

Interview with Warner Masters, track 4

JB: Here we are.

WM: I cited the example of some of the European countries where these areas that had seemed to outlive their usefulness, that they had bought them up from public funds and re-sold them or redeveloped them, and sold them back to the private sector, and thus restoring the usefulness of the area. And I said, "I would think that it would be smart to buy as much as you could foreseeably use for the function that we're discussing and if it doesn't, then at least it can be sold back at more, you wouldn't be losing any money. You'd be getting a market price for it at some future time," and that it was found that we couldn't use it.

JB: Are you satisfied with the amount of land we have?

WM: Personally, I would've liked to have seen a full section of six hundred forty acres in this area. I think that you're gonna see in somewhere down the pike somewhere, taller and taller buildings and more congestion and double-deck parking and a variety of things like that that wouldn't have been necessary if we had more land.

JB: I think some of those things are imminent.

WM: Yes, I think so.

JB: Even now.

WM: I would think so.

JB: Well, we have a few more minutes and let me ask you: One of the things that I do in shaping a session such as this is, I think a lot about it and sort of put pieces together in my own mind because I'm juggling, you know, all the pieces of this, and it's kind of a complex puzzle and the risk is, in doing that, is I think about interview questions, I may miss one that I should've asked. Is there one that you can think of that you're surprised I haven't asked but wished that I had?

WM: No, I don't think so. There have been three basic leaders in our development of this area: McDonald, Prator, and Cleary. And if there's a credit to be given, I think to, what's good out of this, certainly it has to be placed on their shoulders somewhere, because I could not have functioned if the president had been restrictive or lacked the kind of vision that was necessary to try to build an institution like this. So I think that the environment was right to do what we did, if you think it's good.

JB: And the leadership was right, if that was the direction that we were going to go. (??), they had foresight to see where to go and how to do it.

WM: Yes, and it happened that all three were builders in a sense. They had long visions, they had a view of the future, and that was true not only of the presidents, but certainly of Del Oviatt. And he was a very definite force in the development of this campus, very definitely.

JB: Personally, every interview enforces his preeminence in all of this.

WM: Yeah, yeah tremendous.

JB: Well, why don't we shut it down now?

WM: Okay.

JB: And it's hard to bring this to an end; I want to keep going, but obviously can't do that.

WM: Well, I'm not so far away—

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]