

Methodist University Community Oral History Project  
Methodist University  
Fayetteville, NC

**Suzette Schrump**

Interview Conducted by  
Patrick W. O'Neil  
August 9, 2016  
Fayetteville, NC

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Suzette Schrupp

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Interview of

**SUZETTE SCHRUMP**

Interviewed by

**PATRICK W. O'NEIL**

0:01

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Hi there. My name is Patrick O'Neil, I'm here on August 9, 2016, I'm outside the Crown Arena in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and I'm interviewing—would you please say your name?

0:11

**SCHRUMP:** Suzette Schrump.

0:13

**O'NEIL:** Suzette Schrumpf. Okay. Schrumpf?

0:14

**SCHRUMP:** Schrump.

0:15

**O'NEIL:** Alright. Excellent.

0:17

**SCHRUMP:** Like "Trump," but "Schrump."

0:18

**O'NEIL:** I was gonna say! Impressive.

0:20

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] Yes.

0:21

**O'NEIL:** So, we'll want to know lots of things about you, as much as you feel comfortable saying. Soon we will talk about Trump, if that's okay, but if it's okay I'd like to start with questions about you and your life and what brought you here, if that makes sense.

0:35

**SCHRUMP:** That's perfectly fine.

0:37

**O'NEIL:** So, could I ask you—you were born in Kentucky.

0:40

**SCHRUMP:** I was. On a military base.

0:42

**O'NEIL:** Okay. What base were you born on?

0:43

**SCHRUMP:** Fort Campbell.

0:44

**O'NEIL:** That makes sense, since that's where you were born. [Laughs.]

0:46

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

0:50

**O'NEIL:** What were your parents like? Are your parents still alive?

0:54

**SCHRUMP:** My parents are both living. My father was in the military for twenty-six years, Special Forces, and my mother was a stay-at-home mother, and I have an older brother and a younger sister. And we were all born on bases, Army bases.

**O'NEIL:** One or another or another?

1:15

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

1:17

**O'NEIL:** Wow. That's wonderful. So did you move around a lot as a child?

1:18

**SCHRUMP:** Moved—. My mother, if it was a short stint with my father's career, we would stay back, because we owned our home. But there was times when we did move, the furthest being Okinawa, Japan, because he was with the 82nd [Airborne Division].

1:35

**O'NEIL:** Sure. Sure. How long did you live in Okinawa?

1:38

**SCHRUMP:** About two years.

1:41

**O'NEIL:** How old were you then? Sorry—.

1:43

**SCHRUMP:** No no no no no—I have to do the math. Let's see, '64 to '72—eight. I was eight.

1:50

**O'NEIL:** How did you like it?

1:51

**SCHRUMP:** It was different. I went over there, and I went from being on a military base, on Fort Bragg, and being at the top of my class—I was in third grade, reading to first-graders—and I was just excelling,

and I was just, you know, just very confident. And I went and got over to there, to the Kadena Air Base, and I would find myself hunkered in the back of the class because I was meshed with Japanese children, and they were so above what I had learned. I mean, when I went over there, they were doing algebra, and I was acin' multiplication [laughs] and division. So—. I adjusted. My favorite class became art, because then I was learning about their culture.

2:46

**O'NEIL:** Of course. Plus, if you don't mind me guessing, it's more about things you can see rather than things you have to say, and—.

2:52

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. Yes. It was great because we got to walk to the ocean, yeah, play in the caves, things like that. We discovered—learned about—by discovering—we would walk the caves after school. We found human remains, and we'd bring 'em home, and then my father would give us this whole history lesson, you know, nothing that we had ever—. We weren't even there yet, as far as in our mind, being so young.

3:22

**O'NEIL:** Oh, that's fascinating. But you spent most of your childhood in America, that was just two years.

3:27

**SCHRUMP:** Most of my childh—yes, two years, and then we came back. We were supposed to be there for—. His tour of duty was cut down to, like, eighteen months. So we came back and we landed in Fayetteville.

3:40

**O'NEIL:** And you've been here since?

3:42

**SCHRUMP:** Been here since.

3:45

**O'NEIL:** So, when you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

3:50

**SCHRUMP:** What did I want to be? I was very fascinated with eyes.

3:54

**O'NEIL:** Really?

3:54

**SCHRUMP:** Mmm-hmm.

3:55

**O'NEIL:** What about them?

3:56

**SCHRUMP:** Just how they worked. How, you know, we see everything standing up. But when our brain perceives it and it goes into the eye, it's actually upside down. And so I spent fourteen years in ophthalmology.

4:12

**O'NEIL:** Wow! That long? So that's what you went to school for, when you went to college?

4:15

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. Yes. I actually did O.J.T., and then I was taken under Dr. Scott Stapleton's wing, and he is a staunch Republican. His uncle is President Jimmy Carter, and that's where I learned most—and then we started doing the college courses, and yeah. I loved it.

4:38

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Oh, that's great. Sorry, could you tell me, O.J.T., what's—?

4:42

**SCHRUMP:** On-the-Job Training.

4:43

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Thank you. See?

4:44

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.]

4:44

**O'NEIL:** That's why I ask.

4:45

**SCHRUMP:** See, Professor?

4:48

**O'NEIL:** The number of things I don't know—. Can I ask—this man was a staunch Republican; your parents, were they political? Did they speak in political terms when you were growing up?

5:00

**SCHRUMP:** They did. They did.

5:02

**O'NEIL:** Where did they lean?

5:04

**SCHRUMP:** My mother is a Democrat; my father is a Republican.

5:08

**O'NEIL:** Okay. How did that go?

5:10

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] To this day—as you can imagine, you know, a little hostility. So my father just chooses to go to the voting booth. I mean, he and I, we get along great, but—and my mother, I mean I love my mother, but—. Up until probably eight years ago I was a registered Democrat. But I never voted Democrat, or Democratic.

5:38

**O'NEIL:** So you registered Democratic, but you voted Republican.

5:42

**SCHRUMP:** Republican. Yes.

5:43

**O'NEIL:** What was the reason for those two things? I'm curious.

5:45

**SCHRUMP:** I, you know, I'm kind of—because I'm in the middle. And I just had not changed my voter registration to Independent, because that's really what I am. I'm one of those where they call me a “tree-hugger,” I care about the environment. However, I do believe in capitalism. I believe in work, jobs. I'm not a liberal, I don't think that everything goes. But I do, you know, like, I used to be pro-choice, but now, as I've gotten older and had children, I've pulled back to where, okay, that can't be a form of, you know—abortion cannot be a form of birth control, you know. We're in the twenty-first century.

6:32

**O'NEIL:** Can it be a last resort, do you think?

6:35

**SCHRUMP:** Abortion?

6:35

**O'NEIL:** Yeah.

6:36

**SCHRUMP:** Absolutely. And there's exceptions. If my daughter were to get raped, that's her—. So you do have to have exceptions in life.

