5/16/77 - MONICA SURFARO, <u>GUIDEPOST</u>\$, EARLY LIFE (UNCLE HARRY), HEALTH - PROBLEMS, PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE.

Monica: Are you aware of Guidepost?

Monica:

Senator: Oh yes, I see it from time to time.

bender. on jest i see it from time to time.

Well basically, I just wanted to tell you this, There is a paid circulatio of over three million. And there are people from all walks of life, basically in the south and west, in this country and also it is in major DISTRIBUTED hotels, # is on Delta airlines... Anyway it is a digest of inspirational stories, and basically the type of person who writes for quidepost is somebody from every walk of life. Senator Mark Hatfield, the Galloping Gourmet, and we've had everyday people, and those are the stories that people respond to. The problem with you Senator is that you have so many stories and I have your book and I read it, and I don't know how many articles that Betty gave me. There is just so much in your life that is can take up volumes of Quidepost. The problem is just narrowing it down to a specific thing. So, basically, I'm going to ask you a few questions which you may not understand what I'm getting at -- I'll need a few basic things first that I'll be able to pull anecdotes from in your life to create scenes around, and them will come around and I probably won't be able to see you for a long time but I will work with Betty so that we will be sure to get the thing down right. The thing about Guidepost is that we try to center around one specific instance that the reader will be able to look at the story and see x person at a certain low point in his or herm life and then be able to pull himself up. It doesn't necessarily have to be through faith but it usually does in the case of Guidepost. That One thing I was trying to figure out in your book was that there seemed to be a number of people in your early life that seemed to be a very pwerful forces--your grandfather, your grandmother (on your maternal side) and I believe your Uncle Harry.

Senator: Uncle Harry was a very powerful force in my life, because he was the one who reminded me of the importance of continuing my education. His letters to me are beautiful pieces of literature. I don't know if we have kept them all or not but he wrote in a script that was absorbutly marvelous.

**Ezwaz It was like script writing. I must have a letter of his around someplace. The from the earliest days of my acquaintance with water with him, that I was about the would come

through the Dakotas because he was with the Department of Agriculture

stations. He would remind me of the importance of an education and how I

should proceed to the University.

Monica:

Do you remember any conversations?

Senator:

Oh, I stayed at his home many times and I came to Washington, The first time I ever came to Washington and I stayed at his home out at Cabin John Maryland. If I could just get some of those letters, Isuppose like many things it has been tossed away or maybe it is at the Historical Society, But, I had to just kind of ramble to you about it to give you a picture of him. You've got to keep in mind that he was sort of afolk hero. He was a childhood hero to me. First of all he wax seemed very importand, He was in Washington, he could speek several languages, he had a big house which he and his sons built. It is right out athere--it is a down to eatth home. It was written up in National Geographic. He was The dean of the Graduate School at the Department of Agriculture, He was the head man, He could writhe poetry and yet when he would come to South Dakota with us he would go out to the old swimming holw with us and go swimming. I mean in some filthy mud bottomed wx swimming hole-because it never rained out in South Dakota. He would be there on the fourth of July when we would take a day off and go down to Lake Kampska -- which was the biggest lake in South Dakota. We would go there for a picnic, But, his emphasis to me as a young boy was clean living, lots of education, and the kind of positive thinking in which you can do what you want to do, for Examply he was the kind of fella who didn't believe in smoking, I remember when Idid smoke later on -- one person I never smoked in fromt of was Uncle Harry. The main reason was because I didn't want to offend him. Likewise he opened my mind as did my father. But Uncle Harry for fortified it to what you would call INFORMATION the cultural life-- what little we had in those days. He always believed in good music, poetry. He would read lots of poetry to us. He would come out and stay two or three days you see. He was a religious man, A Christia Scientist as a matter of fact. Nex Music, poetry and mart were very much a part of his life. Just to give you a little twist of how he worked -all of his children were educated at home until eighth grade. And, by the way several of them are Ph.D's. Teddy, Hedda, Bob, and Lewellen were doctors with Ph.D's in Botany. XX

Monica:

You said that he taught you and trained you in postitive thinking, Do you told remember any experience that he kanght you about that stuck with you;

Senator:

Yes here is an experience that happened. In 1931, in the Christmas of 1931
I was out of the University of Minnesota, I was home in South Dakota--

The depression was full boom there. We were ahead of everybody-both in the drought and the bank failures and the Depression. Those are the only three things in which we have led the nation. I was very unhappy.

Monica: You were in the pharmacy?

Senator: Yes. I was not a pharmacist yet but I was working in my father's store.

