

AN INTERVIEW with Mr. Harry C. Shellworth by Michael Malone, conducted at his residence in Boise, Idaho on Feb. 1, 1964.

Question Mr. Shellworth, would you give your statement on the publishing rights concerning this material?

Answer The prime rights rest with the Forest History Society, Inc., and I mean just exactly that. Next after that, the Statesman editorial department, particularly the political writer, has my promise to have what he wants that the society does not want, and after that the residue has been promised to the Idaho State Historical Society here in Boise, and nothing in this conversation can be used to imperil their rights which have been already promised. And on the other hand, I must have the opportunity to overlook your typewritten notes, before any use is made of it, except in your schoolwork.

Q And that pertains to any publication of it by anyone, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any impressions of the meeting of April, 1933 in which the states' participation in emergency conservation work was first arranged?

A I can't answer that definitely, particularly to dates. I sat in with Dick Rutledge of the Forest Service, the regional district Forester corps out of Ogden, and with Archie Ryan, the Bureau of Land Management it was, Bureau of Investigations on land titles, representing the Department of the Interior and with members of the State Forestry Board and some representatives of the C. C. C. setup in Washington. I forgot who it was; it might have been Fechner. And there was a lot of conversation, it was simply an information meeting; there was nothing developed there that had any power afterwards. That all came afterwards. Bob Coulter, who was chairman of the state Democratic Party, had just been appointed State Land Commissioner. And I don't remember anything that came out of that except that it was just one of these confabs; everyone was talking, and the individualism showed up immediately.

Q Do you recall whether Ickes or Wallace or Wirth or Fechner understood the specific conditions existing in the Western states or whether they anticipated local opposition to enrolees from the East coming into the West?

A I think not; I think there was no opposition. At least I heard of none.

Q Do you think they understood conditions as they existed in Idaho?

A Yes, Yes, as near as they could, through these different departments, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior men in the West. Rutledge, for instance, was there out of Ogden, and Ryan was there out

of Ogden also, representing the two departments. And I am pretty sure that they were pretty well informed, as much so as they could be.

Q Did they seem to anticipate any cause of local unrest, by people from the East coming out here?

A Definitely not.

Q Do you remember whether they insisted upon keeping C. C. C. appointments non-political?

A No, they did not. I don't think it was brought up at all. That developed afterwards and started through personal jealousies on the Idaho Board. And those jealousies were between Coulter as State Land Commissioner and Chairman of the State Democratic Party and his henchman, Bert Miller, the Attorney-General, and I'd have to look up the record to see who the Secretary of State was. Calvin Wright was a man of intense personal integrity. I have a very high personal admiration for him. Bob Coulter, I knew very well, and he was one of the best Chairmen from a practical political standpoint that they ever had. And the things that he did and the points that he had taken, I think I would have followed if I had been in his boots. On the other hand, Ross was first an individual, and he was a very smart man. The state then, that is before the Roosevelt landslide, was definitely Republican. No Democrat could be elected solely on party votes. It had to be plus personal background, and friends. Ross had a lot of those. I don't know any reason for it, I might not be right about it; but I always had the impression that Ross had a definite individual feeling against Borah. And the fact that Ben E. Bush, the State Forester at that time, whose term expired at the first of the coming April, was Borah's brother-in-law, we knew damn well that Ben Bush couldn't have it. Ben Bush was one of the best state foresters we've ever had. I think Ross had a burning ambition to be United States Senator; the governorship would be a step in getting his own organization and his own friends outside the party.

Q You think he was looking toward this race against Borah as early as 1928?

A No question in my mind. But remember, the things I'm telling you are the things I thought; they may not have been true. My father and Ben Ross were life-long friends. My father was a Southern Democrat, period, and I never voted the Democratic ticket in my life. When I reached voting age, I was in the tropics and didn't get back here until Bryan was a candidate; and I never voted the Democratic ticket. I never let my family know that I was a Republican.

Q I'd like to ask you about your personal reminiscences of Mr. Ross, as a person, from your personal experiences, what you thought of the man.