6:46

**O'NEIL:** Legal exceptions?

6:47

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. Yes. So that's why I say I'm in the middle. People have a hard time trying to figure out where I am, so I went, and now I am an Independent.

6:59

**O'NEIL:** So I want to get back to your development as a person and stuff, too, but since we're on this, when you go into the voting booth, what do you base your choice on? You say in the middle, so you could go either way.

7:14

**SCHRUMP:** And I do try—when I know who’s going to be on the ballot, I do try to—. I read their background. I look at their history. And in North Carolina, I can do that. And for me, when I was registered Democrat, I researched everyone’s background. I feel like there needs to be a balance in our government.

7:43

**O’NEIL:** Why?

7:44

**SCHRUMP:** So that they can work together. But as I’ve gotten older, I’m seeing that it doesn’t work that way too well. It’s difficult to get things through Congress.

7:54

**O’NEIL:** Yeah. I’ve noticed. Okay, that’s very interesting. So, okay, you were really interested in eyes—.

8:02

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

8:03

**O’NEIL:** You went—. You got some schooling in that—

8:04

**SCHRUMP:** I did. Yes.

8:05

**O'NEIL:** —and you started working in that.

8:07

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. I started out for an optometrist, making eyeglasses and fitting contact lenses, and then I went over to Dr. Stapleton, who does eye surgery. I've assisted in LASIK [laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis], cataracts, glaucoma; I have no problem watching a cornea get cut off. I see that you are near-sighted.

8:25

**O'NEIL:** Very much so.

8:26

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] And I can tell that by looking at your glasses. I loved it. I loved my patients; I formed relationships with them.

8:36

**O'NEIL:** So why or how did you leave that? 'Cause now you—.

8:40

**SCHRUMP:** How did I leave that? I left that because as I got older—I'm fifty-two—as I got older, I really just started watching people—. I think it was more of a psychological thing for me, because watching

people go blind that I actually cared about, with different eye diseases, I just decided, I don't want to do this anymore, I don't want—. Because it was really messing with my psyche. I mean, I could go back tomorrow and pick up right where I left off.

9:13

**O'NEIL:** So you left that, and you went to work for the postal service.

9:17

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

9:18

**O'NEIL:** Why there? Why then? And how do you like it?

9:21

**SCHRUMP:** Why there? Because the pay [laughs], job security, it's close to my home. And I always thought that it needed to be better, they needed to have nicer people in there, people that, you know, when you walk up to a counter and you feel like, you don't matter. I wanted to make a difference in someone's life, no matter where I was, what position I was gonna hold. And that's what I do.

9:53

**O'NEIL:** That's great. So we'll talk about politics in just a minute, but I'm curious about your family. You say you have more than one kid.

10:02

**SCHRUMP:** I have two children.

10:03

**O'NEIL:** Two children.

10:03

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

10:04

**O'NEIL:** Are they grown now?

10:06

**SCHRUMP:** One is nineteen and one is seventeen.

10:08

**O'NEIL:** How's that going?

10:09

**SCHRUMP:** It's actually—. I did homeschool my children until I couldn't handle the math anymore because of Common Core [a new set of educational standards adopted by numerous states]. They would bring things home, and I'm, like, "but wait a minute, if the answer I'm getting—." Because I took all of college courses in school and high school. If the answer I'm getting is the same that you're getting, why do we have to—? And that's when I was just like [gasp], blown away. So about when they were in sixth and seventh grade, they went back to the public schools.

10:39

**O'NEIL:** How did you feel about that transition? How did *they* feel about that transition?

10:43

**SCHRUMP:** I mean, even when they were homeschooled, they had friends. I kept 'em—baseball, softball—because you need to. They were always known by all their friends, regardless of whether they were in the school or not. And all their friends wanted to come and have me school them. Because when they were young, I would go and substitute-teach, and I liked that. But then all the children wanted to come home with me, all the kindergartners, first graders—“Mrs. Schrump, can I come home with you?” Because we would do basically things like, “hey!”—when I was substituting—“let’s wash your desks.” And they just thought that was the greatest thing ever. But, yeah, so, my kids, they transitioned well. They liked it. They needed the math. I am more of an English comprehension—that’s my thing. Journalism. I took that all in high school—editor, all of that. So, yeah.

11:45

**O'NEIL:** How do you feel about the public schools? The schools they went to were good?

11:49

**SCHRUMP:** We moved—. We were told when we purchased our home in Harnett County—we moved out of Fayetteville, went to Harnett County—“Schools are great, schools are great.” And so we landed where a great school was, and, no.

12:05

**O'NEIL:** How so?

12:06

**SCHRUMP:** How so? A lot of bullying. A lot of the teachers, they had their—. I don't believe in spanking, I've never spanked my children, so I can't say that that paddling ever would be okay. It's not. You're teaching kids to hit. It was just a lot of the bullying, the teachers—. I don't believe in the, one child does something wrong, punish the whole class. I had a real problem with that. The teachers knew me by my voice, when I would call to the school. I guess I would be considered a helicopter mother. So we did that for a while, but then we moved to Moore County. The schools were great. We found a new middle school—they loved it. They went to the senior high, which is Union Pines, and they both chose—proud mama—they both chose to enter ROTC.

12:58

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Excellent.

12:59

**SCHRUMP:** They excelled. They just graduated, both of them—my daughter graduated a year early this year.

13:06

**O'NEIL:** Well that's great.

13:07

**SCHRUMP:** My son was the Rifle Team Commander at tenth grade on out; my daughter said, “I think I can do better than him.” She was second-best shooter. And these were all things that she—they both decided to do, I never pushed them, ever. You can’t push a child into something and want them to like it. They have to want it.

13:30

**O’NEIL:** Are you—if you don’t mind me asking—are you religious? Are you affiliated with a religion?

13:36

**SCHRUMP:** I was baptized in ’91. I do not frequent a church. I do have churches that I go to, but I believe that God lives in your heart. I’m a very spiritual person. Do I thump a Bible? No.

13:53

**O’NEIL:** When you were baptized—again, feel free to say anything or nothing—

13:56

**SCHRUMP:** No no no, ask! I will. [Laughs.]

14:00

**O’NEIL:** That’s a big moment, and that came later in your life than—. What inspired that?

14:03

**SCHRUMP:** It did come later in my life, because my mother was an atheist. I was not brought up in a religious home. When I went to a church with my young friends on the base, I chose that. I wanted—

Sunday school. It was great. And again, I loved the art. I loved how we made things. And I did learn a little bit about the Bible. I own a Bible with my name on it!

14:32

**O'NEIL:** Okay, so talk to me about Donald Trump. How do you feel about him?

14:37

**SCHRUMP:** Well, I've watched Donald Trump since probably the '80s. The first president that I voted for was Ronald Reagan, because I was of age. I graduated in 1982. Then in the '90s I campaigned some for Ross Perot, but we all know what happened there. That's when I was still at the eye clinic. And then I kind of just pulled away from it all. Because I kind of just felt like they forgot about us.