There was nothing really to do--and I wanted to go back to the University of Minnesota but I did'nt want to leave my father and I didn't have any money. Low and behold, two things happened that Christmas, were providential One was Uncle Harry sent me \$50 dollars. Do you know what \$50 meant in the those days? It was fantastic. And, he said " I want you to use that \$50 to go back to the University, and the other one was my eld landlady, Mrs. Zimmerman -- Ma Zimmerman as we called her--called me on the telephone within the same week to say that you should come back to the University, HERDOMING SHE WOULD me should get out of South Dakota -- and I will give you a job in my roomij House, Because she had rooms and served breakfast. And, you can make the SHE WOULD GIVE ME beds and serve breakfast, and I will give you free room and board. All that happened at a time in my life when it was really fery important. Because I had been at the University for a full year and had done fairly well. I was terribly discouraged that I couldn't go back. And, that period of time in which I was out was just like all down hill.

Monica: How old were you then?

Senator: I would have been twenty, Twenty years old. That is a typical kind of

> expression or a kind of act that Uncle Harry would do. He would always in his letters to me, speck of great men. ANd I would write long letters to Uncle Harry. I was the romanticist in the best sense of the world. I would write to him about subject matters that were far aboue my head to really

comprehend. ANd he would encourage me to have correspondence with him.

But that \$50 dollar check resulted in me getting, within a week, out on the road hitchhiking back to the University. Now the tuition at the University was \$52, for the quarter. I was able to get a little extra money together. I went back and paid the \$52 for my tuition. I had no books. I had a place to eat and sleep, and I got a job at Mrs. Zimmerman's.

Monica: Did you live at Mrs. Zimmerman's?

Senator: Oh, yes, I lived at Mrs. Zimmerman's. I lived on the third floor, in the attic.

Where is that? Monica:

Senator: 528 Delaware Ave., S.E. Boy I remember that. 528 Delaware Ave. S.E., Minneapolis Minmesota. Uncle Harry-- He sort of was in Capital letters, from BASIS. time to time, as my father was ddy to day, They were brothers and you have

I have ever known. The man that had really traveled a great deal, who knew much, and that intrigued me. My mind was of such that I like to know people like that because I lived in a very little isolated town. A town called Dollan, South Dakota. He always (Uncle Harry) in many ways was inflexible on social habits but he awas very flexible in ex terms of his relations with me and his family. When it came to you didn't have to dress up an you could go into the swimming wole. He was just like a real old friend.

Monica: He just felt that education was avery important to you, and when he sent you the money it was his way of saying you must go back.

Senator: I remember on one of his letters he had something about the definition of an educated man. I wonder if I haven't got one of those cards. I keep alot of things around here--I have alot of things in my desk. Every once in awhile I come across something-- Here is that article oabout Woodrow Wilsom "when a man comes to himself" **REKEXEX---- Here's Uncle Harry-- here right here. My desk is my treasure house, Here is his house right here

Monica: That was in National Geographic?

Senator:

here in Cabin John, Maryland. They ever built there own swimming pool. They dammed up the little creek down there. Beautiful home, those walls are thirty inches thick. You talk about perfect insulation in the summer time -- it was as cool as if it were airconditioned -- in the wintertime little of no heat was required . The educated man cultivated the open mind. Never lasts the new ideas. Knows the secret of getting along with other people. Cultivated the habit of success. Knows that as a man thinketh so is he. Knows that popular notions are always wrong. Always listens to make the state of the stat the man who knows. Links himself with a great cause. Builds an ambition to fit his abilities. BUsy at his kigkeds highest hatural level . Knows it never to late to learn. Never looses faith in man, he might have been. Acf-Chieves the masteries that make mim a world citizzen. That's his writing and I used to get pages of letters from kism him like this. How you can imagine whow this would impress me as a boy in school. ANd, I longed to come and live at his home. Now my sister Francis did come. In fact, he brought her down here. He encouraged Francis to come keek here. And, she did live here with Uncle Harry and Aunt Olive . And Aunt Olive, his wife, was every bit as educated and many ways amore interesting person as I got

Yes. It was written up. This home was built by he and his sons. It is out

to know her later on in life. The two of them were were just precious individuals. And, had a very postitive influence on mylife--morally, and from the point of view of education, and what little culture if any, that I had.

Monica: You said that your family never wore religion on yourarm--tax that it was just something in your lives. Your mother fread the bible alot, did she ever read it to you?

