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Interview with Leonard Hewell "Kip" Carter

Leonard Hewell Carter

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #312
CARTER, Leonard Hewell “Kip”**

CARTER, Leonard Hewell “Kip”

Former history professor at West Georgia College and political aide/campaign treasurer to Newt Gingrich

Interviewed: February 10, 2012

Interviewer: Robert Ryals

Index by: Breion James

Length: 1 hour, 55 minutes

Abstract: In his February 10, 2012 interview with Robert Ryals, Leonard Hewell “Kip” Carter details growing up in the South during segregation and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as his life as political aide/campaign treasurer to Newt Gingrich. Included are details of his college education at UNC-Chapel Hill – classes, professor, and the Red Scare. Carter shares the history of his friendship and working relationship with Newt Gingrich, the scandals Gingrich faced, and the ultimate end of their relationship. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Growing up in the south, segregation, UNC-Chapel Hill, Civil Rights Movement, politics, Newt Gingrich, campaigning, presidential elections, political tactics, Bob Weed, Virginia Shapard, political advisor, senior administrative aide, Congress, Senator, “groupies”, divorce, Jackie Gingrich, 1960s, 1970s, treasurer, Doonesbury comic

Interview Session (February 10, 2012): Digital File

Time	Keywords
00:00:00	<i>Start of Interview</i> /Interviewer’s Introduction
00:02:03	RBR: Do I have permission to record your voice?
00:02:05	LHC: You do.
00:02:06	RBR: Thank you. You will be given an opportunity to review the raw transcription for any corrections before the oral interview is formally submitted and accepted for inclusion into the oral history collection at Winthrop University.

- 00:02:27 **RBR: This is an interview with Leonard Hewell “Kip” Carter for the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections, Winthrop University, by Robert Ryals at Mr. Carter’s home in Heath Springs, South Carolina on Friday, February 10, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.**
- 00:03:29 **RBR: Please state your full name.**
- 00:03:31 LHC: My full name is Leonard Hewell Carter Jr.
- 00:03:48 **RBR: When were you born?**
- 00:03:49 LHC: I was born April 9, 1943
- 00:03:55 **RBR: Where did you live when you were born and what was life like for you and your family at that time?**
- 00:04:01 LHC: I was born in Birmingham, Alabama and my dad was working for Anderson Clayton Cotton Company and so he was moved around the Southeast a good bit during the war [World War II] . I was born in Birmingham but before I was a year old we moved to Atlanta. So, I was mostly raised in Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 00:04:36 **RBR: What high school or high schools did you attend?**
- 00:04:41 LHC: I was lucky because we settled in Charlotte and I went to Myers Park Elementary, Myers Park Junior High School, and then Myers Park High School. Myers Park Junior High and Myers Park High were in the same building. Myers Park Junior High doesn’t exist anymore now but it was a pretty good high school, usually nationally ranked.
- 00:05:05 **RBR: When did you graduate from high school?**
- 00:05:07 LHC: I graduated in 1961.
- 00:05:12 **RBR: What person had the most positive influence on your life? What did he or she do to influence you?**
- 00:05:20 LHC: Probably like most guys, your father tends to have the biggest influence on you and so that’s who it would be. That’s where you get a lot of your values where you learn what to do but what not to do. I never had children though I have some step-children and everybody says that I’m a pretty good father and part of the way that I learned that was through my father. My dad and my mom were real

interesting. Both of them were the youngest of four children. My dad’s father died when he was 8 months old during the flu epidemic of 1918-1919. And, my mother’s mother died of tuberculosis when she [Mr. Carter’s mother] was five years old. So, neither one of my parents had the same sex parent in their life. And, when you consider neither one of them had a clue about how to parent, they actually did a fairly good job. But, of course, there were lots of things that my dad didn’t do that I wished he had done – playing ball in the yard – that kind of stuff. But, because he never had a father, he just didn’t do a lot of those things, but that probably made me a better father and grandfather. I’ve got a grandchild that is here a good bit of the time. That’s why you see all of these LEGOS and transformers around here.

00:07:15 **RBR: Is there a person that really changed the course of your life by something that he or she did and what were the circumstances? How did that come about?**

00:07:29 LHC: I don’t even know the man’s name, but when I was 12 I joined a Boy Scout troop in Charlotte and I was all excited about it, Troop 20 at Covenant Presbyterian. We got organized and the scoutmaster got transferred to some other town and the church was in a quandary about what to do. So, they decided that they were going to disband the troop which, of course, I was kind of heart-broken about that and a member of the church – whose name I can’t recall – he didn’t even have children – said, “Rather see these boys lose out, I’ll do it” [meaning – accept troop master position]. He just jumped in and did it, and at some point I realized then that you have a responsibility to others for them and for yourself. Really, it was a sacrifice and I really meant a lot to me because I really enjoyed scouts though I never made Eagle Scout. That’s what happens to Boy Scouts – they discover gas fumes or perfume – before they get to Eagle – that’s a saying among Boy Scouts. But it had an influence on me and later in life I was living in Georgia and there were some problems with the Boy Scout district where I lived and some guys came to me and said, “We’d like you to be District Chairman of the Boy Scouts.” Well, I hadn’t been involved in the Boy Scouts at all, but I realized that I had some kind of karma debt to pay and so I was the district chairman with a two county area outside of Atlanta for several years and it meant a lot to me to be able to do that.

00:09:48 **RBR: That response dovetails somewhat into the next question in some ways. Do you remember anything that this man may have said or someone else saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life?**

00:10:13 LHC: Well, in 1969, my first wife and I travelled to Europe. We spent 6 weeks

driving around. She was a teacher and I had finished teaching my first year at West Georgia, where I taught Classical Chinese Studies and introductory history classes. We were driving around Germany and came to Dauchau, Germany which was the site of a great concentration camp in World War II and we stopped. We went in and saw the ovens, the walls where they shot so many people, and the trenches where their blood was drained off. The foundations of the barracks were still there and a museum with absolutely horrendous pictures of bodies being stacked up like cordwood and bodies in the ovens. It was the kind of day where at the end of the day, you will never be the same again as you were that morning. Anyway, when you go through the museum there are a series of pictures where you see the American commanding officer who liberated the camp. The town of Dauchau kind of surrounds the camp. The smell and the noise must have been horrendous coming from the camp. Anyway, the colonel that was in charge of the American unit got the mayor by the scruff of the neck and literally marched him around in the camp looking at the bodies and he said to the mayor, “You had to know what was going on here. Why didn’t you do something?” And, as you leave Dauchau the mayor’s words were written over the gates in several different languages, and in English it reads, “I was only one little man, what could I have done?” And I stood there and I looked at that and I thought that if I ever get the chance to make a difference in somebody’s life then I’ll do it.

Years later, I was watching 60 minutes and Ed Bradley did a story about the Vietnamese political refugees washing ashore in Malaysia. I thought to myself, “That’s it. The Lord’s telling me that this is what I’m supposed to do. “ The next morning I called Church World Services and ended up with a Vietnamese refugee family of 17 people.

00:13:26 **RBR: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

00:13:33 LHC: Well, as a child, I wanted to be an ice man. We didn’t have a refrigerator. We had an icebox and the ice man came every couple of days. He was a big African-American guy who had this big shoulder apron and carried a big block of ice. He would carry it upstairs to our apartment and put the ice in the ice box for us. On a hot summer day there was no air conditioner and it could be real miserable. He would always chip ice off little slivers of ice for us and I thought it was the most wonderful thing I had ever experienced. It turned out that I had an uncle in Atlanta who owned an ice company but it never came to fruition of me going into the ice business. There was a firehouse nearby and I’d go down there and sometimes I wanted to be a fireman and various and sundry things growing up.