15:10

**O'NEIL:** Who's "us"?

15:11

**SCHRUMP:** Us? The working-class American.

15:13

**O'NEIL:** Okay.

15:14

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah.

15:15

**O'NEIL:** And who's "they"? "They forgot about us."

15:16

**SCHRUMP:** They? The establishment. The government. Our government.

15:20

**O'NEIL:** Okay. How so?

15:22

**SCHRUMP:** How so? Because, look at what people are being paid. We're being taxed so high. Our taxes are out of this world. You shouldn't have to—. I know people that put six and seven exemptions on their W-4 [tax form] just to be able to get their money. Yeah, I mean, not that it's legal, but I know people who do it. I feel like we need to either have a flat tax—our tax code is—. I mean, I want to be able to do—I do my own taxes—I have—my husband has a contract business. He also works for the postal service, but—. I want to be able—. Simplify. We need to cut it down.

16:07

**O'NEIL:** Okay. Why?

16:07

**SCHRUMP:** There's too many agencies, too many people getting rich. We need to go back to basics. I want to get out of the red.

16:18

**O'NEIL:** Sure. So, when you say you want to get out of the red, do you mean you, yourself? Do you mean the government?

16:24

**SCHRUMP:** I mean the country. Our country. I pay cash for everything.

16:28

**O'NEIL:** Sure. Okay, so, you work for the government.

16:34

**SCHRUMP:** Mmm—people think that the Post Office is owned by the government, but, okay.

16:38

**O'NEIL:** Well, it's funded by the government. I know it's a separate entity, but it doesn't make a profit, so the government makes up that money. You can tell me differently—I'm telling you the things I know. Now we've reached the limit of my knowledge, so—. [Laughs.] [This is a complicated issue; O'Neil is not quite right on this; the Post Office is run independently, but, as of 2015, has borrowed a good deal of money from the Treasury to make up its deficits.]

16:51

**SCHRUMP:** Yes, yes. Well, actually they do not own us.

16:55

**O'NEIL:** Indeed.

16:55

**SCHRUMP:** They provide land for the post offices; we are federally protected. Yes.

17:05

**O'NEIL:** Okay, so you say back to basics. What would a government that does just the basics look like? Does that make sense? That's the only reason I started with the Post Office.

17:12

**SCHRUMP:** Well, when I say that, when I say that, let's take away the loopholes. Let's take away all the loopholes. We need simplicity. We need for everyone to be engaged. I think that a lot of voters have become disengaged because it's just too much. There's too much out there. They feel like they don't matter anymore. Look, I'm on the back roads every day. I come in contact—. I've got over seven hundred mailboxes I serve, and I don't just serve one route, and the people that I meet? They're voting this year. And they haven't voted—"I've never voted." So, yeah, I mean, I see it with my eyes.

17:50

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. So what should government not be spending money on if we're being overtaxed? Does that make sense?

18:00

**SCHRUMP:** Okay. Well, yes it does. Okay, well, one, the FDA [Food and Drug Administration]. They don't protect us. Look at the GMOs [Genetically Modified Organisms] in our food! We need to focus in

on what they should be doing as far as protecting Americans' lives? Maybe we wouldn't have such a health care crisis in this country. And then you can't mandate health care. People should have the right to choose. And I truly believe that we need more—I mean, it's a free market! Why is North Carolina, and all states, I guess, why are we only allowed—I'm only allowed to choose, with my husband's retirement plan, Blue Cross [Blue Shield North Carolina]. You know, that's what we're forced to have. Not saying they're a bad insurance company. But then, you know, we've got to come across state lines. When Donald Trump says that, I totally agree.

18:56

**O'NEIL:** What does he say that you agree with?

18:58

**SCHRUMP:** We have to be competitive. Like, Blue Cross can't know, "hey, we've got this." You know? "We've got this monopoly." We have to break these monopolies that we have going on. Because then that drives prices down. We become more competitive. The FDA, the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency], I mean—.

19:22

**O'NEIL:** So tell me about the FDA and the EPA. Because knowing, let's say, nothing, if we start—.

19:27

**SCHRUMP:** Well, the FDA, I mean—. Well, GMO. Okay.

19:28

**O'NEIL:** If we start with the FDA and the EPA—

19:31

**SCHRUMP:** Okay.

19:34

**O'NEIL:** —and you want them to do a good job, wouldn't you think that would mean we should fund them more so that they can do a better job, you say protecting us?

19:44

**SCHRUMP:** What I think is they do a lot of spending on things that are unnecessary. Do I know what all of—? No. Because they keep it—a lot of it is private, what they do. The things that are important to me are the GMOs in our food. They need to label it, which now they're starting to do somewhat.

20:06

**O'NEIL:** They are.

20:06

**SCHRUMP:** I buy organic, and organic food should not cost more. [Laughs.] If they're taking out all of the fillers and the dyes and such, why does it cost more?

20:21

**O'NEIL:** So who would make them cost less?

20:23

**SCHRUMP:** Who would make them cost less? What do you mean?

20:25

**O'NEIL:** Yeah, do you know what I mean, if organic food—

20:26

**SCHRUMP:** No.

20:27

**O'NEIL:** So, organic food costs more. I buy organic, too, when I can, and it's damned expensive!

20:31

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah! Yeah! The veggies, I mean, you know, my thing is that the thicker the skin, you don't have to buy—. Like, say, a grapefruit, you know, you could probably not have to buy them—wash it real good and then peel it—versus an apple or a grape.

20:46

**O'NEIL:** My thing is the butter. The organic butters just taste better—

20:50

**SCHRUMP:** I love it—

20:50

**O'NEIL:** —but it's so expensive!

20:50

**SCHRUMP:** The milk. I mean, you can buy 1% milk and it tastes like whole.

20:53

**O'NEIL:** And it's creamy, I know. It's great.

20:54

**SCHRUMP:** I mean, and a lot of people can't afford organic.

20:58

**O'NEIL:** Right. But I feel like since I'm buying organic, I'm paying for better quality. So maybe—.

21:03

**SCHRUMP:** Well, in that sense, you're saying, you get what you pay for. And you know, you're right. But we have a health—. So many people with diabetes, high blood pressure. I mean, if they made it organic across the board, like, say, England.

21:17

**O'NEIL:** So if the government forced everybody to only farm organic—.

21:22

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. Let's start that! You know what I mean? And that I would be okay with, because that makes sense to me because it's people's health, you know? And that would drive the price down. You know? Dump the Cheetos, and the—. [Laughs.]

21:37

**O'NEIL:** Even though those are delicious, too—. [Laughs.]

21:38

**SCHRUMP:** Oh, they are. Oh, my daughter would die without a Puff. But anyway, you know what I mean? It's cheaper to buy cheap food. It costs less to buy cheap food.