Oh, yes, sometimes. But we xdid that in church. In our little town we had Senator: Wednesday prayer night. Monte Mother and Dad wse to go to that, and I wjould occasionally co. But all day Sunday was -- Sunday school, church and then (Eppert League). And them we might go to another different kind of DOLAND. church, if wex weren't in Molan. But, there www was never a Sunday that we didn't go to church. And, I was in the Boy Scouts, and all that sort of business as a youngster. I guess they call them sauxs squares these days. But that was a very important part of our life. And we had asxxour minister the man that impressed me so much--we the Rev. Albert Hartt. His son Julian is now the Professor of Philosophy at the University of Virginia. Julian gave the preyer xxxxx when I took the oath of office at Vice President. Julian and I were inseperable friends. But, Dr. Albert Hartt knew my Uncle Harry. This little town of Dolan--Itell you that it is impossible for people to believe what I'm telling you, mut it had intellectua ferment that far excedds anythming that I have known at anytime of my life w except, when I whent to the University of Minnesota. There were bepz people there that were really bright and ther were inquisitive, they were worldly and they were knowledgeable. They were just great people. Doctor Sherwood, this dear family doctor, he was a saint. He knew what real medicine was. He knew that medicine 22 was 95% healing thyself. These things that are written in the scripture aren't fiction. You've got to heal yourself most of the time. And, he practiced that kind of medicine. He was there with you no matter what. There was no 40 hour week. And we didn't close up on weekends. Dear old Doctor Sherwood took care of you exery hour of the day.

Monica: Was he near your fathers store?

Senator: He prescribed out of your store. Dr. Sherwood and Dr. Williams--we had two doctors in that little town. He operated--my God he operated on my brother right up in my office. They didn't have all the modern tools and everything--they lived. When I look back at that little town even today there still is that sense of pride. Their high school debating teams,

their high schools basketball teams, their 4-H clubs, all the things in that town. I still get the paper -- the times record". It still is a very dynamic community. Like so many rural towns the external appearance does n look very good, but the quality of people really amazes you. I've met so many people since that I learn how to sort out the phonies from the real ones. And, those that have about 1 inch of culture as compared to those who hav e to two miles of character. I'm not much on this (veneer?) stuff I see it all the time -- all these people walking around looking at that but they have no character -- they don't know the difference between right and wrong. ANd, I'm very impatient with them, frankly. I haven't looked at my stuff in here for a long time. -- Now here is Woodrow Wilson's acceptance speech for the Peace Prize. That is really good. And, here is Francis of Assisi. What do you think Lord Cain said -- He was asked this question What would you do if you could live your life over again? He said" drink more champagne". -- Now I know you don't want me to go through all of this --

Monica: No, I'm interested. Again, going through the book and just looking over the material—the Guidepost is interested in revolving the story atound one particular point in your life that we can see a turn around in—and we can gain from. We want the people to be able to read this story and say "yes, I felt that that way and I know what he went through. We want to be able to see what you gained from it and what we make a learn from it.

I know what I would take from your life—a serious obstacle which you think

Senator: The most serious problem in my personal life was the depression. It left an everlasting scar on me. I have never forgotten it because I saw what it did to people around me. I think it conditioned my whole political life.

My attitude about my fellow human beings.

Monica: Your father at that point was a very--

n in your personal life.

Senator: Oh my father was my friend, my teacher, my leader, and my loving father,

I mean he was everything. He was a tremendous person.

Monica: At that point obviously, it Affected the business.

Senator: Oh, yes. That depression ground (did grind) him down. Literally take the lifeablood from him.

TOOK

Monica: I think it was the Ladies Home Sournal that I was reading, in which it mentioned that beautiful thing wou talked about. Can you tell me a liktle bit about that again. I think your father wrote you a note x saying he couldn't take it anymore. This was at a point that it was so bad that he once left. (next Page)

Senator:

