INTERVIEWEE: LUTHER HOLCOMB (Tape #3)

INTERVIEWER: T. H. BAKER

July 29, 1969

B: This is a continuation of the interview with the Reverend Luther Holcomb. Sir, before we get back into the chronology--

H: Excuse me, have you met Judy Miller?

B: We've been talking out there.

H: Her mother worked for Mr. Johnson. I think I told you that. This is Judy's fourth summer with us. She's getting ready to get married, graduating in December from Newton. She wouldn't want me to tell you, but she's a real brain.

B: Good. Thank you, Miss Miller. [Presume it was for coffee]

Sir, before we get back into the chronology, you were just telling me an anecdote about Roy Wilkins of the NAACP and President Kennedy and then-Vice President Johnson.

H: This was very interesting. Mr. Wilkins related it to me personally one day when I was visiting in his office. He told how that shortly after the inauguration after the election of 1960 that he had an appointment with President Kennedy. He had with him Bishop Spotwood, who was an official with the NAACP. I do not recall--I think there were perhaps one or two others. Needless to say, they were impressed by the charm of President Kennedy. He received them with the greatest of cordiality. But Mr. Wilkins in his quiet and effective manner said, "Mr. President, we want to talk to you about future civil rights legislation."

President Kennedy answered, "I just do not think this is the time; I do not see anything in this coming session of Congress."

It, needless to say, was an occasion of disappointment to Mr. Wilkins, but the visit was all in such a friendly atmosphere till President Kennedy said--it was late in the afternoon, as I recall-- "Come and let's walk back through the Mansion." In other words, rather than Mr. Wilkins' going out the door of the West Wing, they were going through the Mansion.

Mrs. Kennedy did not know anyone else was with him, and just called out: "Jack, guess what I've found! I've found a new piece of the Lincoln china."

So the way Mr. Wilkins related it to me, she was in a very excited mood. President Kennedy said, "Oh, I want you to meet the folks who are with me." So then she was quite surprised to find two or three people standing there. She'd even evidently been going around through some things that had been stored, so she had a smudge on her cheek. Mr. Wilkins remembers that President Kennedy brushed that off, and then President Kennedy introduced Mr. Wilkins, and with President and Mrs. Kennedy they exchanged pleasantries.

Then, as he was telling it to me, the visit had moved--they went in on a mountain peak; then they were naturally excited about that moment, that type of conversation. So they go across and stand in Lafayette Park and began talking that they had such high hopes after the election, with Mr. Kennedy as President and Mr. Johnson as Vice President.

So Mr. Wilkins said to his associates, "Suppose we go over on the Hill." He did not spell out to them just what he had in mind. But when they got over there, they go to the office of the Vice President. As I said, it was very late in the afternoon. Mr. Johnson was very fond personally of Mr.

Wilkins. All of us who have known him are not only fond of him, but he had a profound respect. He [LBJ] appreciated his judgment. And I would have to say that Mr. Wilkins felt the same way about President Johnson. So they go in and Mr. Wilkins said: "Mr. Vice President, we want to talk to you about civil rights legislation."

This was another one of many occasions where President Johnson's knowledge of government, his keen personal understanding of legislative procedures--without much hesitation in speaking, you would have thought he had been at a task force working on it for months, which obviously he had not. But he said, "As I see it--" and then he outlined from a viewpoint of testimony before committees; he mentioned committees; he mentioned personalities on committees.

I would think now it was maybe a little more than two years ago that Mr. Wilkins that it had all gone step-by-step exactly as Mr. Johnson outlined it back there. Mr. Wilkins today would say, taking a total look at history, that Lyndon B. Johnson--his administration--did more for the black man than any other. That would include even President Lincoln.

Of course, what Mr. Johnson did was in the practical realm of understanding government, understanding especially the Legislative Branch--the House and the Senate. I'm not surprised, but it's one of the very fascinating experiences of President Johnson's career.

B: Apparently Mr. Johnson is totally without racial or religious prejudices.

H: Those are two areas where I think I have a little sensitivity--no credit to me--but I've lived in those realms. I think that's a very accurate statement, and he has been consistent in that viewpoint. I would say it's not strictly a political matter with him. It's part of his very being. I think all of

us know of his family background--which he may not have inherited money, but he inherited integrity of the realm of race relations and religious matters.

