

Ron and Jane Cease Interview

Thursday, 6/18/15

INTERVIEWER: Today is June 18, 2015, and it is my pleasure to be speaking this morning with both Ron and Jane Cease. The couple moved to Oregon in 1966, when Ron was invited to teach government at Portland State. Ron subsequently founded Portland's – PSU's Public Administration Program in 1976. Jane was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1978, and was re-elected in 1980-'82. Ron won a seat in the Oregon House in 1984, the same year Jane was elected to the Oregon Senate. All told, the couple has a combined 24 years' experience representing Oregonians. My name is Jim Sitzman, and I am a former employee with Metro, involved with the setting of the Portland Metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary, and a long-time field representative for DLCD in the '80s and '90s. Ron and Jane, we are honored that you would be willing to sit down with us today. We are hoping to gather as much information as we can from the people who were influential in forming and shaping Oregon's land use system. We are aiming to document the stories, anecdotes and experiences of people who were involved back then, as well as to get your thoughts on how the system has evolved and where you think it might be headed. We encourage you to share anything you feel is relevant to this effort, using names and dates and -- and citing events. So let us begin. Ron and Jane, you come to this interview with a bit of a different background than former directors or staff members or members of the Commission, so I'd like you to start off the -- your contribution, your comments, by giving us some indication of how you first became involved around Senate Bill 100 and the ensuing program, and just give us a little freefall about the -- a bit of the history, as you see your involvement.

RON CEASE: Okay.

JANE CEASE: Probably I should go first, because I think I got involved earlier than Ron. But after we moved here in 1966 from Alaska, and actually Ron's family came in '42 and worked in the shipyards.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

JANE CEASE: But I joined the League of Women Voters. I transferred my membership from Juneau, and one of the things that the League was doing was working with other League of Women voters in the whole area. So we had Clark County, we had Washington County, Clackamas County, East Multnomah County. And one of the things the League was following was all of the land use things that were going on, and there was this organization in Clackamas County that was putting bad land use things on the ballot, and they called themselves ZAMO, for Zoning and Maintenance Organization, whatever that means. And we were always opposing those, so that was my first contact with land use things. And then the League, this -- this committee that was the Interleague Metro Committee, was looking at all sorts of kinds of things, the Boundary Commissions, all of those things that relate to land use. And I can remember being in the Capitol, in 1973, when they were having hearings on the 1973 Senate Bill 100, being in an interesting meeting, for example, that Ted Hallock was chairing in the Senate, where McCall was testifying and the room was so crowded we had to sit on the floor. So I was -- I was sitting in the floor. The Governor comes in, you have to stand up when the Governor comes in. So we stood up and then we sat back down. And so he did his testimony to the Hallock Senate Committee, and -- and then said, "Well, so Senator Hallock, why don't you just pass the bill out of the floor?" And Hallock says, "Oh, you think so? You want to see why?" The court will call the role. Hallock moves the bill to the floor. It didn't get enough votes. One of the no votes at that point was Vic Atiyeh, later governor. And so then McCall leaves and we all have to stand up again, which was hard, because I

had on platform soles and I was sitting on the floor. But anyhow we were working on -- on getting that bill passed because we thought it was really a significant, important bill. So that was my earliest relationship with it. But then when I was running for the legislature in '74 and '76, before I was elected, there were always questions, especially from the League, about land use. And I, running in this very urban district in Northeast Portland, was very supportive of it and talked about saving farmland and forestland, which really resonated with all of the urban environmental people who lived there. So then other things I did, in 1979, my first session of the legislature, one of the staff people -- well, before that, we did the CRAG Action and Direction Committee, which gave them review over land use plans. We got that bill passed in the legislature. Then in 1979, I had a bill which gave Metro the urban growth boundary control. We changed it from my bill to a committee bill, so it was stronger. So, all sorts of stuff going along. I finally wound up my career before I retired, working at ODOT as the growth management manager for ODOT working with DLCD, and the governor's office, to try to -- to try to get the transportation folks to do their planning in accordance with land use plans, which Kitzhaber wanted them to do. So that's -- I'm sorry that's so long but that's my summary there. (Chuckling)

INTERVIEWER: I just want pick up on one of the -- one of the things you mentioned then, and throw it to Ron for a second. You mentioned that one of the bills that you had a hand in having passed was this -- to switch the responsibility for the urban growth boundary in the metropol -- metro area from CRAG to Metro. And Ron --

JANE CEASE: Well, but Metro, at that time, CRAG didn't exist anymore.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible)

JANE CEASE: Because on the 78th ballot, Ron was very active in -- in promoting getting this -- this change, and so there was a brand-new Metro. And my bill was giving it the regional control over Urban Growth Boundary, and not just to every city and county in the area --

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JANE CEASE: -- which would have been chaos.

INTERVIEWER: And the -- and it's -- the -- the switch I wanted to make here for a second is to Ron around the -- the change from CRAG to metro, and your involvement in that and -- and why that was important.

RON CEASE: Well, let me give you the sense. I think it would be fair to say I really got involved in the early '70s when the Metropolitan Boundary Commission was created. It's no longer in existence. But I served on it for nine years and I was the first chair. And when, you know, -- just to give you a little background, K. Rich -- A. McKay Rich, who, of course, is still around, in the mid-'70s, he was -- well, before that he had been director of The Metropolitan Study Commission, and he got -- brought me involved because of boundary commissions, I had worked in Alaska, head of the agency that dealt with the creation of boroughs. So he asked me to do a little report, and then that led to the Boundary Commission. But in the mid-'70s, Rich was a -- an assistant to Don Faulk (phonetic), who was then chair of the Multnomah County Commission. And a -- a paper came across his desk that indicated that a national group was seeking proposals for what they called a two-tier study, metropolitan two-tier, meaning they were concerned not only with the local governments, which would be in most cases cities and counties, but with the metropolitan piece, the area-wide stuff. And the national group, it was actually HUD money, but I think it was called the National Academy for Public Administration, was involved. They were looking for two grants. They had done two earlier, in Buffalo, New York and Tampa, Florida, and

now it was clear that they were going to do Denver. They thought maybe the next likely one was Seattle, but we decided to apply. It was McKay Rich, me and Don Carlson, who at that time was the director of the Boundary Commission. And Jerry Tippens got involved, Jerry has died, but he at that time was on the editorial board, I believe still, of the Journal. And the grant was 100,000. You had to raise local \$50,000. But we had a lot going for us, and we decided that the vehicle that we would use to make the proposal for the grant was the Boundary Commission because it was a regional state body at that time, that later became much more local, because Vic Atiyeh didn't like the fact that we were using tax money for it. But, uh, the -- and at the same time, one of the things that was going through this area, we were quite a bit ahead of a lot of other areas in terms of the development of neighborhood groups, neighborhood associations, and one of the members of the review committee, of the national group, had written on neighborhood associations and he was quite taken with this area. In any case, we ended up with this \$100,000 grant. We didn't have a body that was going to do anything because there were just four of us that put this thing together. Carlson actually had written a report with the Boundary Commission as the parent and lo and behold we got the money. Then we had to develop a body. We sent out some requests to Women League of Voters, to Chamber of Commerces and so forth, and asking them to indicate a couple things. Give us some names you think would be useful to be on this body and tell us what you think would be an appropriate size. Well, it ended up I think the highest anyone su -- anyone suggested was about 35 people. We ended up with a commission of 65 people.