He did, he did, he once up and left. Poor Mommy, she kind of kept her suit case packed. She never quite knew when they would be taking a trip. I remember it was in the summer. I believe it was the summer of "36". I was married -- It was the summerof "37". Hot, dusty, no crops, miserable I remember dad saying to me many times -- one thing we will never do, thay may take our business away from us, but I will never shoot myself. Because so many bankers had been hanging themselves. One evening My dad came into the store. I was there, it was my night to work. And, he said Hubert I've got to get out of there. If I stay here I think I will go mad. I've just got to get out of here. I'm going to go home and pick up your mother and we are going to take a trip. And, I said Dad Where are you going? He said, I don't know but I just have to get away from here. This is just more than I & can stand right now. I want you to run the store and do the best you can. And, I was worried about paying the bills -- he said just do the best you can -- I'll be back. I've got to go. It was 10 o'clock at night. He got into his car. I didn't manow where he went. I knew he liked to travel out west. He always liked to travel to the West. He got to his car. The first time I heard from him he was out in Colorado. During the time that he was gone an epidemic of animal disease called "anthrax" broke out. My father was well known among rural people for vaccines and vetrinary products, and taking care of their animals. Th/One morning, Dad hadn't been gone two days, and I heard a tap on my window at our little house were Muriel and I lived for the first few months of our married life. About 6 o'clock in the morning and there was a farmer out there was a farmer out there. I said what do you want -- and he said I want to talk to you about my cattle. He told me that one of them was dead with boood coming through his nose. I said he has got anthrax, because I had been with father many times. *Anthrax spreads through a herd like mad, like a plague. So I went out to talk to him and I asked him how many cattle he had and I got him enough serum and showed him how to vaccinate them. I told him to get out there and vaccinate the herd as quick as you can and get rid of the carcass. HE had to burn the carcass. I got on # the telebhone as soon as a I could get any response in Minneapolis and I ordered up all the Anthrax serum that I could get from the Anchor serum company, Sharpand Dome, everybody that I knew that had Anthrax serum. I had it coming the train. I had a monopoly of anthrax serum. My father x heard about WHEN THE this four of five days later news got but and man, he turned around and

came charging back, because all at once out of the misery of somebody else, our business had improved immeasurably. But, Dad was..I've written so much about him that it is kind of redundant to talk about him any more. But you just have to understand that he was a very he was a man full of life. But, also he was a predigious worker. I always felt that dad somewhere wanted more out of life than he got. He would reach out for all of these things like music and opera, all of that. He just loved it. He lived in a town where that wasn't very much available. He would have loved television. He passed away before television, really good television public television, and so forth. And, again you have to keep in mind that our family was a religiously oriented family. It wasn't the kind of religious orientation where we always said grace at every dinner or where we sort of made ourselves conspicuous about it but, we attended the duties of our religious faith and church. But it was spread in our way.

Momica: It was spread in your life--

Senator: It was spread in our life, exactly. It was in the life. During those days of the Depression of I remember Daddy filling prescriptions. This always stuck in my mind. Because nobody could pay any bills, it was impossible.

Dad said everybody had paid up. They wouldn't come in the store. They were so proud they couldn't face us, knowing they owed us a hundred dollars they wouldn't come in they would go to somebody else's store. So Dad just sent them a little note and said "Your account is paid up full, come in and spend your cash with us".

Monica: Did he give you a philosophy on that?

Senator: Oh yes! It just reminds you that there are times that you just sort of clean the books. One thing about politics herever keep book. You don't hold things against people. You don't keep reminding them of the little things the might have done to you in some way or another. Try to close it off so that they can live a new life a new chapter. I think what Dad was really saying in a sense was that you can really have a new start. You must not keep reminding people of their past. I think that was the most important thing of all. And, that was symbolic. I heard remember that these folks would come in with a prescription and they didn't have any money. And, they would say charge it and Daddy would say "We don't have any charge accounts anymore" and I can just see them look at him. You can't imagine, these are all proud people.

Monica: Where was the store? Did you have it set up like it was the bank....

Senator: Yes, yes, and the front part was all the merchandise. You had to walk all the way to the back of the store. We had every kind of toothpaste,

talcolm powder, mouthwashes, and we use to have all kinds of other things too. We use to have appliances, toasters, wa real modern drugstore so to speak. I said to Daddy ... these people would look downcaste when we said we didn't have charge accounts, he would say just take it, when you get some money you remember me and come in and pay for it." And I said to Dad one time " we can't keep that up, this is just ridiculous," and he sais " Let me tell you something son, if they (the big companies) foreclose on us in this store, any bottle that is open as far as they are concerned is useless, it doesn't mean a thing, you'd might as well give it away. He said they will come back, one of these days they will make it. He had great faith that there would be a comeback, and there was, a tremendous comeback. You see it was such an agonizing period of my life. I was just married and I was so desperate to make something out of my life. Our depression hung on for years and it seemed that there was no way that you were ever going to escape from it unless I got away from it. And, yet I didn't want to get away from a good business, in a sense that it was going to be a good business. My father and my family, I loved the people that were there. But it just seemed like it was a dead end street. Adn, course, Dad was the man that said to me one night ... I use to pick dad up after work.

Monica

What kind of car did you have?

