

Methodist University Community Oral History Project
Methodist University
Fayetteville, NC

James Cain

Interview Conducted by
Travis W. Jones
27 March 2017
Fayetteville, N.C.

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Identifies as a Republican but has liberal views. Prevailing ethic: you do your thing, let me do mine.
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- 16:56 -viewed Obama as inexperienced and self-aggrandizing; he divided the country more than he brought it together.
- 18:26 -Clinton “thinks Trump is anti-woman, anti-Muslim,” but Trump is “more diversified” than either Clinton or Barack Obama
- 19:35 -Cain views Trump’s proposed wall as “a metaphor,” but thinks there needs to be control. Wants legal immigrants who pay taxes
- 22:40 -Thinks Trump’s views on Islam, his travel ban, are “spot on.” Acknowledges the potential goodness of some Muslims. Advocates tracking Muslims.
- 24:46 -Muslim or Islam convert responsible for all recent major terror attacks.
- 26:17 -Cain would like for Trump to get the military back to a stronger position. Would like him to limit career politician’s terms in office. Wants Trump to repeal gun restrictions
- 29:09 -thinks NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) oversteps its authority
- 32:00 -believes the media talks about Trump’s connection to Russia but doesn’t talk about Clinton’s connections or negative past.

Interview of

James Cain

Interviewed by

Travis Jones

0:01

JONES: So I am Travis Jones. We are in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Today is the twenty-seventh of March, and I am with—I would like you to introduce yourself and give your birthdate please.

0:17

CAIN: James, my birthday is 6/6/of 1967.

0:23

JONES: Awesome, so today we're just going to talk a little bit about Trump, but—how are you doing today?

0:31

CAIN: Good, yourself?

0:32

JONES: Not too bad. So I asked you if you if you were a Trump supporter, and if you would be willing to talk to me just a little bit about if you supported Trump before he was elected President. So can you tell me a little bit about that?

0:48

CAIN: Sure I supported him. From about the time he started running, and started saying the things he was saying. That's when I think most people started supporting him.

1:00

JONES: So, did you go to any of the political rallies?

1:03

CAIN: No, I don't go to rallies or any of that kind of stuff.

1:07

JONES: So, did you see the stuff that was going on at the rallies? The positives, the negatives, what did you see from that?

1:13

CAIN: oh, yeah. I saw the positive from the side of the people that were going. I mean the negatives you saw were from the negatives from the people that didn't support him. It wasn't support-people, it was people that—I hate to say it, but the liberal-type people.

1:28

JONES: Did that effect your opinion to support Trump at all? Or did just, like, reaffirm, like, because these people are doing this, that's kind of why I want to support Trump?

1:41

CAIN: No, I think it was the support side was more: tired of the politician bullshit. So, trying to find somebody that was, maybe—. I don't know that he's going to be better for the country, but the thought is, you know, he is a business man, he's obviously done super in business because he's a damn million, billionaire, or whatever the hell he is. He owns enough land and property to buy us twenty times over. So, I don't think he was in it for the money, and I don't think he is in it for the notoriety. I think he really saw a broken system and thought maybe he could fix it.

2:19

JONES: So, since—you said it—he was a businessman, and then he kind of became a television personality, right?

2:28

CAIN: Right, right.

2:29

JONES: Do you see that this adds value to him as a President, and did it factor into you supporting, because you kind of mentioned it there—. But how does that factor in, like, for you supporting him, that he was a businessman, and a television personality, and do you think it holds value to you?

2:47

CAIN: To me I think it does. Because he sees the broken shit that we see. As the businessman, the corruption from EPA [Environmental Protection Agency], from, you know, everything. He sees it because he's got to deal with it as being a developer, and I think for me, and what I do for a living, and,

you know, him supporting the military, and you know I'm very pro-military, so I want the military guys to have everything they can have and have as many as we can have. I really think that that helped out a lot in the decision, that I had, that I made, just based on—I think he sees it from our side. Yeah, maybe he's a millionaire, billionaire, whatever he is, but he sees it from our side of the coin. So that to me was the biggest thing. The T.V. personality crap, I could care less about, you know, I mean—. We had Ronald Reagan was our best president I think we have ever had, look, and he was an actor, you know so I don't really think that really matters much to me.

3:56

JONES: So, what broken stuff do you see that he sees that address your concerns?

4:06

CAIN: Well, I think the biggest thing, for me, is the overreach of government. He sees that the government, it just, it overreaches everything. It needs to be simplified. It needs to be the way it was, you know, back, I don't know, when I was born, and when, you know, I was early on, you know, a kid. Government didn't have their hand in every damn thing you did, or had a part of. And I think from his side, and I'm just guessing, that he sees that too, that there's just too much government. Me and you, and whoever's going to read this transcript, know that we spend all are money and taxes go to too much free shit, too much government, and too many people that get to live off of our dime. You know, it needs to stop.

