

Arthur Campbell Turner

Note of Explanation:

Professor Arthur Campbell Turner completed both the audio and video segments of the oral history interviews prior to his passing, but due to demands on his schedule, he was unable to complete the final review of the tapes. He had, however, signed his formal approval of them.

Netty Turner, his dedicated wife and partner for more than 50 years, was thoughtful enough to provide authorization to release the tapes and make them an integral and permanent part of the UCR oral history series.

Professor Francis Carney, a colleague and fellow political scientist who joined Dr. Turner as part of the founding UCR faculty a half century ago, volunteered to ensure the accuracy of the tapes through his careful review and editing and made appropriate modifications. This editing would have been so important to Professor Turner, whose personal integrity and commitment to factual reporting were critical elements of his character.

Jan Erickson
Interviewer
April 9, 2005

Transcription of Videotape with
Arthur Campbell Turner
April 20, 1998

Erickson: Dr. Turner, when you were growing up in Glasgow, was education stressed in your family?

Turner: That's a difficult question to answer because it is phrased so much in terms of here and now. It almost assumes that there is a large proportion of the population who don't stress education, and in the Scotland of my day, and quite possibly there still, I just don't know, it was automatically assumed that everybody would go as far as they could in educational terms and would work as hard as he could. This was true whether people were very bright or not quite so bright. It was the universal unstated assumption which at least for the segment of society I grew up in was certainly valid. So, yes, the answer to your question would be, "Yes, it was stressed. It was automatically, as it were, stressed."

Erickson: Tell us where you went to school, please.

Turner: I went to school at a school which was then under the aegis of the Corporation of Glasgow but now is a private foundation and which had originally begun as a bishop's school in the Middle Ages, High School of Glasgow. The title is perhaps a little misleading because it is not the only high school in Glasgow, it is merely the first, the oldest, and it has retained the same title as it had in the past. It is a school with quite a distinguished record. In the past and early years of this century, we produced two prime ministers though that might be regarded as something of an accident or a freak. The two were Bonar-Law, prime minister for a rather short period in the 1920s. He died young and Campbell Bannerman, who was prime minister from 1905 to 1908, a quite well-known liberal prime minister. And a good many people famous in other walks of life. It was a very good school, and I believe it still is.

Erickson: Absolutely. It produced Arthur Campbell Turner. (chuckle)

Turner: Yes. Thank you.

Erickson: And then you were also at the University of Glasgow?

Turner: Yes. On leaving high school, what would be called the graduating year, although the phrase is not used there, I went to the University of Glasgow where I began with the intention of doing Honors in English. That is to say, majored in English, more than majoring actually. But I think I changed my mind after one year and began to do Honors in History. I took a First Class Honors Degree in History at Glasgow and then I went on to Oxford. I had a quite comfortable scholarship from Glasgow as a result of my performance in the finals there. I had, as far as I remember, a stipend of 200 pounds a year which sounds like nothing now; and, indeed, now is practically nothing. But it was very comfortable. A single man could have lived on two hundred pounds a year quite well. So, I had that and I also got a

scholarship at Oxford by going there and sitting for a scholarship exam. So, at Oxford, also, I did a First Class Honors degree. One was in Modern History and then I began to do some work beyond that, some research work, and I got, as a result of that, a B Lit, which is nominally Bachelor of Literature, but it is the research degree. Then that was changed into an M Lit later on. So these are my degrees. And then I got a job at the University of Glasgow in 1945 as Lecturer in History, and I was there until 1951, though strictly speaking I wasn't there at all from 1948 to 1950 because I was on leave in Berkeley.

Erickson: Oh, I was going to ask how you got to the United States.

Turner: Well, in 1948, I was awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship. The name is misleading. It is not a British Commonwealth Institution, it is Harkness money, Standard Oil money. The Commonwealth is one of these vague, general OK words that people use in all sorts of contexts.

Turner: I was there in Berkeley from 1948 until '50. Soon after, I was back home. I got my Ph.D. My Ph.D. is from Berkeley in History.

Erickson: Oh, I see.

Turner: And of course, also in Berkeley and possibly more important than a Ph.D., indeed much more important than a Ph.D., I met my future wife and we got married. That's Netty, of course, whom you know.

Erickson: Um hmm. How did you meet?

Turner: Well, we were both graduate students.

Erickson: I see.

Turner: And we met in International House. I was living in International House and Netty had been and was often there though actually she was no longer living there. So, we got married in San Francisco in January, 1950.

