

Brendan T. Byrne Interview on Robert B. & Helen S. Meyner

Date of Interview: May 13, 2013.

Interviewee: Brendan T. Byrne, Democrat, who served as the 47th governor of New Jersey, 1974-1982, and as Essex County prosecutor, 1959-1968.

Site of Interview: Offices of Carella, Byrne, Bain, Gilfillan, Cecchi, Stewart & Olstein, Roseland, New Jersey.

Diane Shaw (DS): So, how did you meet Bob Meyner?

Brendan Byrne (BB): Well, I was a young lawyer, and he was running for governor. In 1953, I attended several rallies where he was speaking; at one of these meetings, he forgot his raincoat. He left his raincoat in Crystal Lake, in West Orange. I went back and got it for him. So we sort of had a little bond that way, though I did not take a huge part in the '53 campaign. My attitude was: stay out of politics and get to be a lawyer. So, when he was elected, everybody else, all the young lawyers, applied for a job. I did not. I was just going to be a professional lawyer. And then what happened was the prosecutor of Passaic County died in office, and Meyner couldn't get the "pols" to agree on a substitute; so they send four or five of us up on a very temporary basis to handle the office, the prosecutor's office, until they could resolve on a prosecutor, and that took a while. So that's how I really got into government.

There was a man by the name of David [D. Furman], the assistant attorney general, who organized, a matter of fact it was organized around the county Democratic leader. The Democratic leader would not have chosen me and tried to stop it, but I had already been sworn in. So that's how I got into it. Now after that, I'm working in the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. I had clerked for Joe [Joseph] Weintraub [Chief Justice, New Jersey Supreme Court, 1957-1973], a lawyer, who gave me that job. Anyway Joe Weintraub called me while I was assistant prosecutor and asked if I would come down and work for him as assistant counsel in Trenton. Now I'm in Passaic County and he's bringing me back to Trenton. So I go down to Trenton with Weintraub, and I'm there in the counsel's office and I'm working for Weintraub. Now Bob [Robert J.] Burkhart, who was one of Meyner's secretaries [Executive Secretary to Governor Meyner, 1954-1962], leaves to handle the [Adlai] Stevenson Campaign in '56 and then I become secretary to the governor with no particular credentials.

DS: Now when you served as assistant counsel to Meyner, that was your first role, wasn't it?

BB: No, the first role was assistant prosecutor in Passaic County.

DS: Okay. You were named the acting executive secretary in '56 for him [Meyner]. What did that role involve?

BB: Not as much as it does now. First of all, there wasn't an elaborate structure. When I was in Meyner's administration, there were only about 4 or 5 of us on the payroll. There was me, a guy

named **John** Farley who was press secretary, and Larry Houstoun, who was something else [Raymond Male was executive assistant to Governor Meyner]. There was very few of us.

DS: And that was the entire governor's staff?

BB: Oh yeah.

DS: Isn't that phenomenal. So you were with him going into his campaign in '57. Were you in that role as secretary?

BB: Yes, I was his secretary by then.

DS: How would you characterize that campaign--the '57 Meyner campaign?

BB: In '57, he ran against Malcolm Forbes. I think he had that election pretty well won from the beginning. I don't think Forbes was ever in that election; matter of fact, he had one poll early on which showed him winning. He shared poll results with me. I don't think he was ever personally in doubt of losing that election. He won by 2,000 or 3,000 votes. [Historical note: the victory margin was more than 202,000 votes.]

DS: Now he had just met and married Helen Stevenson, just before that election. Right? Do you think that helped him?

BB: Oh sure. The letters for the Correspondents Club, which you might have heard of, which had an annual dress down. It had a song: "Hark the Herald Angels sing. Meyner's finally bought the ring." [Laughter]

John Kincaid (JK): Did she campaign with him during that campaign?

BB: Yes, but mostly I tended the shop. I did not do a lot of traveling around with Meyner; he had people who did. But I was, I hate to say this, but I was sort of running the state while he was doing that.

DS: Good practice for you. What were the main issues that he contended with during your time with him? What would you say were his . . . I would like to hear both about the things that you felt went really well and also the things that were very difficult.

BB: Meyner was not enthusiastic about innovation. You've heard that.

DS: Is that he didn't like change?

BB: He didn't like risk. And change is risk. He really never would consider an income tax. He ran the state on a very tight fist. My salary when I was working for Meyner was mostly \$7,000 or \$7,500 a year. I don't know why I did it. It worked out alright. But, no, he did not entertain the thoughts of spending a lot of money.