INTERVIEWER: (Chuckling)

JANE CEASE: Well, you had to put everybody on it that might oppose it.

RON CEASE: No.

JANE CEASE: You had (unintelligible)

RON CEASE: No.

JANE CEASE: No? (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: As we looked at people, we had quite a bit that were -- well, we had total authority of who we were going to put on it, they were appointed officially by the Boundary Commission, but we wanted to make sure -- we didn't really know what we were going to do specifically, but we wanted to be sure that we didn't put anybody on it that was opposed to doing something, whatever that may be. They might -- they might oppose it, but we wanted people that were interested in looking at the issue and doing something. And what we ended up with was a very representative body. We had several big business people. We had several legislators, both democrats, republicans from both chambers. We had a couple of media people, including Jerry Tippens (phonetic). And then we decided we needed a chair that was one of the business people, and we went to Carl Halverson (phonetic), who was a well-known developer here in the Portland area, had high regard in the business community, and we asked him if he would chair it. And I don't know where he was coming from, because I was totally surprised, he said, "No, but Ron, if you will chair it I will be the vice-chair." And that's what we did. I was dying to do it.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

INTERVIEWER: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: But, I -- I -- I recognized the merit of having one of those very successful and influential business people. And so we had -- and then McKay Rich became the director. Now I think it's fair to say that of the four studies that were funded this way, we were the only one that was successful, that something came out of it that ended up in an actual operation. And there was no question, as the bill we put together went through the legislature, there were a lot of people that said, "This is a turkey bill. What the hell is this?" But on the other hand the nature

of the body was so strong and -- and nobody attacked the body, that is the commission, but I was going to say about Rich -- Rich, was like me, he had Ph.D., but he was perfectly happy and -- and good at the in-house director staff business. Because we had money, we ended up with about \$145,000 total, we had -- we could pay staff, and that made a huge difference, but Carl and I were the outside, as we were the outside face, and we had very successful relationships with -- with the staff and that was a huge, huge difference because McKay had to play a very substantial role in moving those 65 people forward. And initially we put them in committees, five or six neighborhood associations, whatever, I don't remember all of them, but --

JANE CEASE: Labor people.

RON CEASE: Right. Halverson was a big piece because he was the one that really was effective at bringing in these other business people. And it would be fair to say that after we got through, what we really -- there were two things we wanted to do. We wanted to finally to combine the service district with CRAG, which at that point had the regional land use thing as a result of Senate Bill 100. We wanted to combine those two, and we wanted an elected executive and an elected board. The city opposed it and Neil was then governor -- not governor, but mayor, and there was an attempt as we were moving forward, I remember, uh, McKay Rich and I dealt with then director of CRAG, he's still around, he's a planner, I think maybe he's over in the Bend area, I don't remember his name, who sat down with us. Really I think he was coming at the behest of the mayor.

INTERVIEWER: Larry (unintelligible)

RON CEASE: What?

JANE CEASE: Yes.

RON CEASE: Yes.

JANE CEASE: Larry.

RON CEASE: And he wanted us to see if we wouldn't agree to continue the ex-officio (phonetic) representative arrangement that both the service district and that CRAG had for local government officials, whether they were county or city, would be appointed to serve as a second -- second role on these bodies. We said, "No, we want people directly elected." And we got that, but as it went through the process, I think it passed the House all right.

JANE CEASE: And Glen Otto --

RON CEASE: Glen Otto was --

JANE CEASE: -- was really instrumental in that.

RON CEASE: Yes. He was the chair --

JANE CEASE: Chair committee that it came through --

RON CEASE: -- the chair of the intergovernmental committee.

JANE CEASE: -- that I served on.

RON CEASE: Yeah. Intergovernmental agency -- committee in the House. Very influential. And then it went to the Senate, and Neil was instrumental in getting the Senate to add a, uh -- a vote to the system to the proposal. We were simply asking that the legislature pass a bill creating this body. And I thought at the time, to be honest about it, I thought, well, hell, maybe that's the end of the proposal. But it turned out not to be the end. It turned out to be the beginning because we had no organized opposition for the proposal. One of the things that helped us is that the title of the -- of the measure that went to the ballot had in it the elimination of CRAG, and that was effected because people -- it was an odd thing but the proposal was for the urbanized portion and the urbanizing portion of the three counties, but the people who were in the more urban part of the three counties also were able to vote on the proposal. And I think as I recall they -- they were

very -- more heavy on the no side. But the proposal was passed handily in this county and in a fairly good margin in Washington County. It failed narrowly in Clackamas but because only a single vote was required, we ended up with this new organization. We simply had combined two existing ones with elected pieces to it and we were on our way. And, of course, one of the major functions of that body, before we even consolidated the two, was the planning, the planning role. And so that's a little background of what we've got but let me just tell you a little story. While we were in the process of putting all that together, actually that process went on for about a year and a half, Halverson and I and Rich went over to Denver for a meeting that a national group wanted us to meet with the Denver people and to talk about where we were at that proce -- at that time in the process and so forth. While we were there, the Colora -- we were out at the airport at a hotel, the Colorado Municipal League was having a -- a yearly convention and it turned out the featured speaker was Tom McCall. So, we decided to go to the lunch, and we were in a very long room with about 200 people in it, we were kind of back aways, and here is Tom McCall, this big fellow, booming voice. He is no longer governor. He is, however, traveling the country obviously making some money, talking about the environment, what's happened in Oregon, and it was -- it would be fair to say that Tom was claiming everything that the state had done on terms of the environment --

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: -- including, as I recall, I think taking credit for the bottle bill, which he did support, but he wasn't originally there.

JANE CEASE: He opposed it.

RON CEASE: But he also took on, I think, some of the business groups on -- on Senate Bill 100, and I got up during the question and answer -- question and answer period, I said, "Governor, it seems to me, I recall, although I'm not -- I'm not here to make the case for the

Portland Chamber of Commerce, but it seems to me they endorsed that bill." And then he said -- he backtracked a bit, and he says, he said, "Oh, yes," and then he does some things. And then he -- he makes it sound better -- better and more supportive and then he says he -- because he knew who we were -- he says, "Boys, is that all right? Is that..." -- and I said, "Governor, that's fine."