When I went off to college I thought I wanted to be a dentist so I went up to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to be a dentist. Well, it didn’t take me long to realize that was a rough row to hoe [meaning: it was very difficult curriculum]. They had a course called organic chemistry and that’s where they

separated the sheep from the goats [meaning: it was a class that determined on-going success or failure in the program]. And all of the pre-med students and the pre-dental students [thought that] if they survived organic chemistry then it would be a miracle. I had a fraternity brother who was running down the hall one day and tripped on the stairs and fell all the way down the stairs and broke his right leg. We carried him to the hospital infirmary and the doctors were all at lunch, so he was going to have to wait an hour. He sent me back to the fraternity house to get his organic chemistry book. He was lying there with a compound fracture of his right lower leg studying organic chemistry. He later became a dentist in Charlotte. And I thought to myself, and saw the failure rate, I thought man, this isn't for you. If you're going to survive here [meaning: academic career at UNC-Chapel Hill] then you're going to have to re-think your major.

I was in an interesting class. In 1957 I was in the 9th grade and that was when the Russians launched Sputnik into outer space beginning the space race. And that's when America went crazy. When we came back from Christmas vacation in college and that's when we realized that we were behind in the space race. It was the height of the Cold War when people were digging bomb shelters, and American education was at fault, so the teachers really cracked down and I mean, school got tough. When I went off to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in June 1961, we were the first class to have – as Dean Carlyle Sitterson said to us – “The benefit of the post-Sputnik education, and we were going to save America.”

Well, my dorm at Chapel Hill – Everett Dorm – was designed with two-men rooms but they put three men in every room. And before the end of the first year there were no three-men rooms left. There were only a few two-men rooms. Most rooms were down to one person. It was a blood bath. Both of my roommates flunked out – they were good guys and wanted to become dentists – and were from Hamlet, North Carolina which was where my mother was from. They had both flunked out. To give you an idea of how rough it was, four years later, I was on the other side of campus from where I had taken freshman history. I had grown a beard and I had passed my history teacher that I had not seen in four years in a gloomy hallway.

As I passed him I said, “Hi Dr. Sumaghee (**Sp?**) and he threw up his hand and kept walking and then I heard his fingers snap behind me. He was standing there and pointing at me and he said, “Mr. Carter, how are you?” I replied, “Gosh, I'm fine. I'm really flattered that you would remember me after four years.” And I can see his grin now in the gloom. He was grinning like a cat and he said, “Well, Mr. Carter, you passed.”

Then, he turned around and walked off. There were 50 people in my freshman class. And, of the fifty, two of them were sophomores and 48 of them were freshmen. There were no A's in the class. There were two B's. They were made by the two sophomores. There was one C, one D, and 46 F's. I made the C. I think there were less than 300 of the original 2,000 that graduated together on

time four years later. It was a blood bath. And I don't know if we saved America or not, probably, we didn't. But in some ways, when you look at the '60s and the sudden change that took place. That was my generation. We lived in an exciting time. The Civil Rights Movement – I can remember all of that – picketing outside of Chapel Hill and having people ride by screaming at you. One guy threw a bottle that just missed me one day. It was incredible.

You got to the end of the line one day and a guy stepped out from the corner of a building and I looked at him eye-to-eye and I thought, “Oh God, I'm about to be shot.” And he just looked at me and said, “Damn, white nigger!” Then he just turned on his heels and walked off and I thought I was about to buy the farm [meaning: his life was about to be terminated]. And I was working on putting myself through school at the time. I was working at the Exxon station – is was called Esso then – and two of the guys in the station knew that I was involved in picketing and they jumped me one night in the bay [meaning: the enclosed garage bay area] and beat me with a tire iron and stomped me. I had a footprint in my back for a long time that you could see. Those were interesting times to put it mildly.

00:20:55 **RBR: So, what was your personal motivation for getting involved in the Civil Rights Movement?**

00:21:01 LHC: You see, that's an interesting thing. My father was a country boy from Cedartown, Georgia and he was very pro-Integration and it cost him a lot of business over the years. There were people who wouldn't let their children play with us because we our family were so-called “nigger-lovers”. But my father was right and I'll always thank him for giving me those values.

00:21:44 **RBR: What was it about those times that may have impacted how your values were being shaped at the time that may have led you to go into a career like teaching or the academic profession?**

00:22:05 LHC: Well, we really did think that we could change the world and for the better and I think every generation thinks that. Our fathers certainly did. You look back at what my dad went through in the 1930s with the Depression and World War II. They changed America for the better and, of course, the beginning of Civil Rights was with them. Harry Truman integrated the U.S. Army in 1948 and he was a boy from Missouri. Look at Lyndon Johnson, a guy from Texas. Despite all of the bitterness and bloodshed, and hatred, we put the country on the right trajectory as far as I'm concerned. Somebody like you can't believe what it was like. We would go down to the train station – my grandfather was a conductor on the Seaboard – and he would come into Charlotte and we would walk down to the train station and I saw black and white fountains and black and white waiting rooms. We would slip over and get a drink of water out of the black fountain

thinking that it was going to taste different than the white fountain. I remember getting on the bus and there was a white line on the floor of the bus. Actually it was a white two by two board painted white and the driver would get up and move it. And, as more white people would get on the bus he would move it further toward the back and make the black people get up and move further toward the back and finally they would be squeezed in there like sardines while all of the white people would be sitting down in the front of the bus. He would move that line depending on how many white people were on that bus. I saw that stuff growing up.

00:24:16 **RBR: Can we go back just a little bit to the water fountain and the impression that the water would have tasted differently coming out of the black designated water fountain. How old were you when you experienced these impressions or curiosity about similarities and differences between the races?**

00:24:45 LHC: It started early. Most people seem to have trouble remembering stuff from before the first grade. I remember lots of stuff from back when I was 2 to 5 years old. I can remember Henry Wallace coming to town. Henry Wallace was Franklin Roosevelt’s vice president from 1940 to 1944 and he was a Socialist so Roosevelt dumped him for Truman in 1944. And so, in 1948, I was five and Wallace came to Charlotte to speak and my mother took me by the hand and we walked up to the old courthouse to listen to him speak off the steps of the courthouse. I could see it right now as plain in my mind as that day the vegetables flying through the air, the eggs, tomatoes, and finally the guys with him hustling him off, got him into a black four-door Cadillac. As they were leaving the right front window was down and whoever was there was sitting in the right front seat and egg was dripping off his right front elbow. I can see it in mind right now as plain as day.

I remember Daddy Grace. Do you know who Daddy Grace was? There are a number of churches around – there’s one in Rock Hill – the House of Prayer for All People. The Houses of Prayer for All People were organized by Sweet Daddy Grace, as, what they called him at the time, a colored preacher from Harlem. In fact, he used to say he stole Harlem from Father Divine. Father Divine was a black preacher in Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s. Anyway, Daddy Grace was something else. He would come to Charlotte every year and they would have a big parade and it would start at the Southern Railway Station on West Trade Street and come down East Trade Street to McDowell, and turn right and go down to the House of Prayer for All People which was two blocks down on the right and he would ride in an army duck [meaning: An army duck was a type of amphibious wheeled vehicle capable of transporting troops by land and by water] on a kind of throne sitting up in the thing and the streets would be lined with people. There would be a huge parade with bands and all kinds of stuff. And he

hated the sound of change [meaning: coins being tossed into the army duck] made when it rattled inside the duck when people would throw money in there. So you were only supposed to throw folding money [meaning: paper money or bills] and that thing would be full of dollar bills by the time they got down to the House of Prayer. Now, that was all urban renewed years ago. There’s a House of Prayer here in Lancaster [meaning: city of Lancaster] and Rock Hill. That started with Sweet Daddy Grace. How many people are alive who remember seeing Sweet Daddy Grace? It was quite an impression on a young boy.