- A He was a smart man, but I think his ambition to be United States Senator sometimes influenced what was generally his better judgement. And I have a feeling that it was his ambition to use the governorship as a stepping-stone to compete with Borah for the senatorship. I really believe he wanted to run against Borah, and have the glory of beating him. For that reason, we all knew that Bill Borah's brother-in-law, who was State Forester, could not be reappointed, the following April.
- Q You hear various stories about Governor Ross, some very unflattering. One, I believe by a Mr. Gillis from Boise, was called a 'Governor Guided by Divinations'; he talked about Gov. Ross as an eccentric, but it looks to me, looking at his record, as if he were a very practical man. Do you recall any of his personal feelings about various subjects? Did you find him a very practical man?
- A Yes, I did.
- Q Do you think such stories were largely untrue then?
- A Yes, I do.
- Q How long did you know Mr. Ross? Did you know him in the twenties?
- A I just can't tell you, a great many years. I know I was surprised when he left Canyon County, Caldwell over here, and went to Pocatello. But I surmized, that in view of things that occurred afterwards, he knew that the Mormon element was the big factor. And the Mormon element was never positively one party or the other. It was really most often Republican. But it switched at times, and very often we never knew where it would go. One instance in particular, the Mormon Church was reputed to be a large holder of stock in the Oregon Short Line; years later that was combined with the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company into the Union Pacific system. And I think the Church changes sometimes. This is the idea of a political mind; it was based on their control of that stock, or partial control at least. The Union Pacific put in a big system of improvements, through Idaho--they doubletracked. They improved their depot setups and that sort of thing. At one time they had some 4,000 ("Wops",) Italians, scattered all the way from border to border. And I met a politician, a Republican politician, a personal friend of mine, in the Southeast, I won't even say what town he was in; and he told me just two days before the election that the Church was going to go Democratic. And we found out after the election that all these men had been in the state long enough to be enrolled as voters in their different precincts. A very short time, some stories said that it was 24 hours before, leaders went down to the camps, and in those days the ticket was headed by a rooster for the Democrats and an elephant for the Republicans, and by a circle vote you could vote the ticket straight. And they went down to the camps and told all the Wops, 'Scratchee the chick, scratchee the chick', and that was the vote, and that that put Ross over.

- Q You said before that the state was largely Republican. Do you think that, in order for a Democrat to win, as a governor or as a senator, it would have to be on his own personal appeal.
- A Absolutely.
- Q Do you think the key to Mr. Ross's success in winning three times was this personal charm?
- A Yes, and he was smart enough to see what he had to do that. Those were the insurmountable political barriers. Again I must repeat that these are my opinions only.
- Q Now in the reading that I've done about Ross, there is always mention of his colorful campaigning ability, the 'cowboy' appeal. Could you give me some personal reminiscences; did you see him in action as a campaigner.
- A No, I was never around him in his speeches or anything of that sort. I know I took the state land board on a timberland trip one time, and Ross was along. I have a picture, (Maunder has that,) of him in his cowboy chaps with a long white goatskin covering on it and a big hat when he posed for that. But at that time several of them did that. Ted Walters, who was Attorney-General and afterwards, after the Roosevelt landslide went back to Washington to the Interior Department as an attorney--but he and Ickes didn't get along very well. His son is now the Democratic State Chairman...
- Q Was a lot of this colorful appearance put on, or was it really Ross as a person?
- A He was a rancher, and it was a natural thing--he was a young man, and he hadn't got over his infantile ideas yet. Ted Walters campaigned that way; he went back to Washington that way.
- Q You said, though, that you thought Ross was a very capable man, but that he was always guided by this idea that he wanted to be senator.
- A He was smart; and he knew the public pulse.
- Q Do you think he was determined that he could win in 1936.
- A Oh yes. He was a fighter.
- Q Do you remember anything of him after 1936.
- A Nothing that would change that opinion.
- Q You said before that you were not active in the Democratic Party as such didn't you?