Senator

A model A Ford, It was his car. I never had a car, He would be at work and I would maybe be using the car while he was at work and I would come by and pick him up at mid night. We never closed up before midnight. We would always take a little drive out in the country. And listen to the midnight news....KFI in Los Angeles or KMOX in St. Louis, I can remember so well. We woruld drive on the 7 miles of pavement -- 7 miles out and 7 miles back. My wife Muriel would be with me in this time. And, I would drive my Daddy home because I would use the car the next morning to go to work. I remember this night we got home. I let Muriel off because I wanted to talk to Dad. It was in August 1937, hot, miserable, and we sat out there in the driveway and my dad looked at me and said "Hubert you are not happy are you"? Well, for my daddy to say to me that I am unhappy that was unbelievable because I didn't want him to ever think that I wasn't happy because it would be a reflection on him you see, And I said " Well, Dad, you know I am a young man, I'm married, Isaid quite frankly these dust storms, and this depression is just getting to me. He said " well what do you want to do, and I said "well I havent' quite made up my mind yet.

I think what I would like to do is to go back to the University. Now in all of this I knew my father was being considered as a candidate for Governor of South Dakota. He had been in the Legislature elected in 1936. He had made a fine record. He was very popular. It is entirely probable that he could have been elected Governor. Adn, I kept saying to myself, "Gosh if I tell him that I want to leave than somebody has got to stay here to run the store. Because when he was in the Legislature I had to run the store. Now this is in a town of 10,000 people, so it is not the smallest town in the state. In South Dakota it was one of the larger towns, He asked me what I wanted to do and I said " I think I want to go back to the University. And we talked about his being considered for Governor and all that and he said " son, I want to tell you something a good rule in life-don't hesitate to do anything that will make you happy or happier unless it is going to hurt some one else" and I said " Dad I'm afraid my decision is going to hurt you and he said" oh no you are a young man this is your life. My life is in the drugstore, that is my real life. He said I'm happy in the drugstore, that is where I really want to be. I've never forgotten that simple rule that when you are down and out and you want to do something--don't hesitate to do something that will make you happy for happier provided that it doesn't injure someone else., to deny someone else their happiness.

Monica: This is really jumping ahead (unintelligible) about an experience

I want you to tell me about it, but basically from the gist of what I

read you had some kind of experience in the hospital, that you were a bit

down at that time, and you experienced something that you said was similiar
to a helium bomb.

Senator: Well I will tell you what it was. One day I said to Muriel "I wish I could hear some of Mahalia Jackson's songs. I knew Mahalia Jackson, she was such a great women and a dear friend of mine. Her spirituals are perhaps.

You see I get more religion out of music than almost anything else. I like Hymnes.

religious...I even like country music, but my religion I really get the feeling of spirituality and a lift and a communication with the music.

Mahalia Jackson was absolutely one of the God-sent people. My son-in-law and Muriel went out and got a taperecorder and two tapes of Mahalia Jackson's tape recordings. They were just absolutely beautiful. You are so emotional anyway. First of all you have been terribly sick. I can't tell you how your entire emotional system is almost triggered all of the time.

It doesn't take much to bring tears. It doesn't take much to move you. And,

I would turn on those tapes, I would just lie there and listen. Sometimes the tears would just run down my cheek, and I would just be so happy and os filled with the message of her song that it was just beautiful. And then I would get all these letters from people, and all of the flowefs, and all of the telegrams, occasionally a telephone call. I think what I felt was a kind of warmth in my body. I feel foolish talking about it, but I felt a glow of warmth, of healing. I really did. It just came over me.

Monica: Why?

Senator: I don't know. I think it is from peoples prayers and peoples messages of friendship. Prayer you see is not just between man and God, but it is a communication between peoples as well. There is something about the transmission of good and evil. I mean good or bad. I believe that anyway. I think that you can sense that you are in a room of friends. It is contagious there is a feeling of something electrifying about it. You feel it on your skin, you can feel it in your being. You can also feel hostility. You can feel warmth and you can feel cold, and I don't mean temperature, I mean that you can really feel it. You can tell...as we do among individuals, it is like love..there is a chemistry. You know when you really love somebody, all at once you just feel it. It is hard to describe but a person that may not be beautiful to someone else all of the sudden takes on a beauty that is beyond somebody else's way of describing it. Just your appreciation of that persons beauty, And of that person's affection and love. It is the chemistry, it is the spirit, it is the meeting of souls and the meeting of minds.

Monica: I know you can't tell me exactly how things happened, but it was so nice how you would go into everybody's room. That is still (unintelligible).