21:51

**O'NEIL:** So, I've kept you longer than the fifteen minutes. Do you mind if we keep talking? Is that okay?

21:55

**SCHRUMP:** No, we haven't gotten to Donald Trump yet. I'm good. Let's go.

21:57

**O'NEIL:** Okay, good. So, tell me—.

21:58

**SCHRUMP:** Trump. I've been watching him since the '80s. I know about his corporate bankruptcies. He's got five hundred and fifteen businesses; if he's had four [bankruptcies], and he restructured them, that does not bother me one bit. It's the law. It's the law. He—where I live right now, it's happening. I

live in Woodlake. The guy went bankrupt and he turned right around and sold it to his uncle for a third of the price. It happens all the time in America. It doesn't bother me. He lives the American dream. He is what a lot of us want to be, what a lot of us want to leave our children.

22:38

**O'NEIL:** So if we're talking about the bankruptcies, I've heard—I know that when you go into bankruptcy, then you get to negotiate down the amount of money that you pay.

22:48

**SCHRUMP:** Yes.

22:49

**O'NEIL:** So that means he makes—I wasn't actually gonna go down this road—but you're talking about it, so I'm curious. He signs a contract and then goes into bankruptcy, and then he doesn't have to pay the people that he signed the contract with. Doesn't that seem unfair to those people that he paid to build the hotel or something?

23:06

**SCHRUMP:** Well, if I knew the circumstance I could probably comment on that a little bit more, you know, with a little bit better education.

23:17

**O'NEIL:** Me too.

23:17

**SCHRUMP:** You know, everybody, ha—yeah. I mean, they do it because they can. He didn't write that law, he just used it. [Laughs.]

23:28

**O'NEIL:** So what kinds of laws would you like to see him write? What's his vision for America? What—?

23:32

**SCHRUMP:** I want the wall. I want our laws that are already on the books enforced. It's really that simple for me.

23:41

**O'NEIL:** Explain what that has to do with the wall.

23:44

**SCHRUMP:** The wall?

23:44

**O'NEIL:** Yeah.

23:45

**SCHRUMP:** Have you seen how they hop that little cheesy fence that's there? Yeah, that.

23:52

**O'NEIL:** Okay.

23:53

**SCHRUMP:** Every country has walls. The pope! He's like, "Don't build a wall!" Yet, really? The Vatican is surrounded by a wall.

24:01

**O'NEIL:** Guards in funny clothes.

24:02

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah! The White House just put their wall—their fence—higher! There's a reason. And I'm not saying that I hate Mexicans. I've got—two of my best friends are gay Mexicans. They moved out of Texas—had to sell their home for like a third of what it was worth—because they got tired of hearing gunfire every day. It's real. I'm a realist. [Laughs.]

24:27

**O'NEIL:** Okay. So, what does immigration mean in America? How is immigration working in America?

24:34

**SCHRUMP:** Back in the 17—16—, 1700s—I'm not an immigrant. But that's how this country was founded. People came over. They created the country. Then there's such a thing called the Constitution. That came into play. And we have laws on the books: how to become an American citizen. You come in and you assimilate. That's all I want. Assimilate to our country. Do it the legal way. That's all.

25:03

**O'NEIL:** Why do the laws matter so much to you?

26:07

**SCHRUMP:** Why do they matter so much? Because I'm a patriot. I'm an American. Yeah. I work. I pay taxes. Yeah. And I work very hard. And I had two children, just two, because that's all I felt I could afford. [Laughs.] That's why they matter to me. And I'm concerned about what I'm leaving my children into when I'm gone.

26:31

**O'NEIL:** So what impact do you think that immigrants are having on America?

26:35

**SCHRUMP:** They're bleeding us dry. Now, I'm not saying that they don't work hard. I've seen them out in the fields working. They work under the table for five dollars an hour. We can't compete with that. We, being me, or, you know—. And honestly, I feel like the farmers who employ them should be hit with major fines. I see it every day. You just don't know. Come to Vass on Thursday afternoon.

25:59

**O'NEIL:** I live in a small town, I see it.

26:00

**SCHRUMP:** It's scary. I drive through on my way home, and I'm like—. It's a one-stoplight town onto my—you know, I live on a golf resort—and I'm talking, I probably see one hundred of 'em, and they're walking to the bank to cash their checks. And I'm like, I honestly feel afraid.

26:18

**O'NEIL:** Afraid—?

26:20

**SCHRUMP:** That I've warped into another place, you know? And when they see my Trump sign on the back of my car, they look down. Like I'm gonna lock 'em up. And I'm like, "get legal!" You know? Get legal!

26:38

**O'NEIL:** So, wouldn't one response to their being paid under the table be to make them legal so that then they have to be paid above-ground, above the board?

26:49

**SCHRUMP:** Absolutely! Yes! Pay your sh—pay your dues!

26:53

**O'NEIL:** So wouldn't that be an argument for amnesty, conceivably—

26:56

**SCHRUMP:** No.

26:56

**O'NEIL:** —so that suddenly all the people who are here have to pay all those taxes?

26:59

**SCHRUMP:** We've done that already. Reagan did that. And then it—. Didn't he?

27:05

**O'NEIL:** To an extent, yeah, he did.

27:09

**SCHRUMP:** You can't hop the border and have a baby. If you go and look at all the hospitals right along our southern border, they are—and I know nurses, and, you know, I'm very socially active on media—our hospitals are dying with all of the unpaid bills—the debt. It's debt, is what it is!

27:29

**O'NEIL:** So, you see your ideas about immigration as not having to do with race, but rather having to do with—

27:34

**SCHRUMP:** Absolutely not. I don't care where they come from. It comes down to, enforce our laws, let everyone become legal, whatever that takes. You know, I know legal immigrants, they're very offended at the fact that these other people are hopping over. Just become legal! Be a part of our society. Assimilate. That's what our Constitution says. You assimilate. I would never go to Germany and walk in

there and go, “Give me some food stamps!” you know, “Hook me up with some free health care!” Ever!  
Number one, I can’t speak German but the curse words, I learned from my—.

28:07

**O’NEIL:** Sure. They’re good, aren’t they? They’re good.

28:10

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] But that’s what I’m saying. And I don’t care what you are, where you come from.

28:16

**O’NEIL:** Okay. Does what Trump says about foreign policy mean something to you, or are you thinking more about America’s domestic life?

28:24

**SCHRUMP:** Foreign policy matters. NATO [The North Atlantic Treaty Organization], I do believe, needs to be restructured. I mean, that was like, yeah. They need to pay their fair share. Why are we over there, number one? Look, my dad was military, my father-in-law is military. He was a POW in Vietnam for five years right along with McCain. If you call my father-in-law a hero, he’ll knock you loose. He said, “Suzette, what I did when I was captured for five years, is what any other soldier would do: I stayed alive.” [Schrump is referring to Trump’s statements in July 2015 regarding Arizona Senator John McCain, saying, “He’s not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured.”]

29:00

**O'NEIL:** So what is America to you?

29:06

**SCHRUMP:** What is America to me?

29:08

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Do you know what I mean? Like, what do you think of when you think of America?