- A I was no member of the Democratic Party, not even on the precinct level. My father was; my father was a Southern Democrat... my mother was a daughter of the Confederacy. And she was a pillar of the First Presbyterian Church. I had to run away from home three times to keep from being a First Presbyterian minister. Always she was a Democrat. And all "Republicans" were black-skinned niggers or albinos. One or the other. That's the way I grew up... I was the only Republican in my family; today there is only one Democrat....
- Q I was especially interested in one thing you said about Governor Ross's ability to draw votes, since it could not be done strictly as a Democrat. Now from your recollection, as an independent Democrat how did he get along with the Democratic machine here in this state, with Mr. Coulter.
- A Well, Coulter was responsible, he was the head of the party in this state. And naturally and rightfully, he should have had a very great voice in the patronage. As it developed later, they sent out a representative from the house of congress to look into the patronage, because when I appointed these men for these camps, I took men that could do the work, do it a hell of a lot better than I could. I had to rely on them, and I backed them up. And of course that didn't fit very well with Bob. Bob and I are friends; we are today... But there are things that he and I don't agree on, but we get along very nicely. He was right because he was responsible for that work. And Ross should have listened to him, but Ross didn't. Ross knew that he had to have more strength than the party could give him. And in those days, that was before we had all of these direct primaries, the party had its platform convention before the nominations, and you could disagree on the floor of the platform convention with anything, but if you ran for office, you accepted the platform, period, or you didn't get the nomination. And that's the way it should be. Then we had two-party system.
- Q Did Ross and Coulter seem to disagree on a lot of these things, on a lot of these matters of patronage.
- A I think it was just a question of one man's responsibility to the party, that's Bob Coulter, and the other's knowledge that he had to have more than the party behind him. Both of them are legitimate reasons for disagreement. I have nothing but admiration for both of them.
- Q How did Ross seem to approach the question of appointments; did he leave this entirely at your discretion?
- A Well, he was the only governor who refused to abide by the advisory nominations of the State Forestry Board for state foresters, and he appointed a fellow, I won't put his name in here, who was an agricultural graduate of the University of Oregon. Well, hell's bells, if that man was a forester, I'm the Pope of Rome. But he was a good vote man over in his county.
- Q Was this typical; did it happen quite often?

- A I couldn't tell you that; as far as I'm concerned I know that that was his attitude. He was running, and he would stay with the platform, but otherwise he'd use his judgement.
- Q You may not have been in the best position to see this, but when Ross decided to run in 1936 do you know how this set with Jim Farley and other people in the national Democratic Party?
- A No, I don't.
- Q This brings up an interesting question; this 1936 race is of major interest to me.
- A I think that you have to go back, that until the Roosevelt landslide, that this was a Republican state, and that any man who was practical had to do just exactly what Ross did, if he had that ambition. And on the other hand, for the same reasons, to win for his party, Bob Coulter had to do what he did.
- Q In 1936 now, with this race against Borah, you said before that this had always been Ross's main interest. Now what kind of a chance did you think at the time and do you think now he had to beat Borah?
- A Not a chinaman's chance, because Borah was stronger than his party. And Ben Ross was stronger than his party. But the Republican Party was the party in the state.
- Q That brings up an interesting question too... do you think that when Ross made it a practice to extend patronage to Republicans as well as to Democrats, do you think that caused antagonism in the party to the point where they might bolt him in 1936? Did he have trouble with the Democratic Party in 1936?
- A I don't think so. I think that, except for the increase or the decrease of Democratic votes, that was due to the fact that Borah's personality and strength. And Borah had the agricultural element in the southern part of the state. He was smart enough to get that, and he had it without party lines. At one time that element was called, before it was the Grange, it was called the Nonpartisan League, and it was still the Nonpartisan League after it changed its name. And W. W. Deal, the Master of it, and Ray McKaig, the legislative agent for it, were nearly always on the Republican side.
- Q Since we're on the subject of Borah, did you know him personally?
- A ..... I knew him very well.
- Q There must have been quite a public interest in the senate election of 1936.



