

Methodist University Community Oral History Project
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Larry Offerdahl

Interview Conducted by
Carl Dyke
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Interview of

LARRY OFFERDAHL

Interviewed by

CARL DYKE

0:06

DYKE: Okay. I am here with Larry Offerdahl at the Donald J. Trump rally, Fayetteville, North Carolina, October—sorry, August 9, 2016. Okay, so, as we were sort of working our way up to this, you said you hadn't really been paying attention to politics until very recently, so—

0:31

OFFERDAHL: Nope! Yep.

0:34

DYKE: So, what is it about this cycle that's making you sort of more interested?

0:41

OFFERDAHL: Trump. I used to watch *Apprentice* [*The Apprentice* was a television show on NBC on which Donald Trump starred from 2004 to 2016], and for, being a businessman, a long time ago I've been waiting. 'Cause our country needs a businessman, you know, and not talk.

0:59

DYKE: Okay. So, when you say a businessman, you mean somebody—

1:02

OFFERDAHL: —To run the country that knows what the heck he’s doing.

1:05

DYKE: Okay.

1:06

OFFERDAHL: There might be a little difference in areas, but twenty trillion?! Are you kidding me?

[Laughs.]

1:16

DYKE: You’re talking about the debt.

1:17

OFFERDAHL: Yeah! Are you kidding me? I just watch all this stuff that he’s did. ‘Cause I remember when I was in high school, and I heard Trump used to buy up properties and sell them back towards people that lived in the United States—imagine that. I remember that, long time ago.

1:40

DYKE: Yeah. Okay. So, he has a long record of getting things done in a way that you admire.

1:44

OFFERDAHL: Yes.

1:47

DYKE: So, what are you seeing in this election that is confirming that, or—

1:53

OFFERDAHL: I see a lot of bias. I see a lot of liars. You know, when you get all these guys—. There was politicians here that I actually really liked. Because I listened to the message. You know, this immigration stuff's got to stop.

2:09

DYKE: Yeah?

2:10

OFFERDAHL: I lived in California, and if you didn't have, or if you wasn't bilingual, you didn't get a job, even though the native language is English. And that's just wrong.

2:28

DYKE: Yeah, I understand.

2:28

OFFERDAHL: That is just flat-out wrong. And, you know, there's, like, people telling you, like, one thing, you know—. 'Cause I started watching the debates, too. And you watch the rallies, watch the debates, and who's lying—"who said what? When did he say this?" I'm seeing that a lot. Even with the people that I used to like.

2:53

DYKE: Well, and nowadays there's a lot more of the sort of official fact-checking. So—

2:59

OFFERDAHL: Yeah, but there's some stuff that Trump says I don't like—you know, like, you don't say a guy's father is part of a conspiracy to [assassinate?] John F. Kennedy, even though he didn't say it, but he said it in a round-about way. [In May, and then again in July, Trump referred to a story printed in the *National Enquirer* alleging that the father of his primary opponent Senator Ted Cruz had been photographed with Lee Harvey Oswald.]

3:16

DYKE: This is about Ted Cruz, right?

3:18

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. I mean, that's wrong. Also, like, the name-calling—. Well, some of it was funny, you know, like, "you're lying," or this or that. But don't call 'em, like, a sleazebag and whatever. If they're crooked, and the name fits, okay, fine. [In April, Trump began referring to his opponent Hillary Clinton as "Crooked Hillary."] But, you know, I've never heard something like this, when a guy comes out and calls the President "stupid." [Laughs.] You know? And the policies "stupid." How much money we're losing, stupidly. I've never seen that, so, kind of like, so you start watching.

4:10

DYKE: So that really got your attention.

4:12

OFFERDAHL: A lot of it, yeah. A lot of it. So you start watching it, and then you start listening, and you go, this is like a kid brawl. You know? And then you listen to it some other person, oh—. Seventeen to three. Does that kind of remind you of something? The Democrats' people running, and the Republicans' people running. You've got seventeen to three! [The Republican primaries had a much larger pool of candidates in 2016 than the Democratic primaries.]