Senator; Well that is just natural. I just needed to do something. And not only that most of the people up there were sick of (unintelligible). Anyway I thought they were. Why not use your time?

Monica: This is what you got from them, it wasn't just somthing that you were giving to them, you were getting something out of it too.

SEnator: They were just kids. Let me tell you something, it is the most heartbraking thing to see those children. As Dr. Whitmore told mm, he can't
go to that 5th floor, this great surgeon see said I just can't go, I can't
take it.

Monica: "Was there anybody there that was particularly inspiring to you?

Senator: Well that little girl Debbie in that next room, that had been there-
I think a year and a half. Ayoung beautiful little thing that had had

cancer of the spine. And, I use to tell her everyday that I had a date with her. I would joke with her alot. Come in and talk to her. Her dear father and mother would come there everyday. Her dear daddy would sit there with her. It is awfully lonesome to be in a hospital for a long time. Of course she had made a very good adjustment to it. She had a happy personality. And, each day I would say "Hey, Debbie when are we going to have our walk. I can't be having a date with you in this bedroom. We have got to be proper. We have got to get out into the hallway and walk! I kept that up, and I would talk to her.

Monica: You were feeling low too.

Senator: No, no, you always feel a little low, my gosh, you don't feel like you want to do the Irish jig. But, it was a good way, for me to pass my time and not only that I got to talk to alot of people about their families. When you get people to thinking about other people they don't think about themselves. One of the best ways to get out of pain is to do something that so absorbs your attention that you don't have time to think about the pain. This is a fact. This is a theraputic fact. It is a scientific fact that you can work off pain. This bio-feedback stuff has proven that. But anyway you get to talking to people and they forget about their troubles and you forget about yours and you have lifted yourself to a new plateau of relationship. This cute little girl, and one day her nurse said" Senator Humphrey, Debbie is going to take her first steps today". I found out when it was and I was there with flowers for her.

Monica: After a year and a half.

Senator: After 18 months. Now let me tell you something, she is home and back at school. She is going to dances, she is doing the whole bit. She and I used to have a ball.

Monica: Were you there when she took her first step?

Senator: Oh yes, I was right there..day one with flowers in hand for her, after all we were going steady by then. That was one of the people that I really mention alot.

Monica: Did she have a good attitude?

Senator: Yes, a marvelous attitude.

Monica: Now old was she?

Senator: I think she was sixteen.

Monica: She said "Every time someone comes up withha line or two that is so....

Senator: I can't remember that you know, I tell you in those days you are perfectly

foggy, somekimes days I don't even remember what happened to me. But, I know this that I wanted to walk. I believe in walking. That is one of the ways in which you strengthen yourself. I get out in those hallways and walk.... Why walk up and down hallways and never say anything to anybody? It is so cruel in a sense. It is such a waste. So I would just stop in every room and look by and see if they were awake and şa y " how are you doing and when did you get in and what you in for," and so on and so forth. We'd talk a little bit while we were in there. We'd have these social hours and I would go down and join in these social hours. They had a fellow that was playing the piano down there. ANd, I would visit with the people down there. ONe old gentleman that was really a character, he would not get operated on! His wife came to me and said " I could maybe talk to him, that he would not haveing anything to do with his family and would not listen to them and he had to be operated on". The doctors said that if he was not operated on that he would obviously pass away. And, I said " well, really I don't know your husband and I really don't know that I should interfere with that". This was a woman with a foreign backgr; ound. Sweet, plain, but, sweet dear woman. There were all the children, sons and daughters and all of the relatives, like a good ol' family reunion all around his bed. And the old man was as mean as a billy goat. He wasn't going to walk. He was going to be operated on and I thought I would take a run at it because I'm walking around the corridors anyway. I stopped in to see him every so often and It got so that I could see him. And , I would tell him how I was coming. And, I said x/ou q/ught to get up and walk alot arofund here. And, by golly in two days Ihad that fellow walking with me. His wife co uldn't believe it he would walk. He was walking. We were having a good time walking. I told him I couldn't walk alone. I said I had to have this nurse walk with me allthe time. I said you are pretty strong and if you could walk with me then we cofuld walk together. Of course the nurse would hang around there to make sure that we weren't going to stumble or something. But, I got him so that he would walk. And then I talked to him about my surgery. And, I told him MANNIER who had done it , how well it had gone. ANd I said let me tell you something, you are not even going to feel it and the odds are that you are going to come through that surgery, I told him what I had asked the doctor abjout my odds about the surgery. . . . the chances of surviving. He said it was so good. I don't remember exactly how it all went but about three or four days his wife came in and said " he is going to live, he has consented to be operated on . She thanked me so much.

you'll make it all right, don't worry. This kid is eleven years old. Some-body else is fourteen or fifteen. So I got all of that extra feedback, Just a tremendous amount of correspondence and goodwill from people all over the country. There are copensations for it.