- Erickson: Oh, how nice.
Arthur, before we go on, I am intrigued by your tie. Could you tell us the significance of that?
- Turner: Well, the tie goes back to what we were saying about my school. This tie is that legendary piece of haberdashery, my old school tie. The monogram you can see says GHS, the high school of Glasgow. This is the tie worn by former pupils used there. FP's.
- Erickson: FP's. Former ...
- Turner: Former Pupils.
- Erickson: It looks very nice. So, you were at Berkeley. And how did you get to UCR from Berkeley?
- Turner: Ah, yes. Well, there is quite a story there. I hadn't been in Berkeley very long in 1948 before the then-Chairman of the History Department, John D. Hicks, eminent American historian, offered me a job at Berkeley. And that caused a moral dilemma, because when you accept a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, you undertake to return at the end of your fellowship to, as they phrased it, some part of the British Empire for a minimum of two years. Because they did not want it to become merely an assisted or an easy form of emigration. I don't know why they made that decision, but that is the way it was set up then. So, I had to decide on that rather difficult question. In fact, I returned to Glasgow from which I was, strictly speaking, on leave. We were there for one year. Then in 1951, we went to the University of Toronto. I got a job at the University of Toronto, and we were there for two years, until 1953, when I received this invitation from Gordon Watkins to come here.
- Erickson: Oh, I see. Had you known Dr. Watkins?
- Turner: No. I was not acquainted with him because he was at UCLA. He was Dean at UCLA before he began to found Riverside.

But Nisbet, who became Dean under Watkins, was, of course, at Berkeley.

Erickson: Oh, so had you known him?

Turner: I probably met him; in fact, I don't remember. But he was in Sociology at Berkeley, and it is very possible that some of the people I knew at Berkeley suggested to Gordon Watkins that I may be a person to consider for the new faculty here.

Erickson: Now that was 1953?

Turner: 1953. The campus began here, began to have students here in 1954. You remember, February '54, I think.

Erickson: Yes.

Turner: Rather few students, I think, but that's when it began.

Erickson: So, Dr. Watkins came to Canada, to Toronto to talk with you?

Turner: No. We were interviewed, because I think he wanted to see what the wife looked like as well. We were interviewed in Washington. We had come (pause) No. New York City, I think it was. We came to New York City at Easter, 1953, where Gordon Watkins was, and we were interviewed there by him. And also to some extent by Mr. Underhill who was with him. They were there in the east because they had been lobbying to get the University possession of Canyon Crest, the wartime housing development.

Erickson: Oh, uh huh.

Turner: And, of course, they succeeded as you know. So, Underhill, the Secretary/Treasurer of The Regents, was there and so was Gordon. We were interviewed there a couple of times, but I remember particularly the final meeting which was a breakfast with Gordon. Gordon liked to interview people at

breakfast. I think he thought it threw them off balance or something. (chuckle)

Erickson: But obviously it didn't. (chuckle)

Turner: No. I had a reputation later on for liking 8 o'clock classes, which I liked, but the students didn't particularly.

Erickson: So, you like to start your day nice and early.

Turner: Yes.

Erickson: Well, you mentioned that about Dr. Watkins wanting to possibly interview Netty, in a sense anyway.

Turner: Yes. That's pretty standard procedure.

Erickson: Did she help you when you were recruiting faculty?

Turner: Oh, very much, really, in counseling. Not actually in going on the road to interviewing.

Erickson: Is that how you did it, you went on the road?

Turner: Yes, yes. That's not how we do it now. We do it more expensively now. We always bring them here and have them here for two or three days and that's all very elaborate, but in those days I went east, or wherever it might be, northwest to interview possible faculty appointees. And I would have a long list and quite a schedule and be away for two or three weeks on various campuses. And I would see a lot of people, and I would eventually make up my mind and tell my existing colleagues, if any, when I got back who their new colleague was going to be. It was as simple as that.

Erickson: I see.

Turner: But the results were, I think, were quite as good as any later procedure.

Erickson: I am sure.
Approximately how many faculty did you start out with that first year?

Turner: Well, in the spring of 1954, very few indeed. I would say I didn't have more than six or seven or eight probably in the six subject fields for which I was responsible. But, of course, that number expanded rapidly because a lot of the people I had interviewed in the first go round—I had made a number of these trips east—they came on board in the fall of 1954 because very few people could leave whatever they were doing in the middle of the academic year. So the numbers went up fairly rapidly. In the end, I must have appointed twenty or twenty five people, I suppose, over the next decade or so. Some of these, of course, being people who were appointed to fill out people who had been here and had already left, because we did manage to appoint some very good people, but other universities noticed this, and some of them were picked off...

Erickson: They were recruited from you.

Turner: even though they had only been here a few years.

Erickson: Who were the members of the inner core? Who were the decision makers in those early days?

Turner: Yes, decision making is often difficult to define, but it wasn't very difficult in those days. The campus was created, the people who were present at the creation, if I may borrow a phrase from Dean Atchison, were half a dozen in number and they basically ran things for about the first decade of the campus. There wasn't a great deal of democracy at that point. They were starting at the top, Gordon Watkins, the Provost, who was in charge, not only of the college (our end), but also the Citrus Experiment Station. I mean, that was in his bailiwick and authority, though I don't think he interfered very directly or very much in the operation of the CES. Then immediately below him was Dean Nisbet, who, as I said, had been Professor of Sociology at Berkeley, and then the four

Division Chairmen of whom I was one. These were: Olmsted, Chairman of Humanities, who had been Assistant or Associate Dean under Watkins at UCLA and who was Professor of History; Conway Pierce, of Natural Sciences; Herman Spieth, Life Sciences; and I, Social Sciences. These were, quite simply, the decision makers.