4:37

DYKE: Oh, I was gonna say it was the last score that the Eagles lost by.

4:40

OFFERDAHL: Well, yeah, that could be, too. But that's ridiculous.

4:43

DYKE: Or the Chargers.

4:45

OFFERDAHL: That could be—it's ridiculous.

4:47

DYKE: So, too many candidates on the Republican side, is that what you're saying?

4:50

OFFERDAHL: Yeah, that's one of 'em. On the Democratic side is, like, nobody. It's like rigged—it was totally rigged! Rigged. Period.

4:58

DYKE: So, like, rigged in what sense? I know what you mean, but, you know, just for the record, what are you seeing that—

5:03

OFFERDAHL: Okay, before the first vote counted, okay, we're not gonna say names—Hillary—but over four hundred votes, superdelegates, to zero? [In 2016 unpledged delegates, commonly called superdelegates, made up of various party leaders and not beholden to the primary process, accounted for about fifteen percent of the party's voters at the Democratic National Convention.] I don't know. If that's not rigged, I don't know what is.

5:24

DYKE: Okay, so just the fact that there's the superdelegates and that they vote, they went to Hillary—.

5:28

OFFERDAHL: Yeah! Right off the bat. And then you got, as far as the other one, the Republicans? In a way, it's—. It's kinda rigged, but in a way it's not rigged, not as bad as the Democrats. The way I would think it's rigged in the Republican sense is, "if we don't like you, we're gonna ask you some really hard questions." Like, a set of questions. The first debate on the Republicans: "Who here has signed a pledge to back the nominee?" Knowing that Trump hasn't signed. I don't know, let's point him out. You know?

6:20

DYKE: So who's doing the rigging? Like, when that rigging happens, who's doing it, or how is it happening?

6:26

OFFERDAHL: How would I say it's rigging? The way I look at it, is you've got your favorites, you're gonna try to dismantle him by the media. You know, a lot of media. I'm gonna give you an example. Khan paid—probably paid money, what I heard, to give a speech at the DNC. Trump says something about him, and he's on and on and on, goes to Pakistan, you know, give a little interview over there in Pakistan, gets paid money for it. [Khizr Kahn, the father of an American soldier who was killed in Iraq, spoke against Trump at the Democratic National Convention; Trump engaged him and his wife, Ghazala Khan, in debate in subsequent days.] That was a bait. Unfortunately, Trump fell for it.

7:09

DYKE: So this is the father of the soldier.

7:10

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. The slain soldier. I'm sorry. Guess what? I lost a brother in Vietnam. Surprise! But the thing is, Trump attacks him—well, didn't really attack him, but says, "I'm sorry. His son's a hero." But the wife didn't say anything. [Ghazala Khan, who stood next to her husband at the convention, remained silent throughout the speech; Trump noted her silence, implying that as a Muslim woman, she "wasn't allowed to have anything to say." Ghazala Khan later refuted Trump's point.] But a lot of, like the Sharia law, the woman's not supposed to talk. So I understand what he's suggesting when he said, "well, maybe she wasn't allowed to say anything." It's been, like, twelve years. And then she puts out

an excuse like, “well, how would you had kids, and I seen their picture and I just couldn’t say anything.” Okay. Now that story went on for, what, how many days? About ten so far? And then, you got Hillary Clinton, or Pat Smith, okay? [Patricia Smith, mother of Sean Smith, who was killed in the attack on the American diplomatic compound in Libya while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State, spoke against Clinton at the Republican National Convention.] She lost her son. She shouldn’t even have been over in Libya, or Benghazi! He was just a technician. He shouldn’t have been there. In fact, they didn’t even know he was there! And shouldn’t even been there. He got killed. Seventy seconds. [Conservative commentators complained that the media paid more attention to the Khans than to Pat Smith, whose speech the networks ABC, NBC, and CBS only covered for seventy seconds total. Of course, Trump’s critique of the Khans inevitably brought more coverage to that speech.] Khan gets days and days and days and days. Media made sure that they talked about that one incident for over two hours. A minute and ten seconds for Pat Smith. I don’t know about bias. I don’t know about rigged. You know, I just sit there and watch, and watch and watch, and you sit there like this. And then the—. Like, even right now, Fox still brings up Khan.