DS: We have heard that.

BB: And so there were no great issues. I remember he would start the year off by asking the cabinet officers what they wanted to accomplish. He was well organized. He would examine what was doable, and so forth. There was not a whole lot of imagination. I have always thought that Meyner's job was to make the constitution work. It was a new constitution [1947]. It was an experiment in a lot of ways, and he saw his job as trying to make it work.

JK: So that would explain partly why he did not want change?

BB: Well, no, I think his inherent nature was that this was the way we'll work it. When he ran again in 1969, he took a very conservative view. I remember in 1969 he was running again, and he had a debate with Bill [William T.] Cahill and in that debate, the debate was right after the primary, he was the first speaker in that debate. This is '69. He gets up at the debate and says, "now state government consists of 20 departments and each one of the departments is headed by a commissioner and each commissioner, da da da." Bill Cahill got up and says, "There is nothing wrong with this government. We have 21 new prosecutors," and it was over. I walked out of that debate saying to myself. It's over.

DS: And he lost pretty badly didn't he, Meyner?

BB: He lost by a lot. [Cahill 1,411, 905; Meyner 911,003]. We guessed wrong. We guessed that he could do it again. And it was not his time anymore.

DS: Let me go back to what you said about New Jersey having the new constitution that he had to make work. What was it about that new constitution that was different?

BB: Just that it was new. It gave a lot of power to the governor. It got rid of a lot of obstacles in the government. And it just needed to get the credibility of the citizens.

DS: And you think Meyner accomplished that?

BB: I think he did.

JK: So, that would be his key place in history as governor, that he made it work?

BB: Yes. I think he made it work. Plus, he did one other thing; he restored credibility to the Democratic Party. A lot of us wouldn't have gone near government if it weren't for Meyner, but he won; he won on an integrity program. We'll talk about that. He made the Democratic Party not a Frank Hague [mayor of Jersey City, 1917-1947] juggernaut but that thing you'd want to be associated with.

DS: I was just about to ask you if you could characterize for us what were the big differences between the Democrats and the Republicans at that point? What were the break point issues?

BB: The Republicans were claiming the high ground; to some extent the Democrats had the party bosses. Even in Meyner's day, there were four party bosses that were looked to all the time, but they didn't run the state. Meyner ran the state.

DS: Who were those bosses?

BB: John V. Kenny [Hudson County, known as "Little Guy"], Dennis ["I run Essex"] Carey, maybe Tony Grossi [Passaic County], and George Brunner [Camden County]. [Also important was David Wilentz, Middlesex County.]

DS: Did Meyner, did the fact that he came from Phillipsburg, how did that play into state politics?

BB: Not much. Meyner was a guy with a degree from Lafayette College [laughter]. I'm serious about that, and Columbia Law School. And so people did not regard him as anything but a first-class character.

DS: You left the governor's office during the second term to take on a new role?

BB. Me.

DS: You.

BB: When Meyner was reelected, he called me in and said, "What job do you want?" He suggested motor vehicles. I said, "I don't want motor vehicles. I'd like to be prosecutor of Essex County." He said, "I don't think I can do that for you." I said, "let me hang around for a while and work for the government" and then the prosecutor from Essex County resigned to run for state senate, and that job opened. Don Fox, who was the senator, and Dennis Carey, who was the county chairman, could not agree on a candidate. So Meyner called me in and said, "I'm going to send you up to Essex; you may be up there for a week." I said, "I'll take that chance." And I did. Then when I got named acting prosecutor, actually deputy attorney general, acting prosecutor, I was very dynamic. I fired people right away. By that time I think Weintraub was the chief justice. I was very close to Weintraub, Meyner only later, but Weintraub from the beginning.

DS: So he was a mentor to you?

BB: Absolutely.

DS: But Meyner also later right? Did you consider Bob Meyner a mentor?

BB: Yeah, I'm not sure I would have ever asked Bob Meyner to decide a big question as to my future. Weintraub, I would. Weintraub did a lot for Meyner, kept him on the straight and narrow

JK: Going back to Meyner's gubernatorial career, in addition to making the constitution work, were there any significant policy achievements of his two administrations? Some people talk

about his work in the environmental area, for example. What would you say were some important policy accomplishments?

BB: He had some environmental stuff. He was looking at what was needed to be done. He got some good people involved. He had a number of people available to him. Ray Male for instance. Is he still around? I doubt it too. Ray Male was an imaginative guy whose ability to see things was great. He wasn't a doer so much as an idea man. And he had some great ideas, some institutions and agencies were great ideas, and women's incarceration. He did some great things.