In fact, since I am from Texas, strictly speaking politically he jeopardized himself in these realms. Texas at the time that Mr. Johnson's career was unfolding is strictly a Protestant state, not only a Protestant state, but you'd have to say it was a Baptist state--and that is a little different brand of the Protestant family. If anybody wanted to try to analyze Boston, then just put the reverse in Texas. It's amazing the numerical strength of Baptists and Methodists. At the time that Mr. Johnson's career was unfolding, there were more than 3,000 Baptist churches in Texas. And it's difficult for people who have not been in the Southwest to know quite the extent of just what that means, because when I say 3,000 churches, there would be one church with a membership of 12,000. I mean churches of anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 members would be viewed as smaller churches.

B: The First Baptist Church in Dallas is the largest Baptist church in the world.

H: That's the one that has 12,000. But I think they even claim 14 or 15,000 now. And those churches, most of them have radio programs; a great many of them are on television. It's not a matter I don't think of control, but with the good many editors of papers or deacons in those churches, and so one thing leads to another. I just say that the people that occupy a great many places of influence, it just falls naturally for them. So I think that is a factor in anybody understanding the career of Mr. Johnson, to understand that he never did try to exploit in any way, and yet he has not taken one position in Washington and another position in Texas.

B: To get back into the chronology, in 1964 President Johnson named you to the National Advisory Commission on Community Relations, which really was the board of the new Community Relations Service.

H: Yes. That was at the time he had secured, I believe, former Governor Collins of Florida to head it up. I remember the meeting that I attended. We had a luncheon session at the State Department, largely because that was an impressive dining room and one that could take care of all the group. It was really the launching of the Community Relations program. And of course as I've mentioned in previous statements this was an area in the city of Dallas where I had just--it was a main part of my life there. So it is true that before different panels, and as I recall it was all done very informally, they did ask me to share some of the experiences that we'd had in Dallas in desegregation of schools and the public accommodations and things of that nature.

I remember, in particular that at the meeting that I'm referring to that the entire group did go to the White House about 4 or 4:30 in the afternoon. President and Mrs. Johnson received the group in the Rose Garden. It was in the summer and it was a typically hot day in Washington.

I would say the main achievement at that particular time was Number One, what I've mentioned, sharing of information. In other words, when I would appear on a panel, there would be someone on the panel, say, from Atlanta. As time has gone on, you recall how Atlanta had a very outstanding mayor--a mayor who had a conscience in this particular realm.

B: This must be Ivan Allan.

H: No, this was William Hartsfield at that time. Then I believe the name of the Chief of Police was Mr. Jenkins. He likewise was outstanding in understanding.

I still come in contact with people whom I met. I think maybe I mentioned that I filled perhaps more engagements in Atlanta than any city outside of Texas, and some of it dates back to that period. So the Community Relations program is another aspect of Mr. Johnson's efforts that merits some study. It was not a dramatic effort. It was more to encourage individuals in communities to do such things as keep lines of communication open; make certain with the law enforcement agencies that they wanted the law enforced; and to include the law enforcement groups in the life of the community. Sometimes the chief of police--I would think all of the emphasis in the last few years on police community relations--something that is being underscored right here in Washington now--somewhat dates back to the emphasis that was put in this meeting.

It was also an effort to get the media of communications involved. If you could visualize a meeting nationally of the Community Relations Committee, as President Johnson would have called it, you would illustrate with any city someone from the papers, someone from radios, someone from television, law enforcement, civic life, would be present. And of course I think the one value that comes out of something like that, when you're working with some of these problems locally, you're not always able to realize just the significance of it. But when you get off and share with others, you naturally see some things that you could do, some that you could have done better.

So I would say, yes, the national Community Relations Program--you will recall that, of course, Mr. Collins had resigned [from a] rather significant position, I believe, with the broadcasters, wasn't it?--and [had] given up a very impressive salary to come and do this work. Again, I think Mr. Johnson was profiting from his experiences in Texas. There are those of us who feel like that someone from the South can be exceedingly effective.

I could even quote a very distinguished liberal on this--Morris Abram, who is now president of Brandeis, is a product of Georgia. Morris Abram's effort as a young attorney in Atlanta made a great impact. Of course, he has moved to New York and now on up into the Boston area. But I never see him that he doesn't bring up the issue. And he would be one who would say that we would never have secured the civil rights legislation except under a person like Lyndon B. Johnson.