- A I really don't recall anything definite about it. I'm sure that ... Ross nor any other man of standing in the state could not have beat Borah.
- Q You say that Borah had a big following among the agricultural people. Now, Ross, with his 'cowboy' image, must have had largely the same following.
- A He had it, but not to the winning degree.
- Q Their allegiance went to Borah instead.
- A Yes, there were Democrats that voted for Borah in excess of the Republicans that voted for Ross. I don't know but that's my opinion. I don't think there's any question about it. Borah had this state hypnotized.
- Q I know that Ross was having more and more trouble with the Democratic Party machine. Do you think that if he would have run for governor again in 1936 that he would have made it.
- A Well, I think so, because he was pretty well favored. That patronage row, well, it developed there was quite a little stink about it because I had construction men and engineers who were out of jobs that I knew. One of them was a man of statewide friendships and was a very high-class engineer. And I put him in as the surveyor in charge of one of the camps, and he told me "You're just sticking your head out because everybody knows I'm a Republican; I've been a precinct chairman in my precinct for years." I said 'I want what you've got for me, and I'll stick by you.' But when this representative, he was a representative on patronage, in the House of Representative, Tommy Coffin was our congressman, and they came out here together and they had a meeting at the Governor's office; and when I accepted the job, I told Ross that I couldn't afford to give my time, I never received a cent for it, I wouldn't have it, and that within a year I would have to give it up. But I'd get it started. I wrote out my resignation undated and signed it and gave it to him. He started to tear it up, and I said 'Ben, don't do that, just keep it, it might come in handy.' So when these fellows from Washington, showed up, they went after me. And they finally got down to the one thing they settled on. A funny thing is they settled on another one beforehand, a superintendent of the Holcomb Camp, and it turned out he was not only a precinct committeeman but he was also on the county board of the Democratic Party. Tommy Coffin said, "Well Harry, you know that so-and-so is a personal friend of mine, just as you are, 'but said 'you've got to see the practical side of this. You're camp positions that run from a hundred dollars up to a hundred and seventy five I think for a camp superintendent, a great majority of them are Republicans.' Well I said 'Tommy, I took this job at the Governor's request, and I'm ready to quit anytime.' And this other fellow piped in, they asked the Federal Forester Dick Rutledge if he wouldn't do something; he said 'I'm perfectly satisfied.' These aren't exact quotations, but that was the sense



of it. And Archie Ryan, who was present, said 'I'm perfectly satisfied.' And the Governor said he wouldn't make any change. And then Tommy appealed to me. I said no; I said 'I'M just about through anyway, it's late in the summer now, and everything is going well.' And I'd come in in my work clothes from the hills, and I said as far as I'm concerned I'll not fire a single man except for just cause. I said 'Not only that, I'm tired and I'm going to leave; the Governor's got my resignation undated in his desk there. He can use it anytime.' He took it out and tore it in pieces and dropped it in the basket. And I got up and I said 'Tom, I'm all through. You can take this job and stick it up your royal red rectum.' And I walked out. And I went around through the Reception Room, and Ross ran around and caught me. He said, 'Damn it, I told you not to get mad. But by God I'm glad you did, you sure told those bastards off.' And so I stayed until the end of the season, and then I quit.

- Q Now all in all, in the whole project as you saw it, do you think that the best men were chosen.
- A Yes, we had a wonderful success. I'll tell you this much, as a result of all this thing that occurred, the row with the patronage representative from Congress, Roosevelt sent out Elmer Brown, who was the State Forester of New York, and was also his personal forester; I had met Elmer Brown at many of the state forester conventions over the United States. And he sent him out to see what were the facts. Brown came out, and great scott, he just gave me carte blank, best damn job in the West. Ross tried to get me to stay on, but I just couldn't afford to. I had my own work to do, and I was working for the company. Ross wanted to pay my expenses, and my company people said no--you pay your own expenses and turn your account in to us. Now a lot of that stuff has got to be culled because it's powder. That's the reason that I'm insisting that I've got to see your copy.
- Q How much of this work was state-run, and how much federally run in these work projects.
- A There were three classes of camps. The largest number were National Forest camps; the next largest number, practically the same, were State camps, mostly in the forests; then there was a small number to go into private timber, that was adjudged for that work by the State Forester. I can't give you the details on that. All of that stuff is in my records back there with the Forest History in St. Paul, Minnesota. I sent two shipments to Maunder, a total of 48 pounds, none of it's come back yet.
- Q Was there much friction between the Governor and federal officials involved in these sorts of things.
- A. I don't think so. There probably was, but I just don't know of any. I know Bob Coulter and Bert Miller and I've forgotten the other man now, the Secretary of State, they backed Coulter up--that made him three votes on the State Land Board out of five. And one Republican stayed with Ross.



Q We've talked about Ross as a politician; now what I'd really like to get at is Ross as you knew him, as a governor and an administrator. . . One thing in particular that you said you didn't recall earlier was the controversy, which was pretty well known at the time, over P. W. A. money, between Ross and Ickes in the Fall of 1933.