00:28:02 **RBR: It sounds like a lot of these experiences that you had as a young boy as well as the experiences that you had growing up in the 60s and being involved in the Civil Rights Movement that it fueled a sense of passion for politics as well, for trying to implement change?**

00:28:28 LHC: Yeah, but I fell into politics... well, no, no, I actually ran for a couple of things, so I guess I always had an interest in politics. Keep in mind that John Kennedy ran for president in 1961 so that was a pretty stirring thing for those of us who were 18 years old at the time. He was very charismatic and really led us to believe that we could do something outside of ourselves.

00:29:17 **RBR: And it was also during this time that you were also forming your own political ideology?**

00:29:24 LHC: Yeah, but you know, we were always considered liberals because of our racial views as a family. I guess by today’s standards I’m considered a moderate Democrat. The standards of the time I was considered a liberal Democrat from the South.

00:29:51 **RBR: This leads us into the second part of the interview which focuses on your affiliation with Newt Gingrich while you were teaching at West Georgia College, now the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia. Over the past few years you have been quoted by various news sources regarding your personal, political and professional affiliation with Newt Gingrich. We’ll start off with a couple of prepared, very broad questions to provide a historical narrative, but it’s also this part of the interview that’s designed to be very open-ended and flexible which will grant you the opportunity to discuss and share those memories at your discretion and without interruption. This will also give you the opportunity to clarify, add any details, or add any new information that perhaps may not have been shared with others in previous interviews. First question: When did you first meet Newt Gingrich and what were your first impressions of him?**

00:31:07 LHC: I had started teaching at West Georgia in 1968 and I moved to 151 Howell

Road after about a year – 151 Howell Road – which is where Newt Gingrich’s first wife currently lives. And, a year or so later, he joined the faculty and rented a house at 131 Howell Road which he later bought. And so, we lived four doors apart. So, actually, I met him in the street – it was a dead end street - to start with because they moved there just before school started, and of course, he was going to be on the history faculty and our offices were just a few doors apart also in the Social Sciences Building. So, that’s how I met him and his first wife and his two young daughters.

00:32:18 **RBR: What were your first impressions of him?**

00:32:23 LHC: Well, he was a nice enough guy. He was kind of a nerd and he seemed reasonably bright. The fact that everybody thinks Newt is a genius is probably a sad commentary on the intellectual level of the political leaders of this country. He was a pretty average kind of college professor, except that he took an Evelyn [Wood] speed reading course and he would just fly through books and get a few main ideas out of them. Every day it seemed like he had some new idea – the idea du jour we called it on the faculty about “change this, change that”. He was very grandiose to put it mildly, but the truth of the matter is that the rest of the faculty thought he was pretty mediocre. Most people don’t know this but at West Georgia you were allowed to teach five years and then you either had to be promoted – and he was an Assistant Professor – I’ve noticed a lot of sources stating that he was an Associate Professor. He was not an Associate Professor. At the end of five years of teaching you either had to be promoted or you had to leave, you were fired, that’s what it came down to. And, of course, I was an instructor because I didn’t have a PhD and I would be allowed to teach but would have to leave after five years.

I had taught three years and I was offered a job at the Research Triangle Institute which is the research division of the University of North Carolina, Duke, and NC State at about double what I was making teaching. It was an easy decision to make, but Newt kept teaching. He had been Nelson Rockefeller’s state coordinator – even though he was very young – in the early 1970s, so he was actually a liberal Republican. He decided, in 1974, to run for Congress. So, he took time off from teaching in college and that didn’t count against his five years. So, in the end, he taught at West Georgia for seven years. But, at the end of seven years, he was not recommended for promotion. He was recommended for termination and he was terminated in June 1978. Nobody wants to talk about this but he was. So, in 1978, he was out of work, he had a wife and two small children, and we were going to run for Congress one last time. He was defeated the first two times.

Now, how I got involved – I was no longer teaching and at the end of the 1974 campaign, he came to me. He came down the street one night and said, “Kip, I got a big problem.” And he had this cardboard box with him. Mel Steely, whom

everyone thinks is Newt’s best buddy, but he’s not, really had been the treasurer for the ’74 campaign, and this had been in December of 1974. And he had been a disaster as the treasurer. The box turned out to be full of unopened bank statements – he [Steely] had never done anything – checkbook had never been balanced – it was just a disaster.

And Newt said, “There’s this new thing called the Federal Elections Commission and if they examine these records then I’m in big trouble, and I need somebody to straighten out this campaign. Will you do it?” At that point I was working for Research Triangle Institute and Newt’s wife was working for me part time doing some testing. I was the District Supervisor of the National Assessment of Education Progress and she was doing some part-time work for me. And I used to babysit his children and that sort of thing. And so I said that I would do it for him. It took me a couple of weeks but I got it all straightened out. And then, in ’76 he decided to run again. And, ’76 was the year that Jimmy Carter was on top of the ticket, and so he probably would have won in ’76 had Carter not been on top of the ticket, but Carter was, and so he [Gingrich] lost to the 20-year incumbent, Jack Flint.

But, I was the treasurer for that campaign. Ironically, after the campaign was over, the Federal Elections Commission did show up and it was amazing. There were three auditors - a black guy, a white guy, and an Asian girl - it was like they tried to put together a cross-section of America in this one group - and they came in and I had to supply them with office space. And they spent five days going over the ’74 and the ’76 campaign [records]. And, I had been very diligent as a treasurer, and I was worried to death about it. I mean, they checked everything. And when it was all over, I think there was \$26 or \$36 dollars I couldn’t account for out of a couple of hundred thousand dollars and they figured I had lost that money either in pizzas or the Coke machine in the campaign office that’s where it went. And I was all upset about the \$36 dollars and one of them said to me, “We were going to let you be out \$20,000 dollars, you don’t need to worry about \$36.” But to this day I wonder about that \$36. Anyway, I was very careful as the treasurer.

Now, I don’t know how frank you want me to be.

00:39:57 **RBR: [Be] as frank as you want to be, sir.**

00:39:59 LHC: Now, the truth of the matter is, we would have won that election in ’74. I helped a little bit but I wasn’t the treasurer. We would have won that election in ’74, except that we had a secretary who liked to keep the door to the office locked with Newt in there with her and so he didn’t get out to campaign near as much as he should since he was in there banging the secretary.
How frank do you want me to be?

00:40:25 **RBR: As frank as you want to be.**

00:40:27

LCH: So, he's in there banging the secretary. Well he and Jackie went to marriage counseling over it and I thought things were straightened out and we got through the '76 campaign okay, and like I said, I think we even might have won then except for Jimmy Carter being on top of the ticket. And then, Jack Flint decided to retire back in '78. I think he could see the handwriting on the wall - an off-year election - and so there was a woman named Virginia Shapard - there were two or three people running for the Democratic nomination and there was a woman named Virginia Shapard who was a state Senator who was going to run. And that Congressman, Flint, had given plenty of notice that he wasn't going to run, so people were lining up and that gave everybody a chance to get organized. Dot Davis was going to run, and a large number of people were going to run. And, we decided that the way to get Gingrich elected - and we were desperate to get him elected - because he was out of work, with two small children, a wife, house payments, and even worse, two other guys and myself were on a bank note for \$130,000 that we had borrowed to pay off the debts from the '74 campaign and to pay for part of the '76 campaign. And, if he didn't get elected, we were going to have to sell our houses to pay off the bank note. So, believe me, we were desperate. And among the many things that we did was - Georgia had open primaries - and so encouraged everybody - all of the Gingrich supporters - not to vote in the Republican primary, but to vote in the Democratic primary and to vote for Virginia Shapard because we thought it would be easier, in Georgia, to beat a woman than it would be to beat a guy [man]. So, we voted for her. We also had some of the Republican state house members introduce some legislation and we would title the bills with fanciful titles. We had one bill called, "A Bill to Reduce Your Taxes in Georgia" and it was a piece of crap bill.