INTERVIEWER: (Chuckling)

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: And we moved on. But it was -- I've always remembered it because it was a -- a fascinating kind of claim for in part for Senate Bill 100, but also who had been for it and who had been against it, and, uh -- but what we did in the creation of metro, particularly with the vote, that solidified -- that not only gave us a new operation, it gave it more credibility because we had the vote. And I was wrong, clearly, to have been disturbed, but if we had ended up with a formal opposition to it on the ballot, it would be fair to say, as I recall -- I don't remember all the issues on the ballot, but there were a lot of them and I think that partly hid the concern that some people may have had for this proposal.

JANE CEASE: Well, it was an interesting night at our house, because I was on the ballot also, and we were worried about that. I was pretty sure I was going to finally win, so we got to celebrate both off of them. (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: Right. Yeah. Right.

JANE CEASE: It was really happy.

RON CEASE: So, it's -- but it was an interesting development. I remember when we were about six months into it, and we were going to have reports from our committees, and kind of look at where we were, we -- one weekend we had a meeting down at Depoe Bay, and I remember I was in front, I was the chair, and there was a big stool that I sat on in the front so that

everybody could hear me, and -- and we had -- we had spouses there too, we had some good time, but we were really doing business, and I remember the criticism that I kind of got in terms of the -- what we were doing and what -- the way I'd han -- I handled it. Some were saying they knew exactly what I wanted. Others were saying I didn't have a clue. And I thought, well, maybe we're all right moving forward.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: One of the issues we did have, just for the record, there were -- there was a group of the members who really weren't interested just clearly in metro. They wanted us to include the counties in this that is consolidated counties.

INTERVIEWER: Counties.

JANE CEASE: Oh, yeah.

RON CEASE: And there was some interest in bringing in the Port. We knew if we brought in the Port we'd kill it, and Halverson made that clear too, he said, this really is not a good idea with the Port. So, we ended up just with the two, combining the two. But those that particularly wanted to bring in the county said, "We're not going to support this without the counties," and when we finally convinced them that we would come back to that issue after we did get away with it -- got away with it.

INTERVIEWER: So, the -- the top line on this is that the result of all of what you've been describing is that Portland now had -- at that point, had a regional directly-elected government.

JANE CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. There was a tier of government between city -- I mean, along with cities, counties, a metro, --

RON CEASE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: -- regional, and the state?

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JANE CEASE: Directly elected.

RON CEASE: And it would be fair to say --

INTERVIEWER: Directly elected.

RON CEASE: -- that the influence of not only that but on Boundary Commission, Glen Otto from the Gresham area was very significant because --

JANE CEASE: Troutdale.

RON CEASE: He lived in Troutdale, but I think his support of metro and the Boundary Commission, Tri-Met (phonetic) in great measure was because it was another way of getting at real issues without the domination of the City of Portland.

JANE CEASE: Um hmm.

RON CEASE: That was a big concern for him. He didn't really put it that way particularly, but that's what they were fearful of.

JANE CEASE: You would not have caught him saying that --

RON CEASE: No.

JANE CEASE: -- but I'm pretty sure that was part of it.

RON CEASE: But it's -- the influence of the business people on that commission was very influential. We had them working and my -- that was even before I was in the legislature, uh, I understood that what you needed to do with this group, or anything like it, you got to keep them at the table as you move along so that they end up with an investment. That was true later when I became a legislature, and a chairman of committee as well, don't let them get away.

JANE CEASE: They have to own it.

RON CEASE: They have to own it. And even though we -- we narrowed it, so we only had two bodies, but there wasn't any objection or problem in the commission in reference to the elected piece.

JANE CEASE: Yes. Because what it was doing was taking away from the original Metropolitan Service District arrangement, where it was the local officials elected in their own cities and counties who were running that.

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: So, that was maybe touchy at some point.

RON CEASE: But we were, as I said, the only successful one of the four areas that the national group funded.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it's, as a matter of fact, the -- it's the only reg -- directly elected regional government in this country, is it not?

RON CEASE: I think that's true but I don't know enough about it actually --

INTERVIEWER: Even today.

RON CEASE: -- but it's been successful, uh, and it's -- in many ways it's fairly invisible, except on specific functions. And one could argue that, but on the other hand, that's what kept -- what has kept it relatively non-controversial to a large extent, uh, but people, as they respond to it, they respond to it in terms of specific things. For example, support of the zoo is very substantial, and I would think the jewel of the organization is the green spaces program --

INTERVIEWER: -- which was added later and the public has, I think, a couple votes, maybe there were three votes, the first one was defeated, where the public has ended up giving them about at least half a billion dollars for that green -- and one of the things I found out, when I

did a little paper on it a few years ago, they tend to, in an operational basis, they don't like to condemn property. They would have authority to do that. But they negotiated out with the owners. It probably costs more, but in the long haul it costs less because they don't have a lot of political fuss about it.

JANE CEASE: Well, one --

RON CEASE: What they're doing is avoiding the political fuss if you condemn property.

JANE CEASE: One of the very much less visible connections that people have to Metro is their garbage collection. And one of the things I worked on was helping the region, advising the region and chairing the committee, that came up with the regional solid waste management plan, which Metro -- which CRAG was working on and which Metro now regulates. And that's rather significant but I don't think anybody ever thinks about it.

RON CEASE: Let me just tell you one other comment, giving you personal stories, about the influence of Halverson. By that time I was in the -- I was in the House and Jane was in the Senate, so this would have been the early to mid-'80s, when the issue of the convention center came up, and the -- there was a rumor -- it hadn't been decided yet, there was a rumor that a number of the business people wanted it given to the Port. Lloyd Anderson was then director of the Port, but he said privately, I knew him, he had taught a course for us here in Public Works, he said, I don't think that makes any sense, but he wasn't going to fuss with the people that were on the commission or people in the business community. What was the name of that fellow with the gas company?

JANE CEASE: Bob -- Bob. We met at the Natural -- Northwest Natural Gas office. Bob Ridgeley was there because he was active in that and he was active in the other thing.

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: And it was an interesting meeting. They -- Ron and I were very insistent about how we felt --

RON CEASE: Well, he was -- well, first of all, he said --

JANE CEASE: And he was pretty insistent about how he felt.

RON CEASE: Let's just say he was meeting with a few Metropolitan legislators, two or three meetings he had, and a few other people, to give them this -- the view that this should be part of the Port. He would -- that's obviously where he was. And when he got through talking and I think the other legislator was there --

JANE CEASE: Rod Monroe.

RON CEASE: Well, Cindy Banzer (phonetic) too.