A Well, Vardis Fisher was the head of that for the writers and authors, and I don't know much about it. But I became well acquainted with Vardis Fisher because of that and because I had furnished him with a lot of staff. And in his books, the Encyclopedia of Idaho, and there was three books - Idaho Guide, and in all three of them he has me listed in his acknowledgements for information and help I was able to give him. You see the heavy vote, I think it's 75 or 80% of the electorate in Idaho is south of the Salmon River, or was then. And Idaho is a state that is unusual, and it's very complementary to us that we've gone so far in forestry where every segment of the electorate of the state thought that their interest in the watersheds was paramount to everybody else's. Whether it was the Sunday sisters out picknicking or the fish and game people, or the irrigators or the grazers or whatever it was. Their's was paramount; it wasn't possible for any of us to win and keep the winning. We had to get together. And we did it, and we got by with one of the best forestry codes in the United States. And all three of the elementary bills in that were signed by my fountain pen, and you can go down to the historical society and see it now. It was a question of getting together. I've been bawled out in a Spokane meeting of the Forest Protective Association as being a damned de-goeder, a rubber-booted irrigator, a sheepherder and every other damned thing they could lay their tongue to. And I went down in 1924 with a bill that we had reached agreement on. The Grange and all other elements signed it; we had a meeting up on top of a lookout. . . up by McCall that was supposed to be a breakfast for the Associated Press and to the Association of Editors in the state. . . I had them up there for breakfast. . . they had a vote endorsing this bill, we had copies for them. And without a dissenting vote of the editors present; they passed a resolution giving their full support for passage by the next Legislature whereas a few years before they would have booted us off of the hill. . .

Q There was always quite a problem with factions during the thirties too, wasn't there?

A Yes, we started in 1915 with the Fallen Fire Law, very poorly written. It was "wise" for a man to have an "accidental fire," if he didn't, he had to pile the brush and burn it in piles, but if a wild fire got loose, then they all were "accidents". So, we got tired of that ourselves; it destroyed a lot of good timber. And in 1917 we started, then '19, then '21, and in '23 we got a forestry bill through without recommendations but printed. . . as I say there was nothing to it after the Editor's Association of the state endorsed our bill for 1925.



- Q I'd be interested in anything you'd care to tell me about your personal dealings with Ross as administrator.
- A Well, he was just like old Frank Steunenberg. He'd known me for years, and both of them were Democrats; both of them thought my father was in a hell of a mess to have "Republican" son like me.
- Q Did you think that Ross was a capable administrator?
- A I think he was one of the best governors we've had, from what I know of him. Now there are a lot of things I don't know about him. I was interested only in my work, my connection with him. He called me up and asked me to come up and see him, and he wanted to know if I'd take this trip up to Washington. And I said 'Well, Governor, I can't tell you till I see my boss.' "Yes, you can", I've already seen your boss, and he says it's O. K.'
- Q Why don't you tell us more about this trip to Washington?
- A Well, there's lots of danger in that. I went back there with a personal letter which I've got in my files (with Maunder) from Ross to Hazeld Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior, and to Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture, saying in effect that I was the sole representative for himself in the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The other members of the Board couldn't send back a forester because they wouldn't send Ben Bush. They sent back Jerry Girard, who they knew was going to be the forester the first of April coming. And with him went James Pinckney Pope, the new Senator, and Ted Walters, the new appointment, political appointment, to Harold Ickes in the Department of the Interior, in the legal department. And I'm not going to tell you a lot of those incidents because they--Pope was a nice man. But all of them were infants back in Washington, and I'd been there for years and years, and I knew damn well that when I wanted anything to do, if I had the consent of the Senator, and then I could get his private secretary or his chief woman clerk to help me, that I was a lot better off than to have him do the work himself, if he'd just delegate them to help me as much as they could. And I had made acquaintances, particularly in the West and in the South, and one or two in the North. And I was very lucky; just put it that way. I just had wonderful success. And these other fellows would get up, well Jerry Girard got up when they asked him to make a list of the number of camps they could take, Girard got up and said 'Idaho'll take all of them,' the damn clown. Another good break I had was they had an army officer there, I've forgotten who it was, who told us that the army's control over the camps was based on the rules and regulations in the army's quartermaster manual of 1930. Well, in my army experience I knew right away that that was out of print. And he said that as soon as possible they'd get copies for all of us. Well, I got up and ducked out and went down to, I can't think of his name, the Assistant Forester, and got the telephone and called up Jimmy Young, who was