JK: How would you describe Bob Meyner as a person?

BB: I liked him. I really did like him. He was a cheapskate. I was making \$7,000 a year. They gave me a raise, and Meyner revoked it and by the way, would make me give a hundred dollars contribution based on the \$7,000. He was trying to make the government work. He was trying to make do. The first year I was there, his budget was under a half a billion dollars. Now a half a billion more or less.

JK: Yeah, it's true, today's budget. Did he have an easy time relating to people?

BB: Meyner? I thought so.

JK: Was he affable and friendly?

BB: Oh yeah. He was a politician, a very good politician.

DS: What would you say his chief failing was?

BB: Chief failing, maybe not dealing with Bob Burkhart. Getting rid of him.

DS: Can you talk about that?

BB: Burkhart . . . He [Meyner] once called me into his inner office and he asked me one question, "Do you think Bob Burkhart is honest?" and I said "No." That was the end of the conversation. [Burkhart pleaded guilty in federal court in 1972 to a charge of accepting bribes related to a bridge construction contract in 1964 when he was secretary of state to Governor Richard J. Hughes.] Although, what I try to do now is put all that in context. What we were dealing with in those days was a situation where you ran for office, you could accept campaign funds from anybody, you didn't have to account for them. There were a couple of people in public office who shouldn't have been there. And Meyner never had a dishonest day in his life. But he'd let things slide sometimes, and Weintraub wouldn't let him. And Weintraub, I clung to, because Weintraub was the kind of guy that wouldn't let you deviate an inch. But Meyner was good, and he would have been a good governor as long as he didn't need to do anything. Make things run, make things work. And he did.

DS: But innovation was not his strong suit.

BB: If it was innovation for the sake of innovation, he could do it. But innovation for the sake of change wasn't his strong suit.

JK: Do you feel there any issues that were neglected during his administration?

BB: No, I think that he was right for the period. I came in at a different time [1974], when we had to get an income tax. We had to do something with Atlantic City. We had to deal with the fact that the Giants wanted to come in. That was what I was faced with. Maybe if I were a person with less, I would have responded differently. I loved it.

JK: You mean you loved being governor?

BB: I loved the challenges. Why take the job if you're not going to do something? Doing something made me holding the fort, or making it work. And Meyner made it work. Meyner was a presidential hopeful.

DS: I was just thinking about the 1960 campaign. Can you talk a little bit on what went on there with regard to Meyner as New Jersey's favorite-son candidate at the Democratic convention?

BB: Meyner never really put together a strong campaign for 1960. I remember when he went out to that convention. He called me right before he went out. First of all, I gave him a bag of Meyner buttons. He didn't have anything, and I had a bag. That was the only thing he had at that convention was my bag of buttons. There was a guy named Joe Mistrone [?] who worked in government I think who did a lot of things for him. He couldn't get a major campaign organized. There were a lot of people who really liked John Kennedy, who he was holding back. In that campaign, they organized a couple of tours for him, while he was governor. He would go around the country speaking. I didn't go with him but he would go. He didn't get a great reception. I went with him when he went to Washington to the Press Club. He did not make a great impression on the Press Club while I was there. They wanted Kennedy, especially in New Jersey.

DS: I understand that his relationship with JFK was not the same after that.

BB: Partly because of his position, he was a competitor. Kennedy wound up beating him. Frank Thompson, who was a congressman [representing New Jersey's 4th congressional district in U.S. House of Representatives, 1955-1980], told me one time that he went in to Kennedy and asked him to do something for Meyner, and he said Kennedy said, "How about the court of Saint James?"

DS: Well, he did offer him a couple of ambassadorships, didn't he? But Meyner wouldn't take them.

BB: Probably.

JK: Helen Meyner was in Congress [1975-1979] when you were governor for some time.

BB: Because I told her to be there. I did.

JK: Did you?

BB: Yes. Actually, the congressional seat I had laid out for Bill Bradley [who served in the U.S. Senate, 1979-1997] and Bill Bradley decided that, in fact, he moved to the district. Bradley decided he didn't want to be a congressman; so then I called Helen. That's how she got the seat in my opinion.

DS: I am sure you were important in that decision.

JK: Had she not thought of running before you asked her?

BB: Yes, she probably had.

JK: What would have motivated her to run for Congress at that point in time?

BB: She was Helen Meyner. She was a good candidate, and people were looking at her.