29:12

**SCHRUMP:** It's the great—. To me, you know, when Trump says "Make America Great Again," I get it.

Because I kind of feel like, growing up, I saw it great, to some extent. When we weren't influxed.

Maybe I was just too young to pay attention then, but I didn't have kids, you know? I didn't have, I

guess, a dog in the fight, it didn't feel like. I was off doing my, you know, high-impact aerobics and being

a vegan, and—you know? But when you kind of get a little older, you know, the big picture just kind of surrounds you just a little.

29:48

**O'NEIL:** So, America is "great."

29:54

**SCHRUMP:** It's good. I'm on "good," now.

29:56

**O'NEIL:** What do you mean by that?

29:57

**SCHRUMP:** It's good.

30:00

**O'NEIL:** Do you mean "good," morally? "Good," ethically?

30:04

**SCHRUMP:** Not morally. [Laughs.] I think our moral structure has really decayed just a little, as far as what they show on television, things like that. I think they could pull back a little bit on all of the sex that you see on television. You know, they show a picture of Melania Trump nude; hell, I see that on HBO and on regular channels. [On August 1, 2016, the *New York Post* published nude photos taken of Melania Knauss, the future Melania Trump taken in 1995.] I mean, it's not a big deal to me. It's the human body. However, economically we've decayed. We're in debt, bad. But, you know what? If you're looking for a different answer—

30:41

**O'NEIL:** Oh, I'm not. I'm asking *your* answer.

30:41

**SCHRUMP:** —you're speaking—. No, but you're speak—. Yeah, you're speaking to someone who has always thought our country should be run like a business, because of all the money that's being exchanged.

30:50

**O'NEIL:** So, let me ask. I'm thinking about NATO, and I'm thinking about running a country as a business, and I'm thinking about what America stands for, and what I—

31:01

**SCHRUMP:** America is, well, the American dream. You own a home. You can work hard. You can accomplish, you know, a good education, you know, if you work for it. That's—to me—work for it! You're not entitled to it just because you're here.

31:17

**O'NEIL:** So, would you say that freedom or equality are things that America is for, or is it more about hard work?

31:23

**SCHRUMP:** Yes, I think it is freedom. I don't have a problem with—and that's another thing that my conservative friends kind of go—I don't have a problem with gay people. They can love who they want to. I really don't. Like I said, I told you, my two Mexican girlfriends—she told me straight up, I said “Gloria, were you born that way?” She goes, “No! I choose it.” Perfectly fine with it! [Laughs.] We don't have to see it on our television. I don't even want to see men and—you know what I mean? We can pull that back just a little.

31:53

**O'NEIL:** Of course those networks are running like a business, and they see how to make money, and—

31:55

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah, they are, yes, they do, and they know sex sells, yes. I get it.

31:59

**O'NEIL:** So I've heard.

32:00

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah. Yeah.

32:02

**O'NEIL:** So, what I hear in defense of NATO is that NATO is America's chance to help uphold freedom throughout the world. Do you think it's America's responsibility to do that? Do you know what I mean? Like, you're talking about hard work, and I'm curious—but is it something more than just hard work?

32:18

**SCHRUMP:** That's the part—yes, I do. Well, we're considered the superpower, so, you know, somebody, I guess, has to keep it wrangled in.

32:27

**O'NEIL:** Do you think we ought to?

32:29

**SCHRUMP:** It's expensive.

32:33

**O'NEIL:** Is freedom worth that expense?

32:34

**SCHRUMP:** I think that, in one aspect: nukes.

32:40

**O'NEIL:** How so?

32:42

**SCHRUMP:** Uh, for obvious reasons? [Laughs.]

32:44

**O'NEIL:** True, but can you explain?

32:47

**SCHRUMP:** Okay, because they're aggressive, North Korea. Iran. For Iran, it's all about religion. I believe you can have freedom of religion, but I don't think religion—to me, religion, really? You go and kill infidels? I can't even wrap my mind around that. So we have to contain nuclear weapons—have to!

33:12

**O'NEIL:** Okay. So we do have some role to play in the world.

33:14

**SCHRUMP:** Absolutely! We have a big role to play in the world, but it needs to be restructured to where, like Donald Trump says, he puts it in layman's terms, we have to make them—I mean, my goodness! We're over there protecting oil countries—are you kidding me? And they're not paying up? Maybe that would help with our deficit! You think? [Laughs.]

33:34

**O'NEIL:** So, do you think that—last question, I think—do you think that Donald Trump, if he changes the way that things have been run, that he risks destabilizing some of that freedom in the world? Or do you feel that he will do something different?

33:53

**SCHRUMP:** Do I think that he'll destabilize—?

33:55

**O'NEIL:** So, for instance, if we

33:57

**SCHRUMP:** If we pull out of NATO or if we restructure NATO?

33:59

**O'NEIL:** Yeah, or if we were to let, say, Putin [mispronounces name] come in?—Putin? I don't know—.

34:03

**SCHRUMP:** [Corrects O'Neil's pronunciation.] Putin.

34:03

**O'NEIL:** Great. —if we were to let Putin come in and take over, say, another country—

34:09

**SCHRUMP:** I think that Putin respects us too much. I think that Putin wants better relationships with the United States. He's already—I mean, I've seen him say it with his mouth—he already knows we're the superpower, and he also wants us to be strong again.

34:27

**O'NEIL:** Why? How would that benefit him for us to be strong? Wouldn't it benefit him for us to be weak?

34:33

**SCHRUMP:** Well, no! I really don't think that they're out to get us.

34:37

**O'NEIL:** No?

34:37

**SCHRUMP:** No, I don't. I don't. Because, I mean, couldn't they already? [Laughs.]

34:43

**O'NEIL:** They could, but perhaps they don't because they think we could get them back.

34:45

**SCHRUMP:** Absolutely. I don't think that Iran should have nuclear weapons. I just do not. I do not think North Korea, in my opinion—. And I know this is gonna sound severe, but I've been asked this question many times, I think we should pull all of our troops out and do what we did to Japan. That would get somebody's attention. My mother-in-law was in Japan when we nuked 'em. It got their attention.

35:11

**O'NEIL:** It gets their attention. Doesn't it kill millions of people?

35:13

**SCHRUMP:** It does.

35:14

**O'NEIL:** Is that worth it?

35:16

**SCHRUMP:** Apparently it was. We have not had a problem with Japan since.

35:20

**O'NEIL:** But that was in the midst of a war where they were planning an invasion of America.

35:26

**SCHRUMP:** That's right. And that is what the Arabs are doing with us in the form of ISIS [The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, sometimes referred to as The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant], Iran. You've got Afghanistan, Pakistan. Iran and Pakistan are really our biggest, you know—. That's where they base everything.

35:43

**O'NEIL:** So does America stay a bastion or a symbol of freedom in the world if it goes around bombing with nuclear weapons hundreds of thousands of people, or do we lose that credibility?

35:56

**SCHRUMP:** Well, no, I'm talking about—we're targeting—we need to target those that are slaughtering people.

36:04

**O'NEIL:** Right. But targeted bombs are comparatively small; nuclear weapons, if they target the Coliseum then they get me, too.