Erickson: How did you meet? Were you in an Executive Committee type setting?

Turner: Oh, there were so few people here then that we met all the time in various contexts. But in decision making, strictly the four Division Chairmen would meet probably with the Dean and very occasionally with the Provost as well. So that was the focus of decision making. Actually, the main lines of the campus had been laid down basically by Watkins before anybody really came here, I think.

Erickson: He was the first to arrive, wasn't he?

Turner: No, but he had been working on plans for the campus before he was physically resident here. In fact, I don't really know when he took up residence here, probably 1950 or 1951. You know, I am sure, that the original date of the opening of the campus had been two or three years earlier than it actually happened because the Korean War made it very difficult to get supplies to build the buildings, and since there was nothing at all there in the way of buildings that were usable for our purposes, and the scarcity of building materials, the wartime restrictions on supply necessarily postponed the date of opening...

Erickson: I see.

Turner: which was a pity, really, because Watkins hadn't many years to go. He retired in 1956, and it would have been advantageous if he had more years in actual charge of an operating campus. So, he was really only in charge (after we got students) two and a half years.

Erickson: Yes, that is a short time.

Turner: Yes.

Erickson: There were a number of volunteer leaders in the community.

Turner: Oh, yes. I should say something about them, but ...

Erickson: Please.

Turner: I am sure Judge Gabbert has spoken about that, too, when you interviewed him.

Erickson: He did, but I would like to hear your thoughts, too. Did you have interaction with them?

Turner: Yes, to a considerable extent. Not in really official or organized terms, but the existence of a Riverside campus as a distinguished place is due to two main factors. One is the townspeople and the other is the excellence of the founders (if I may say so) and the first faculty, the early faculty. But the initial thing, of course, that determined what happened was the foresight and enthusiasm of the townspeople and the energy they put in making sure that the campus was, in fact, located here and not somewhere else. This was an enormous achievement and deserves to be remembered. And Riverside has always been distinguished for the foresight and public spirit of many of its leading citizens and still is. These people who formed essentially a lobbying committee to get the campus here, and this was the nucleus of the CUC (Citizens University Committee). They were a very distinguished group. I suppose one of the most important in that group was Judge O. K. Morton. I really don't know the names of the others. I believe that the only one of that group now alive is Gabbert.

Erickson: Yes. I think that he also mentioned Sherm (Sherman) Babcock.

Turner: Yes, oh yes.

Erickson: He is still alive, too. Those are the two I remember.

Turner: Yes.

Erickson: Well, of course, the Citrus Experiment Station was already here. Did you have interaction, as the faculty of the new college, with the Citrus Experiment Station?

Turner: Yes. There were many committees on which we and they were represented, and I got to know many of them very well. I admired and respected them. In fact, they were a very distinguished group of researchers, and they have done work of world-importance and were continuing to do it. And, of course, they had been in operation since ... what, on this campus, I think since 1917, and elsewhere in Riverside for another ten years before that.

Erickson: Was that an easy transition, the establishment of a new campus and the CES?

Turner: I think I would be forced to say, "No, it wasn't." The CES people, the Citrus Station people had to accept that their lives were never going to be quite what they had been. I mean, there was a new element there which some of them thought might in the end crowd them out and they...I think it would be a wild exaggeration to say they resented this, but there was a certain uneasiness, I think of the new situation. On the other hand, I have been told by a member of the Citrus Experiment Station that actually the coming of the college was welcomed because some of them thought that Al Boyce was a little heavy handed in his decision making and that the imposition of more standard procedures on appointment and so on and appraisal might be beneficial. But I think the answer to your question in general terms is that there was some difficulty. Then administratively or organizationally, there was a certain problem about how do you integrate into the framework of the new college research work in the natural sciences, I mean the kind of work they did, Botany

and all that, Soil Sciences and Entomology. And that problem wasn't really solved until the time of Hinderaker.

Erickson: Oh.

Turner: I think it was a difficult problem.

Erickson: So Provost Watkins tried to blend that together.

Turner: Yes, well, of course, in a sense he did, but the problem of whether you expect people in the CES end to teach or as hitherto being the case, one of them, or some of them, or all of them, whether you give them professorial titles or not. These were difficult questions.

Erickson: Oh, I see.

Turner: But most of them, perhaps all of them, did not have professorial titles. They had titles such as Entomologist, not Professor of Entomology.

Erickson: I see. And so that took a number of years.

Turner: Yes, it took a while to organize things.

Erickson: Well, how did you go about establishing your new division?

Turner: Well, I had the cadre', the framework really. I knew that I was responsible for seven subject fields, that is to say, Anthropology, Economics, Education, Geography, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology, and I had a table of establishment. I knew how many empty slots I had for teaching positions.

Actually one or two of them had been appointed by Nisbet before I arrived, and one or two of them continued to be appointed by Nisbet after I was here, especially in Sociology. I felt that Nisbet interfered a little too much, and I don't think the results were altogether satisfactory.