9:08

DYKE: Uh-huh. Yeah. Now, is that like people bringing up Benghazi about Clinton all of the time, or are they different in some way?

9:15

OFFERDAHL: Well, okay, the difference between that is he said he is a hero. He actually chose to serve our country. Okay, I understand the people in Benghazi actually chose to serve our country. Well, the Secretary of State, when you have, like, 600 emails asking for security, and she doesn’t know how to answer? Doesn’t even have his email—or, *he* doesn’t have *her* email address. She said she never got it.

And then when they die, all these little—thirteen hours’ worth of fighting? And she gets home, says, “well, that doggone video—we’ll get that guy.” Well, where’s the story? And like this last one, I heard Alan Cohen—he’s a real gem. I don’t like the guy, and I’m biased against him. Okay. This other guy, this Iranian guy, used to be a spy, okay? Now, they got this guy in emails under Hillary Clinton’s—

10:35

DYKE: Is this the physicist that just got hung? [Shahram Amiri, an Iranian nuclear physicist, was executed in Iran. On August 8, Trump tweeted, “Many people are saying that the Iranians killed the scientist who helped the U.S. because of Hillary Clinton's hacked emails.” I have not been able to determine who Alan Cohen is in relation to this story.]

10:37

OFFERDAHL: The Iranian that just got killed—just got assassin—not assassinated but executed.

10:42

DYKE: Executed, yeah, that’s right. Yeah.

10:43

OFFERDAHL: Okay? Now, he was on her emails. Imagine that. And so he gets executed. Alan Cohen’s saying, “So? He’s on her emails. So? So?” That’s called compassion. You know. Then they had this other thing, I was watching the networks. Okay, the RNC [Republican National Convention] has this one guy at their little convention, going—. Okay? Well, you have this one guy, and they did it on purpose, ‘cause the Republicans is supposed to be fascist and—“their hatred”—“We’re evil.”

11:34

DYKE: Yeah, I've heard that. Yeah.

11:35

OFFERDAHL: Guy holds this sign out in the front, says, "I love Hillary." On the RNC convention? The guy has come up, give him, slap him a high five, took selfies of it, okay? Starts yelling, "Congratulations!" Open-minded. Remember, we're hatred. The DNC [Democratic National Convention], same guy, different sign: "I love Trump." Someone spit on him, wanted to beat him up, surrounded him, started calling him a racist, a bigot, and all these other nice political names, and guess what? You know. And we're the party of hatred.

12:26

DYKE: So you're saying really the Democrats turned out to be the hateful intolerant ones.

12:29

OFFERDAHL: Well, yeah! It was the proven fact. Hillary not endorsing—. Or, let's put it this way. In the DNC, they bring out all these guys, Michael Brown, Trayvon Young, these other guys that was proved to be basically thugs. [Offerdahl is referring to Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin, whose deaths helped spur the Black Lives Matter movement. Martin's and Brown's mothers appeared with other "Mothers of the Movement" at the DNC.] Okay? They bring their mamas [possibly "them out"?] onstage, the DNC does. Isn't that lovely? Well, the DNC didn't even have any American flags on the first day. So they let all these people—sympathy for the slain convicts—thugs, not convicts, they would have to have been in prison—but thugs.

13:19

DYKE: Well, 'cause Trayvon had—I mean, he didn't have a record, right? I mean—. So what's the basis for him being a thug?

13:26

OFFERDAHL: I wouldn't—. I shouldn't say a thug. Okay, yeah, I would consider him a thug.

13:33

DYKE: Okay.

13:33

OFFERDAHL: When you have a guy come up, apparently, and then beat up basically a security guard—. [George Zimmerman, the man who shot Trayvon Martin, followed Martin in his capacity as Neighborhood Watch coordinator, after which the two fought. Martin was unarmed.] By the way, I used to be a security guard. I got beat up, too, by a gang-banger. Gee, I didn't even do nothing. Did I care? No.