36:10

**SCHRUMP:** No, I understand what you're saying. Well, obviously, they—it's a plume. You know, at some point, when are you gonna stop putting our troops on the ground to get IEDs [improvised explosive devices]? I'm tired—. Like I said, I'm very military—I see the guys in my neighborhood with one leg, half a face, you know, reconstructed. You have to control this. It's already here. They're here. They gotta go. Whatever it takes, I'm okay with it. Want a picture? [Laughs.]

36:52

**O'NEIL:** For the purposes of the recording, the button says "Bomb the Shit out of ISIS."

36:58

**SCHRUMP:** That's right. And I don't have a problem with that. The refugees. We're gonna bring in 10,000 refugees, twenty cent will be men, or twenty percent, twenty percent will be women, sixty percent will be children. That's not what I saw.

37:16

**O'NEIL:** What do you mean, "what you saw"?

37:17

**SCHRUMP:** The refugees, they're strong young men. I've seen it.

37:23

**O'NEIL:** Might it be better to have strong young men here, living in America, watching our—

37:27

**SCHRUMP:** That you can't vet? No. [Laughs.]

37:30

**O'NEIL:** From what I hear, the vetting process is extremely rigorous.

37:33

**SCHRUMP:** They can't vet them. How are they vetting them? They come and they go, "We don't have any identification."

37:40

**O'NEIL:** But America isn't taking those ones.

37:44

**SCHRUMP:** Oh, no, they're here. We just took ten thousand.

37:47

**O'NEIL:** Who were vetted very rigorously, from everything I've heard.

37:49

**SCHRUMP:** From who? By who?

37:52

**O'NEIL:** By the U.S. government.

37:53

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] U.S. government said that they can't vet them?

38:00

**O'NEIL:** Where? They said that—

38:01

**SCHRUMP:** Where? Well, I've seen it on RSBNTV [Right Side Broadcasting Network, a right-wing website], I've heard them—I mean, the Senators, the Congressmen, I mean, [South Carolina Congressman] Trey Gowdy. They can't vet them! How can you vet somebody who walks up with just the clothes on their back? I mean, I could walk up to you and say, "Hi, I'm Jane!—"

38:20

**O'NEIL:** I'd believe you.

38:21

**SCHRUMP:** "—I promise, I'm a Syrian refugee." But you can't! I mean, you have to—. History, number one, repeats itself. You have to look at what's going around you and become somewhat of a realist. I mean, this is—I mean, you don't have to put this on there, but this is what my grandmother always said: "Looks like shit, smells like shit, it's shit!"

38:41

**O'NEIL:** So is there any way people outside of America could come to America seeking freedom rather than to destroy us? Can you imagine people from outside America who might want that?

38:53

**SCHRUMP:** There are people here who have come legally and went through the process who don't want to destroy us. Of course I can imagine that. Absolutely!

39:00

**O'NEIL:** But the refugees have come legally.

39:03

**SCHRUMP:** Under Obama's administration, yes. And prior to that administration, too, but you have to understand, I believe they're both in it together. And that's why I went Independent. There's no such thing as a Republican and a Democrat anymore.

39:17

**O'NEIL:** So, you think Obama is aligned with the terrorists?

39:20

**SCHRUMP:** I do. I do.

39:22

**O'NEIL:** Why do you think that?

39:23

**SCHRUMP:** Because of his actions.

39:25

**O'NEIL:** Like what?

39:26

**SCHRUMP:** I believe that he's a racist bigot. He had no experience. He was a, what, a freshman Senator who was a community organizer? [Laughs.] And now he wants to talk about Trump's experience? I'm offended by that. I'm offended by the fact that everybody wants to down the KKK [Ku Klux Klan], which I condemn. I think slavery was horrific. I've never owned a slave, ever. I don't know anyone who ever was a slave, and I'm glad. However, him bringing Black Lives Matter activists to the White House: that is creating the biggest racial division in our country.

40:14

**O'NEIL:** So, I'm curious—

40:16

**SCHRUMP:** I mean, I know Hillary Clinton, you know, was buds with Senator Byrd, the KKK Grand Wizard! [Schrump is referring to West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd, a Klan member in the 1940s who later renounced the group.] I know that! [Laughs.]

40:26

**O'NEIL:** So, Trump says he wants to bring everybody to the table. Couldn't Obama bringing those people to the White House be a way of negotiating?

40:37

**SCHRUMP:** Has it helped?

40:38

**O'NEIL:** I'm asking. I don't know.

40:39

**SCHRUMP:** It hasn't. I mean, golly! You know, it's one thing to protest. These are riots. Come on, let's get—. They're attacking our police. We have to be a police society. Do I think there's bad cops? Yeah! [Laughs.] I've been pulled over and treated very unfairly! I'm white. Well—you know, portions of me are white. You know? I had a guy pull me over, looked like Billy Bob Thornton. He wanted to give me five tickets for speeding! I had two licenses, this and that, and I'm thinking, "Hold on!" I mean, just—. You know, your little license plate on the back of your car, when you buy a car, they put a nice little fancy "Crown Ford" [license plate holder]—we'll use that as an example—that's a violation. Did you know that?

41:25

**O'NEIL:** Can be, yeah.

41:26

**SCHRUMP:** Well, that's what he told me. I'm like, "Dude!" I said, "what am I covering up?" I said, "The dealership did that!" "'Gainst the law. You got two IDs. Why you got that?" I said, "It's the same person." I said, "I'm waiting for this one that's half-cracked to break, and then I'm gonna use my brand-new one." "Is that your address?" "No, sir, I just moved." "You got thirty days. How long you been there?" "Forty days." "That's a viol—" I mean, you know? So, yeah, you do—I've been jacked around by the cops. However, we have to be a police society. You cannot attack our cops. All lives matter. And for people to scream in the streets, "Kill cops! Kill all white people! Kill babies!" Abortion: more black babies are killed by abortion than any other race! It's crazy! I have black—. I grew up, my best friend, her daddy was as black as the road out there—well, that's not very black—but, anyway—loved him!

Their mother was a German. I grew up with them. She did my hair right along with theirs. I never thought that way, ever in my life, and I still don't. And I'm offended by people who do. I've had to take people off—. Got a guy at work, I said, "Who's your candidate?" 'Cause he keeps attacking the person I—. He goes, "I don't have one." I said, "Then stop sending me stuff. If you don't debate me, and you just want to keep ridiculing—. If you want to talk to me about things, I'm with you." I said, "but if you're gonna keep acting like a racist, you're out." So he's out.

42:54

**O'NEIL:** Fair enough.

42:55

**SCHRUMP:** And his butt hurt! [Possibly "He's butt-hurt!"]

42:57

**O'NEIL:** Well, thank you so much. I really appreciate you talking to me.

43:00

**SCHRUMP:** I'm voting Trump. And I am—can't have Hillary.

43:08

**O'NEIL:** Why not?

43:09

**SCHRUMP:** Why not? Do you have more time?

43:12

**O'NEIL:** I have all the time you have.

43:13

**SCHRUMP:** Benghazi. [Schrump is referring to the attack on the American diplomatic compound in Libya while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State.]

