Charlie in particular, Charlie Wilson, was responsible for them getting the Stinger missiles that helped defeat the Russian army. But there was more to it than that. These people were being funded with a lot of money from America, and you had to deal with these feudal lords out there, and in my view, it was like trying to buy votes, you know, in some election. You didn't know whether they would stay with you or not, so it just defeated its purpose in trying to finance a war in that part of the world, when you didn't know the culture or the mindset of those people. And like Alexander the Great that came over into Afghanistan, he

didn't stay long. He just passed on through. I think that's what we needed to do. I don't think we needed to stay long.

SHORT: Do you think it was a mistake for us to invade Afghanistan in recent times?

JENKINS: I think now there is more of a reason for concentrating in Afghanistan. It is truly a place that will be difficult, and I don't know that we ought to get too involved more than we are now, because, like Iraq, I don't know how easy it will be to get out of there. Soviets found that was very difficult, and you almost have to fight a war from a distance when you do these things. If you're going to do that, you need to finance one side or the other, whichever is your friends, so-called friends, and let them do most of the fighting.

SHORT: Had you been in Congress when the decision was made, would you have supported the Bush invasion of Iraq?

JENKINS: No, I would not have. I would have voted against it. I would have voted against it as I did in the first Gulf War.

SHORT: What do you make of our presence there?

JENKINS: I think it has brought us to a financial crisis. Not that in and of itself, but together

with spending, in addition to that war, and it has destroyed the value of the dollar. We are at a real crisis right now, in my view, as to whether or not we can live without real inflation that comes as a result of this overspending. Furthermore, we obviously did not do a good job in fighting the war, if we had toppled Saddam and then left at the appropriate times, turning it over to some of the local anti-Saddam people, we would have been better off. Or, in the alternative, if they would have really increased the number of troops, as some on both sides of the political aisle say that we should have in the beginning, we would have been better off. But to turn loose Saddam's army, 400,000 troops and say you no longer have a job, turn them loose in the country with their arms, they obviously are going to belong to an insurgency group that's going to give us problems, as they have. But it's looking better now, I think, since they did increase in the last year our presence there. I think it is looking much better than it has, but I wouldn't depend upon that long-term.

SHORT: Are we overreacting to the threat of terrorism?

JENKINS: Well, it's hard to say. Obviously since the 9/11 catastrophe, it has become something that we have to deal with, so from that perspective, I think we really have to know what's going on with people coming here. You have to have intelligence, and you have to spend a lot of money in that area. And I disagree with some in my party on recent legislation dealing with eavesdropping and so forth on foreign calls. I don't think that we ought to have to have as much intelligence to do that as you would in making a search of an American home or anything like

that. You know, the argument goes that, in having been a defense attorney as well as a prosecutor, I understand the use of our laws properly, and their argument always is, it's better to let one guilty person go than it is to convict an innocent person. But when you're talking about a terrorist, in my view it's not right to say it's alright for one terrorist to get by, to get through, rather than to illegally search, if you will, a lot of calls from foreign countries or to foreign countries. I don't think you can go that far. I think if you let one terrorist through, that's one too many. That could be a real danger to the country, so I say have tough legislation authorizing telephone calls and so forth to foreign countries.

SHORT: Seems to me that all of these engagements that we find ourselves in around the world point toward lack of stability in our foreign policy. Seems that Congress has a role and the President has a role, the administration has a role. How do you merge those two into a specific attitude toward our role in world affairs?

JENKINS: There has to be more respect, first of all, less partisanship, when it comes to the committees that have jurisdiction. Years ago you did have that, I think, in foreign affairs, you know, in the Dick Russell days and of Senator George from Georgia, I'm talking about specifically. They would sit down with whomever is the President on matters of foreign affairs. They would oppose him on other things domestic if they felt like it, but they would try to adopt a policy that would be in the best interest of the country and join together in doing that. We haven't done that in some time. There has to be more respect for the presidency, and the

Secretary of State's job, as well as respect for the intelligence committees in the Senate and the House. That's very difficult to do in today's political atmosphere but in --

SHORT: Partisan. Partisan atmosphere.

JENKINS: Yes.