13:51

DYKE: Yeah, so you've got that experience.

13:53

OFFERDAHL: I had that experience. And this guy gets beat up, and he says, "Oh, poor Trayvon." You have a president jumps on the bandwagon, says, "Yeah, these guys are bad guys." Okay? So, anyway, the DNC, to get back to the point, DNC had these people. Now a police officer gets up there. "Let's

have a thing of silence for the slain officers.” All of a sudden you heard noise, and “Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!” I don’t know. You tell me. [Laughs.]

14:30

DYKE: Yeah. So, that seems disrespectful, then, or—?

14:33

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. Really disrespectful! Not only that, but then you have—apparently you have a well-known police force, I guess, wanting to endorse Hillary Clinton. “No, thanks! Thanks, but no thanks!” [Clinton failed to fill out the questionnaire sent to her by the Fraternal Order of Police, thus possibly losing their endorsement, which (as of August 9, 2016) they had not yet issued for any candidate.]

14:54

DYKE: So, she refused a police force’s endorsement?

14:56

OFFERDAHL: Yes.

14:57

DYKE: Wow.

14:58

OFFERDAHL: Hey, that’s cool.

14:59

DYKE: I hadn't heard that.

15:00

OFFERDAHL: I like that. That's really cool. There was a story about it, two or three days ago. She refused an endorsement for the police.

15:08

DYKE: Wow.

15:08

OFFERDAHL: And not only that, but she did not want the police in their uniforms because it might be offensive. [Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani had spread the false rumor that uniformed police officers were not allowed on the floor at the DNC.] And they're protecting the DNC. But it might be offensive! I don't know. That's patriotic, I would say.

15:27

DYKE: Yeah. Yeah. You're being sarcastic.

15:30

OFFERDAHL: Very sarcastic, yes. Very sarcastic.

15:31

DYKE: [Laughs.] I detected that.

15:36

OFFERDAHL: There's a lot of parts about this stuff I've learned. Politicians that you like, they will take something and totally lie. For instance, Trump said that he is for the Second Amendment. His sons are hunters! He has a permit to carry. Ted Cruz, on the other hand, turns right around and goes to a little rally and says, "If you elect Trump, you're giving away your Second Amendment!" I don't know, what's that? A blatant lie? I heard that one, too. And then you got Hillary Clinton. "If the Second Amendment is Constitutional." *If.* We could try to modify it. [In June, Hillary Clinton said, "If it is a constitutional right, then it, like every other constitutional right, is subject to reasonable regulation," and then continued, "reasonable people can say, as I do, responsible gun owners have a right."] Know what the modification is? Send all the gun dealers out of the country. "Well, I guess we can't bring 'em here, now, can't we?" You know, so there's a lot of stuff. You probably already heard probably a lot of this stuff.

16:48

DYKE: I have, but I think you're putting it in an especially focused kind of way.

16:52

OFFERDAHL: Well, that's funny, 'cause I'm usually not focused. [Laughs.] You know, but yeah, I'm learning a lot about this election.

17:02

DYKE: So it sounds like things have been bothering you for a while—

17:05

OFFERDAHL: Pretty much.

17:05

DYKE: —but it's really sort of coming together for you from what you're hearing this time around.

17:07

OFFERDAHL: Yes. You get Obama, for instance. And this is gonna sound really bad, but personally, right now I really don't care.

17:19

DYKE: I can take it. [Laughs.]

17:20

OFFERDAHL: Okay. I know you can, but everybody else might not be able to, because religion has something to do with the election. I have never heard so much about Muslims since I have heard for seven and a half years. The Muslim—“we need to appreciate the Muslims for all they have did for our historical values.” Did he not read about Tripoli? The Muslims are coming over here and attacking us! And that's radical Islam. Oh, by the way, Islam, according to the President, means peace. I looked up the word. It means “submission.” What happened to that? I don't know.

18:12

DYKE: Yeah, it's one of those words that has a number of meanings. But yeah, you're right, I mean, submission is in that.

18:18

OFFERDAHL: It means “submission.” Another one is “submission to God.” You know, so—.