I think Sociology for a long time continued to be the weakest element in the Division of Social Sciences. I remember particularly an Italian, I mean a person of Italian descent, that I interviewed somewhere in the east and thought a lot of and wanted to appoint but Nisbet wouldn't have it. His name was Joseph Copriatto and you will find him in all the current works of reference now. He said he was descended from a long line of priests, hence the name. This is a joke.

However, in general, of course, I appointed people, sometimes with easy assent from Nisbet and Watkins, sometimes not. But anyway, I initiated the process. The only really difficult case I had was the case of an Economic professor, an Economic Historian called Hugh Aikten, who was a very distinguished man even at his young age, but who had one problem. He had an occasional stutter which came on him, not very often, but fifteen or twenty minutes into a lecture, it might. And in conversation it did also. This was a difficulty when I discussed it with Nisbet and also with Watkins.

I should say that Hugh Aitken had already done some good work. He did a book on the mass production methods called Taylorism at the Watertown Arsenal, and I found him at Harvard. He did not, however, have a teaching appointment. Harvard had given him some kind of research job in the Tower Center, and it was there that I interviewed him.

I wanted to appoint him on a tentative basis to see how it would work out, and after something of a struggle with Watkins, I got the appointment. And, of course, his position was regularized after he had been here a year, because apart from the occasional time of difficulty, he was a very good teacher as well as everything else and, in fact, in the latter years of his being here, (he was here only ten years) the University made very strenuous efforts here to retain him by very considerable accelerations, but he was not to be retained. He went, in 1965, to Amherst from which he eventually retired.

Erickson: But you provided that opportunity.

Turner: Yes. I provided him that opportunity and that was all he really needed. He simply said that he would welcome the chance, and I said we would take it on that basis and see how it works out. Once the students got used to what was liable to happen, which they all did pretty fast, they just sat through it silently...

Erickson: They just accepted it.

Turner: saying and doing nothing until he got on track.

Erickson: With your background being from Scotland, did you provide any guidance for the nickname, The Highlanders, or the establishment of the mascot?

Turner: No, that is a very obvious assumption. However, it is, as far as I know, wrong. I mean, I did not in any way intervene in that process. I was here, of course. I was visible, I was very visible, but that's not an adequate reason for naming the campus mascot after me. I think it has something to do with the actual setting of the campus, which is, in fact, somewhat higher in elevation than the city and is sitting here under the Box Springs Mountains. I think that had something to do with it.

The first ideas, of course, were terrible—that they should be called the Cubs, which seemed to relegate the campus to a permanent junior status. I don't know where that idea came from, but that was soundly voted down, and I think Highlanders was a write-in vote. But it was overwhelmingly successful.

Erickson: By the students?

Turner: Yes. But the idea that I fostered this name is tempting, but as far as I know, wrong in any tempting explanations in history.

Erickson: (chuckle) You take no credit. (pause) Well, could you describe a day in your life in those early years? Where was your office?

Turner: Yes, well my office was in what is now Watkins, what was then the Social Sciences building on the first floor, that is the ground floor. I had, of course, teaching in the fall, I didn't teach in the spring of 1954. I taught from the fall of 1954 on, and of course, I had to do that and whatever else my schedule said. Of course, I would come in every morning and read the mail that had been opened by my secretary with the more important things there, and I would probably dictate letters for an hour or so. I like very much to deal with correspondence or indeed with composition of articles by means of dictating to somebody who knew shorthand. And unfortunately that is a very rare skill now, and I believe, in fact, University rules or somebody's rules prevent you from asking whether they can do shorthand or not. But all the secretaries I had in that period when I was chairman were good shorthand writers. They all wrote Gregg. I write shorthand, too, by the way.

Erickson: You do?

Turner: Yes, but I write Pitman, which is the prevalent system in Britain. Gregg was invented somewhat earlier.

Erickson: I do that one. I do Gregg.

Turner: Gregg. Yes, well. Gregg was invented somewhat earlier than Pitman. I think Mr. Gregg simply said Sir Isaac Pitman made a fortune out of this, why not me. And so Gregg was invented. I prefer Pitman but that's another story we needn't get into. For one thing Gregg is far more sloping curves than Pitman. Pitman has many more angles, and angles don't break down as fast if you are writing in a hurry as a slope. With Gregg it is difficult to tell whether the thing is half length, full length or double length. So, I am glad to know you do, because as I say, it is a rare skill nowadays. So, anyway, I would dictate letters. It depended on the time what

it might be about. It might be about asking for references for somebody we were thinking of appointing, or it might be any kind of business.

Erickson: Was there a lot of communication between the campus and Office of the President?

Turner: Not so much Office of the President but there was more interaction between campuses, much more than in any recent year. That, of course, is one of the great developments in the University in the last few decades, and I don't all together approve of what has happened, because I think the ideal of one great University has been somewhat lost. We are now, in my mind, in a slightly absurd situation where the campuses can operate on different calendars.

Erickson: Semesters or quarters.