JK: What was Helen like as a person?

BB: Very warm. Very charming. Kind of person who was interesting to know. I used to play tennis with Bob Meyner, and I remember before Helen came on the scene how I would worry about what was going on. And she came on the scene; it disrupted everything, and I had to get used to her. She was a smart lady, an intellectual; she knew what was going on.

DS: Was part of your interest in getting her to run, did it have to do with trying to get more women into office in New Jersey?

BB: It had to do with winning. I thought she could win. And she could.

DS: What were the significant issues facing New Jersey during her time as congresswoman, and, of course, which would have overlapped with your time as governor? What were the issues? I knew she dealt a bit with Tocks Island and Picatinny?

BB: I forget what her position was on Tocks Island; she might have been against me on that. I don't remember. I know Frank Thompson was for Tocks Island. I was against it. I killed it. [The Delaware River Basin Commission voted against the proposed Tocks Island dam in 1975.]

DS: I don't remember, I think she may have been against it as well. But I don't remember.

BB: She may have been. It took a lot of territory. And they were buying stuff [land] when I came into office and they had to sell it all.

DS: Do you remember working with her on any other issues?

BB: Yeah, but I'm getting old.

DS: It's hard to tell. You have good command of your memories.

JK: Did you have any particular relationship with Jimmy Carter since he was a fellow governor and then later in the White House?

BB: Oh yeah. I was one of the first governors, if not the first governor, to endorse Jimmy Carter. I did that without another horse in the race. And we became very close, are still pretty close. We were both almost exactly the same age. He would tell you, if you asked him, when my birthday is, and when his birthday is.

JK: To bad we didn't know that. He spoke at Lafayette College a couple of weeks ago. He came up to speak at Lafayette.

BB: Oh, did he?

DS: And he was terrific. He was very sharp and willing to say exactly what he thinks.

BB: Oh yeah. I have a great story if you got enough tape. My ambition always was to play tennis on the White House tennis court. It was the ultimate. So Jimmy Carter gets elected, and I have this great relationship with him. I figured that I am going to play on the White House tennis courts. And we go through four years, and I am very close to him and I don't get any invitation. Now, when [Ronald] Reagan becomes president [1981], I'm the chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association. So I get invited to stuff at the White House. And I talked to him, and I told him how I had this happen with Carter. And he calls his aid over and says, "Next time Governor Byrne is in Washington, make sure he gets to play in the White House."

DS: And you did?

BB: Oh yes. And as I top that story off, Reagan had two terms. But the story I heard, it may not be true, but I heard, was that there was a guy giving Carter lessons by the name of Frank Brennan, a pro. And Carter asks Frank Brennan, "Did you ever see Brendon Byrne play tennis?" and Brennan says "yes", and Carter says "Can I beat him?" and Brennan says, "I don't think so."

DS: Well that may explain why you weren't invited to that court. It's a wonderful story. There are a number of issues that, of course, Meyner would have had to deal with as governor, and some of them may have resonance with you and some may not. But I'd like to raise a few of them with you to get your views. What did he, the civil rights movement was in its early stages, *Brown v. Board of Education* came right when he took office. What do you remember about racial issues and civil rights issues during his administration?

BB: Well, as you just pointed out. It was early on, and Meyner was not interested in (some kind of) dogma or in trauma. I remember the first sort of civil rights issue that I was aware of, involved in was making hotel rooms in Atlantic City open to the public. I remember the day he had chosen to sign the bill. He didn't want to sign it. I'm telling you he didn't want to sign it. He thought that this would be the destruction of Atlantic City. It sounded that way, if you wanted to do it that way. Anyway, he expressed his worries about losing Atlantic City. It didn't work out

that way, and time marched on, and it was inevitable, but there we were. I mean he was not up front with some of these issues. He was dealing with New Jersey in 1956 and 57.

DS: He has sort of a reputation for someone who may have cleaned up corruption to a certain extent. How much involvement did he have in that?

BB: I think a lot. He had a good attorney general. He had a good prosecutor. He didn't want to tolerate corruption. He left a little bit of something to be desired with the state police. But by and large, they were enforcing the law and punishing.

DS: So his reputation was deserved?

BB: Oh absolutely. There's no one who could buy Bob Meyner.

DS: What about education? A lot going on, on that front.

BB: Yeah, the trouble with education in terms of Meyner, is that it was expensive. He could never put the kind of the money into education that it needed. There was no *Robinson v. Cahill*, but maybe it didn't need as much money. I'd like to have Meyner back for his half a billion budget today.