Monica: You had said that there is a center in TEXAS...

Senator: Yes, there is a center in Texas, I'm trying to remember but I think it is the Anderson Clinic if I am not mistaken. But, I think it is.. They have actually run scientific tests on what they call those who really what to win the battle. Mental attitude, postitive mental attitude and its affect on your life. How much longer you can extend your life. Remember this cancer you know is very peculiar. You may very well last as though you never had it and then all of the sudden ----- just like that. And, any body that has it knows that. If you don't know that you are not fair with yourself and your loved ones. Now your doctors can tell you that you are in good shape and it looks like the next ten years there will be no problem with you, and in the next ten months you are dead. You don't know it, so what does it tell you. You know what it tells me, it tells me to do what you can each day. Now you can revise your life and decide you are not going to live very long or I am going to start to play, or I am going to do this or that ... hope, that isn't what I feel at all. I feel that you should just go aheand and keep living your life and doing all that you like to do.

Monica: I've seen your schedule and that is quite alot ...

Senator: But, I will tell you what it does do, I will give you one little suggestion. Brussels, here it is right here, I have a not e here that says that I am head of the delegation. Ursula has already taken it off the desk. Anyway, the choice is whether I am going to go to Brussels to head a delegation to NATO or whether I am going to go to Annies play at her school. Annie is my 11 year old grandaughter. Now Annie is playing in her play the part of a grandmother. Yesterday Annie and I had an interview because the play is about grandma and grandpa Humphrey. That is what the play is about. It was written by the kids in her school. She is going to be her grandmother, her boyfriend that she likes, this Jeremy fellow is going to be me so she had a taperecorder at the interview yesterday, and to tell you what the truth was the recorder didn't work and we had been interviewed for an hour, so we had to do it all over again, The recorder worked but in the process of kids coming in and out of the room the recorder got turned off so we did it all over again. Now Amy called me up every day a week ago, just before she would go to school and she would ask me Grandpa I need to know are

you going to come to our play, it is on the 25 of May. And, I said Amy I have to decide a question of going to Brussels, Belgium as head of the delegation. She said "Oh, grandpa, every one in school wants you to come to the play so much, "The said I would just love to have you come to the play I helped write it". I said "Brussels can get along with out me". I've been to Brussels before. There isn't anything over there that I can do that somebody else can't do, and I want to see her in that play. How do I know I won't be able to see her next year. So I made a choice of priority That is the ofnly change that comes over you in the sense of your life. You start to give a little more priority, I don't do as much as I should but a little more to people that mean so very much in my life.

Monica: What are looking forward too in this point in your life? And, how has the power of positive thinking feetted your life?

Senator: I look forward to enthusiastic living. I like things. I enjoy goin to things I am going to the theater tomight. I want to get home and enjoy my place ou there. I want to have dinner with my friends. I want to go the baseball game. I am a conglomerate. I'm not looking forward to any big thing. I have had enough big xxxx things, the only big thing for me is not available, so, I am not interested in that. I really feel from here on out what I ought to do is to be a Senator.] I feel I know how to do my job, and do it well, and also to give young people a boost. I want to dispel some of the cynicism. They don't have very much. As a matter of fact young people are not cynical. it is the elders that like to paint a veneer of cynicism on them and I like to come along and remove that. And , it only takes a very few minutes and I like to do that whenever I can. And, I do that at schools and Colleges around the Capitol here. I get a big lift out of young people. They are very good for me. Systerically, philosophically, psycologically, they are very good for me. SO you see, most of the things I do are stomewhat selfish too. I get alot of good out of kkem it myself.

Monica: I didn't ask you before, but now in your life --your father and Uncle Harry were there--who in your life now is important....postitive force.