SHORT: I wanted to ask this question, if I may. How much support do you think that we should provide to opposition forces in these places like El Salvador and Iraq and Iran?

JENKINS: I think it's very dangerous. The entanglements that develop, because you're not absolutely certain, nor is our CIA always, as to the support that these people have. There are occasions when that is needed, but as a general policy, I think we make a mistake in supporting every group that may be anti-government in their country. I think that's a dangerous route to go, and I'd be very careful about doing that.

SHORT: Let's talk about some Georgia politics. The Republican Party has taken over now the Governor's office and the state legislature for the first time in what, 100 years or more?

JENKINS: Yes.

SHORT: What do you think is the reason for that?

JENKINS: Well, I think that there are three or four issues that occurred that made the Democratic party somewhat weak, that then came on down to the state level. First of all, we've always been in the South a conservative people. We have experienced defeat and had to sort of shuffle for ourselves as a region, and therefore, probably became a little bit introverted, if you will, since Civil War days. And being a conservative area with conservative ideas, not enough money to spend as other areas, other states, had, we had to be against a lot of spending proposals in our state. But also from a social standpoint, three or four issues I think that worked to the Republican advantage and to the disadvantage of the Democrats, the abortion issue, we have been basically pro-life throughout the South. We're primarily Protestant, conservative Protestant areas. I think the gay issue worked to the advantage of the Republican side and to the disadvantage of our culture, if you will. I think on the racial side, the affirmative action legislation and proposals did not set well with the conservative people. I think all of those worked to the disadvantage of the Democratic party. Human rights has always been more of a Democratic party issue than the Republican Party, since the Civil War. Prior to that it was the Republicans that were more supportive of certainly racial rights. But in recent times, I think that the abortion, the gay, the affirmative action did not bode well in any of the Southern states. And a lot of other issues too that came along, although the Republican Party did the better job than we did, in organizing at the grass roots level. And they really did a fine job in taking advantage of computers and computer lists and that type of thing much before the Democrats did.

SHORT: Many disenchanted Democrats feel that the state party is too urban and too controlled by minorities and labor unions. You agree with that?

JENKINS: I think that has played a role certainly in recent years. Once again, that somewhat plays into what I was talking about. If the base of the Democratic party in our state is the African American community, and while that is very important for us in state elections, it also has a downside in the rural areas in particular, because they say, "Are you with the blacks or are you with..." that's basically what you hear out in the country, and that has been very difficult for us to overcome. And I think that there ought to be a real effort made in the rural areas and the black communities, because really from an economic standpoint all of those people or most of those people, if you leave the social out for a minute and just look at it, economic basis, most of those people ought to be Democrats in my view, because in the Congress, here's what I would find, in the Ways and Means Committee, as well as on the House floor. If you had a fight on taxes, you would find that the Democrat Party members from all over the country were more for the people making \$50,000 a year or less, whereas invariably, the Republican side in argument would be more for the investment side, which is the higher-income side. Now, there is (audio gap) on both sides and sometimes there are deviations from each of those, but generally you would find the Democratic side more for the \$50,000 and below, where most of the country people in Georgia are. So from an economic standpoint, that's where we have fallen down. We haven't promoted that as well as we should, and we've made mistakes on the social side,

Democratic Party, and the racial side. But I think we really need to take the state party and infuse it with a lot of people out in rural areas.

SHORT: Many states require party registration. We don't do that in Georgia. Should we?

JENKINS: I have tossed that around for a long time in my mind. I have a hesitancy to do that, even though I voted in the Democratic primary and therefore I don't get to vote for my local Republican leaders except in November, and as generally in my county and generally not a Democrat running against the Republican. My local office chair commissioner, every office in my county is Republican except for one, but I tend to believe that, on a local level, you ought to have non-partisan county offices, and we used to do that in this county. We still do for one office. The probate judge always runs as, and always has. But we do that on the state level for superior court judges, and I think it's just as important that you have a non-partisan sheriff, non-partisan county commissioner in these small countries. But party registration, I'm hesitant to say that we ought to go to that.

SHORT: Some people support term limits on legislators, as well as members of the Congress.

What do you think about that?