JANE CEASE: Rod Monroe was there, yeah.

RON CEASE: Was it?

JANE CEASE: Yeah.

RON CEASE: And when he got through I said this is what we created Metro for, to do these kinds of things.

JANE CEASE: Yes.

RON CEASE: And he wasn't happy with me.

JANE CEASE: Well, and I said if you are insistent on that, then I will have to introduce a bill that we have the Port directly elected. Well, of course, that sent him through (chuckling) -- sent him through the -- the roof because he knew that wasn't going to fly, so --

RON CEASE: But anyway, yeah.

JANE CEASE: So we didn't do that.

RON CEASE: And anyway, so I immediately, when I left there, I was kind of agitated obviously about it.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: I called Halver --

JANE CEASE: Well, he was so agitated that he followed us all the way to the elevator --

RON CEASE: Yeah.

JANE CEASE: -- arguing with us.

RON CEASE: Right. And he said to Jane, "You need to do something with Ron."

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: And I think she said, "No, you do."

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: And, anyway, when I left there I called Halverson, and we had lunch over in the old Jade Tree, and I explained to him what was going on. I said, "Carl, you know, when we create Metro wasn't this supposed to be the kind of body that would deal with these kinds of things? He said -- he thinks for a moment and he said, "Yes. You're right." The next thing I know it's going to be part of Metro.

INTERVIEWER: He did what -- say that again?

JANE CEASE: And the next thing I know when I leave there, and then find later, it's now going to be part of Metro, not part of the Port.

JANE CEASE: So --

RON CEASE: So Halverson was the key. I don't know what he did, what he said, but my guess would be he called a few of those people and said --

JANE CEASE: He called Ridgeley (phonetic).

RON CEASE: -- back -- back off. And now, they tied it very closely, so there's a limited role that the elected body of Metro plays, but I think they do still have a -- some budgetary or budgetary authority. So, it -- so, anyway, the influence of some of these people was pretty strong. Then, I think, the fact that the commission had legislators who ended up on the interim committee before it went to the session for adoption as a bill, and all those legislators, Frank Roberts is one of them, uh -- who was the other one that -- well, anyway there were five or six of them, and so we had -- it was not a -- even though it was for this area, it wasn't the -- a measure that split urban or rural particularly, uh, but as I said earlier, and I think it's important to mention, a number of people thought they had an interest in it, they weren't from this area, what is this all about and the -- the turkey -- this is a turkey bill. And but they did not attack the commission as a body, they didn't attack the proposal, but it was a fascinating process.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Two -- two questions coming up. One -- one going back to your description of the 65 member commission, and the -- the fact that emerging out of that or -- or feeding into that composition of 65 was focus a on neighborhood associations, the activity going on at that level, and regionalism.

RON CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: You know, that's a -- that's a big, a big spectrum.

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: Yeah. It is.

INTERVIEWER: And --

RON CEASE: Well, we -- and just to be fair to say we looked at all that. We had time and we did that, but the only thing we really ended up doing after that year and a half, it wasn't

insignificant, but there were so many more things we discussed in terms of the region, was the consolidation of these two existing regional bodies and the elected process.

JANE CEASE: And they abolished CRAG ballot tied into that.

RON CEASE: And the abolishment of title.

INTERVIEWER: But, yeah, I was -- so I just want to kind of highlight the spectrum and --

RON CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: -- and have your brief comment on how significant, if at all, you think it was that you -- you made a point to bridge neighborhoods and regions?

RON CEASE: Well, I don't know that we really bridged them, but I think it would be fair to say that as we started, and we had committees, we had one committee and a woman that chaired it was from Clackamas County. Uh --

JANE CEASE: A League of Women Voters person.

RON CEASE: A League of Women Voters. Active League of Women voters --

JANE CEASE: What -- what you wanted was local activists, citizen activists, and they were obvious in some of the neighborhood associations.

RON CEASE: But really it also would be fair to say that once we got the big regional part agreed and so forth, I think we ran out of time and steam for the other pieces.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

RON CEASE: And it's unfortunate, but we really understood that attempting to add a consolidation of the three counties in this, would have been too much. But if you look at the larger proposal, then it would also be fair to say it was a right time but we had the right pieces that went together to accomplish it. And I don't think you could do it now. But it's also fair to say that

the '70s, and a good part of the '80s, were a good time for land use. It was a good time for other kinds of reform and changes, but the old study commission, which McKay Rich was a director of, uh, one of the big years they had was the 1969 legislative session, and that's the session that adopted the three boundary commissions, it adopted the legislation for Tri-Met (phonetic), and I think it also adopted legislation for the service district, didn't it?

JANE CEASE: I -- I'm not sure if that got adopted in '69 or '71, but I remember being invited as a League person to sit in with the working group that Roger Martin --

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: -- and those people had put together to work on it.

RON CEASE: One of the real keys was a fellow named -- on that legislative session was a legislator from Lane County, in the Senate, named Don Husband, and he was, uh -- I think he's an attorney and his business was special districts. So, he had an interest in the special district proposal and this was a regional one up here. But the law, I think, was available to other parts of the state.

JANE CEASE: But Don also had a really active person in Eugene, maybe a constituent, who was Orville Edder --

RON CEASE: Yeah.

JANE CEASE: -- who was very instrumental in all sorts of this -- this whole movement toward regionalism and -- and was always -- and the boundary commissions and all of that, he was always in -- testifying and talking to the Glen Otto Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. So, I think Orville probably helped move Husband along too.

RON CEASE: Yeah. Yeah. Anyway that's the good background. And then in the early '90s, I served on the -- the charter committee, and it was chaired by Hardy Meyers, and I had

real problems with one thing that ended up in the charter. The charter says something to the effect that, the dominant role of Metro should be planning. I don't like the word "dominant", I thought, but it would be fair to say that a number of the members felt they had no particular understanding or interest in other functions per se. And I thought, well, I was looking at it I think more broadly than that, not against planning, but I didn't want it to be this would be just the -- the major focus. But --

INTERVIEWER: And I -- I assume that means -- planning in that context meant more than just land use --

RON CEASE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: -- planning because --

RON CEASE: Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: -- transportation --

JANE CEASE: Solid waste, transportation, all of it.

RON CEASE: Yes. Big one.

JANE CEASE: Recreation.

INTERVIEWER: Right. But the zoo and these other kinds of functions?

RON CEASE: Yeah, absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: The convention center.

JANE CEASE: Well, garbage collection, big time.

