

Methodist University Community Oral History Project
Methodist University
Fayetteville, NC

Kathy Barbour

Interview Conducted by
Patrick W. O'Neil
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Interview of

KATHY BARBOUR

Interviewed by

PATRICK W. O'NEIL

0:02

O'NEIL: Okay. My name is Patrick O'Neil. I'm with the Methodist University Community Oral History Project. This is November 2, 2020, and if you could state your name?

0:12

BARBOUR: Kathy Barbour.

0:14

O'NEIL: Great. And your year of birth?

0:16

BARBOUR: 1966.

0:21

O'NEIL: Where are you from?

0:22

BARBOUR: Davidson County, but I live here—for twenty-seven years.

0:28

O'NEIL: Okay. What brings you here to the Trump rally?

0:34

BARBOUR: To support Trump.

0:36

O'NEIL: What about Donald Trump do you like? Or perhaps about his [policies, or his] administration?

0:45

BARBOUR: Well, there's a whole list of stuff. I'm pro-life. I love his pro-Israel stance. I love his pro-America—. I love that he has a backbone and fights for America and doesn't apologize.

1:03

O'NEIL: Could you describe how he fights for America?

1:08

BARBOUR: Well, he puts our interests—like the Green New Deal, getting out of the Green New Deal, the Paris Treaties. [The Green New Deal is a proposal to invest the US government heavily in building up green infrastructure with the hopes of preventing further climate change; the Paris Climate Accord was a treaty signed in 2016 by the Obama administration in hopes of slowing down the effects of climate change.]

1:18

O'NEIL: Could you explain what's wrong with the Green New Deal?

1:23

BARBOUR: Well, I just think it puts restrictions on America that other countries don't have. And we are actually performing better: we've got cleaner air now.

1:37

O'NEIL: Okay. Now, when you say you're pro-life, does that come out of a religious stance?

1:47

BARBOUR: Mm-hmm. I'm a Christian. Yeah. Well, I have three children, and I think when I was younger, it was easier to not care. But, you know, when you have your children and you see those ultrasounds, it's, like—it's very—yeah. And of course my faith: I'm a Christian. So I think that's really important.

2:10

O'NEIL: Would that be without any exceptions? Are there certain exceptions?

2:14

BARBOUR: Well, I think when you say "exceptions," I think that's a very small minority. I think the other side likes to use that and—you know. Is their argument for everything should be acceptable? And I don't think that's right. I think the choice is before conception. I mean, there's so many options available, and free, you know, that you can make. I think we know enough that it's very preventable. I have two daughters, you know.

2:51

O'NEIL: You say you're Christian. Are you affiliated with a denomination, or just—?

2:56

BARBOUR: Yes. I'm Baptist. Yeah. We go to a local church.

3:02

O'NEIL: Were you raised Baptist, or—?

3:05

BARBOUR: No. Presbyterian.

3:07

O'NEIL: What changed your religious views? Again, our goal here is to—.

3:14

BARBOUR: Well, I married a local person. [Laughs.] A local boy, and we go to the church he grew up in.

0:01

O'NEIL: Did you [feel comfortable with the] change, or did it just sort of work seamlessly?

3:25

BARBOUR: Yeah. Yeah.

3:29

O'NEIL: [inaudible due to heavy wind] in your household and the way you were you raised. Were you always Republican, or is that [inaudible]?

3:41

BARBOUR: Actually—yeah. Actually I consider myself more conservative. I'm kind of disappointed in some Republicans. But Republican is the affiliation. And I grew up—. My dad was active in the Republican Party, and he actually was in the House of Representatives in the early—late seventies. So, yeah. I [inaudible] went to stuff, but I didn't really know what I was doing. But I got more active in college. I think during the Oliver North hearings, that was, like, a big, big deal. Watching the hearings on TV.

4:25

O'NEIL: How did that help get you more into politics?

4:29

BARBOUR: It just—I guess I just was more aware, involved, and tried to, you know, learn more and—yeah. It was a big deal.

4:42

O'NEIL: You made a difference between Republicans and conservative, and you put yourself in the conservative camp. Can you explain the difference [inaudible]—sum it up?

4:50

BARBOUR: Well, I guess, you know, I'm more conservative, and I'd like less government involvement, lower taxes. Trump's taxes made a big deal for us as a family. And both my husband and I are self-employed. That's a big deal.

5:20

O'NEIL: And by contrast, you're suggesting that Republicans had [inaudible]?