JENKINS: I have opposed term limits, primarily because I think especially in the Congress, first

of all, you'd have to have a constitutional amendment, because the only thing you have to be is a resident of the state and age requirement, you can live in south Georgia and run for Congress, and up here in the mountains if you want to, as long as you're a resident of the state under the constitution. So I think while I can understand why you want to turn everybody out occasionally, most of the people I find that are for term limits are for term limits until it applies to them, and then they say, "Well, I know I gave you a commitment to leave after six terms or seven terms, but I've changed my mind now." I think it's -- people ought to hold those people responsible if they made a commitment to be for term limits, and then renege on it.

SHORT: Well, while we're on that subject of party politics, I want to ask you this question. What did you think of your friend, Senator Zell Miller's decision to keynote the Republican National Convention in 2004?

JENKINS: I thought it was a mistake. He's my friend and will be, but I thought it was a mistake for him as a Democrat to keynote the National Republican Convention. That just goes against my grain. I am a Democrat until I decide to be otherwise. I'll fight within my party. I believe in the two-party system, even though sometimes I think the parliamentary system in Great Britain is better than ours, but being independent-minded as I am, I still believe that this nation is better served with the two parties, and I'm not a third-party advocate, nor am I an advocate of taking part in the internal business of the opposite party.

SHORT: What was your toughest political campaign?

JENKINS: The first campaign in '77. I had seven opponents in the Democratic primary, and while I ran first in that campaign, I had a runoff with Senator Minish from over in Jackson County, and I won that. And my second campaign was a rather difficult campaign because one of the people who, from Gwinnett County, who is chairman of the county commission down there, had run and lost. He was more or less projected to be the top guy in my first race. That was Ray Gunning. He felt that if he could get me one-on-one, he could prevail, because he came from a large, populated area and I had about 50,000 people here in my county. But I had all the mountain counties for me, and I had a pretty good base in Hall County and Whitfield County, so he did not. But that was a tough race. He ran a very good race.

SHORT: You know D.L. Crumley?

JENKINS: D.L. Crumley.

SHORT: I have to ask you that question, Ed.

JENKINS: A great friend of mine. I'll have to tell you this story, because I want people to know who D.L. Crumley, he no longer is alive. He's dead now. In my first race, I did not know a single person in Whitfield County, Dalton area, which at that time, had about 60,000 people.

And I spent a lot of time over there during that year of campaigning outside the restaurants and inside the restaurants and the various mills that I could get into, a lot of carpet mills. There was a fellow running form over there, Alton Bridges, who was a good candidate and worked in a bank, and I knew that he would prevail in Whitfield County, but I wanted to run at least second, and I wanted to make sure that I could do well if I was in the runoff. So, I handed out a lot of cards in a period of weeks and didn't seem to be making too much progress, and one day someone up the sidewalk was in a fast gait running toward me hollering, "Jenkins, Jenkins, Jenkins," and I looked and I saw this fellow coming, and I suddenly recognized someone that I hadn't seen for 20 years, D.L. Crumley. I said, "D.L." He's a fellow I played baseball with in Union County. He played third base, I played second on the town team, baseball team, and sort of grew up together and he said, "I have been looking for you. I have been wanting to get literature." I said, "D.L., you've come to the right place. I've got it in the trunk of my car." And he was a truck driver for Roadway Express, and he said, "Look, I umpire baseball games, I've got daughters playing basketball, I do some refereeing of basketball games, and I go into every carpet mill, picking up carpet or bringing supplies from Roadway Express." Well, I unloaded all this literature on him. Make a long story short, I did run second with eight of us running, primarily because of D.L. Crumley. And I carried Whitfield County after that, because their favorite candidate did not run -- I mean, did not place. And about a week after the general election, I get this call, this was 1976, from a carpet industry owner in Whitfield County that I recognized by name, and I saw that he had contributed to my opponent, and he said that he wanted to come over to see me with three other carpet mill owners about the natural gas shortage in 1977. He