43:14

**O'NEIL:** We've only been forty minutes, though, so I don't want to take your time—

43:15

**SCHRUMP:** Benghazi.

43:17

**O'NEIL:** Okay.

43:18

**SCHRUMP:** Okay, that's one. Clinton cash. [The name of a 2015 documentary directed by Peter Schweizer]. Clinton Foundation. Have you seen *Hillary's America* [the 2016 documentary directed by Dinesh D'Souza]?

43:25

**O'NEIL:** So, could you sum Hillary Clinton up for me? Does that make sense?

43:30

**SCHRUMP:** Yes. She's owned—

43:30

**O'NEIL:** You've listed a lot of nouns. [Laughs.]

43:32

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] Okay, I'm sorry. Well, I want you to watch that, if you haven't.

43:35

**O'NEIL:** So, it's on my list.

43:37

**SCHRUMP:** Okay. No it isn't! But you can hear that.

43:39

**O'NEIL:** No, it is, actually. Could you tell me in your words, though, what is Hillary Clinton about?

43:44

**SCHRUMP:** She is power-hungry. She is—her idea—. Back when Bill Clinton was doing his thing with all the women and all of that, I lost so much respect for her for staying with that man. Because they were married, and she was publicly humiliated. That's when I knew she had an agenda. I've read how she

treats the Secret Service. I read how she talks about the military K-9s, the dogs. She's unstable. She sick in the head.

44:13

**O'NEIL:** So, isn't one of the virtues of Trump that he has sought and gained so much power?

44:20

**SCHRUMP:** What do you mean?

44:21

**O'NEIL:** Well, I mean, Mr. Trump—

44:22

**SCHRUMP:** This is a movement.

44:23

**O'NEIL:** Mr. Trump says all the time, "here's what's great about me: I'm fantastically successful, I'm very powerful, I'm very important." Isn't that one of his virtues?

44:30

**SCHRUMP:** And Hillary Clinton is not. He has a track-record. I'm sorry, I'm not wording it right. He has a track-record of being successful. She's never created one job. Just like [Democratic primary candidate Vermont Senator] Bernie Sanders. They've both lived off the government their entire life. They don't

help—. She vote-panders. That's all she does. That's all she does. She wouldn't even endorse the police! What?!

44:53

**O'NEIL:** So, you're keeping me here, so I'm just gonna keep asking you questions.

44:56

**SCHRUMP:** I mean, but what?! I mean, right?

44:58

**O'NEIL:** So, she's spoken clearly in favor of the police.

45:02

**SCHRUMP:** Uh, seriously?

45:05

**O'NEIL:** Yeah.

45:06

**SCHRUMP:** Have you asked Alan West about that, who's a cop?

45:08

**O'NEIL:** I don't know who Alan West is.

45:10

**SCHRUMP:** Okay, Alan B. West. Go to his website. [Alan West is a former Florida Congressman.] She turned down their endorsement: Fraternal Order of the Police. [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.] She talks a lot; her actions are what bother me. As a woman. And I would love for a powerful woman, a woman with integrity—she has no integrity. So I'm not gonna—I cannot vote for a vagina. And basically that's what she's asking us to do.

45:36

**O'NEIL:** So, is there something Trump could do or say that could lose your vote? Does that make sense? You talk about problems with Hillary—

45:42

**SCHRUMP:** It does make sense. Yes.

45:43

**O'NEIL:** —and I'm curious: if Trump comes out today and says something, what would he say that—again, I don't—

40:50

**SCHRUMP:** No, no no! No. No. I get what you're coming from. Is there something that would crush me?

45:55

**O'NEIL:** Yeah. Because he's built up a movement. It's really impressive; so many people—is there something—?

45:58

**SCHRUMP:** What would turn me away is if he came out today and said, "Vote for Hillary, I'm out." I would stay home.

46:09

**O'NEIL:** He probably won't.

46:10

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] Well, yes. I mean—.

46:12

**O'NEIL:** Is there a policy, or is there an idea that he could—here, let's step this way just to make sure we can still hear you on the microphone.

46:21

**SCHRUMP:** Oh, yeah—my loudmouth friend. [Laughs.] Love her, though. I'm thinking. Hold on. 'Cause I have thought about that. I mean, I have. I've been—like I said, I've been watching him since the '80s. I didn't like when he, you know, had his Marla Maple, you know, his Ivana-Marla Maple thing. [Trump famously cheated on his wife Ivana Trump with his second wife Marla Maples.] I didn't like that. But, you know what? I figured, that's his personal life. You know, divorce: people do it. Not gonna change my mind. I honestly believe he's for the American people. I haven't come up with anything, to be

honest. I'm not gonna say that I'm an "ignorant Trump suppor—" I get—that really offends me, that people, "Oh, he's got low-information voters." If people knew [laughs] how much I—. I mean, I'm so in it, you know? And I guess they're just—. And I see the white trash that are gonna vote for him, with no teeth and, you know, I see it. But they have a right to vote.

47:34

**O'NEIL:** Absolutely.

47:34

**SCHRUMP:** You know? I mean, I've also met—I met the North Carolina State Director, Earl Phillip, before he got promoted up into the National Diversity Coalition. [Earl Phillip had been the North Carolina State Director for Trump's Campaign before briefly becoming Deputy Chair of Trump's National Diversity Coalition.] Big, giant, black Ranger. Loved him! I mean, you know? And so, I don't know that—I can't imagine—unless he dropped out, would be my thing. I mean, like the thing, "Get that baby out of here!" [At a rally on August 2, 2016, Trump told a woman that she could remain in the crowd with her crying baby, but later said, "Actually, I was only kidding, you can get the baby out of here."] Like, really? The girl came on FaceBook: "He didn't kick me out!" It's rigged, when you have a baby in there!

48:11

**O'NEIL:** What about, if we're talking about—

48:12

**SCHRUMP:** Oh, you're getting fried by the sun.

48:14

**O'NEIL:** No worries. I'm sorry to keep you in this spot—

48:15

**SCHRUMP:** No no no.

48:17

**O'NEIL:** What about with the military family, the Gold Star family that he's been arguing with?

48:23

**SCHRUMP:** Khan? [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. "Gold Star Survivors" refers to immediate survivors of people who died serving the Army.]

48:24

**O'NEIL:** Khan and his son—

48:24

**SCHRUMP:** Khan is a self-serving—. You know, it really makes me sad that he is publicizing his son's death like that. Because of who I am, and who my father is, and who my father-in-law is, I understand the pain of what he's—. He is—he works for the Clinton Foundation. He is an illegal alien attorney. [In the days following Trump's media debate with the Khans, forged documents circulated online

suggesting that Khan had received money from the Clinton Foundation. Khan worked as an immigration attorney.] That's his agenda. He's a plant!