working in Borah's office, and told him to get the hell out of there and get me three copies just as quick as he could. And he got them, and I had them that night in the hotel. Then The Army came back the next morning and said that the 1930 Army Manual was all out of print and they couldn't give us copies, but they were having mimeographed copies made of the important parts of it, to be distributed within the next few days and that we were to make out our plans, man hours for camps, mind you, and all the details from their job, out of your head. And I was sitting with Dick Rutledge and I said 'You know damn well we can't do that; Dick said, 'you could come as near as anybody, and I'd hate to try to find the man that could dispute you.' So I got the three copies; I sent one to Ross and gave one to Rex Black, who was a long-time friend and co-worker with me in Western Forestry, of California. We placed the Idaho plan detailed in all the camps and all the locations of all the camps within a quarter mile of actual location was laid on that desk, the first and only one, the next forenoon. But I had a lot of help. Rutledge got a map man and a brief man and a couple of girls clerks; I had quarters in the Mayflower Hotel, and we sat up that night; we had an early dinner, and it was nearly daylight the next morning before we finished the job. I only got three or four hours' sleep before I had to go up on the Hill again. And we had that plan and threw it on there, the first one of the day? Every time anything happened, these fellows (Pope, Girard and Walters) came to me to ask me for information what it meant and so forth and then they'd go to the telephone and telephone to their side in the Capital building here and to the Boise newspapers. And the information they got from me wasn't worth a whoop in hell. Just enough to keep them out of my hair. One of them, I think it was Jerry Girard, he was just a clown and all in the world he could think of was horse races and baseball and gambling and women...

Q Ross must have been a very interesting man?

A He was. And he talked right square on your nose. You could depend on anything he said....

Q I'd like to hear anything you could tell me about the problems and difficulties you had in setting up the C. C. C. and these camps in Idaho.

A Not a great deal; I had friends. Well, for instance, we got two more camps than we were entitled to in the first batch because Washington state there were two camps going straight through to the coast and enroute they got word that Washington state couldn't take them because of the snow depths in the mountains until some certain date. I've forgotten when it was, but Rutledge was back there. You see the help I got was that people knew how to give me help, and he was back there because all 9 of the regional foresters in the United States were kept back there to get this plan in good working order. And he called me up long distance, and he said 'You can get two more camps, if you can take care of them', and so I said yes. So I called



up Chet Irwin up in New Meadows, for instance, the end of the railroad, and I had a camp location that I didn't get a camp for, up in Salmon Meadows, south of town, upstream, but there was a nasty road condition getting in there, and they were very glad to get that camp. And I called them up and said 'I've got a camp for you.' They said 'We can't get them in.' I said 'You don't get it if you don't get them in; I've got it on the road and it'll be here tomorrow night, and it'll be up to your place in two days.' And he said 'Well, I'll get the, 'caterpillar truck, it's a great big heavy truck-- and we'll pull them through.' And he did, and we got them in there... And the other one, we put up here on Mile High, up here on this hill, and that went to Schafer Butte, two or three weeks later, but they thought it was up there all the time.

Q When you sent these camps, what kind of cooperation or opposition did you get from local areas?

A None at all, why great scott I just had all the assistance in the world.

Q Did you find in some communities a resistance to bringing in; were they afraid of a lot of Easterners?

A Not a particle. No, and our record of accomplishments was highly commended. But it was solely because I got the men, and because Ross backed me up.

Q He always backed you up?

A Never failed. He took that letter of mine and just tore it to pieces and put it in the wastebasket and looked at this Conant, I think was this fellow's name, and said 'I'm satisfied'.

Q He must have been a good man to work under, always going to bat for his men.

A Yes he was, perfect.

Q Actually his experience in that line wasn't too much; he must have had a great deal of natural ability.

A. Well, he was a southern Idaho man that knew all about the watersheds, and about the farms and that sort of thing. No, I think he was a happy choice. I'd just a hell of a lot rather have had him there than some lawyer or professional man.

Q When did you first meet Ross?

A I couldn't tell you; I know he was quite a bit older than I was. He was



pretty strong in the Grange, and I remember him making speeches to the farmers before he was really in politics.

Q Did you know him while he was mayor in Pocatello?

A Yes, I knew him then, and I always figured that he went down there for the purpose of getting Union and Mormon church support.

Q Did he have that support?

A At that particular time, I think he did....

Q Do you think he held that support during the thirties?

A Yes, Yes.

Q A guy would almost have to hold it, wouldn't he?

A Yes, I think so....

Q You really think Ross went South to gain Mormon support?

A Merely a supposition.

Q But it sounds like a pretty good one.

A Merely a supposition.....