I mean, if the thing had passed, it would have destroyed the State of Georgia, but the title of the bill was named like that to make it appealing. We had about two or three bills like that. So, then, we put together some TV ads where we had a picture of H.R. 1209 with the title "A Bill to Reduce Your Taxes" and then you couldn't read anything else in it. And then, we had this voiceover say, "When Virginia Shapard was in the legislature, she had a chance to reduce your taxes. She knows how she voted, she only hopes you don't." And then we had this fat arm - Virginia was a little bit overweight - come out wearing this iron bracelet which looked like it could have been worn by a female Nazi prison camp guard - holding this big red stamp. This stamp stamped a big NO and then the arm went back out of the picture as the voiceover was saying, "She only hopes you don't know how she voted."

Well, we did that to her and she went berserk, and we turned the campaign into her. We defined what the campaign was, she didn't, and she would be calling these press conferences demanding that we filter the ad, well all that did was draw attention to the add.

We did a number of ads like that. One of the ones that I did personally was a

newspaper ad that we only ran in the rural areas. We didn't run them in the urban areas. It was a compare and contrast type of ad. At the top of the ad was a picture of Virginia by herself. And, on the right hand side was a picture of Newt, his wife, and his daughters. The theme of the campaign was “Let Our Family Represent Your Family in Washington” and then he [Gingrich] dumps her [first wife, Jackie] within a year.

00:46:11 **RBR: Please go on.**

00:46:17 LCH: Then, there were comparisons with both of them. She [Virginia Shapard] was the wife of the owner of a cotton mill. He [Shapard's husband] owned American Mills, just comparing and contrasting them. One of them was – she's going to Washington to leave her children with a nanny and Newt's going to take his children to Washington to represent the American family. Newt was a deacon at the First Baptist Church, [whereas], Virginia was a Communicant of the Church of the Good Shepard. Well in the rural areas, people are asking, “Communicant?” “What's that? Some kind of Communist?” “Is that woman, one of them Catholics?” “Church of the Good Shepard? What kind of church is that?” Whereas, Newt was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Carrollton. Anyway, we ran that ad.

I have apologized in the national media and on TV for that ad for the last 35 years and I still feel badly about it and I saw an ad he did recently that was a take-off of that ad used in South Carolina here. Anyway, we were desperate. I'll be honest with you. I was scared to death that we were going to lose that election and we got a couple of great breaks. One day, Virginia Shapard managed to get Rosalyn Carter – President Carter's wife – to come to a rally for her. Well, when a presidential aircraft, in this case Air Force 2, flew into Hartsfield Airport in Atlanta, not only did they close down Hartsfield Airport, but they closed down Interstate 75, 85, and 285 for her motorcade. No, I'm sorry, they flew into Dobbins Air Force base, but they still closed down the same roads. Well, she came in during rush hour. There was an incredible, incredible traffic jam, and it was hot during the summer.

And they were on the news – talk radio and all that stuff – saying that if you were in a traffic jam it was because President Carter's wife was here to help Virginia Shapard run for Congress. Well, Virginia is thinking that this was great because her name was getting on the radio, but what's happening is that people are out there on the interstate steaming. We decided that was one of the luckiest things that ever happened to us. Anyway, it was a hard fought campaign and there were a lot of things that happened, but in the end, we won.

I'll never forget when the first vote came in. It was in a rural county in the east part of the district. And, we got 40% of the vote. She got 60% and we got all excited. You know, “We won the election, we won the election.” And the reporter for Channel 11 news, Collin something, said, “What do you mean you

won the election, you just got beat.” And we said, “No we didn’t. We got 40% of the vote in that county, we’re going to win. If we got more than 30% of the vote in that county then we know that we’re going to win.” And, tracking every county and precinct, it was unheard of, back then that people knew that sort of thing, but we did. It was real interesting that night. I was looking around that ballroom and all of us old hands who had been through the political wars were all leaning up against the walls quietly, while all of the Johnny-come-latelys were in the middle of the room.

There was a belly dancer dancing on top of a table in the middle of the room. And, I look back on that and the contrast between the people who had come to the campaign in ’78 and those of us who had been there from the beginning and the contrast was amazing. But there are all kinds of stories about the things that we did. When Newt decided to run in ’78 there was a real strong local Democrat that was going to run against Virginia Shapard named Tom Blanton. He was in the legislature also, and he could have really cut into the financial support. A lot of our financial support came out of Carroll County Georgia and Carrollton. And, he was business partners with one of our financial backers.

Anyway, when Newt decided that he was going to announce, I got a room at a restaurant there in town that was long and narrow. In fact, Newt did this in South Carolina. And what we did was to pack the room. It really wasn’t a lot of people but it looked like a lot of people. We wouldn’t let the press in. We made them stand outside in the back so that if you wanted to see anybody you would have to jump up. And, I put a couple of people that were important – like the sheriff – at the back so that the news people could see. It was like salting a gold mine. We put some people there and then put some other people up on the podium. Then, all of the people in the middle were regular people.

The newspaper and the radio station – which I later owned by the way – reported that a massive crowd had turned out for Newt of all the local dignitaries. Well, Blanton drove by outside and saw all the cars and he got the report and he decided not to run [against Gingrich]. And, so we jumped a huge hurdle there. And then the trick was to defeat Virginia Shapard.

And, again, that was made easier by all the stuff that we did with advertising, and we had a really good TV guy named Dino Cedar out of New Orleans, and he put together some good ads for us that we contributed to them.

00:54:51 **RBR: So, what was your role in all of this?**

00:54:53 LCH: Well, I was the treasurer and there was something that was called the Carrollton Mafia. That’s what the rest of the campaign staff called us. There were three of us, and we pretty much made the decisions what we were going to do, when we were going to do it, how we were going to spend the money, how to ask for money. In those days you could run a pretty decent Congressional campaign on about \$130,000. And, we raised about \$170,000, so we were

adequately funded. We were just hoping that there would be enough money left over to pay off the bank notes if we had failed.

Let me tell you something interesting. The day after that election [’78 election], we went across the street to a little restaurant where we all ate, and Newt, and Jackie [Gingrich’s first wife], and me, and Bob Weed, who later became his administrative assistant in Washington. Weed and I were supposed to be co-equals. I was going to run the district [office] and Weed was going to run Washington. We went over there and sat for breakfast and Gingrich absolutely embarrassed us by making a play for the waitress right there at the table.

It was like somebody had flipped a light switch over night. He had gone from being a kind of humble guy that needed us who was a liberal on the environment, and a moderate on the economy to ... He went overnight into being a, you know, I’m a U.S. Congressman, what are you going to do for me. I mean, it was literally over night. We were all stunned. This was in November ’78 and at that point I wasn’t going to work for him. And the other people who were close to him decided that somebody was needed to keep his [Gingrich] feet on the ground.

And they came to me and said, “You need to go work for him. Somebody needs to keep reminding him that all this stuff about great he is – we wrote this crap, and now he’s believing it. And somebody needs to keep him on the ground.” And so, they talked me into going to work for him as a senior administrative aide and I would run the district and Bob Weed would run the Washington office.