B: In the beginning there the Community Relations Service was pretty clearly oriented toward the South. Was there any discussion in '64 and '65 of using that kind of activity in the northern cities too?

H: Very definitely, because the further one would get in this problem, we would realize that it's not sectional. Of course, as the years have gone by, even though I can recall when we would use that phrase, it's now a definite reality.

B: Did that create any dissension within the board or the Community Relations Service itself--any debates over emphases?

H: No. Because the more people would think about, they would realize that you were dealing with human nature, you were dealing with some built-in prejudices. No, I would say that at that time, it was a very interesting observation that maybe someone from another part of the country would listen, and maybe you could see questionmarks come there. But then the more they thought about it--so I do not recall any serious debate. I'd say very interesting dialogue.

B: Was there any unrest because of Mr. Collins and, to a large extent, the board were mostly white southerners?

H: No, because of what I've just said. Nationally they appreciated so much when someone like Mr. Collins from Florida would take a position. I can remember an occasion when I was being given an award by the Religious Heritage

Association. I was living in Dallas but the award was presented at the National Press Club here. And the person making [the presentation?], just casually, just like you were lifting something from a biographical sketch, mentioned that I was to be serving as chairman of the Texas Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, and a member of this Community Relations group. And, much to the surprise of the person talking, as well as to myself, the group began applauding. Now, there were priests there from every section of the country. It was not a clergyman's group, but the clergymen were heavily represented. So I merely mention that because most of them who were applauding did not know me personally, but the very fact that someone from Texas would become identified. So we did go through a period in the country when that was--well, I could mention others at that time. When Mr. Ralph McGill of Atlanta--he has passed away--but he was appreciated perhaps more on the national scene than he was in the State of Georgia. At that time Mr. Brooks Hays was in Congress from Arkansas, and his voice was likewise to be appreciated. There was a congressman I believe named Smith from Mississippi--

B: Frank Smith.

H: Yes. He would have been definitely in that category.

B: Were you still on that board with the Community Relations Service began trying to do something about voter registration in Texas?

H: Oh yes. I have very vivid memories of--

B: Did that put you in the position of dealing with Governor Connally again?

H: I don't remember any particular confrontation with Governor Connally on it. I would have to say that on the surface, the publicity and all in Texas, was very unfavorable on that particular issue. The one who had to bear the brunt of a great deal of it, as I recall, was a man named Barefoot Sanders. He was perhaps in the Department of Justice at that time--

B: I'm not sure. He may have been a federal attorney in Dallas.

H: United States District Attorney. But what I mean by bearing the brunt, it was a general thought that his advice had been sought and that he had a part in writing-- But I would not view it as serious; I mean, it was nothing akin to violence. It was just some rather strong editorials. It became a subject, what I like to describe as the Rotary and Kiwanis circuit. Speakers would say, "This is another example of our rights being encroached upon."

But I mention all of that though to point out the courage and the sincerity of Mr. Johnson.

B: Then in May of '65 you were named to this organization, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission--indeed to the first Equal Employment Opportunity Commission--right after it was established.

H: That's a very interesting point in all of these developments. The things that have been mentioned previously, the Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, the Community Relations, and all that I had done in Dallas--there were those who perhaps thought that I was moving too fast--I mean in those realms. There were those who would counsel me on the part of silence and patience. Yet in it all I never did achieve the label of a crusader or reformer.

The interesting thing, though, when President Johnson made this announcement, even individuals who had been my critics seemed pleased about it. Number one, a rather superficial aspect, I think when anyone receives a presidential appointment, that has an effect. Then the other thing, those who had observed me, they thought I would bring poise, they thought I would bring--to perhaps paraphrase it this way: "That we do not think that commission ought to operate with a 'big stick' philosophy. We think you will be a moderating influence." That was the attitude of Texans.

Now Mr. Johnson's attitude toward me personally was one that he had been impressed with what I had done, and that he felt like I had a great contribution to make. Mr. Johnson was a great one--and I think this ought to be underscored, if he had confidence in someone, of putting them on their own. I can say advisedly that neither President Johnson nor any of his staff ever sought to influence any decision that I would make. It's only natural that sometimes when I'd make a speech in some part of the country, it would be on the ticker at the White House. Some of them would take note of it, but they never did say, "You should not have done that." I have received calls from them--staff members--where they'd say, "We noted that you did thus-and-so. You have our good wishes."