JK: What about transportation?

BB: He would be very interested in transportation; he would have very good working relationships with . . . Very good. When we would come to see him and help him out . . . and he was good on that. It was during Meyner's administration that the Eisenhower program . . .

DS: The interstates, right?

BB: Yeah. Then we started building a lot of roads.

DS: I know that John has mentioned his record on the environment and water issues, is there more to say about his role with . . .

BB: It was during Meyner's time that they suggested the development of the Pinelands, and he was not for that. He listened, but he was not for the destruction of farmlands. He might have liked quiet, peace and quiet.

DS: I feel like I'm getting a good picture of Governor Meyner here.

BB: Well, I was the opposite. If I had the right as the governor, I'd change the color of the license plates.

DS: Danielle, do you have anything to ask about Helen?

Danielle Moran (DM): What was the relationship between Bob and Helen like? You said that he was very calm.

BB: Bob and Helen?

DM: Yeah!

BB: They were devoted to each other. They really were, and I think they limited their discussion of issues . . . she had a couple of issues where she was a little bit more liberal than he was; matter of fact, she was a lot more liberal than he was . . .

DS: I was just going to say, and we kind of guessed that.

BB: Although I think he may have affected her position on some issues. You're dealing with Bob Meyner who was basically a conservative guy. I read the encyclopedia meaning this morning he's a conservative. Someone who wouldn't give me a five-hundred dollar raise.

DS: Do you think he was badly disappointed not to win in '69? How do you think he took that?

BB: Yeah, he was disappointed. He was disappointed not to go anywhere in '60.

JK: Had he ever considered running for the Senate or the House of Representatives?

BB: I never heard him talk about the Senate.

JK: So, it was from the governor to the president or nothing?

BB: I don't know; I never talked to him. You don't have a great interest in the Senate if you've been governor because it's a very confining opportunity. I remember Bill Bradley came to see me, when Pete Williams was in trouble [Harrison A. "Pete" Williams, Democratic U.S. Senator from New Jersey convicted in 1981 for bribery and conspiracy in the FBI's Abscam sting], and he said to me, "If Pete Williams has to resign, you ought to appoint yourself to that job." I said, "The one advantage of that is that I can eat at the Senate Dining Room for the rest of my life. Right now, I'm powerful in government." But Meyner made a great contribution to this state; he made it work.

DS: Do you think the state has properly acknowledged that?

BB: Probably not, because there were certain things that you see...saving money doesn't get you any brownie points. Nobody.

DS: I think Larry Houstoun suggested that a building should have been named for him . . .

BB: We got that thing at the Garden State Parkway. [The Reception Center at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel is named after Governor Meyner.]

DS: Is that a rest stop?

BB: Yeah, it's a ...hall, I think. Double check it. I've been there. Very nice. One trouble with Meyner is that he doesn't have much family. When I go, I've got a bunch of kids, a bunch of relatives and so forth. With Meyner, it's all gone. I saw Gloria Decker recently, was county sheriff in her day. She's a Republican now!

DS: Oh my goodness! A turncoat . . .

BB: What do you do? Yeah, he's a good memory. He's a good memory for all of us.

DS: Anything else guys? That may be a nice note to close on . . .

JK: Can we get a couple of photographs?

BB: Sure!

JK: That would be okay with you?

BB: I guess I can go get a couple and you can pick which ones.

DS: Sure!

BB: Where do you guys all come from?

DS: Lafayette!

BB: You came all the way over from there?

DS: We came over this morning, but Danielle was at home, she's a New Jersey girl.

BB: Where?

DM: Berkeley Heights.

BB: Oh, Union County?

DM: Yep. I came from home.

DS: Sir, do you want us to go?

BB: In a little bit, no, you can stay where you are.

JK: Just it would be better if you could move closer to the table, that would be good.

DS: Just slide closer to the table.

BB: Oh ok . . .

DS: Scoot closer, yeah this is good. Ok, we can all lean in a little bit here.

BB: Meyner used to love the beach house! Did you know about the beach house?

DS: Down in Florida?

BB: No. No. Island Beach!

DS: Oh oh...in Jersey.

BB: Yeah...Island Beach.

DS: Now . . .

BB: He loved the beach house. They would go swimming every morning; he would often stop there overnight if he were nearby at an event . . .

DS: If you can come sit down here, Danielle...move up just a little bit then we can get in here and I'll just...

JK: It looks like we're really interviewing...