INTERVIEWER: Garbage, yeah.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: I wondered during that charter operation, which again that was about a year and a half, Artie Meyers was the chair, a good chair, but low key. And the appointment

process, I thought, was -- was going to destroy it because we had, as I recall, 15 members, 15 or 16 members, but there were about eight or ten appointing authorities. The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the then executive of Metro, all the commissioners, that is -- I think at that time there were maybe something like 11, uh, and I think they went basically on the basis of two with two of them together would make an appointment. And so they came in, and the county commission, I think there were three counties, each had an appointment. So they came into the charter committee with quite different perspectives and support it would be fair to say, and I thought two or three times during that process we weren't going to make it. And we ended up, we did, we kept at it, but one of the things I tried to prevent, and we were successful in doing that, there were other members of that committee, I think it would be fair to say, really didn't want a strong executive. Some of them wanted a manager, there was even some substantial support for having all the functions of the Metro being done by separate commissions. I thought it would be --

JANE CEASE: Oh, yeah.

RON CEASE: -- a disaster. And if --

JANE CEASE: That got close to being a bill.

RON CEASE: Yeah. It was the --

INTERVIEWER: So, in the -- in all that background leading up to this regional government --

RON CEASE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: -- give me -- give us your thoughts about how well -- uh, how significant, how important Metro did with the function of the urban growth boundary, getting that to the land use Senate Bill 100.

RON CEASE: Well, I think it depends, really in all fairness, on your perspective, because there seems to be -- I'm looking at the questions that you had sent out, or the group had sent out, and that's the issue of what are the -- what would have been the consequences of the land use program. And if -- if you really don't like increasing density, for example, in the metropolitan or even in the Portland area, you could say that failure to increase the urban growth boundary in various spots, proposals to increase it, was a mistake. I'm not saying that myself, but I think that that's one perspective, uh, and -- but it would be fair also to say, as a legislator, I chaired two sessions, the Environment and Energy Committee, in the House, and then when I was in the Senate, I chaired the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and we had land use and forestry as major responsibilities. And I would think my role, my contribution on the land use side, to a large extent, was trying to protect the agricultural and forestry interests. Interests isn't the right word, but those -- those processes and commodities. And to a large extent, I think the bills that came to us on land use were to a large extent relating to the agricultural issue predominantly. I don't recall that we had a lot of stuff that related to the urban side of things.

JANE CEASE: Ron. Go back to the question about the urban growth boundary and regionalism.

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: In 1973, McKay Rich and Homer Chandler put together a thing called the Action and Direction Committee, which really addressed whether CRAG would be given the authority to do -- to regionally look at land use planning. And so there were a whole bunch of us on it, I was on it, I can remember lobbying people like Phil Lange and people like that, uh, and that bill, that bill was a -- a base for what Metro got later. So -- so this -- this case for regionalism and looking at land use and the urban growth boundary regionally came first, I think in that bill,

which was in the 19 -- finally we got it to the 1975 session, we worked in the interim, the legislature at that time every other year, and so that was sort of a base line for regionalism that the legislature was dealing with at that point. So, I think that probably helped with the future moving forward on land use and -- land use being regional.

RON CEASE: One thing with that proposal originally suggests that that we're going to have regional bodies throughout the state that would have a responsibility for land use and that.

JANE CEASE: But this was -- this was the CRAG action and direction committee.

RON CEASE: Oh, that -- just -- okay. All right.

JANE CEASE: We would have been out of our heads if we tried to do those things.

RON CEASE: Well, it worked for the CRAG. Right.

JANE CEASE: McCall -- Tom McCall, at one point, and maybe Arnold Cogan we'll talk about this when he was there, uh, McCall talked about he had a bunch of little appointed committees that looked at community services, governmental services, in various areas and he really wanted to look at maybe -- I think it wound up with administrative district concepts around the state. So, State agencies would deal with delivering services on a regional basis.

RON CEASE: Yeah. That's what I'm referring to.

JANE CEASE: Yeah.

RON CEASE: Yeah.

JANE CEASE: Well, you do that with an executive order, I think, but I don't remember that we ever did a bill with it.

RON CEASE: But, anyway, that -- that raised too much stink but the support up here was --

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

JANE CEASE: Yeah. (Chuckling).

RON CEASE: -- was gone.

INTERVIEWER: Ron when you used the illustration a moment ago of evaluating the boundary, by what your interests are, and you mentioned density questions --

RON CEASE: Yes.

JANE CEASE: Um hmm.

INTERVIEWER: -- that topic always brings to my mind, out of Senate Bill 100, the term "comprehensive plan". The largest most detailed definition of terms within Senate Bill 100 is that term, "comprehensive plan".

RON CEASE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And if -- it's long been fascinating to me to contemplate the planning process as a comprehensive endeavor.

JANE CEASE: Um hmm.

INTERVIEWER: The statewide goals are 19 in total --

RON CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: -- of 14 for the majority of the state. So, there's a lot of interest. There is a broad spectrum of interest involved in that and I'd be interested in your reflection on the process that was set up for us around comprehensiveness in the planning process and how --

RON CEASE: Well, let me just -- I was thinking about that, maybe not so much in a comprehensive side in terms of today, but there is a bill, which you probably know in Salem, that would require local governments to develop, clearly develop, plans for natural disasters for example and then I think --

JANE CEASE: Like earthquakes.

RON CEASE: Yeah. And then 1000 Friends sent out something and they have been very much involved with dealing with the housing issue. So, really, in a sense what they're trying to do is make the planning even more comprehensive by bringing in other pieces that have not been a part of it, at least in a traditional sense. Although I would say, one of the things I've always been kind of proud of in the '95, session, when we were in -- democrats were in the minority in the Senate, this was, I think, the beginning of the Kitzhaber -- first Kitzhaber term, the Geology Department, which I had worked with closely on some earthquake issues, had two little bills they wanted introduced. They were tsunami bills. And one was a simple little matter that just simply added to the statute about when you have a little training for kids about disasters, you add, along the coast at least, those communities, you add tsunamis to it. The other one was a major bill, uh, in effect it wasn't listed as a planning bill, but it really was that. That said along the coast that they should develop plans and arrangements for if there is a tsunami -- well, not if there's a tsunami, but because there might be a tsunami, about, in effect, new buildings that had a solid public use, big public use, that they shouldn't be put in areas where they were low lying and so what they should be up so -- so, anyway, but that was a beginning really of kind of a natural disaster piece, but just for the information about how the legislature works, as I said, we were the minority. The little bit bill that simply changed the statute, adding the tsunami for kids, comes to the floor and all hell breaks loose. The republicans say why do we need this? This is just more regulation. We don't need it. Well, I got up and said, well, what you're complaining about really is the statute that is already there. So, what. We don't care. We don't need it. The districts can do it on their own, which of course they could, and so one of our colleagues, uh, from the Gresham area, a Korean American, he got up and said, "Why is this called tsunami?", and it fails on the floor. It was carried by Cliff Trow, who sat right in front of me on the floor, and I said, Cliff, change your vote really

quick and indicate that there might be possible for reconsideration. Under the system in order to reconsider a bill that's failed you have to be on the prevailing side. In this case it had to be no. And so I gave him a little list. I said these are people to talk to. I think the geology staff people are the ones that did it. Next morning when we came in, I says to Cliff, do we have the votes? Yes we do. So we proceed and Mr. Lim gets up, Senator Lim, and said he now understood that the tsunami was an international word and on that basis he was willing to accept it.