18:24

DYKE: Well, that’s a good Christian value as well, right?

18:27

OFFERDAHL: Boy, you would think. Yeah. Because a Christian value is you don’t judge people. That’s God’s job, okay? I like all Americans. I like everybody. Christ died for all. In fact, if you want to come right straight down to the point-blank to the beginning of time, guess what? We all had one mother and one father. It’s called Adam and Eve. I have been told, “You’re racist, aren’t you?” My answer was, “I don’t know. If they cut you, do you bleed red?” He says, “Yeah.” “Well, if they cut me, I bleed red, too.” I guess we’re brothers. If you die, is there any difference in the color of the ashes?

19:16

DYKE: So what is it that bothers you, then, about—? I mean, I think I know what you’re saying. But just to sort of clarify, what is it that bothers you about all this talk about Muslims, now, in the last seven, eight years?

19:31

OFFERDAHL: People not listening. It’s not that Muslims are bad, even though they have their values. And at the end of time, everybody’s gonna find out there was only really one way. But it’s that when you’re talking about coming over here—and it’s not the Muslims that’s associates, or assimilates—

that's, you know, turning into us, or respect our values, even though if they don't like 'em—but they're in our country, they respects our values. It's not that that bothers me. It's that when you get a President, or a nominee that says we are gonna put a temporary ban—a *temporary* ban—until we know what the heck's going on. [Sure, he used] the other word, you know. But the other Muslims here, they're all right. The home-grown Islam, now, you're gonna have to start—what he says, looking at the mosques. Well, a lot of these mosques are promoting radical. A lot of 'em. It's not the religion, it's the radical. Okay? But not everybody believes that way. Everybody actually—not everybody, but most people actually have the tendency to respect humanity, you know? Not everybody, but most people.

21:16

DYKE: So, I think this is probably a good place to kind of make a transition. We've talked a lot about the things that have been bothering you, and I—you know, I mean—keep at it.

21:27

OFFERDAHL: For me it's just all over the place. I mean, I could—yeah. It's all over.

21:30

DYKE: Anything else pops up, you know, let us know, but so, do you see a positive side of this candidacy? Like, are you excited about politics in any way?

21:37

OFFERDAHL: Yes! Yes. I'm one of the people that lost my job from going across the sea. I used to work for McDonnell-Douglas. They was bought out by Boeing, and then Boeing is shipping the stuff over to China. Guess what? The MD-95, which no longer exists because of Boeing? [The Boeing 717 began its

life as the MD-95, prior to the merger of the two companies in 1997.] It was sent over to China. They sent it back, we repaired it. But that only lasts until they get it right. Then all of a sudden everything was over there. Okay, so, you got these aircraft companies, [indecipherable] sending them over there. I also used to work for Ford. And when Ford—because it was the one plant in Pico Rivera. All of a sudden it was closing down. [The Ford plant in Pico Rivera closed in 1980.] Why? Because of all these regulations. “Let’s move it up to, like, Santa Barbara, or Santa Clara, or San Jose, somewhere around there.” Okay? And now it’s gone out of the state. And that was with the LTD Station Wagons and all this other stuff. They went bye-bye! Now they’re, what, making a Ford plant in Mexico? Gee, wonder what happened there. So then you get all these regulations that’s closed our plants. You know? I don’t know. America don’t have a heartbeat no more. Remember the Camaro used to be the “Heartbeat of America.”

23:04

DYKE: I’ve got that right on my ’92 S-10. [Dyke and Offerdahl are discussing advertisements for Chevrolet vehicles.] “Heartbeat of America.”

23:08

OFFERDAHL: Heartbeat of America. Boom, it’s in Canada. Canada has a heartbeat. You know, all we are is a bunch of debt. I watched this one commercial about—before they was doing all these conventions. It’s like, in Pennsylvania, they are scanning areas. And you see these big old plants, totally empty. You know, totally. And so, I’m, well, they need to be filled.

23:40

DYKE: So you think Mr. Trump can fix that?