Senator: Well strangely enough maybe my own sons and daughter. They are grown up and they are mature. They mean a great deal to me. And, maybe it is also a time for me to share with them some of my experience. It is only out of experience that you gain any wisdom, if you have any. I have many good friends that I cherish today. But, I don't think that in this stage of my life I need heroes. I think that the time that you need heroes is that period when you

mature, as you come out of adolescence into maturity. In those early years of your life. That is when you need heroes. Because they represent guidelines, guideposts, In your life. When you are older your standards are fairly well set. And, then I think it is time for you to turn around and see if you can't be a source of direction or guideline for somebody else. £ like to listen on Sunday morning, I have a crazy mixed up program of T.V. that I enjoy. For example of Saturday mornings, This will knock you over but I enjoy the Pink Panther, and I truly do. And, I love it because it takes me out Its the one morning I like to cheat on work. I love to lie in bed and I really resent telephone calls. If Betty calls me during Pink Panther I'll chop her head off. Now there is another reason for it.. I communicate with my younger grandchildren very much on Pink Panther and a bunch of other little kids. I really also personally like it. There the Texas frogs and all of these crazy characters you know...Bugs Bunny, the Road Runner... I enjoy that. I look at them. I give myself about an hour for that. Then I truly love, as I told you, Church music. Not necessarily Church music but Good music. We play in our home many, many fine records. We have a marvelous collection of beautiful records. Symphonic music, I love symphonic music and piano music. And, they have other meanings to me because most of the conductors I have known or the Artists that I have gotten to know, particularly among the pianists. Isaac Stern.. I know Isaac and when Van Cliburn plays the piano I know him, and Rudolf Serkin we know him like he is a brother and Pablo Cassals.. these are people that have been in my life. This is the reward of !politics. I never would have met these people just being a college teacher or a Mid-West successful merchant which I think I could have been, But I have been in thi kind of life and I have extended myself and worked at it. I've met marvelou people. And, then I enjoy listening to certain preachers on the television. Rev. Robert Schur is a great inspiration to me . I get alot of razing from my more soteric friends. But I love it and I will tell you why, it is because he talks sense. He makes religion become meaningful to me. I think maybe the reason I like him is because of what he says. I believe the way he talks. In fact I'm very eager to sit down and talk to him. I want to have a visit with him some time. I listen to Billy Graham and all of them. They all have a role to play. I've known Billy since he was a young man out in Minneapolis at NorthWest Bible school. I use to go swimming with him at the YMCA and play handball with him. I've known him a long long time There is a chap down in Tulsa..Oral Roberts. Alot of people don't like him

because he is an evangelist. He isn't so evangelist. What I like about him is that he and his son and his wife and all do a fine job, because I tell people that not a thing they say hurts you. And, I listen to alot of stuff that hurts you. It is just like my dear mama one time...you know mama was a good Protestant and a little girl in our drugstore was going to marry this Catholic boy named Barney Boyle....And if you are in dlittle town like Dolan that's a ...boy I'm telling you you've stepped over the line. And, somebody said something and I couldn't believe mama's reaction...because I couldn't believe her reaction because she had been born and brought up a Lutheran. And, somebody said "Isn't it a shame that so and so is marrying that Catholic Barney Boyle" and mother says " I don't think it is going to hurt her a bit...it may help". I've never forgotten. You know in a little town the predjudices you have ...Good Lord. I'm glad I grew up in a little town.

Monica: I'm sorry Ididn't. (unintelligible). .. I have the notesto that.

Senator: The best, of tourse the damn fool publisher ...

Monica: I xxx sensed that when you said to the reader that xxx little thing about (unintelligibel)....

Sneator: I was furious with him. Why shouldn't they put it in the context of the book? It wouldn't have taken any more pages. Now I said Tell me will it take any more spance if we take each of those and we can put it in finer print. And, put it on the same page. He said no we don't do that we don't ximi like to have footnotes. Well I suppose if I was to figure out the influences in my life that were really great it would be my family it would my uncle, my wife who has had a trememdous influence on my life.

Monica: How is the feeling?

Senator: Seh She is feeling good. The University of Minnesota, which was like liberation or emancipation. Real positive influences, the church that I attend ed and Dolan High School, Dolan Methodist Church. I just got through buying some sout there and helping to fix up the church. I make money speak so, I send it around and give it to some of the churches. I bought some hyminals for a little Presbyterian church out there some years ago to honor my father and mother. Little things like that let them know that haven't forgotten them.

Monica: Your father was baptized where?

Senator: In the Methodist church. And he was forty years old. My father was a free thinker. My goodness my poor mother I don't know how she ever got him. She was so straight and orthodox in a sense, brought up Lutheran and tall of that But Daddy Robert Ingersoll and he was an agnostic and he had

all the books of Mormon. Daddy read everything. And poor little xxxxx mama over here, poor sweet darling cute little xxxxx woman and petite.

Bood Mother that loved to singland enjoyed going to church and here's Dad thinking about all fof these worldly subjects, arguing with everybody in town and he is reading every conceivable thing.

Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