Well, to give you an idea of how bad it was, he was inaugurated in January, sworn in, and in February, actually, make that March of ’79, I picked him up at the Atlanta airport. In those days you could walk out to the concourse and meet people coming right out of the door from the airplane. And, Delta airlines had some ropes on either side, forming a little aisle to lead you out into the concourse and to rope in people getting ready to go onto the airplane.

Well, he was coming out of the plane and I was walking up to the gate and I saw him coming out of the plane and I saw him looking to the left and looking to the right and we met simultaneously at the point where I was coming to meet him. And I took his briefcase and we started walking to the terminal and he says to me, “I don’t ever want to come off of an airplane and not be looking directly into the eyes of whoever is picking me up. I’m a U.S. Congressman. I’ve got more important things to do than to think about than if somebody is here to get me. If this ever happens again, heads are going to roll.” And I’m thinking, “Give me a break.”

So, we started driving back to Carrollton, and there was a guy named Thornton who owned a Chevrolet dealership who had been real good to us. He would give us a new Chevrolet and we would drive it for 2,000 miles and he would take it back and sell it as a demonstrator and give us a new Chevrolet. Well, let me tell you, it was a big district and that car was important and he [Thornton] had been a financial backer and an in-kind [political contribution] backer since ’74.

Thornton was - I’ll just be honest with you – his views on race were not modern I

guess is the way to put it. And Newt had co-signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday bill to make his birthday a holiday and Thornton was irritated and he wanted to talk to Newt about it and Newt didn't want to talk to Thornton. And we're driving out I-20 passed Thornton Boulevard. He was so important that there was a major road in Atlanta that was named for him and it went to his dealership. He had several dealerships but the big one was Chevrolet. Anyway, I'm saying, "Look Newt, you know and I know that Thornton is wrong about this and that you're doing the right thing. The man has been a supporter from the get go. He at least deserves to be heard." And I can see it like it was yesterday, Newt turned in the car - [aside question to the interviewer] Do you want the true version of this or the cleaned up version of this?

01:01:23 **RBR: I want you to be as honest as you want to be.**

01:01:24 LCH: The true version of this is that Newt turned to me, looked at me and said, "Fuck Bill Thornton and fuck all of you guys. I don't need any of you anymore. And he held out his left hand and he said, "I've got the money from the political action committee and I've got the power of the office and I've got the media right here in the palm of my hand. Fuck you guys. I don't need any of you anymore." And I thought, "Uh, oh." And, about three weeks later I was gone. He tried to keep good relations with me and so that was when, it was a year later, or a little over a year later, he called me to Atlanta for a meeting. He wanted to have lunch with me. And so, I go over to Atlanta to the Holiday Inn at Virginia Avenue, and we met at 11 a.m. so we could talk. And he was sitting at a table with Mel Steely. Steely is this alleged "big buddy" of Gingrich's but Steely had backed Tom Blanton in '78 and Gingrich had never forgiven him for it. No, he didn't. He told Steely once in front of me and two other people that he [Steely] was a piece of shit and that he would never trust him. But Steely loves power and so he [Steely] sucks up to him [Gingrich] all the time. Anyway, he was sitting at the table with Steely and as I was walking up to the table I could tell... We knew each other so well, I mean, being neighbors, there's all kinds of stories that I'm not telling you about neighborhood bar-b-ques and stuff. There are all kinds of stories. And I've told a lot of stories before – some of them are in the Vanity Fair article, which is a brilliant article – and the two stories in Mother Jones, anyway, I walked up to the table and I looked at him and I knew what he was going to tell me, and I said, "I don't want to hear it." And he said, "What? What? Hear what?" I said, "You're filing for divorce against Jackie." And he sputtered and he said, "Well, you know and I know. She's not young enough or pretty enough to be the wife of the president. And besides, she's got cancer." She had just been diagnosed with uterine cancer. He [Gingrich] does not do well with sick women. He also divorced his second wife, Marianne, filed for divorce three weeks after she told him she had MS [multiple sclerosis]. I hope the new wife [Callista]

doesn't get sick, for her sake. Anyway, man the stories I could tell you.

01:04:36 **RBR: By all means.**

01:04:37 LCH: Well no, this kind of stuff would go on for hours – about his relationship with his father and his mother – it's just incredible this stuff that I know. Anyway, I ended up siding with his first wife Jackie in the divorce. I thought, as I said to him, "My God, she worked as hard as you did. She sacrificed. She made do with beans so you could run and she doesn't even get one term? You're going for a divorce even before two years in your first term is up?" Anyway, he later told me about Marianne, the second wife. He had been going to the Pocono Mountains with her for about a year. As he told me, that woman could give a blow job like you wouldn't believe. She would suck your brains right out the end of your dick. So, I never see Marianne where I don't think about that. It makes me wonder about Clarissa [correction - Callista] because that was Gingrich's thing – oral sex. You've read the story about me walking up on him that night ...

01:05:08 **RBR: By all means, please feel free to continue.**

01:05:09 LCH: Well, in the '78 campaign, I took Gingrich's two daughters and went to the Bowdon High School football game handing out literature. At the time, we physically resembled each other enough that people often confused us. Virginia [Shapard] could never understand how the guy could be on one side of the district and then be a hundred miles away ten minutes later. How was he doing that? But anyway, he [Gingrich] went with Ann Chownes, the wife of a fellow college professor of ours in the Geology Department, and they went to a different ball game down in Newman and worked that crowd down there. And I came back from the game and I noticed Ann's car was already back at the Chownes' house and I noticed that his car was in the driveway and as I was walking towards the car across the yard I had one of these little girls [Gingrich's two daughters] in each hand, and I looked, and he was sitting in the right front seat at the time. Well, I thought, what's he doing sitting in the car all by himself and he looked over at me and he gave me that little boyish, sheepish grin of his, and I realized that Anne had apparently lost a contact lens and that it had landed in his lap and she was having to move her head up and down to try and focus on just where that lens was [meaning, she was performing an act of oral sex on Gingrich], so later she went public and said, "I was giving him a blow job and in fact he used to fly me to Washington, put me up in a hotel, and I would give him blow jobs. That way, he could deny having sex with me." Keep in mind, this is the same guy who condemned Bill Clinton, and at the same time was having an affair with Marianne. Or, was it Clarissa [Callista]? I forget which one he was having the affair with but anyway, he had a six year affair with

Callista. And, the irony of that story is that I have a friend of mine who has a child that was a page for Gingrich while he was Speaker. The pages all knew that he had a girlfriend but it wasn't Clarissa, Callista. It was a different girl, and when he filed for divorce against Marianne, and Callista shows up, they were all stunned because they [Washington pages] thought it was a different woman. Who is she? Where did she come from?

We had a guy on staff whose job was to intervene and try to intercept women and sleep with them to keep them away from him. He told me later that he had the greatest job that there ever was, to work in the Congressional offices in Georgia. He's now a travel agent in Atlanta, but he had a great job.

But, we couldn't stop them all. There's something about power, I don't know what it is, but it attracts a sort of groupie just like rock and roll bands and radio disc jockeys attract them. I don't know if you ever saw an old movie with Clint Eastwood called Play Misty for Me. I used to own some radio stations and that was a big problem for my disc jockeys. I had a friend who was a psychiatrist. He taught at West Georgia and he told me, well, there you are, in their bedroom alone talking to them in soothing tones and they develop some sort of attitude.

I'm in the cotton waste business now and this kind of business doesn't attract groupies, but teachers attract them, and politicians and you name it. There are certain occupations that attract them – rock and roll bands.

[At this point the interview is temporarily interrupted by a repairman who is asking Mr. Carter some questions about some gas-fired logs in his house.]