JANE CEASE: In other words not a Japanese word.

RON CEASE: No.

JANE CEASE: Because of the Korean and Japanese.

RON CEASE: And so but when it came to the other bills, the question was just -- it was near the end of the session, just getting it -- we passed in the Senate, getting it heard in the House, we finally got it past the committee and there wasn't any fuss on the floor and one of the coastal house members carried it, and, uh -- uh, but it's a planning thing. Looking at the problems of the future and I'm pleased that we were able to do that. How much they've done on it down there I don't know. But if you go down you do see the signs about if there is a tsunami you go this way and not that way.

JANE CEASE: Going back to some of the origins of this comprehensive planning stuff, I can remember sitting in the room at the Multnomah County courthouse in 1966, when all of the local governments got together to form the cog because after World War II, people were -- well, people -- density was moving out, people were building sewers, whatever they were building and they were getting federal grants for it and finally I think it was the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations said you either have -- or the Bureau of the Budget defined what a

metropolitan area was, and they said you either -- you have to plan together or you're not going to get any federal money. And so that was -- they had to do a comprehensive look.

RON CEASE: The old 895.

JANE CEASE: Yeah. The old 895, Bureau of the Budget, ruling. You got to -- the definition of a standard metropolitan area, all of that, you got to look at it together. And so we -- I sat in the room when they we're doing that and I think that also was a basis for this comprehensive look at things. For CRAG. Metro now. I don't have a sense now that the public is doing a lot of looking at land use planning.

RON CEASE: I agree with that.

JANE CEASE: I think it -- I think it's gotten low on the list but I think they're going to have to because of density issues that they are going to be worrying about and -- and funding for the infrastructure to pay for them. We're already having fights over not doing anything on transportation infrastructure.

INTERVIEWER: That seems to me the part of the comprehensive issue here because you can easily get opposition to density and opposition to paying for infrastructure and the -- we all kind of know that the most expensive infrastructure is --

JANE CEASE: Is sprawl.

INTERVIEWER: -- sprawled that's far from --

JANE CEASE: Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: If you're not looking comprehensively at both of those.

JANE CEASE: Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: Those issues you missed the solution.

RON CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Well, it was -- it was my land use work with the league and the volunteer stuff and, you know, with Metro and the urban growth boundary that also led me to be interested in chairing the transportation committees, not that they necessarily do a lot with land use planning, but the funding issues and how they -- how that gets spent and whether it gets spent on sprawl or efficient land use or whatever, was a connection that really I thought was important, and I think it is probably even more important today with scarce revenue and density demands and traffic moving and, you know, what we're going to do about that and whether we're going to have multi-modes, what -- all of that I think today is becoming something that we will have to deal with much more visibly.

INTERVIEWER: An observation back on -- on Metro for a moment. It's kind of fascinating that the director of the transportation department at Metro evolved into the regional planning transportation and land use.

RON CEASE: Right.

INTERVIEWER: So, that the gov -- the management of the programs there are very well-integrated in that fashion and---

JANE CEASE: Well, and Andy Catano (phonetic) who was there for so many years did a marvelous job with that and then he had that whole -- well, they've got numbers of things now but they had the whole JPAC, talk about having to plan together on transportation stuff, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on transportation, which had elected appointed state local -- they did a fantastic job of expanding the money that they got, because they were planning together so well, that they were able to get more federal funds because of it. So, working together comprehensively really multiplies what you can do.

RON CEASE: I would say that I don't see today a lot of opposition to planning per se. I think it's embedded fairly much in the system, but you can see some, as you look at some of the proposals for the future, a few creaks and moans a bit. For example one of the questions, proposed questions, was should we consider -- continue the citizen participation part? I think you absolutely need to. That will open up, of course, a lot of hornets, and I think if we were to make -- if you take a look at the goals, if you were to take a serious look at that and have pretty substantial citizen involvement some ways, you'd have some real, maybe some real donnybrooks about where people are, if you really bring them together and start thinking about how do we change this for the future? That is if you open it up. There's always a dangerous question of opening up something that is so complex and potentially controversial. On the other hand, I think you can't wait forever to make changes.

JANE CEASE: And looking at my own city of Portland, I see land use fights bits and pieces cropping up all over, whether it's what are you going to do about parking in Northwest or whether you're going to have more of what some people call ugly apartments. Density, you know, on the East side out where I live. And I do not see on either the city council or the county commission or metro, I do not see leadership on looking to the future and facing that particular issue and I think that's going to have to happen.

RON CEASE: Right.

JANE CEASE: Somehow it's going to have to happen or are we going to lose a lot of the good things that we have now.

RON CEASE: Because clearly I think now in terms of housing, but also transportation, you've got some serious density problems within this area. And I don't quite know

what you do about it but the traffic to just, hell, get on the freeway, and one little accident and you've got the thing tied up while --

JANE CEASE: Well, we should be on a bus or Max. (Chuckling)

RON CEASE: Yeah. (Chuckling) But it's a -- the area of the state --

JANE CEASE: Or a bike.

RON CEASE: -- and city in this area is so greatly different than it was 50 years ago when land use started, uh, so it shouldn't be surprising that we've got issues that we really need to deal with that we're not to a large extent.

INTERVIEWER: Characterize the difference as you see it.

RON CEASE: It's more dense. There are more people. The -- and you look at the problems -- well, you get the sense about the fuss a year or so ago over the additional bridge. I think you've got to have an additional bridge, you wait too long, and trying to get people together on it, I think the leadership is in a great measure missing. Somebody willing to stand up and just move forward with it. I don't blame Kitzhaber particularly for the problem. I think a good part of it was the failure on the Washington side to agree --

JANE CEASE: To the bridge.

RON CEASE: -- to the bridge. And but it is interesting that -- well, you look at us, of course, we were legislators, but I was not a legislator under -- when we worked on Metro. I was a faculty member at Portland State, but I was active on some regional things, because I liked doing that, and my job however was not dependent on whether we succeeded or failed. And an awful lot of people in public office, their jobs are dependent on it, and it probably has a big influence on what they do or don't do.