23:44

OFFERDAHL: Well, I mean, you take, you know—. Sure, he was a billionaire. He had to borrow a billion dollars from his dad or something like that. Now he has ten billion dollars. “Oh, he had four bankruptcies—oh my God.” Out of four hundred and seventy successful businesses? I would say that’s a pretty successful businessman. “Oh, he bought houses that went under.” Who went under? That was because of Bill-Boy. Billy Clinton decided to put these guys under. Boom! All of a sudden he snatches them up. But what they don’t say, the bias media, what they don’t say is that [Senator] Elizabeth Warren was doing the same thing. But she just wasn’t as successful as Donald Trump. You know? So, yes, I think he could do it. I believe he could do it.

24:33

DYKE: Okay.

24:36

OFFERDAHL: And I hope he can.

24:37

DYKE: Yeah.

24:39

OFFERDAHL: But I wish he would keep his mouth shut sometimes. [Laughs.] I think a lot of people do.

24:47

DYKE: Yeah. Well, that's a question I often have. I mean, like, okay, I don't think he's gonna change. He's been that guy, you know, he's seventy-something years old—. He's always been that guy. He's gonna keep being that guy. So he keeps being that guy: is that going to be a problem, or is that just you take the good with the bad?

25:09

OFFERDAHL: I always say, you could take the good with the bad. But too many liberals. He did this—you could see it on the media now. Everything is based on Donald Trump. Like they say, like, Chris Wallace and Bret Baier and all them other people say, it's a love-hate relationship. [Wallace and Baier are anchors for Fox News.] The news loved him, but now he's the GOP candidate, now the news hates him. And I think it's because they're afraid. They're really afraid.

25:44

DYKE: That could be. What are they afraid of, do you think?

25:47

OFFERDAHL: People losing their jobs. Like all these Congress. Let's say, [Senator] Harry Reid. Kate's Law. "I'm gonna shut down Kate's Law." ["Kate's Law" proposed minimum prison sentences for undocumented immigrants with felony convictions; Reid blocked the bill.] See, well, what have you done for us lately? "Why, shut down Kate's Law." Yeah. Something that would protect legitimate citizens. Or you get these other people, like Hillary. So let's say Hillary, in the Senate, 200-some-odd jobs in New York? [In her campaign for the U.S. Senate in 2000, Clinton ran advertisements promising to try to bring 200,000 jobs to upstate New York.] "Oh, yeah, baby." What did you do for America? Well, obviously didn't bring 200 jobs—200,000, I should say. In fact, you didn't increase it going downhill by

twenty-five percent. So New York loses twenty-five percent more jobs. Yeah, sounds like she is a real successful businessperson. You have four deaths on her hands, which she'll still deny. In fact, you know on the news, you watch these questions, and she totally denies everything. "Well, I just kind of short-circuited. You know, Chris Wallace and I were just talking past each other. I guess I wasn't making myself clear." [Offerdahl is referring to a comment Clinton made at the National Association of Black Journalists and National Association of Hispanic Journalists joint convention about her depiction of the private server she used for her e-mail while Secretary of State.] *Or.*

27:09

DYKE: That was a bad moment.

27:10

OFFERDAHL: A very bad moment. And then you turn around and this other, they say "news media," which wasn't a news media, it was just a news gathering. All that, when you have a bunch of news people going like this [claps], "Yay!" Well, I wouldn't say that's exactly a news media. And then they turn around and she starts lying about the lies! But do you see it on local news stations? Or that part that says, Donald Trump—if you watch any [kind of news] you'll probably see this maybe one time, and it will be on Fox—Donald Trump say he's going to give the upper class tax breaks. "Well, we'll show them. We're gonna level out the playing field for the middle class, and we are gonna tax the middle class." You don't see that on the media. But if he said it, oh, yeah, that's—baby—a month-long story. [Laughs.]

28:14

DYKE: So, I hear you saying something really interesting, which is that the old, traditional media are really leading you astray. I mean, you're disappointed with them, they're biased, they're unreliable—

28:24

OFFERDAHL: They're really biased. They're not telling the truth.