01:13:25 **RBR: [Continuing with the interview] Okay, we were just talking about, you had mentioned that Newt Gingrich had been drawn into this sense of grandiose self-importance and how he had also managed to attract a lot of women who were kind of like groupies.**

01:13:52 LCH: Yeah, and the thing about it – ultimately, this is the important thing about Newt, not that he's immoral. Most of us are immoral to some degree or another. I certainly am not going to sit here and say that – you're talking to a guy who has been married three times – you know, and my friends kid me and say that I've been married five times because the two girls I lived with for years that I never married, so I'm not going to say anything about his immorality, though I am not holding myself up as a paragon of, you know, what Americans should be and I didn't go to Congress saying let my family and my values represent your family and your values. And so, ultimately, that's the problem. It's a question of values and this is my fundamental take on Newt, and this is based in part on the Reverend Brantley Harwell who was Newt's minister at First Baptist Church in Carrollton and Newt, of course, was a deacon there before he was thrown off of the deacon's board for the way he treated his first wife. You know, when he called me over and told me he was going to divorce her he sent her back to Carrollton but he wouldn't support her or the kids so they were

sitting down there in that house at 151 Howell Road - I had in the meantime had built a new house and I had sold him my old house and bought his old house and used it as a rental property. I took back the mortgage so he could afford it. Anyway, that's a whole different story. But he had sent them back and they were sitting down there in that house in the cold and dark - no water, no heat, no light, no food - and so we took up money to turn on the utilities and we had a food drive to stock the pantry. Talk about dead-beat dad, he was. He was trying to freeze her out and what that reflects is what Brantley Harwell said was that Newt was - Brantley, unfortunately died about 6 months ago - that Newt Gingrich, in Brantley's words, the most totally amoral human being that he had ever met. And, so, that's the fundamental take. Gingrich is good at telling people what they want to hear, he knows how to say the right thing, he knows how to please. He learned to do that in order to keep his step-father, Colonel Gingrich, from beating him to death. And he was inclined to beat on Newt and Newt's mother was manic-depressive and so you never knew whether Kitty [Newt's mother] was going to be high or low - they called her Kit - I mean, he came out of a background that explains why he is the way he is but doesn't excuse it. And, the bottom line is that he is totally amoral, there is no right or wrong, there's only what advances his perception of himself and where he should be. And, that idea of himself and where he should be is becoming increasingly grandiose over the years, almost to the point that I can't imagine that some reporter hasn't done an article on the psychological world view that Gingrich represents. I mean you're talking about a guy who has never had a job in his life. He's always been on a scholarship, a government scholarship, or working, teaching at a state college, or, on the public dole as a Congressman. And, even after he left Congress, he made his living based on his ability to influence people in Congress. So, he never had an actual job. I mean, he talks about, you know, the American working man. Well, he wouldn't know a working man if he [working man] bit him on the rear end.

His father was a military man. You know, of course, that his father was a Colonel Gingrich. His real name is McPherson, you knew that? Okay, good. And he was military too, but I don't know whatever became of him, though I knew that Newt tried to get him [real father - McPherson) to take him in when Newt was a teenager and he [real father - McPherson] wouldn't have anything to do with him [Newt Gingrich]. He completely rejected him. So he had been searching for acceptance for an awfully long time. But that's the fundamental issue, that he's a completely amoral human being. Therefore, anything that he says - as I've looked back over the years - I don't know that he's actually believed anything that he says. It's just whether or not it actually advances his position. And that's really sad. That's how you get demagogues and that's how you end up with people with positions in leadership and responsibility who probably shouldn't be there. But, a demagogue will always rise to the surface. Now, this may sound like a conspiracy theory to you, but I don't think it's beyond the realm

of possibility between now and the election of 2012 for the Tea Party group that's in Congress - and, unfortunately, our Congressman is one of them - to engineer an economic crisis of sufficient severity to make sure that the Republican nominee is elected president. And, Gingrich, of course, is the perfect one. Whenever there's an economic crisis, he's the kind of the guy who steps up on a soapbox and holds his hand up in the air and says, "I've got the answer. I can save y'all. Follow me."

That's what Hitler did in the 1930s. Most people don't even realize that Hitler was an elected leader, but it was an economic crisis, and people were taking wheelbarrows full of German money (Deutschmarks) to buy a loaf of bread. And, it's hard for us to imagine that sort of thing in this country, but it could happen. They cut off money for unemployment insurance, refuse to pay the national debt. The damage that was done to this country by that one little episode last year with the national debt is going to ripple on for a little while I'm afraid.

And I regret my role in getting him where he is. A lot of us sit around that were involved in those early days and we wonder - were we that stupid or was he that manipulative? And we'd like to think he was that manipulative and that we were not that stupid because most of us are pretty bright guys. I'll tell you one anecdote. I was sitting around with the guy who was the bag man, the guy who went around with the brown paper bag picking up cash back over a couple of campaigns. And myself and another guy and another one who was an attorney who was sort of influential in the campaigns. And the attorney, has since been ordained interestingly enough, had the same conversation and asked whether or not we were that dumb.

And this attorney looked at us and said, "Do you all not realize that Gingrich is so amoral that if it suddenly became the in-thing to be queer [meaning - homosexual] that Gingrich would swear that he's not only queer now, but that he had always been queer, and he had proof that he sucked the first dick in Carroll County, Georgia." And we all sat there and looked at him and knew that he was telling the truth. That absolutely, despite the scatological nature of it was an insight into who Newt was. Gail Sheehy, who wrote the article in Vanity Fair, says that the story I tell about Newt and the pig is probably the most telling story of all about him as a human being. Should I tell you that story or not?

01:24:24 **RBR: By all means.**

01:24:25 LCH: We used to have these bar-b-ques, Gingrich used to have these bar-b-ques, in his driveway. And we would dig a pit. It was a dirt driveway. And we would put in these coals in a big fire and we would take a whole pig and put it in between two fence gates - chain link fence - and wire it together and then put it over the coals and cook it overnight. We would have a neighborhood barbeque party. Well, one day Newt comes to me and he says that he feels that he has an obligation, since he's serving the pig, to kill the pig. And I said to myself, "Well,

that certainly makes sense to me." And I said to him, "Well, you want to kill the pig? I'll let you kill the pig." We would always go kill the pig, gut him, scrape him. I don't know if you know how to clean a hog but that's the thing you go through. Some people dump the whole hog in the 55 gallons of hot water and then scrape him. Our technique was to use sacks and throw him in the hot water and throw them up on the pig and do small sections at a time. That way, there's no danger of cooking the meat. Anyway, so we were going to go kill the pig. And so we had the pig bought and we went up to the farm to go kill the pig and the farmer had a German Walther P-38 [type of pistol] from World War II that was a 9 mm that we were going to kill the pig with. And so, Newt's going to go kill the pig.

So, we go up to the side of the pig lot and there's a fence around it about waist high. And most people don't know that pigs are dangerous. In this country every year at least one farmer is killed and eaten by his pigs. Pigs are dangerous, I mean there's no question about that and Newt knew that and I'm sure I told him that. If he didn't know then I told him about it, but anyway, that's the reason why wild boars are so dangerous. So we go up beside the pig lot and Newt's standing there saying, "Here pig. Here pig." And, of course, the pig's not coming over so I told him you have to get some corn in your hand and lure the pig over.

So, Newt gets a bucket of feed in his left hand and he lures the pig over to the fence. And, I had told him, "You put the pistol right between his eyes and pull the trigger." Well, Gingrich flinched and the bullet sort of ricoched off the pig's skull down the side of his face and out the lower jaw. And he took off squealing. And I said, "Newt you have to finish him off." And so he's holding his hand over the fence calling the pig with the corn and he's saying, "He won't come." I said, "Gee Newt, I wonder why." I said, "You just shot the son of a bitch right in the head and he won't come back to you, I wonder why?" I said, "You're going to have to step over the fence and go in there and shoot him." He said, "I'm not going in there." And I said, "You got to, you wounded him, now you got to go do it." Well, he wouldn't do it, so I took the pistol from him, climbed over in the pig pen and went in there and finished the pig off.