Turner: Yes, semesters or quarters. But in those days we worked very closely with UCLA and sometimes with Berkeley. In many cases, you see, we simply had to have people from other campuses on committees because we didn't have enough qualified people here.

If you are considering somebody for a promotion, in let's say Economics, and you have only got two Economists, and one is under consideration, you have got to bring in somebody from elsewhere to form a committee. So, we had that sort of thing. Sometimes we met here and sometimes we met at UCLA, but there was a lot of interaction.

And not only because of that scarcity of manpower, but because the setup was such that we were involved in some common enterprises with common decisions that nobody has now.

I remember once at a meeting of the Graduate Council South, which, of course, we haven't mentioned at all, Franklin Murphy, who was the very distinguished Chancellor at UCLA before Chuck Young. He said that we are all going to

be like dominions in the British Commonwealth, and there was some truth in that. And I said, that's all very well, provided we don't become secession states like the bits of the former Austria/Hungarian Empire. I think that was a valid comment, but of course even supposing you accept the Murphy view as it were, consider how little the actual Commonwealth things mean now. Anyway, we have all gone our separate ways very much. To some extent this is advantageous, because there was an absurd centralization then. Every tenure appointment or maybe for all I know, every appointment had to go through the Office of the President and be approved by The Regents. That, of course, was absurd.

Erickson: That would be quite a process.

Turner: Yes, now things mostly can be decided locally within the framework of the available budget. It's much better.

Erickson: So, you tried to intersperse, or you did intersperse your administrative duties along with the teaching. What were some of those classes you taught?

Turner: The main thing I taught, and that's the main thing that Gordon Watkins expected when he appointed me, was International Relations. I taught a basic course in international relations which... Well, I won't give you the number, because in fact, it has changed some time in the intervening years. And I also taught international law, international organization and diplomacy.

I have always been interested in the techniques of diplomacy, and, indeed, one of my former students recently completed three years as Ambassador to Algeria. So, I had a course on diplomacy. Also, I taught courses on the Middle East. My research interests began to focus more, as time went on, on the Middle East.

Erickson: There were outside groups, were there not, who asked your opinion on the Middle East and other topics?

Turner: Yes, there were various forums.

Erickson: World Affairs Council?

Turner: Yes. I was active in the World Affairs Council and also, there was (pause) There was a very interesting institute called the Institute of World Affairs which I was active in for as long as it existed. It was run out of USC, and the basic money was provided by USC. It was a very good thing. Nothing like it exists like it now at all. It attempted to appeal both to the academic people and to the general educated public who were interested in these things, and they held meetings various places. It had been founded by Rufus B. VonKleinschmidt, President of USC, and he also worked with Mr. (Frank) Miller, the creator of the Mission Inn here.

Turner: A lot of the meetings were held at the Mission Inn. The first one that I took part in was in December, 1954, when I read a paper on the problem on the policy of containment. That was held at the Mission Inn. Then later on they were held at the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena.

Anyway, after I had been reading papers and appearing at these sessions—it met, I should say, once a year for three or four days in December—very soon after I had been participating in it, I was asked to join the governing body. And I did so, and I put on (pause) The directorship, the responsibility for one year's programs rotated among the members of the governing body, who represented quite a number of universities on the west coast.

And I put on the session in 1966, which was held in the Huntington Hotel. They managed to get, every year, quite a number of distinguished speakers, some politicians, some distinguished professors, not only from the United States. Sometimes they brought them over from England. It was a good thing. It faded away when Rufus B. VonKleinschmid died, and it was found that most of the money was then going to be used for general purposes of USC. So after a year or two of inadequate support, it faded away. As far as I know, it

has never actually been abolished. Like the holy Roman Empire, perhaps it still exists.

Erickson: Before I forget, you mentioned the Graduate Council South. Was that the correct term?

Turner: Yes, the Graduate Council in the South.

Turner: Well, to say anything about that implies saying something about the preceding situation. So we have to say something about Watkins' vision for the campus.

Erickson: All right.

Turner: Can we do that?

Erickson: Absolutely, yes.

Turner: Well, Watkins had an ideal for the campus, and I have never been able to find out, and neither has Gabbert, exactly what kind of official sanction or at what level, but Watkins's scenario of the future of the campus is that it would always have a small enrollment, that it would actually be a small liberal arts college with enrollment limited to 1200 or 1500, that there would be no graduate work, and that there would be very heavy emphasis on the importance of teaching, and that there would be a common core program called either the Humanities Program or Western Civilization which would be obligatory for all students.

If I remember correctly at least two years would be obligatory for everybody except people in the sciences would do only one year. But at least they would have a common core of one year.

That was, I think, a very good program. That, however, began to be undermined, as it were, quite early on. And I think it was the intention from very early on of some people, particularly Conway Pierce and Herman Spieth, to change things to a larger enrollment and to have graduate work.

Well of course, Spieth, who had been Chairman of the Division of Life Sciences, became Provost. The title was changed shortly thereafter to Chancellor in 1956.