28:27

DYKE: So where are you getting your information? I mean, it sounds like the new media are really helping you out, to see a different side of things.

28:34

OFFERDAHL: I'm watching Fox now. Funny, they cover both the same.

28:44

DYKE: "Fair and balanced."

28:45

OFFERDAHL: Pretty much.

28:46

DYKE: Okay.

28:47

OFFERDAHL: I think that [Fox News commentator] Megyn Kelly, I think she said it pretty good about news media. She said, these ain't—these are not journalists. These are opinionists.

29:02

DYKE: So you feel like they're more journalists on Fox.

29:05

OFFERDAHL: They more—yes. Megyn Kelly, I know she's independent, and she tries. I kinda like her a little bit, until she gets on the Trump train and starts raggin', but I've [seen her] also stick up for him.

29:21

DYKE: Well, he was not kind to her, if you remember. They had a little bit of a thing.

29:25

OFFERDAHL: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I remember that one, too. But I wish—like I said, I wish sometime he'd keep his mouth shut— [Laughs.]

29:33

DYKE: I understand.

29:34

OFFERDAHL: —he would keep his mouth shut or just don't pick fights with everybody else.

29:36

DYKE: That's one of those.

29:40

OFFERDAHL: I mean, you could win a bunch of wars, but you're not gonna win the battle. So, that's that, unfortunately. [Laughs.] But as far as politics, I'm learning a whole lot. It's really interesting, and it's really disgusting. A lot of it to me is really disgusting, because the fairness of it. I don't like elections that's pretty much called. Like the pollsters, okay, well—. And it works both ways. I'm gonna call—I'm gonna give good polls out, so I'm gonna call mainly Republicans. "Well, Hillary's losing by about thirty points." Well, why ain't you telling who are you polling? Right now you get a lot of, "Well, he's losing by fifteen, twenty points." Why? Because he's doing Democrats.

30:35

DYKE: It's hard to get good data. No, it's part of why we're out here, is just to make sure that we get all sides represented.

30:44

OFFERDAHL: And that's the stuff I really—. It drives my wife nuts. Sometime I start laughing about it, but a lot of the time I'm just totally disgusted about it. I get to the point where I'm gonna start playing a video game. I'm tired of the bashing. You know. If you're gonna bash someone, you say it, but you don't beat the dead horse and then skin it, then sell it, and then beat it again. And that's what some of the news does. And it depends on what candidate they want. To me, I would rather have a really good candidate. Too bad we can't go back in time—I'd get Reagan, because after Vietnam War, which was really a black eye in the nation's history for us, and he went out and he actually—. Somebody bombed a German thing with some of our American soldiers—he come back and he showed that he not gonna

tolerate it. That, I really admire. This, you have a President that's going around, "We're so sorry we bombed you." Well, could you tell about the—how about the two or three thousand people that they bombed first in Pearl Harbor? And he go over and say, "We're so sorry. We're sorry that America's bad and we're the [Satan] of the world." That's pathetic. That's really pathetic.

32:09

DYKE: Ah, yeah, I hear you.

32:14

OFFERDAHL: I'll be glad when that guy is out, gone. I don't, you know—. Like I said, yeah, I would like to see a woman President, 'cause I keep thinking of Golda Meir [President of Israel from 1969 to 1974], if you remember Israel.

32:27

DYKE: Yeah, I do. Yeah.

32:28

OFFERDAHL: Now, she was awesome.

32:29

DYKE: Yeah, she was a strong leader.

32:31

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. But I just don't want Hillary. Anybody that give away that much secrets, and then turn around and lie about it, and then leave our people hanging and for like thirteen hours while they're getting the pus bombed out of them, and they come back and say it's a video, and tell her daughter, "Well, we just got attacked by terrorists," but tell us, because, you know, Lord knows that we can't handle the truth, just like Nicholson said, "You can't handle the truth!" [A character played by Jack Nicholson said that line in the movie *A Few Good Men*.] Or like Obama said that one time in the papers that we cannot even handle our own money, the government has to handle our money. Remember that one? Did you read about that one? [President Obama, in a speech in Brussels in March, 2014, described a "traditional view of power" which, he said, "argues that ordinary men and women are too small-minded to govern their own affairs, that order and progress can only come when individuals surrender their rights to an all-powerful sovereign." Obama's argument against that view was twisted in online videos into an endorsement of it.]