48:54

**O'NEIL:** Is his publicizing of his son's death different than, say, the Benghazi mother's publicizing of her son's death?

49:00

**SCHRUMP:** No. No. I mean, but he's taking it to the—I mean, he's out there—. And then he goes and he says—. I mean, he shouldn't bash Donald Trump. Donald Trump didn't kill his kid. You know, he's not even in the administration! Let's call a spade a spade, you know? I mean, I don't believe in war, but I do believe that other small countries who want to take you out, you've got to be—. We've always been the superpower. We have to control it to an extent. I think when he comes out and he says, he being Khan, "I want to get out of the limelight," you know, "I want to go back to my life, my regular life," then he totally deletes, strips his entire business off the Internet, what's he hiding? That's what I think. That's how I feel about that. I've met Gold Star mothers. I feel that they should all have fair treatment, but in typical Trump-New-York fashion—my family's from New York—that's where I—I get him. I know that he's sarcastic and bombastic and braggadocious. I know all those things. I think he's funny. I mean, yeah, he needs to pull it back a little.

50:18

**O'NEIL:** Why?

50:18

**SCHRUMP:** Why? Because he offends some of the conservatives. Yeah. It's all about offense, and I mean, hey, if you're out there campaigning for yourself, you need to show that soft side, too. And that would be one thing that I would give him recommendation for. You know, show that you are a real person. And people need to come to the rallies, even if they're not for him, to see the real person. Because, you know, media spins it. I know it, because I've been there to a rally and then I watched the news, and I'm like, that didn't happen! You know? I was at the last one, where the guy sucker-punched that guy, and, I mean, I saw it happen, because it happened right above me, and—do I think the guy should have been put?—And he was. He got in trouble. [On March 9, at a rally in Fayetteville, a Donald-Trump supporter punched a protester.] I mean, that was wrong!

51:02

**O'NEIL:** How do you feel about the behavior that's been at the rallies? Like that, or other things? What's your impression of it?

51:08

**SCHRUMP:** My impression of the behavior—you mean the rioters?

51:12

**O'NEIL:** No, I mean all of the—

51:14

**SCHRUMP:** Oh, you mean the people on the inside?

51:16

**O'NEIL:** I suppose I mean—. You were at the last rally.

51:19

**SCHRUMP:** I've been to South Carolina, was at the first one, I've been at this one. Mmm-hmm.

51:22

**O'NEIL:** So, I've heard, frankly, people on all sides yelling pretty spectacular things to each other. I have heard people who are supporters of Trump yelling kind of amazingly racist and violent things.

51:35

**SCHRUMP:** I think that's ignorant.

51:37

**O'NEIL:** Okay.

51:38

**SCHRUMP:** Mmm-hmm.

51:39

**O'NEIL:** Do you think—

51:39

**SCHRUMP:** That's not why I'm there. That shouldn't be why they're there.

51:42

**O'NEIL:** Do you think Trump could or should put a stop to that?

51:49

**SCHRUMP:** Wouldn't hurt. Wouldn't hurt. I mean, and he has said, you know, "be nice to 'em," but then in a sarcastic way, he'll say, you know—. Honestly, it's everybody's freedom of speech. I guess you'd kind of trample on that. That's—when I was saying there's ignorant ones, that's ignorant. That's ignorant. I'm here because I want to be around like-minded people. Yeah. I mean, I have a Trump sticker on my mail vehicle, and when I go through a not-so-nice neighborhood, I get yelled racial slurs at me. They don't even know me. You know? So, yeah, but they're there on the first and the fifteenth when I put the check in their box and they're so happy.

51:37

**O'NEIL:** I bet. So am I, on the first and the fifteenth.

51:39

**SCHRUMP:** [Laughs.] You know? Well, yeah! And I'm thinking, okay, guys, you know, go vote! And that's what I tell 'em. Go vote. Make sure you vote. Yeah! I mean, I talk to so many Democrats, and I talk to whoever—whenever wants to talk to me, you know, and I don't make it a secret. I don't have to. I'm too old for that. I'm just like, "uh-uh." I'm not gonna be afraid. I'm not afraid. Went and got a weapon.

53:03

**O'NEIL:** Yeah?

53:03

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah. Well, I had weapons before my children, and we had children, we sold the weapons, and came to the gun show last weekend. Bought myself a rifle. I'm just getting started.

53:14

**O'NEIL:** Why?

53:15

**SCHRUMP:** Because they're gonna—they're not gonna take—. I want to protect my family. Honestly, I love to shoot weapons. [Laughs.] I really do. I love the smell of gunpowder. Is that crazy?

53:26

**O'NEIL:** No, it feels good.

53:27

**SCHRUMP:** It does! I love to target-shoot. I mean, I'm not out to kill anybody. Yeah!

53:33

**O'NEIL:** So, it's been eight years of Obama. Has anyone taken your weapons away?

53:38

**SCHRUMP:** I didn't have any.

53:39

**O'NEIL:** Has anyone taken any of your friends' weapons away?

53:39

**SCHRUMP:** No. No, no no. And I believe—

53:43

**O'NEIL:** Do you feel that Hillary would?

53:44

**SCHRUMP:** Yes I do.

53:45

**O'NEIL:** But I heard that *Obama* would.

53:46

**SCHRUMP:** Even though she said—. Well, I know.

53:48

**O'NEIL:** I was told that eight years ago, and four years ago—.

53:49

**SCHRUMP:** Well, apparently Congress wouldn't let that down. I know what you're saying. Yeah!

53:52

**O'NEIL:** So, do you think Congress would let Hillary? That's surprising to me.

53:55

**SCHRUMP:** Don't know. Who the heck knows? Don't know, but don't want it to happen. I don't feel like we—. I mean, honestly, you don't need an AR-15 [a semi-automatic rifle] on the street. But we need to—. I think people would be less—you know, they wouldn't, like—. Okay. Here's the cliché: "cling to your guns and your religion." I think they would be less likely to feel that way if maybe the gangs were under control. We have MS-13 [Mara Salvatrucha, a criminal gang] in Charlotte, did you know that? Yeah. It's pretty scary. And they're El Salvadoreans [sic]! Yeah! So, you know, I mean, it's, come on! Let's switch a few things up and clean up our streets! I honestly believe the National Guard should be policing our streets and helping our cops, because obviously they're outmanned. So. See, I'm all over the place, but I know what I'm talk—I mean, I know how I feel. I know, you know, what I feel would be a good start.

54:53

**O'NEIL:** Well, you told me a great deal. I can't take any more of your time. But thank you so much.

54:56

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah. Go find some other—

54:58

**O'NEIL:** I'm sure I will.

55:00

**SCHRUMP:** —maybe informed, maybe uninformed, I'm not sure. [Laughs.]

55:02

**O'NEIL:** No, I just want to hear what people say.

55:04

**SCHRUMP:** Yeah!

55:04

**O'NEIL:** Thank you so much.