There was one time rather interesting when one of the national columnists made an attack on me. Mr. Johnson was at the Ranch. That was, I believe, when Mr. Moyers was acting as his Press Secretary. Mr. Johnson told Mr. Moyers, "You telephone those folks and tell them they have lied about my friend." I'm sure that Mr. Moyers did not put it in those words; and whether he ever called them, I do not know. I only relate it. It was related to me by Mr. Jake Jacobsen who happened to be at the Ranch and may have been the one who brought the column to the attention of Mr. Johnson. It was nothing serious, but I mention it to say that, at least from my experience, Mr. Johnson did give his appointees complete support.

B: Who was the columnist?

H: Evans and Novak.

B: Where you were appointed, did Mr. Johnson outline to you individually or to the group of you what he expected the Equal Employment Commission to do, or be?

H: Let me do that as briefly as I can. This was new. There was no pattern to follow. I believe I was the second one to be appointed. However, they had agreed that all of the five appointments would be announced at one time. The first appointment was that of Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. As everyone knows, President Johnson had a very high regard for President Roosevelt. He had not had what you'd call a close working relationship with any of the children. He had known Eliot Roosevelt when Eliot lived in Texas for a period of time. He had known each of the children, because Mr. Johnson as a young congressman had been around the Roosevelt family when these children were quite young. So at that time, rather interesting in light of the previous comments, Mr. Johnson felt like that since President Roosevelt was responsible for the first Fair Employment Act, that it would make maximum use of the Roosevelt name. And then Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. had served a brief period in Congress. And had served as Under Secretary of the Department of Commerce. So the man we previously mentioned, former Governor Leroy Collins, was moving from the Community Relations Program and the Secretary of Commerce wanted him to be the under secretary. Then the idea of making maximum use of the Roosevelt name to launch a commission, Franklin Roosevelt was named.

My telephone call came from Bill Moyers, and I told him it would be necessary for me to come here and go into it all rather thoroughly. So I came up on a Sunday night in May of '65. I spent about thirty minutes with Bill Moyers, and then it had been previously planned for me to go in and talk with Mr. Lee White. Lee White at that time was the General Counsel, and specifically charged with civil rights in the White House. So Lee White was the first one. When I got to his office, he had all of the

information about the law and went over it all. He must have spent about forty or forty-five minutes with me.

Then I was notified there was a car waiting to take me to see Mr. John Macy. Mr. Macy was chairman of the Civil Service Commission and one of President Johnson's chief advisers in regard to presidential appointments.

Then I returned to the White House, and Bill Moyers was ready to have lunch with me there at the White House. We continued to talk during the luncheon visit. He was asking me if there had been any questions as a result of my visit with Mr. White and Mr. Macy.

About that time I believe briefly President Johnson appeared. He said, "What's your answer?"

I said, "Well, Mr. President, I want to make any constructive contribution and in light of my visits this morning, my answer is obviously yes."

There was no--and I do not believe there was to any other commissioner--any specific outline from President Johnson other than to stress the importance of it. He also said that he thought it was the type of commission that he hoped would eventually work itself out of a job; that sometimes when you're talking to someone about taking something, you're talking in terms of long-range. But he stressed his concern about discrimination, and he reiterated some of the thoughts that I have later heard him put into speeches.

Then before I left the White House, I did visit briefly with Marvin Watson. I believe Marvin had been there just a short time. Then I returned to Texas. I remember, just as I was leaving, I told Bill Moyers, "In light of commitments and involvements that I have in Dallas, will you please let me know two or three days before you make the announcement."--because I knew they had three others to get.

This is something that convinced me as to some of the problems that presidents have in their appointments becoming known ahead of time. In my case it did not get into the papers, but when they started the FBI investigation of me, in a city like Dallas, there did develop a little comment of "Wonder what's up? We got a call today about Luther Holcomb." As you know, the FBI never divulges the position, but it's all related to whether one is trustworthy or in those realms.