BB: Hey! (laughs)...What's that say?

JK: It looks like we're talking.

BB: Yeah! What is your official position at Lafayette?

JK: I'm the director of the Meyner Center.

BB: Oh, is that right?

JK: Yeah, for the Study of State and Local Government.

BB: Uh-huh!

JK: Why don't you get Danielle in the picture over there? Yeah, we do a lot of work with local governments; we work with the NGA now and then, Council State Governments and uh . . .

BB: Meyner but had no family.

JK: Right! Could we get Danielle in like she is interviewing?

DS: Yes!

JK: Sorry, but we're not the best photographers...

BB: Where are you in school?

DM: I'm a sophomore; so I just finished my second year...

BB: At Lafayette?

DM: Yes, and I just finished my second year.

BB: What are you going to be as uh...

DM: I'm a Government and Law and History double major.

BB: Aw...

DM: So, that's what I'm working on right now.

BB: Yay!! You like Lafayette?

DM: I love it! Yes, very much.

BB: Good! It's a nice school!

DM: It is, definitely. It's a beautiful campus and it's a great school.

BB: My friend Pete Carril...you know him?

DS: Yes!! We're very proud of your friend, Pete Carril [Peter J. Carril, Lafayette College graduate and Princeton University basketball coach, 1967-1996].

BB: Ha-ha yes...

DS: The Princeton basketball coach.

BB: Oh okay.

DS: A Lafayette student.

BB: Oh yeah.

DS: A graduate, right?

BB: He identifies with Lafayette.

DS: We also claim Stephen Crane who is a...

BB: Yeah!

DS: Yeah, one semester to Lafayette College in 1890. And um, who else do we claim from New Jersey?

BB: You beat Lehigh?

DS: No, well Danielle, you're a cheerleader...

DM: Well, we did win in basketball this year, three times, but we lost the past seven years in football.

BB: That's a great game, Lafayette and Lehigh.

DS: We have so many of our students come from New Jersey and one of my staff members is in from, lives in Watchung, and is from High Bridge. So it's a great state for Lafayette College. I mean I just think it's just about, it almost feels like we're in New Jersey as much as we are in Pennsylvania.

JK: My wife is from New Jersey.

BB: Where?

JK: Well, she was originally born in Brooklyn but they moved over to Montville, and then she lived in Roseland for a while.

BB: Oh! Right around the corner from here, she said.

DS: We have a collection dedicated to the Marquis de Lafayette that Lafayette is named for him. When Trenton celebrated its 225th anniversary of being the nation's capital. Trenton was the nation's capital for forty-five days in 1784 and the biggest thing that happened during those forty-five days was a visit from the Marquis de Lafayette and so I got to come and speak at the Masonic Temple in Trenton about Lafayette in America.

BB: Hurrah!!

DS: About Lafayette, Lafayette and America which I enjoy...I know Carl Neiderer very well, the state archivist, Carl Neiderer. He's a good friend of mine; he invited me to come. I've always had a great admiration for the state archives here; he does a wonderful job as state archivist.

BB: There's a restaurant down about two miles from here, called Pals, it's a tradition...would you like to go there for lunch?

JK: Oh absolutely!

DS: Sure, that would be great! Thank you!

BB: You know where it is, right?

JK: I don't know.

BB: It's right at the corner of Prospect and Eagle Rock avenues in West Orange. Gives you ten minutes to clean up.

DS: Great!

BB: I'll pick you up.

JK: Ok!

DS: Ok! Where will we meet?

BB: We'll meet here.

DS: Ok.

JK: Ok.

BB: Alright?

DS: Alright. Thank you, sir.

Interview Addendum

During lunch at Pals Cabin after the interview, Mr. Byrne stated that Robert B. Meyner had dated Grace Kelly. He said that Meyner met Grace Kelly through her father, John B. Kelly, Sr., who was a co-founder of the Atlantic City Race Track, which opened in 1946.

Byrne stated as well that he was "genuine war hero" who had flown 51 missions out of Foggia, Italy, during World War II. After the war, he used the G.I. Bill to attend Princeton University and Harvard University. He said that saving the Pinelands was his greatest accomplishment as governor. Some governor would have had to do the income tax, he said, but no one else was paying attention to the Pinelands.

Interviewers

JK: John Kincaid – Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Professor of Government and Public Service and Director of the Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government, Lafayette College

DM: Danielle Moran – Student at Lafayette College, Class of 2015

DS: Diane Shaw – Director of Special Collections and College Archivist, Lafayette College