JANE CEASE: I think there are some large issues that we are still living with. Ronald Reagan was very successful at anti-government, anti-funding. In Oregon we are still struggling with funding because of having dumped all of the school stuff into the general fund and so we're fighting over all of that. So, I think we still -- we're still stuck in a trough of no more taxes, we're stuck in a bad economic situation, and I think a lot of that -- a lot of those things are barriers to getting to where we're going to need to go in the next iteration of solving some of these problems.

RON CEASE: But unlike a lot of places we still have the machinery to do some of these things.

JANE CEASE: Sure. But we don't have the leadership or the will or the direction and even -- I mean I hear even my progressive friends, my liberal friends, saying things that I don't think they ought to even be saying -- (Chuckling) -- because they sound a little right wing to me. You know, because they are buying in -- well, they're buying into the anti government stuff. Now, I understand how people feel about legislators not doing the right thing, and all of that, and some of the antics in Congress, of course, but nevertheless, uh, that's how we do things. You know, and if we don't have the faith in that and if we don't have some leaders that give us that we're going to be in trouble to solve some of these problems and to keep the structures that we have, like the land use structures, that can help us solve them.

RON CEASE: Well, but it probably would be fair to say in that regard too that some of this stuff, I hate to say, isn't ripe enough yet.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling).

RON CEASE: And that I think is a --

JANE CEASE: You need a deeper trough.

RON CEASE: Maybe. So, you get --

INTERVIEWER: You hit the bottom and --

JANE CEASE: Have we hit bottom yet.

RON CEASE: I just think it isn't -- it hasn't surfaced enough yet for a lot of people that might get it.

INTERVIEWER: Examples?

RON CEASE: Well, it'll be -- I think maybe the -- the natural disaster issue is surfacing slowly. But you've got one issue in Salem that Jane is involved with and that is whether they spend bonding money for retrofitting the capitol and the schools. They may or may not do that. They'll make a decision here before the sessions ends, I think.

JANE CEASE: Well, and people -- people -- and this is where the behavior really irritates the public, they're thinking -- instead of thinking about their responsibilities, they're thinking about their re-election. So, do they want to take care of whether the capitol falls down on top of all the school children that are visiting? All the workers that are there? Does it wipe out the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, and the legislators, so we don't have anybody to respond to a natural disaster? We're 315 years overdue for an earthquake. They usually happen every 260 years. We're going to have one, you know, I don't know if that's the trough but that would be a real test of what people are willing to support.

RON CEASE: Well, you know, we lived in Juno. I worked in the governor's office in Juno in the Great Alaska Earthquake in 1964. Alaska at that time, that wasn't true of Oregon then, Alaska has always had annual sessions, but in 1964 it was five years after statehood, and I was at a meeting in Haines, in the north of Juno when it happened, but the legislature, it was -- it hadn't yet adjourned yet at the time of the earthquake, and the natural disaster agency was what

they called the Civil Defense Agency, as I recall, and the legislature in its wisdom decided they had too damn much money. There hadn't been a major emergency so they reduced its budget substantially. They were still there. They were lucky when the damn earthquake happened. And they immediately went back and fixed it, that part, the budget part. So, they were lucky. But I think maybe the housing issue is another one where we're not quite -- they've been having trouble getting three votes on a city council for some of them housing issues, but the whole thing is in some respects fragmented, but I don't have enough say -- knowledge about what goes on at Metro to know what they're pushing and what they are able to do on some of these things, but whether there is yet time -- well, I think there's time, but any indication of real pushing on that level in the area on some of these things I don't know. I doubt it. You know, they're not -- they're relatively still relatively invisible to the public, but I think if you want to be a public official today and really do something that's meaningful, whether it's the infrastructure or anything else, you have to stand up and be willing and have an interest in doing it and I don't see a lot of that.

JANE CEASE: And I think people are mistaken in their thinking, oh, you know, I can't do a tax because I won't get reelected. I think the public, at least the ones that I know, are dying for somebody that stands up and does it because it's right and says I did this because I really felt it was my responsibility to do it. I think they'd get elected, re-elected forever, if they showed some guts and some strength in that context.

RON CEASE: That's true in our area. There are a few areas where that wouldn't be true. (Chuckling).

JANE CEASE: No. I'm sorry. John Kitzhaber was elected from Roseburg. One of the -- you should see the legislator from Roseburg today. I mean, he wouldn't even let Norm Smith, his constituent in his office, to talk about the capitol construction site. It is really

conservative. That's where he got elected from and he got elected because he told them what he thought, did what was right for him and they we're patient with it. So, I think you can do it. I think you can still do it.

RON CEASE: All right.

INTERVIEWER: Give me kind of a -- an umbrella of perspective, given all the changes you've been talking about, institutionally, uh, descriptions of the importance of strong leaders years ago to make a lot of the changes, your concern over the lack of leadership today, but what is it -- what is your kind of overview about that? Are we in a better place because of all the stuff that happened years ago? Senate Bill 100? Moving from CRAG to Metro. Regionalism. Are we in a better place today or a worse place or is it kind of...

JANE CEASE: That place is better.

RON CEASE: We're in a better place. That's what I mean when I say that we have the machinery to do it.

JANE CEASE: Yes. Yes.

RON CEASE: If you go to a place like Seattle it was true then. I think it is probably still true. They don't have quite the vehicles to do some things, and clearly I would say, though I might have some reservations or objection to some of the land use stuff, I think it's been a wonderful thing for the state. We do need to make some changes. I was a strong believer when I was a legislator, understanding the land use, that you can't just leave it as a rigid structure and put it in a box on the shelf, it has to be changed, but when we get to the point of change you then have arguments over it. It doesn't mean that the changes have to be big ones, necessarily, at every point, but you have to keep moving it. And to do that -- you know, there is some notion there, for example, when you pass a piece of legislation for a program that you've finished, you've done it,

I've seen a lot of legislators have that view, what happens once they pass it and the governor signs it is what ends up making it what it is.

INTERVIEWER: Do we need a new study commission?

RON CEASE: It -- that might have some value. Whether you could get the support for it I don't know because of --

JANE CEASE: A study commission for...

RON CEASE: Looking at the regional stuff.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Looking at the --

JANE CEASE: Just the regional?

INTERVIEWER: -- machinery that we have that needs some change that you've been describing.

RON CEASE: Right. The old study commission that McKay Rich was director of was funded by the State. I don't know how much staff he had. But what we did on Metro was funded by this big grant with some local support. I think if you're going to be serious about it you have to fund it and allow some staff that are paid and not just a bunch of volunteers doing it. But I think if you had that kind of arrangement and you had some sense that you have public support to do it.

INTERVIEWER: Is there a McKay Rich on the landscape today that might be in a position to lead this?

RON CEASE: I don't know.

JANE CEASE: I have no idea.

RON CEASE: I haven't seen.