I mention all of that to say that I had written a letter to different individuals that I felt that I wanted to know about the appointment. I'd left the date off, and I assumed that I was going to learn in time to put--so one day I get a telephone call, and Bill Moyers said, "Oh, I was just passing the ticker and I notice it's on there about your appointment." That must have been about 2 o'clock Dallas time, so it appeared in the afternoon newspaper, and I had to rewrite my letter.

Then we were brought here--all five--on May 27. That was the first time. We met in Mr. Roosevelt's office in the Department of Commerce. This should be noted. Since he was under secretary there, we functioned out of the Department of Commerce from a point of office space during all of June and July and perhaps the first two weeks of August.

I realize there are mixed emotions about Franklin Roosevelt, Jr. I had really no serious problem in establishing a working relationship, and I think the name did mean something to the commission. I know in my early day speeches I could mention something about the Roosevelt family, and if I was speaking to strictly a Negro audience nine times out of ten they would applaud with the reference to the name. This does not relate strictly to civil rights, but it gave me some insights into the Roosevelt family.

Franklin had me as his guest at his farm in Duchess County, New York. On a Sunday we attended the little Episcopalian church, sat in the same pew that his father had always sat [in]. Then we went through the home at Hyde Park where, as anybody who has been there as a tourist knows that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt taped a tour where you could put earphones on and she would tell you about what occurred in these different rooms. I would go in a room and listen to this as any tourist; then Franklin would in turn--I would take the earphones off--and he'd tell me what had occurred in the room like when he was a child. So it was naturally an experience that I found exceedingly interesting.

Then he brought me in rather close contact with his brothers and sisters. I filled numerous speaking engagements for him of all types in different parts of the country. It would not be surprising that during the period that he served as chairman I would imagine that he received many times more invitations than any chairman because the name still had a very real interest. So when he would, like many of us, accept more invitations than he could possibly fill, then he did turn to me to see if I'd be willing.

Of course, I want to keep the story accurate. There were some aspects. It was highly publicized that he was out sailing at a time that our budget was up for consideration. It was true that the budget was cut during that period. The budget was a little more than two million dollars, and it was cut nine hundred thousand dollars; then half of the cut was restored. I would say that he was the type of individual that at times could show exceptional knowledge of government. Then again there were traits that would just have to come under the heading of irresponsibility.

B: At the time it was easy to get the impression that he just didn't take it very seriously.

H: His main interest was in New York politics.

Let me inject this into it. When we appeared for our hearing before the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee--that was about 9:30 or 10 in the morning. When we were excused from the committee, then we each returned to our hotels. When I returned to mine, there was a phone call from the Department of Commerce indicating that Ethel Dupont, a former wife of Franklin, had passed away that day. It was later ruled an act of suicide. The call to me was in this vein: That he felt like he ought to go immediately to his farm in New York. He did have two children, both boys, by that marriage. I recall he telephoned each of them. And then the reason for involving me--there had been previously scheduled an appointment with the Vice President at 2 o'clock. Frankly, that was my first time to function as vice chairman. He asked me to take the group on.

Now, Mr. Humphrey must have spent at least an hour with us. I would not want that to be construed as a directive, but he discussed our work in light of the fact that he had been the floor manager for the civil rights law or act that created this commission. He talked, as he always does, in a rapid-fire fashion. He was talking where--I was new, and we were each new--it made you want to get up and rush out and tackle the world. So his was more one of, I would describe it, a coach giving a football team a pep talk. But I appreciated it very much.

The reason for that is there has always been an assumption, not that it functioned under, but that this program--it really started with Mr. Nixon as Vice President, when the Equal Employment--

B: Your immediate ancestor was the President's committee which was headed by the Vice President--

H: But Mr. Johnson implemented it and gave it more status. I'd say during the previous period it was effective, but it was just in the initial stage. So I think that's the background, really. We didn't report to the Vice President, but the Vice President has always viewed this as a vital link of his responsibility.

B: Did the activity on the Commission change much when Cliff Alexander took over as chairman?

H: Let's keep the order. When Mr. Roosevelt resigned--there's a little interesting byplay on that. You see, Senator Robert Kennedy had said he would not give his support to anyone as a candidate for Governor of New York unless they appeared in some meetings that were going to be conducted in different parts of the state. These were to take place in June. Really, I believe the first one was the latter part of May, about the third week in May. Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., wanted to continue as chairman, and yet attend those meetings, and it was put in the form of a memo to President Johnson. The decision was that that would not be proper. So we had a hearing scheduled the day that they said that it would not be proper. So I presided over the hearing, and Mr. Roosevelt came in the room near the end of the hearing and tendered his resignation. As I recall, it was about the middle of May. He tendered his resignation when he was going to announce as a candidate for governor, and that he would attend these various meetings in the State of New York.