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JONES: So, what overreaching government---I understand what you're saying, but I'd like you to explain it just a little bit more. And how it either makes you mad, how it affects you—

5:37

CAIN: Well, I will use the EPA thing for a “for instance” thing. I just told my wife, and let her read an article that I just read about a week ago, about—a lot of people don't know—and, God, if my daughter ever read this, you know, because of what she does, of what she's going to college for, she'd probably shoot me, but—. The EPA themselves, they are actually have become under Obama, they have become an arrest authority. [The EPA gained law-enforcement authority in 1988, under President Ronald Reagan.] I mean, they have the authority to come into your neighborhood, or your piece of land, and if you're doing something wrong they can arrest you. They also, over the past four years, have bought over \$715 million dollars' worth of assault weapons—for the EPA! [According to a blogger for Forbes, these purchases stretch back to 2006.] Why does the EPA need assault weapons? Why do they need \$15 million dollars' worth of rocket launchers, and M16s? They don't! That's what I'm getting at. I mean that, to me, that's the—my opinion is, Obama gave a lot of people a lot of overreaching authority that they shouldn't have. NOAA [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] is another one. And the same—I mean, NOAA, they sell out all their fish [catch] shares, and guess who buys them? The guy that catches 'em. So who was that dude who makes the guy richer? That stuff needs to go away. Do I know if Trump will do it? No, but I hope. You know, in both instances, and I'm sure it's more, the pipeline ordeal that Obama was trying to nix. [Cain is likely referring to the Dakota Access Pipeline.] You know, for two years or whatever he was going against it. And then, what most people didn't realize is if they look at that pipeline there's five or six other pipelines within a mile of each other right there. And they're protesting this one individual one. It makes no sense to me, it makes no sense that—I think it's really—it goes back to that, I'm not against any conservation at all. I think the world needs

conservation, but it needs to be done in the right way. And I don't think the EPA should be doing the things that they do. So there's one good instance for you.

7:40

JONES: Got it. Now the military, you said that a couple times, that it's close to you. You care about the military, you want a big military. It helps you build houses. How do you see President Trump['s] stance on the military making a connection with you, and your family?

8:04

CAIN: Oh, well, like I said, it's me being pro military, and him, you know, he is outspoken very pro-military. You know, I mean, I think for me, the biggest thing it'll do is because of what I just said: if he does what he says, and he lifts the sequester, it's positive to me because I earn more money, I have more money to spend, my family has more money to spend. So, it makes me more economically viable, by him doing what he's doing, because it filters downhill. You know, there's not just me, but all the guys that work for me, the guys that work—that do framing, the guys that do plumbing, air conditioning, everybody, it makes more for them. Because the more houses we're building to sell, the more those guys work.

8:56

JONES: Right.

...

9:14

JONES: So, do you see this—what you just said—as President Trump making America great again, and is that how he can make America great for you and for your family?

9:25

CAIN: Well, there's a bunch of different ways. I mean, that's a good start. I mean, there's—America hasn't—I won't say America hasn't been great, that'd be the wrong thing to say. America hasn't been what it had been. It's always going to be a great country, because there's no other country like it, but there's a lot of other things that could be done. You know, some of the stuff he's talked about with NAFTA, and, you know, some of the shit with NATO, and all that. That needs—. To make us great, we need to be great again, we need to be the world power. We need to be the one that everybody looks at. Instead of, now, we're the one borrowing money from everybody else to pay our bills. We need to be the opposite of that. And I don't think we've been that in a while.

10:18

JONES: So I know that you said like it a couple times, you know, about Ronald Reagan being the greatest President, you know, that there's—

10:26

CAIN: That I know of.

10:27

JONES: —that you know of—

10:30

CAIN: In my generation, anyway.

JONES: —and to make things—like, not say America isn't great—but to go back to a time. So when would you consider, in your life, the best time—that, you know, things were—that you would like to see President Trump kind of make them more like?

10:46

CAIN: Well definitely not like [Jimmy] Carter, or [Bill] Clinton number one. Definitely not like those times. We all know what that did to the military, too. You'd have to look at—I mean—. Just because of my age and—I mean, I've been through both of the [President] Bushes, and, I mean, while that was okay, they still did stupid shit, too. So I think you would have to go back to Reagan. And stay at the Reagan times, and you know, that would have been in the 80's—mid 80's or so, probably when I was in high school. And, you know, getting out of high school, when I was going in the military in the mid 80's—you know, it was—that probably—obviously household income was a lot different then, but if you put into perspective everything. And I don't know prior to that—'cause I just was too young to remember stuff, I'm sure an older person might disagree with me, or whatever, but probably in that time frame would be the best. If he could get something—. I know Reagan did a lot to curtail spending, and I just think—it would probably be my best answer. I don't know what else to say on that subject.