33:20

DYKE: Yeah. Yeah yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

33:23

OFFERDAHL: How dare you say that? Let me go bankrupt. I can do it myself; I don't need your help.

[Laughs.] You know?

33:29

DYKE: [Laughs.] That's a very good point.

33:35

OFFERDAHL: I don't need you to tell me I could go bankrupt, or I don't have a clue of what I want. Now you get the Republican Party, that they should be getting behind their nominee. I don't care if they like him or not! Get behind the guy that's gonna try to do something! Don't go like, "Yes, well, I don't like him. I think I'm gonna see if I could get a CIA member in there." You know, between you—

34:04

DYKE: It sounds like loyalty is important to you.

34:06

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. Between you, me, and anybody else who hears it, I tell you, I'm gonna quit the Republican Party. I'm not going Democrat. I might just go for the person I think's gonna do the best job. And it won't be a Republican.

34:21

DYKE: Mmm-hmm. Yeah, I hear you.

34:25

OFFERDAHL: And it won't be a Democrat. One likes [to enslave?], the other one's totally backstabbers, it seems like. You know. Conservatives—okay. You don't believe my view. [Ohio Governor John] Kasich's a good example. "God has something much better for me planned." You know, I'm as much Christian—if he's a Christian, I'm as much Christian as he is, and I know I'm a Christian. You know. But I also know what's right. By you saying something like that, your word is your bond. So what do you have for toilet paper? [Laughs.] You know. You know, it's like, "potty mouth." That's what I look at it, like he

just took a dump on America. I don't understand. But that's my political views, being right or being wrong, it is what it is.

35:29

DYKE: That's a fantastic interview. Thank you.

35:21

OFFERDAHL: Really?

35:21

DYKE: Thank you so much. Yeah, no, I mean, you—I think we got it all, didn't we?

35:37

OFFERDAHL: I hope so. Thank you for letting me sit down in the shade.

35:40

DYKE: It's a great pleasure. Happy to shade you up.

35:44

OFFERDAHL: Thank you. Now I feel cool. I be like—.

[Break in the interview; an undetermined amount of time has passed.]

OFFERDAHL: I watched this thing about Brett Baier. They did this thing about our military. Our military is less than what it was in World War II. Our aircraft is really deprived. Our ships are gone. You know. And we have this guy, “Here, I want you go in there—. Terms of engagement: don’t shoot if they have sunglasses! Sit there! Wait ‘til they shoot first!” Well, if they shoot first, you may not have a chance to shoot back! And that’s where we are. And I look it like that. I lost my brother in Vietnam, like I said earlier. And it’s good thing we had a better military then, because we really, really—even though we did, kind of like—this “police action” that they say it was—Nah. It was population control.

36:46

DYKE: It was pretty much like a war—oh, population control.

36:49

OFFERDAHL: It was population control. ‘Cause “police action,” I don’t know. When they’re shooting at you it’s called war, but in that case it was population control. We went over there not wanting to win. That’s what I like.

37:02

DYKE: What do you mean? Okay, so what was the objective, then?

37:06

OFFERDAHL: To help South Vietnam not get caught up and taken over complete.

37:13

DYKE: Yeah. Okay.

37:14

OFFERDAHL: You know, Communist. So that's what we were trying to do. We wasn't trying to win.

37:19

DYKE: Now I'm following you, yeah.

37:20

OFFERDAHL: We was just trying to keep at bay. And then you turn around, now they're Communist.

"Oh, I like that." Man, we are a sad—.

37:30

DYKE: On the other hand, my underwear is made in Vietnam nowadays, so.

37:34

OFFERDAHL: Yeah. I heard you wear pretty good underwear.

37:35

DYKE: [Laughs.]

37:39

OFFERDAHL: [Laughs.] You have a good one.

37:40

DYKE: Thanks, man.