Gail Sheehy says that story tells more about Newt than anything she ever saw or heard, or read. She's the one who wrote Passages, a wonderful book. She's a very insightful person.

01:28:45 **RBR: This is very, very interesting information about the psychology as you mentioned before. What do you think it was that provided the catalyst for wanting to be involved in his campaign early on? You mentioned that he was manipulative, but at the same time it makes you wonder if there's a charismatic element.**

01:29:20 LCH: Oh yeah, there's definitely a charismatic element to his personality and originally just helping out a friend, helping out a neighbor, and a former

colleague. And then, you know, the allure of national politics, and the thought that we might be able to actually win came into play and it does wonders for your ego. I mean, you go to Washington and they have a school up there for incoming freshman about how to become a Congressman. And you go and take an aide with you, and I was the aide he took. And so, I was up there for several days - at least three or four days - and you know, you stay at a hotel and you have all day long sessions on how to run a Congressional office and all the stuff you need to do. And, I forgot where I was going with that

01:30:24 **RBR: It does wonders for your ego.**

01:30:28 LCH: Ego, yeah. So, you're up there and you walk down the hall in the Capitol and you've got -- it's just overwhelming. And people come up to you and call you by name. They come over and say, "Hey Kip, how are you doing?" and you don't know them from Adam, but they have memorized what you look like. They know you're there, because you might be able to give them a job or you might be able to do something for them. Let me tell you, when he was running for Congress, we would campaign in front of Delta Airlines office and they had their security come and throw us off the place. And then after he was elected we got a phone call from Dave Garrick, the president of Delta, saying that Dave wanted Newt to come have lunch with him. And Newt said to him - I was sitting right there - Newt said to him, "Can I bring an aide?" And Dave Garrick said, "Yes." He didn't tell him to, so we drove over to Delta's office the next day and Dave Garrick, the president of Delta and the chief media guy are standing outside the front door at the top of the steps and we get out of the car and start walking towards the steps and they come down the steps.

They don't make us come up, they come down the steps. These guys are good. They shake hands with Newt and they both turn to me and say, "Kip, how are you doing? Good to see you." They had gone to the trouble, and I don't know how to find out who he was bringing and to find out all about me. And they found out everything about me when we got there. And, of course, when you eat lunch in the boardroom of Delta Air Lines with the Board of Directors of Delta - stuff like that - you know, American Oil Company showing up saying to me, "I could have mailed this check to you and post dated it, you know, because we thought you were going to lose, and I'm honest about it so let me go ahead and give you this check to help you with the debt."

I mean, it does something for your ego to have people with all this money kind of fawning around you and finding out who you are, I mean, there was no gasoline back then, or, gas was hard to come by. You know, WE didn't have any trouble getting gas. Hey, have trouble parking in Atlanta at the airport? How about a space underneath the airport with your name on it. You don't have to park out there with the hoy-palloy. You can park underneath here with the big shots. And that sort of stuff works on you, I don't care who you are. You really do need

someone walking behind you like what Caesar had with someone whispering in your ear, “Remember, thou art mortal.”

And, it’s easy to get caught up in it. If you’ve been told all your life by your father that you’re worthless. Old Colonel Gingrich was quoted about his step-son being a Congressman. He said, “Well, the son-of-a-bitch is a Congressman now.” He absolutely hated Newt with a passion. He bought Newt from McPherson for four back child support payments. That’s how he ended up adopting him.

So, I understand psychologically where Newt’s coming from but it doesn’t excuse what’s happening and that’s the big difference. You can understand Hitler’s background and why he was the way he was but it doesn’t change the damage it did to Germany and to mankind. Not to say that Gingrich is capable of doing that kind of damage, but, I think he’s a dangerous person ultimately or could be in the right set of circumstances.

Not to say that none of us, well, all of us could be in the right set of circumstances.

01:35:25 **RBR: So, if it becomes apparent that Gingrich did talk about a lot of the horrible things, horrible experiences that he experienced in his youth with his father, his step-father...**

01:35:36 LHC: And his wife told me a lot of them to me too.

01:35:42 **RBR: Did you ever see him become very strongly emotional about it, say, almost like a confessional situation where he may have been emoting.**

01:35:57 LHC: Yes, there was one night when we were sitting up on the porch and he was talking about 131 Howell, his old house, and he was talking about how difficult it was being the son -- you see, his father was an interesting character. His father was an interesting guy. He was an enlisted man and he worked his way up the ranks and became an officer. Well, officers are considered to be officers and gentlemen. But in the military, a guy who comes through the ranks to be an officer is called a mustang and they are always thought to be, by many, to be slightly beneath everybody else of the same rank. And, so, he was the son of a mustang. And, the son of a mustang that didn’t like you. And I think that impacted him. The other kids knew that his dad wasn’t quite the officer that their dads were. He was not a gentleman. And I’m just speculating. I took my share of psychology classes at Chapel Hill but I’m certainly not a psychologist.

01:37:45 **RBR: You’ve mentioned in your past interviews that you and your first wife sided with Jackie....**

01:37:53 LHC: Yeah, in fact my first wife had dinner with her last week. They’re still close.

01:37:57 **RBR: ... And, your first wife still lives in Carrollton?**

01:38:01 LHC: Still lives in Carrollton. She's a retired schoolteacher, and I talk to her, oh, once every couple of weeks to see how she's doing?

01:38:14 **RBR: And Jackie does not give interviews?**

01:38:19 LHC: She does not give interviews. No. It's a combination of things. She's got two daughters. She's got grandchildren. She knows he's got the power of the media and that he's going to win the fight. I mean, look, Marianne comes out a couple of weeks ago and says that he asked her for an open marriage, that he's having an affair with his current wife that they've been going on for six years but he wants to stay married to her and have other women. And women just blew it off and turned it into something positive. I mean, Jackie well knows, that if she came forward he'd just slaughter her. He's a good story and the media doesn't want to do anything. The media is loath to do anything to upset him that they would cut him off and not give him good stories. I'm not talking about the media as in ABC, I'm talking about individual reporters. If you're a reporter covering him and he suddenly won't speak to you, you're out of work. And he knows that. We've had that conversation. Believe it or not, in 1977, before the election of '78, I actually chaired a small committee of about ten people and we discussed running Newt for president in the future and tried to figure out when the optimum time would be but we couldn't quite figure it out because you never knew how many one term and two term presidents there were going to be. The truth of the matter is that we kind of figured to run him at about the time that George Bush number two [George W. Bush] ran, but of course, all the stuff from his days as Speaker was still too toxic at that point. The public was still aware that Murdoch had tried to buy him off for a \$9 million dollar book advance and that he had been reprimanded by the Congress and that he had resigned under duress and so, that was when we projected, back in '77 when we projected that he would run, so this is it for him right now. He's 68 years old and will be 69 in June. So, this is about the last chance, though if Obama wins, then about four years from now, Newt Gingrich will be 72 and Ron Paul is running, and he's 73.

01:41:13 **RBR: And then there was Reagan.**

01:41:14 LHC: And then there was Reagan, so it's not out of the realm of possibility. But I think that he thinks this is his last, best shot.