And in 1959, the decision was taken by The Regents to declare this a general campus. In other words, the unique kind of role that it was envisaged as having earlier was changed to be a general campus. Nobody quite knew what that meant, I think, but it clearly implied the abandonment of strict enrollment and the beginnings of graduate work.

Turner: Ok. In 1958, we began to have a representative on the Graduate Council South. Now, I should explain that at that time, there were only two Graduate Deans in the University, one in Berkeley who was responsible for graduate work on the northern campuses and one at UCLA who was responsible for the campuses in this area. The Dean of the Graduate Division South, at that time, and for some years before that and for some years after, was Gustav Arlt, who became a very good friend of mine and was really a wonderful person.

He was a professor of German Literature, a big man, a handsome man who looked like a Roman Emperor. And he was, of course, Chairman of the Graduate Council South, though in fact, the various graduate councils no longer have the dean as chairman. So, I began to represent Riverside on that Graduate Council South in 1958, and at the same time here on campus, various departments which were relatively well endowed with faculty began to plan graduate work, MAs, and in some cases, Ph.Ds.

And that went merrily ahead, and I was responsible for piloting through the machinery of the Graduate Council South these provisional programs and securing approval for them which I did in eighteen cases before I ceased to be involved in this in 1961.

In 1961, the decision was taken by the President and The Regents to create Graduate Divisions on each campus that had graduate work. And that took effect here. I had been Associate Dean of the Graduate Division here under Gustav Arlt from some time earlier in (pause) I don't remember the year, '59 or '60, I think. In 1961, they established a separate Graduate Division here, and Ralph March became Dean of the Graduate Division, an Entomologist. That was the end of my particular association with graduate work.

Erickson: But you started it.

Turner: But I was the founder to that particular aspect of the campus. Very much so. And, I may say since all the people concerned are now dead except me, that Gustav Arlt was not particularly pleased that I was not made Dean of the Graduate Division. But that's, of course, a battle long ago.

Erickson: You mentioned having worked with the different Chancellors. Actually, it is all of them, isn't it, that you have known?

Turner: Yes, because I have been here with all of them.

Erickson: Yes. From the beginning.

Turner: So, there are eight of these people in all functioning under various titles, Provost and then Chancellor. And in at least one case, Acting Chancellor. Yes, eight of them.

Erickson: Was that Mr. Aldrich?

Turner: And their tenure, of course, has been of very unequal lengths.

Erickson: Have you interacted with each of them in one way or another?

Turner: Oh, yes. I have also interacted quite considerably with at least two Presidents of the University, with Sproul, whom I got to know quite well, and with Clark Kerr. But the association with both of these men was very pleasant indeed.

Sproul, of course, is a Scotch name, and in fact, Sproul's parents came, not actually from Glasgow where I came from, but they came from the Glasgow area. They came from a relatively small town near Glasgow called Cambus Lange. And in future-President Sproul's early years when he was three or four or something like that, they went back to Cambus Lane for a period of years, and he was there until he was nine or ten. And then they came back to this country, so he had strong links with Scotland.

Erickson: Did he have that accent also?

Turner: No, not at all. Sproul was a wonderful man, and I liked him very much.

Erickson: And what was the interaction you had with President Kerr?

Turner: Oh, well, Kerr was the Chancellor at Berkeley before he became President, after Sproul. Well, Kerr knew me quite well. I think these are the only two presidents of the university who were clear in their minds who I was. I am not sure that has been true of any of the later ones. So, their loss, no doubt.

I remember particularly one night when I was going up on the train to Berkeley (as one still did some times for a meeting the next day), and in the lounge car I discovered President Sproul and Hutchinson, who was Dean of Agriculture. So, we all had a few drinks and eventually Hutchinson went off to bed, and Sproul and I kept chatting for three or four hours until we were up at Santa Barbara or somewhere beyond that. Very nice.

Erickson: That is nice.

Turner: Sproul's later years were, I am afraid, were unhappy. He lived to be quite a considerable age, but he suffered some kind of mental degeneration, no doubt Alzheimer's, so his later years were very sad.

Erickson: Oh, how sad. Well, I know that you served on a number of committees and one of them, am I correct, was the Press for the University of California? Tell us about that.

Turner: Yes, that's a topic dear to my heart. I am trying to think when this began. Yes. The University of California Press is a very important scholarly publishing house. It publishes about as many books as the major presses on the east coast. I think it is neck and neck with Harvard. And worldwide only the greater English university presses publish more books.

Turner: We began to have a representative on the press committee on the University of California Press Committee, which is a Senate committee, and we began to have our representative on it in, I think, 1959. I was the first representative on that committee from this campus, and I served on it, as far as I remember, for half a dozen years. I was Chairman of it from 1962 to 1965. Notice how much I was doing at that point. I was Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences when the divisions began to break up, I was Chairman of Political Science, I was shepherding the ... I was getting the Graduate Program off the ground, and I was also on the Press Committee.

Now the interesting thing about the Press Committee, which, I think, is unique in the country, is that it is the members of the committee who decide whether a manuscript will be published or not. They don't, of course, read every manuscript, there is a weeding-out process done by the staff. But the stuff that gets through, past that hurdle, over that hurdle, is dealt with by the committee.