JANE CEASE: There are a lot of very active future thinking young people around. Some of whom are graduating from this building, including our granddaughter, but she is doing health stuff, because everybody's -- there's a big focus on health. Okay? I don't know about government infrastructure but I'm sure there's got to be some graduate of the planning school here or, you know, somewhere there must be, but I still think one of the barriers is getting the public to move along, and in Oregon, getting the public to look toward some funding that we need to be able to do that, particularly in terms of schools. If you did something for that you could free up some general fund. You know, there's all sorts of ways to do that but you got to have people that have the guts to stand up and do it.

RON CEASE: And if you're talking about citizens, uh, you could start, if you had a few very active citizens that are ready to just spend the time and energy to push some -- to give support to create something you could do it. It -- it takes a hell of a lot of work. It really does. Staff makes the difference because you have somebody who is working on an all day basis that is trying to push forward, but I'm not saying it couldn't happen, I just don't see the pieces of it developing. I remember a woman who had been on a Beaverton city council that had an interest in Metro. She came and talked to me at the suggestion of Larry Spricker, a couple years ago, and I was trying to be straight with her about it and indicate to her what it would take. Well, she backed off, because she didn't feel that she had the time and effort to do that. She was interested. If she'd had a few other people that were interested in the same way something may have come of it. I do think the citizen involvement, in one way or another, is absolutely essential.

JANE CEASE: But I think -- I see from legislators that I follow when they're running and what they are talking about and what the majority and minority offices talk about and their focus on school funding, school funding, school funding, you know, that's a big thing, so I don't

know when it is going to get to the point that their publics, their constituents, are going to worry about some of this other stuff but I think density is going to be one of the things that drives them to worry about it.

INTERVIEWER: You've said a fair amount about the League of Women Voters and their active role, historically. Is -- are they in a similar place or could they be in a similar place or is there another citizen organization?

JANE CEASE: I don't know. The League of Women Voters, when it was -- when we had the Interleague Metro Committee and we were working on making sure who we got appointed to the boundary commission, and all of that kind of stuff, when the women's movement started up in the early 1970's, the League of Women Voters began to lose membership, uh, and it has not -- when I was President of the Portland League I think we had up to 500 members. I don't know how many they have now but it is a lot less than that. The answer, I guess is I don't know. I don't think that's an organization that can do that, although they are very active, and they follow legislation all the time and push for it and are active in their local area.

RON CEASE: You know if there were people that had some influence and connection that started looking, and it could happen just in the region, for money sources to be able to put something together, it could happen, because there's a lot of money here, and it would be fair to say in that regard if we hadn't had the availability of that source of money, and saw the announcement that it was available, and we worked on it and had a vehicle, that wouldn't have happened. We would not have created a Metro. It might have happened in another way later. I don't know that that would have happened, but so...

JANE CEASE: So, somebody needs to appropriate some grant seed money for something like this or else we get it from all of the different foundations that are operating very

effectively around the state, except I think most of theirs seems to be toward human resources needs. And of course, Multnomah County is strictly -- almost exclusively focused on that.

RON CEASE: But we -- you know, if you look at the land -- state land use program, what we've done here, we're still a model in many ways across the country. And that could be galvanized, I think, into a real effort to take a look at things now where you have some people who would be really representative of the community on it, but including people with some real influence. As I said, in reference to the Tri-county local government commission that we had, if we hadn't had those business people we would not have had the influence we did. If we hadn't had those politicians, those legislators, we would not have had the entrée to the legislature that we did. Everything counts to building something.

JANE CEASE: Maybe we need to get our Governor, our new Governor, to look at something like an Oregon futures commission or something like that and find a little bit of money for a staff person. You know.

RON CEASE: You know it's interesting. Jane and I were just selected as urban pioneer, we were given Urban Pioneer Award this year, so we had to go through this process on Friday, but it also made both of us, I think, look at over our careers, because we had to make a few comments. But I mentioned to, I think it was Ron Talman (phonetic), I had been at Portland State three or four years, maybe three years, when the then assistant to McCall had the bright idea of asking the state system, we had a real state system then, to see if they --

JANE CEASE: The state higher education system. Yes.

RON CEASE: Yeah, uh, state higher education system, to get three -- it turned out three and a half faculty members donated to the state for six months and do a major study on restructuring of state government. And they had another little group, this is business people to look

at it from the administrative business side, but what they did, they asked me to be the Portland State representative, because my field, and I had been involved working in state and local stuff in Juno, but that was the area I taught, so I was selected as one of the three, and there was one and a half persons from Eugene, and one from Oregon State, and what was interesting about it is that for six months, I didn't come here, I went to Salem. There was no exchange of money. I got paid by the same process I had before this.

JANE CEASE: The universities basically donated the time. Yeah.

RON CEASE: Yes. And unlike a lot of these studies that end up on -- and the ones well done that end up on a shelf, this one was successful. We developed, and the legislature bought it, the large Department of Transportation, the Department of Human Resources, was the beginning of the Department of Environmental Quality. But the point is, somebody had an idea and was able to get somebody to help them, in this case provide the basic funds, and it was successful. So, if -- with some imagination, and I would -- agree, in some respects chance and happenchance do aid us a lot. But I think something like that could happen. Well, anyway, I mentioned this to Ron Talman, and he said, well, we couldn't do that now, he said, we would have to make all these damn concessions and all of that to get all this together and so forth and that may be true. I've just...

JANE CEASE: That's a bunch of nonsense. If you want to do it you do it. Okay? If you don't want to do it you bring up all of the barriers.

RON CEASE: But -- but -- no, it's a --

INTERVIEWER: That's a good summation. If you want to do it, do it.

JANE CEASE: (Chuckling).

RON CEASE: Do it. Yes. Well, you stay with it. You got to stay with it.

INTERVIEWER: You stay with it. You've certainly highlighted the fact that historically there was a lot of energy.

RON CEASE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You've talked about more commissions and committees and task force and studies. You remind me a bit of comment by Henry Richmond in the recent interview. When I asked him if -- if Senate Bill 100 in the statewide planning program could happen today, if it hadn't happened 40 years ago, and he said, no, but probably not likely because at that time the stars kind of lined up. We had a lot of strong personalities, a lot of drivers, a lot of things.

RON CEASE: It was ripe -- in other words he says it was ripe.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Ripe.

JANE CEASE: And not a lot of other overwhelming problems that you have to deal with.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So, you've described another aspect of that from the regional level, and from your perspective, and to kind of conclude for the interview, we've been speaking today with Jane and Ron Cease, who have had an active role in forming the institutions that govern land use planning in the state and we appreciate very much the effort that you've made to be here and thank you for your time.

JANE CEASE: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: You're welcome. Bye bye.

(Concluded)