said, "You're going to have a vote, and you can have some influence about getting us some priority to run our carpet mills. Otherwise, these people are going to be out of work." And I said, "Well, come on over." They explained all this to me. It's very important your people up there have a job, and I said, "I absolutely agree with that," and I said, "I think I will be 100 percent for the proposal that you make to me. But I want to know what D.L. thinks about it." And they looked at each other, this was in my little law office before I had been sworn in, and finally one of them said, "Now, D.L. who, Congressman?" And I said, "Well, D.L. Crumley." And he said, "Well, what mill does he own up there?" And I said, "Well, D.L. doesn't own a mill. He's a truck driver for Roadway Express, and he's my man in Whitfield County. And if you'll check with him and if it's alright with him, it'll be fine with me." Well, D.L. called me about 11 o'clock that night and he says, "There's some big shots up here wanting to know something about a gas bill." I said, "D.L., just stick with me pal and you're going to be alright." That's the D.L. Crumley story. He was a great friend.

SHORT: That's a great story, and we need to hear more stories like that. Ed, you've had a very successful career, and I know you're proud of your service, and I know the people you've served are proud of you, but looking back, if you could have done anything differently, what would you have done?

JENKINS: I would have run for the Senate when Wyche Fowler was elected. Wyche was a good friend of mine on, served on committee with me. And I felt that there was an opportunity

for a Democrat to win, and I thought that I was postured and had been asked by many people to run. That is one decision that I made not to, that I sort of regret, even though I supported Wyche and I thought he did a good job.

SHORT: Why didn't you run?

JENKINS: Well, it had to do with a couple of things. First of all, I liked Wyche and he is on my committee and we was good friends, and he had gotten out early, and then there was one vote that I made that I thought was a bad vote, even though it was in my district probably at the time. On the King birthday deal, I had voted to put the holiday not on his birthday, but on the Sunday, once again trying to save \$600 million or whatever it was of businesses would not close and that you'd have it on a Sunday. That was very distasteful to the African American community. I felt that that would become a real issue, which I had had the support of the African American community in my district, which is very small. But I thought that that could become an issue that would be hard to explain in terms that they would accept, and if Wyche was in it, I would lose that block of votes. So I would have been out in the rural areas trying to prevail, and I knew it would be a tough campaign. I think I could have won. I might should have made that decision.

SHORT: Why did you decide to retire?

JENKINS: I had reached the point that I knew -- I had two children, wife here, that I had been away a long time, and it was time for me. I was 60 years old. I didn't see the opportunity of becoming chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. I had run for majority leader and lost in a very close election in the House. Dick Gephardt had defeated me, and I had been there a couple of years later, three years, four years after that, and Rostenkowski at that time, he had told me, he was a good ally of mine, he had told me that he was going to step down, and that I could become chair, if I'd make the right moves, of the Ways and Means Committee. To do that, I would have to jump over three or four people, including Charlie Rangel, good friend of mine, Sam Gibbons from Florida, Pete Stark from California. I felt that I would have no problem in ultimately prevailing. But that also would be somewhat divisive, but I had decided to do that if he was going to step down. And then about a few months later, he told me, he says, "I have decided that I'm not going to retire. I'm going to run again." And when I looked at the terrain out there, it looked to me like if I could not become chair of the committee, that I was going to have to fight every two years with a growing Republican constituency which would ultimately prevail, which they did, and that I'd be in the minority with no voice. So I decided I would go ahead and get out, and I was 60 years old and that was primarily the reason. Now a lot of people thought, you know, I had a lot of campaign money at the time, about \$600,000 if I remember, and we were locked in to where you could keep that money if you wanted to, pay taxes on it and keep it. And a lot of the newspapers thought that what I was going to do is to keep the money, you know. And which I donated all of the money. I didn't keep a dime of it, kept it for a long time because I thought I might still run for the Senate, then I could use it, or in some statewide if

I decided to. But ultimately I ended up giving it to some free healthcare clinics, to Young Harris College, to a lot of other...

SHORT: After your retirement, you were appointed by the governor to serve on the Board of Regents in addition to all of your other activities, and the university system, and you did a great job, according to the person who appointed you, Zell Miller. But Ed, it's been a great pleasure having you, and I appreciate your taking this time to be with us and provide this history that I'm sure will be very useful years and years from now.

JENKINS: Well, it's a pleasure to see you again, Bob. It always is, and thank you for coming by.

[END OF RECORDING]

**University of Georgia
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