Now we went for a period of five or six months without a chairman. I've always construed responsibility of any vice chairman to kind of keep things together, certainly not take any backward steps. Then a man named Stephen Schulman(?), who is really a legal scholar who had been in the Department of Defense, he became chairman. He served briefly.

And then Alexander. Now Alexander had been on the staff at the White House. He was viewed favorably and highly by President Johnson, by Mr. Califano, and Mr. Harry McPherson. I believe those were the two staff members that knew him the best. They all knew him, but--So I would have to say that was a definite advantage.

We had already done all the research and all the plans for the highly publicized "White Collar Hearing" in New York. But it's only natural that, from an administrative viewpoint, it did come after he was made chairman, and he presided over it.

Clifford Alexander is an exceptional person. He certainly has a brilliant mind. He is a graduate of Harvard. He is a product of Harlem. His father is in charge of a housing project in Harlem. He has a very attractive, very intelligent wife. What I'm trying to say, you can easily understand why President Johnson and others have held him in very high esteem.

His period was characterized by aggressiveness. But I would also, as one who has now been with it longer than anyone else, I think it was an unfolding. I don't think it was a traumatic period that you could put brackets around. After all, we had assembled a very choice group in research, and that was the basis of the hearing in New York--basis of other hearings. So I just say that Clifford Alexander was a very effective chairman, completely different because he's a different personality. It was also viewed as one of the first times that a black had been named to the chairmanship of any commission.

B: Sir, we're almost out of time. One more question. Did you have serious difficulty with this question of whether or not your commission should have coercive powers?

H: [We are] still having serious difficulty, and I think--

B: Did that begin from the very beginning?

H: Shortly after the beginning. I would say that became more pronounced during the period that Mr. Schulman was chairman, and it crystallized during the period of Mr. Alexander. We have been plagued by a backlog. To illustrate, we started out with in excess of twenty-five hundred complaints the very first day. We are now receiving on the average of twelve thousand complaints a year. As of this interview, we are about two thousand behind. Mr. Alexander and others feel that if the Commission was granted cease-and-desist powers, that that in itself would tend to make for stronger, more valid complaints. A good many of these complaints--it's unfair to say what percentage--but naturally a good many are washed out. So it would lend dignity; it would lend status to it. Some of the states--I'm thinking of one in particular--tell me that where a state commission has cease-and-desist power, that they've never maybe used it more than once or twice, but that it gives the commission a certain impetus. So, yes, that has been a real factor. The backlog has been a real factor. The budget.

B: What was Mr. Johnson's reaction to the idea of asking Congress for cease-and-desist?

H: Mr. Johnson recommended it three times. It passed the House the first time by an overwhelming vote. It has never passed the Senate. But he specifically recommended cease-and-desist three different times. Each presentation while he was President called for an increase in budget. His last recommendation was in excess of sixteen million dollars.

B: Do you think the current administration is going to continue to support the Commission, or is it too early to tell?

H: It's too early to tell. And also I think we have to define what we mean by support. The civil rights picture changes from time to time. President Johnson followed an interest of backing the commission. Then President Johnson appointed more blacks, like his appointment of Clifford Alexander, his appointment of Andy Bremer, his appointment of Hobart Taylor, and Thurgood Marshall. Then going back to what we first said of his close friendship for Roy Wilkins, and then we mentioned Whitney Young, after that initial visit that I described, they were not always knocking on the door of President Johnson. He was knocking on their door. He was phoning and inviting them to come to Washington. He was consulting them. Now, I do not mean to imply that they dictated to him. Mr. Johnson was not that kind of man. But he would draw on resources from them just as he would on other issues. He viewed them as experts in this field, and I do not mean to imply that he talked to them and them only. Mr. Johnson always had a reservoir of information where he was capable of making up his own mind, but he appreciated talking to these men in this particular field.

B: Sir, it's 10:30. We'd better close up and let you get to that meeting.

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By Luther Holcomb

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