5:26

BARBOUR: No, no, I think there's a lot of Republicans, I mean, you know, that have—well, like [Utah Senator] Mitt Romney, for instance. [Romney was the only Republican Senator to vote for Trump's removal from office.] I think that the big deal—. I think one thing with Democrats is at least they all stick together. [Laughs.] And Republicans tend to, like, "We can branch off and not support"—. I think having them come out, and, especially during this election, it's, like, been really eye-opening as to, you know, the fractions [sic] in the party. I think Trump is bringing in a lot of people that wouldn't even have considered the Republican Party before. I think, you know, in the past a lot of Republican leaders have not had a backbone. Kind of not, you know—. Seems like we were always on the defense instead of the offense, and that's one thing I like about Trump, is that he is more of a [inaudible]. Because I think the other side is definitely, you know, it's like, "we'll destroy everything to get our power." And we need to—

6:49

O'NEIL: Is that so? What will they—what *won't* they do?

6:54

BARBOUR: I mean, the whole thing with the judges, the thing. Now, this last one they did a little bit better, but what they did to [Supreme Court Justice Brett] Kavanaugh was just ridiculous. [Barbour is comparing the contentious confirmation process of Brett Kavanaugh to the much more expedited—but no less galling to Democrats—confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett.]

7:04

O'NEIL: Okay. I mean, Trump has appointed three judges already—

7:07

BARBOUR: I know! I love that.

7:09

O'NEIL: So, does that not suggest that the Democrats are not as [strong together as the Republicans?]
Does that make sense?

7:14

BARBOUR: Well, you know.—Yes, I totally get that. And I don't know why that [was so?], but I'm very glad that Trump has—that we have at least gotten the courts. And I'm not for—I mean, I think instead of just pushing agendas through the courts, but I do feel like they'll try to add judges to the court if Biden were to be elected.

7:44

O'NEIL: So, what do you feel about how this election will be [inaudible]? Do you fear

7:53

BARBOUR: Whatever—yeah. I mean, they extended the election dates, is a concern, yeah. [Courts, including the Supreme Court, validated some states' (and invalidated others') attempts to extend the deadline by which absentee and mail-in ballots must be received, in order to account for the slowdown in postal service caused partly by the COVID-19 pandemic.] I mean, amazingly it's how they find votes—it's, yeah. I do think that it is a issue.

8:07

O'NEIL: So you're suggesting that [inaudible] voter fraud?

8:12

BARBOUR: I am suggesting that there is places where that has been instances.

8:21

O'NEIL: So, if, say, we wake up Wednesday morning, and I'm not saying—

8:24

BARBOUR: Yeah, I think it'll be a big fight.

8:26

O'NEIL: So if Trump loses—

8:29

BARBOUR: If Trump loses?

8:31

O'NEIL: —will you accept the results [of the election]?

8:35

BARBOUR: Well, I think there's gonna be court battles whatever, but am I worried about towns getting burned if Trump loses? I am not. But if it's the other way around, yeah, I think there would be. I think that's why people are boarding up cities, so that—I mean, I don't think anybody has to worry about these people right here, because—. [Businesses in a number of cities put boards on their windows in anticipation of post-election violence.]

9:02

O'NEIL: Recently, like the Biden bus was nearly run off the road by Trump supporters— [O'Neil is referring to an incident in which a "Trump Train" of supporters surrounded a Biden campaign bus, slowed down, and drove very close to them, including side-swiping an SUV driven by Biden staffers.]¹

9:07

BARBOUR: Run off the road? [Skeptically:] Really, run off the road? [Laughs.]

9:08

O'NEIL: I said "nearly."

¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/10/31/trump-train-swarms-biden-bus-texas-event-canceled/6110370002/>

9:11

BARBOUR: That would be a way that the news would report that “Oh, those poor Biden supporters were just, like, trampled by—.” I think you will find, if you come to a rally, that everybody is in a good mood, happy. You know, we work hard and we don’t have time to, you know, tear other peoples’ stuff up.

9:35

O’NEIL: I’ve heard Trump say, maybe jokingly, “Take those guys out”? [At a rally in 2016, alongside other similar incidents, Trump encouraged supporters to “knock the crap out of” hypothetical protesters.]

9:39

BARBOUR: Yeah, I think people don’t have humor. [Laughs.] Yeah. Okay. Absolutely, that would be a ridiculous assumption to think that—and, you know, I was—

9:48

O’NEIL: What does America mean to you, as you get on the bus? What does America mean to you?

9:54

BARBOUR: It is—. I’m very thankful, and blessed to be able to be living here. It’s a place for everybody.