The procedure is that some member of the staff would usually look for somebody whose interests were somewhere in the area of the manuscript to be considered and would then ask him if he would like to look at it and report on it at the next meeting. Normally, one would accumulate two or three manuscripts in a month.

Erickson: Oh, my.

Turner: The committee met, I think, about nine times a year throughout each month of the academic year, and then at the meeting one would report on the book and make a recommendation which would for the most part be accepted, but not always. Sometimes it led to considerable debates and sometimes the rejection of the committee member's recommendation.

Turner: Well, this was fascinating. For one thing, of course, it was a universitywide committee. All the campuses had representation. The major campuses, Berkeley and UCLA, had, I think, three members and the others had fewer. We had one. Later on, in 1985 or something, we began to get two members, but I liked that very much. I worked with two great directors of the press: August Fruge' and with Jim Clark, who succeeded August when he retired. I worked in all for nine years on the Press Committee in separate phases. The most recent time I was on it was 1990 when I was already retired.

Erickson: That's quite a commitment.

Turner: Yes. I don't believe that anybody else ever served as long as nine years. August Fruge' was a remarkable man. I believe he is still alive, lives out in the desert at Twentynine Palms. He is quite a scholar himself being fluent in French and Italian and well acquainted with all sorts of publications in those languages. Very considerable expert on Proust.

So that was the most interesting assignment, though it has nothing to do specifically with the Riverside campus. But in a way that was the point. It made one quite well acquainted with people from other campuses.

Erickson: Well, I have a fun question for you. This is your signature piece, I think, to the UCR campus. You came to campus in a

Plymouth and you still have the car! Will you tell us about that?

Turner: Oh, the Plymouth, yes. A 1951 Plymouth actually, and originally a singularly sickly color of pale green, which we had repainted in a nice creamy white that we have used subsequently. Otherwise, not much changed.

Erickson: How many miles are on the car?

Turner: About a quarter of a million, I think. (chuckle) It certainly has been a very durable car, and I am encouraged to keep it so. I have a very good mechanic over on Spruce Street, Deter Langer, whose simple theory is that cars properly maintained should run forever. I find that very encouraging.

Erickson: That's proof.

Turner: I doubt it would be true of many cars. So, there's the Plymouth, and it's very capacious inside. One could wear a top hat inside and still not touch the roof, and I use it continually. Of course, for the most part, it is used on short trips to and from the campus. I have, on occasion, driven it to the Bay Area when I was teaching Summer Session at Berkeley, which I have done four or five times over the years. But thank you for mentioning my Plymouth.

Erickson: We all remember you in your car.

Turner: Yes. Every police officer in Riverside knows it, too. So I have to be careful.

Erickson: (laughter) You have been retired for a number of years now.

Turner: Almost ten.

Erickson: Do you still come to campus?

Turner: Yes. I still have an office.

Erickson: Where is it?

Turner: In Library South. I come pretty regularly. Oh, certainly three or four times a week, sometimes for periods of several hours, sometimes for a shorter time. And, of course, I still write. I still work.

Erickson: Please tell us what you are doing.

Turner: Yes. Well, of late years, I have been writing a series of articles for the annual supplementary volume, which the *Encyclopedia Americana* publishes early in the year. The 1998 one has already appeared a month or so ago. They are not the only encyclopedia that does it, of course. The Britannica does a similar thing. These cover the events of the preceding year, so that the 1998 volume covers the events of calendar 1997.

Turner: And I have written about half a dozen articles on the Middle East every year for quite a number of years, and I did that again in November or December last year.

Erickson: Have you become computerized? I mean computer literate?

Turner: No. I mostly compose on a typewriter. I can sometimes compose longhand. I sometimes compose in my head and then get it down when the next opportunity presents. Composing while you are driving is, I think, a very useful trick provided, of course, that you don't begin to think more about the composing than the driving. Yes, of course, they have to be written in the late months of the year, but actually, you have to be collecting material throughout the year and that I do. I have towards the end of each year, I have an enormous bunch of clippings segregated into various topics, also quite a few journals collected with relevant articles. So I have done work for other encyclopedias.

Erickson: I know that you do research work for the Chancellor's Executive Roundtable.

- Turner: Well, yes, when that comes up, certainly. I have been of some help to the Chancellor on these occasions, I believe, including the most recent one on the global economy.
- Erickson: What was that process like?
- Turner: Oh, there is no set routine really. We usually have a meeting in Ray's office—the Chancellor's office—saying he would like some ideas on such and such an aspect of what's coming up. And I will submit some material which he may or may not use or more often adapts very skillfully. The Chancellor is very good at interweaving material from all sorts of sources and making it all appear as if he is speaking extemporaneous. He is very good at that as he is in all aspects of his job.
- Erickson: The area that I wanted to talk about earlier when we got sidetracked were your students. Do you stay in contact with some of them?
- Turner: Some of them, yes. Some of my students, if I may say so, have done extremely well, which is obviously due mostly to their own abilities. But perhaps in some small part to me. At least, it's nice to think so.