01:41:26 **RBR: In your opinion, do you think that he will continue the race to the very end?**

- 01:41:36 LHC: Based on knowing him all these years, my guess is that he will because if he has enough delegates then they can't deny him a major speech at prime time and that of course will sell more books and call for more speeches.
- 01:42:10 **RBR: When was it that you decided to terminate the friendship?**
- 01:42:17 LHC: After he told me he was divorcing Jackie. And then, after he told me that, within the next week or so, he told me that he was going to get everything, that Judge Lamar Knight who was his back door neighbor, knew better than to fuck with a U.S. Congressman and by golly, he was going to get everything. Of course, Lamar gave her [Jackie] everything.
As the old joke goes, they split it down the middle. She got the inside and he got the outside. Anyway, and then he told me that I had to take out a second mortgage on the house in order to make it possible for him to buy it. And he told me, "Well, I'm a U.S. Congressman, you should just write that off and forget about it." And I said, "I'm not forgetting about it, Newt. You owe me the money." Well, he wouldn't pay me and he didn't for a long time. Finally, the guy who was the bag man told me that he told him, "You'd better pay him the money or it's going to come back to haunt you."
He said, "He'll get mad about it, I know him." It's the principal of the thing. So, he's making \$130,000 a year at that time which is good money and I'm making \$30,000 and he's telling me that I should eat the mortgage.
- 01:44:15 **RBR: And, of course, the last month or so when this current interview took place, there was the Sunday Doonesbury cartoon that appeared on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Now, when this came out, had you been contacted by Garry Trudeau [the cartoonist].**
- 01:44:46 LHC: No.
- 00:44:47 **RBR: You had not?**
- 01:44:49 LHC: I had gotten a phone call about a quarter to 7 on Sunday from my sister in Charlotte. My sister says, "Have you seen the paper yet this morning?" And I said, "No." And she said, "You'd better look at it before you go out." I said, "What?" She said, "You'd better get the newspaper and look at Doonesbury before you see anybody else." So, I went out and got the newspaper, looked at it, and I was stunned. And, of course, I went to church that morning and a local pediatrician slipped in the pew next to me, leaned over and said, "Hey. You haven't seen the paper yet this morning have you?" So, it spread like wildfire.
- 01:45:33 **RBR: Wow. So, what were your reactions?**

- 01:45:36 LHC: I was pretty stunned, but I thought to myself that it was spot on. He [Trudeau] had absolutely captured the problem. I know all of the names on the luggage [referring to the panels depicted in the cartoon strip] and the people who didn't know the back story - it probably wasn't as meaningful to them, but it really captures the essence of Newt and his baggage.
- 01:46:11 **RBR: Yes it does. It's a real interesting piece and earlier you showed me the signed panels from Garry Trudeau.**
- 01:46:23 LHC: Yes, Garry Trudeau had sent me a signed copy of it on good paper suitable for framing and I had it framed. And, he had it autographed to me, "To Kip Carter, Thanks for the inspiration. Garry Trudeau". I never thought that I would know anybody who was in Doonesbury - which is one of my favorite cartoon strips - much less that I'd be in it. So, I was sort of stunned, and then in the next Sunday I was in it again, but not by name. They were showing a hall of famous "Newtisms" - quotes from Newt over the years - and the quote about his first wife not being young enough or pretty enough to be the president's wife was one of the quotes on the wall, but thank goodness it didn't have my name under it that that was the source of that. But, Gingrich has never denied that, I'll give him that. He's never denied saying it and he could easily say, "Well, I didn't say that. He says it - he says, he says - but he's never denied it, and in fact, he said it. His first wife was seven years old than he is and she was a little bit on the heavy side and so I guess from that point of view, she's the antithesis of his current wife, who is 23 years younger than he is, skinny, and blonde. And Jackie was seven years older, a little on the heavy side after having born him two children, and is starting to go gray. And besides, as he said, she had cancer. That story about him going into the hospital room and getting her to sign everything over to him? His daughters have denied it. They're lying. I got it directly from her [Jackie] that it happened and a friend of mine was the volunteer counselor for the cancer society and she was in the hospital the day that it happened and she went in to see Jackie within two to three minutes of Newt leaving and found her in tears and she told her what had happened and she had repeated it. So, I heard not only from Jackie but from somebody else she had told this to immediately after it happened, and why his daughters would say that I have no idea. They were very young; they may not have understood what was going on at that time. But, he absolutely, went in her hospital room, after she was recovering from that surgery and got her to sign everything over to him. Of course, the judge threw it out.
- 01:49:21 **RBR: Is there anything else you would like to share about Newt Gingrich? I know you probably have a lot but, is there anything that really stands out to you as significant that you've never shared in the previous interviews?**

- 01:49:48 LHC: I'll tell you one thing and I won't go into detail.
- 01:49:51 **RBR: Okay.**
- 01:49:53 LHC: Gingrich has slept with a lot of women. Not every woman that he ever slept with wanted to sleep with him, if you understand what I'm saying to you real clearly.
- 01:50:03 **RBR: Yes sir. Yes sir. Understood. Understood.**
- 01:50:11 LHC: And it's been a wonder to me that one of them hasn't come forward -- I guess it's a combination of embarrassment and not wanting to upset their families or whatever. But, I know for a fact at least one woman had no intention of sleeping with him and basically he raped her and I've never told that to anybody.
- 01:50:40 **RBR: Well, it will remain in the archives of the oral history record, but not necessarily blast it out.**
- 01:50:55 LHC: Well, those kinds of things hurt a lot of people, and some of these people have husbands and children and grand-children now and it would be devastating.
- 01:51:15 **RBR: On a personal note, the nickname “Kip”, where did which come from?**
- 01:51:30 LHC: My mother was so upset with my father for naming me Leonard Hewell Carter - which was his name - when I sent off for my birth certificate to get my passport back in '69, my birth certificate came and it read Leonard Hewell Carter II. And I called my mother. I said, “Mom, what's this? I always thought I was junior.” And she says, “Oh, yeah. I forgot about that. I was so mad at your Dad for naming you that I was determined that no one was ever going to call you Lenny or Hewell or Junior, or JR, so I named you the second. And then, I wouldn't call you anything but the baby. And your daddy used to say when you were about a year old - ‘Ann, you can't keep calling the child ‘the baby’ - he's getting too old, you're going to have to give him a name. ‘ ‘ And she said, “Well, I'm not going to name him by any of that stuff so you'd better come up with a nickname for him.”
- And my father had a sort of baseball team that he played on in Cedartown, Georgia. And, one of the sponsors of the team was a guy named Kippy Mason who owned a little café in town. So, they named me “Kippy” after Kippy Mason. I met him when I was a small child, so I was named for Kippy Mason and his café in Cedartown, Georgia. It has nothing to do with my name at all. Of course, when I went off to college I dropped the -py and just became Kip when I went off

to college.

01:53:37 **RBR: Is it still there? The café?**

01:53:38 LHC: No, it's long gone now, but it was there for many, many years and was there when I was a small child. And when we would go visit my grandmother we would stop off there for breakfast on Saturday morning. I can remember Dad sitting me up on the counter with Kippy Mason standing over me. He was just amazed that there was somebody named for him.

01:54:05 **RBR: Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

01:54:12 LHC: Well, I can't think of anything else. As you might imagine, knowing somebody for years like that and working with them and for them and all that, there are a lot of things that transpired, but it would take seven years to recite all of that. But I think that covers a lot of the high points of it.

01:54:23 **RBR: Well, thank you very much for the time for this interview. The next stage in the process is to do a raw transcription of the interview and we will mail the transcription of the interview to you for you to review for any errors, omissions, or anything that you feel needs correction in the record and then we will take the proofed record and add that to the oral history collection. And the time is now 4 p.m. and this concludes the oral interview with Kip Carter.**

01:55:43 *End of interview*