Well, I have already mentioned Ron Neumann, who has had a very distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service. He is a professional. He graduated somewhere around...well, I think, actually in 1966 in Political Science. And he had taken several courses from me, and then he went on, under my direction, to an MA on some aspect of European immigration. He did that, so he got an MA in 1967, and then somewhere around there he sat for a Foreign Service exam and was high enough up on the list to be eligible for appointment.

That could, in fact, have provided an alternative to military service, but he did not avail himself of that, and he went into the Army and spent a year in Vietnam as a junior infantry officer. He came through that, thank God, unwounded,

unhurt without any psychological problems or identity crisis because Ron is not a man who has identity crisis or psychological problems.

And, so then he entered the Foreign Service and was quite lucky in a way, but also was able enough to take advantage. For example, when he was a junior embassy staff member in Dakar, which is the capital of Senegal, the U.S. Ambassador in The Gambia, which is next door and is a rather peculiar country about two hundred miles long and about as wide as the San Bernardino Freeway. It is essentially the valley of the Gambia River.

Turner:

Anyway the U.S. Ambassador in Gambia died, and since it would be quite a while before a new ambassador could be appointed, approved and all that, Ron and his wife were sent to the capital of The Gambia which is Pathost, and he was, in effect, Ambassador there for three months or so—an extraordinary thing to happen so early in a man's career. And, oh, later on he served in various places, particularly the Middle East. He was Vice Consul for some years. In the period from, I think 1991 to 1994, he was Director of the Office of Northern Gulf Affairs which is Iraq and Iran, and you can see how important that is.

After that spell in Washington, he was in the field again. He was Ambassador to Algeria from 1994 to 1997, an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous assignment where he was not allowed to have any member of his family with him.

However, he is back again and is now Deputy Assistant Secretary, Middle East, so he is on the third layer of power: the Secretary, Madam Albright, the Assistant Secretary and the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

And I was very happy to see him at that recent event honoring our distinguished alumni in February. So, he is one, and there are quite a number.

Erickson:

Oh, I am sure there are.

Turner: There is Charlie Field, Judge Field. And there is, also in the legal profession, ... there is William DeWolfe, who is Senior Partner of Best, Best & Krieger. He graduated in 1957 and more recently Rod Pacheco...

Erickson: Oh, our Assemblyman.

Turner: who remembers my course on the Middle East very well, which is always nice. And who else is there? (pause) I also had quite a few over the years, ... people in the military who chose to do courses here or perhaps complete a degree after they had retired from the military. I remember quite a few of these particularly: Colonel Wiley Hoffman, who lives in Riverside.

Turner: So, there have been what I can regard as quite a few successes. I am very happy about that and very proud of it.

Erickson: I am sure you are.

Turner: And, of course, I forgot to mention a more obvious one, but I can't really claim a great deal of credit for that one—Chuck Young, who was Chancellor at UCLA for a very long period of years. But, of course, Chuck was really only here, I think, for one year. He was, I think, in our very earliest class. He didn't enter here, he just completed here in 1954 or 55, I think.

Erickson: A group of distinguished individuals. Do you have some additional comments that I might not have brought out that you would like to?

Turner: I feel very privileged to have been here to play this role, I feel very privileged to have been present at the creation and also now. It's a very extraordinary and satisfactory situation to take part in founding a campus.

Erickson: Yes, incredible, isn't it.

Turner: Yes, particularly at the University of California, because I was deeply attached to the University of California having been at Berkeley, having my Ph.D. from there. When Gordon Watkins invited me to come here, it wasn't so much the actual scenario that he unfolded for the campus that attracted me, because some bits of that I must say I was skeptical about from the beginning.

Erickson: Oh.

Turner: I didn't really see how you could keep the enrollment down in California as I knew it. It seemed somewhat implausible, unlikely. California was so much an area of growth in every respect, it seemed to me implausible. And besides, I had no particular penchant for small campuses.

Erickson: That wasn't one of the attractions in coming here?

Turner: No, Glasgow, Toronto—they were not particularly small places. They all had graduate work, so both the very small enrollment and the no graduate work seemed to me questionable.

On the other hand, I never did take any active part in trying to overturn the Watkins scenario as I believe Conway Pierce and Spieth and Al Boyce did. I simply waited for what I felt was an inevitable development.

On the other hand, I did believe very greatly in the importance of teaching, and I am glad to say that even today the campus shows an awareness of the importance of that.

And I also liked very much the common core Humanities program, which, in fact, was abandoned, and what I think was a great error.

But we are doing very interesting things now. I think there is a time when you can do creative things and things that assume the possibility of expansion—new activities, new

enterprises. The 1950s was one of them, and I think we are now in another such period. And it's greatly to Chancellor Orbach's credit that he sees that possibility and is taking advantage of it to do great new things, additional things and doing that with enormous energy and skill.

Erickson: Thank you very much for participating in this and sharing your thoughts and views of the campus.

Turner: I have enjoyed it very much. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW