

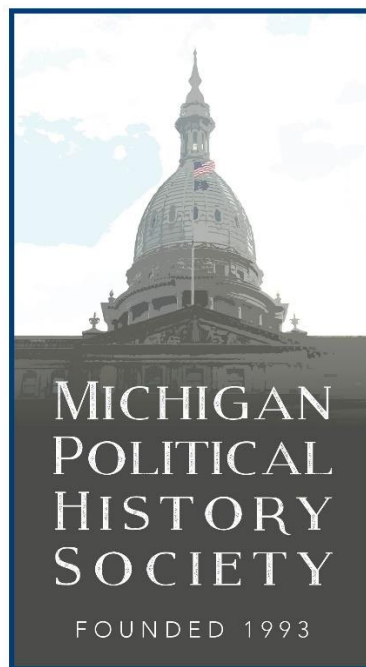
GOVERNOR GEORGE W. ROMNEY
An Interview with G. Scott Romney

Interviewed by

Bill Ballenger

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Bill Ballenger: This interview for the Michigan Political History Society comes to you courtesy of the James J. Blanchard Living Library.

Bill Ballenger: Scott Romney, welcome.

G. Scott Romney: Thank you, happy to be here, Bill.

Bill Ballenger: Your father, George Wilcken Romney, much has been written about him over the years. Unfortunately, nowadays a lot of people don't realize what a family background he had before he ever came to Michigan. Can you tell us just a little bit about the family background, his birthplace, his upbringing, and so forth?

G. Scott Romney: Well he was born in Mexico actually. His father went down as a young man with his grandmother and went to Mexico in the 1890's. The Mormons went there, a lot of them, to escape persecution for polygamy. His grandfather was a polygamist and so they went there and lived there. When he was about four years-old, they were driven out by Pancho Villa. The Mexican Revolution took place and he was a refugee in El Paso for six months, living in a dirt-floor lumberyard. Then his father and mother lived in the west, Idaho and Utah. He went to six different grade schools by the time he was in the sixth grade and ended up in Salt Lake City, Utah. That's where he ended up spending his teenage years.

Bill Ballenger: Wow. What a story. I never heard the El Paso story before. That's a new one. Okay. So he's in Salt Lake City. What? Is he about 17, 18?

G. Scott Romney: He was there a little earlier than that, 14 or 15. He met my mother in high school there and fell in love with her and chased her from then on to try to marry her.

Bill Ballenger: Did he ever go to college?

G. Scott Romney: We went to college. He went to a school that was there that no longer exists called LDS Business College, but he only went there one year. He went to a couple other colleges and I'm not even sure of the names of them, but one was in California for a year and another one for a year. He never graduated from college.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. So he chased your mother to Washington?

G. Scott Romney: He went on a mission for our church to England, and when he came back, my mother's father had become the Federal Radio Commissioner of the United States. Her father served as the Federal Radio Commissioner under Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. So she was in Washington, DC and she was a promising actress and she was taking acting lessons in New York. So he chased her to Washington and got a job there so he could try to be with her there. He got a job actually as a stenographer for

Senator Walsh from Massachusetts, and he ended up not being able to take stenography so the senator made him a tariff expert. So he was a tariff expert for him for a while.

Bill Ballenger: That sounds like a better career path. So her name was Lenore LaFount.

G. Scott Romney: Lenore LaFount.

Bill Ballenger: Yes, as an actress. So he's in Washington. Is she in Washington? Was she trying to go to Hollywood?

G. Scott Romney: She was in Washington and she ended up taking acting lessons in New York from a famous teacher there, and she ended up going to Hollywood. She was offered a job at MGM at the time for \$50,000 a year and she turned that down to marry him.

Bill Ballenger: Whoa.

G. Scott Romney: They got married and had their honeymoon in Lake Tahoe, California.

Bill Ballenger: So they came back to Washington and what did he do then for a living?

G. Scott Romney: He came back to Washington and he worked for the Aluminum Company of America. He was a lobbyist and also helped sell some things. I don't remember exactly what he sold, but he sold the aluminum that went into the Washington Monument. My two sisters were born there.

Bill Ballenger: Well so was that the reason he ended up coming to Michigan?

G. Scott Romney: No. Actually what happened in Washington was that, when he didn't get a promotion at the Aluminum Company of America, he quit. He felt he was entitled to the promotion and didn't get it. ALCO was then broken up. It was an antitrust split up, and a fellow named Pike Johnson who knew him recommended him to be the head of the Automobile Manufacturers Association which was a coordinating body for the auto companies in Michigan. So he took the job in his 30's, 31 years old as the head of the Automobile Manufacturers Association in Michigan. That's how he came to Michigan.

Bill Ballenger: So he came just before World War II?

G. Scott Romney: It was 1939 and then as the war broke out, the Automobile Manufacturers Association was put in charge of coordinating the war production of the auto companies. So at 32, he was in charge of coordinating the war production for all the auto companies. That's what really got him started in his career in Michigan.

Bill Ballenger: When he first came back with his two daughters, you weren't born yet.

G. Scott Romney: I was born here. I was born in 1941 here in Michigan. Then my brother six years later in 1947.

Bill Ballenger: Was the original house in Detroit?

G. Scott Romney: We had a home in Detroit. They paid \$15,000 for a home in Palmer Woods. It was a big home, as many of the homes in Detroit were at that time. Yes, we lived there until we moved to Bloomfield Hills.

Bill Ballenger: I hate to say it, but I think they just tore that home down just a couple years ago.

G. Scott Romney: They tore it down. My sister graduated from high school living in that home.

Bill Ballenger: Wow.

G. Scott Romney: We lived there a long time, but yes.

Bill Ballenger: So the war breaks out. Scott Romney is born, that's you, and Mitt of course six years later, but during the war then is there anything more that you can tell us about what your father was doing beyond what you just did?

G. Scott Romney: Not really. He just worked for the Automobile Manufacturers Association and coordinated all that.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. So what about American Motors? Where'd that come in?

G. Scott Romney: Well once the war was over, he had several offers of job opportunities. One of them was with a company called Nash-Kelvinator at the time. George Mason hired him as his assistant at Nash-Kelvinator. So he started in that in the '40s. Nash-Kelvinator then merged I think in about 1953. You'll have to look it up, Bill. They merged with Hudson and became American Motors. George Mason actually had the idea of the Rambler car, and so they started a compact car which was a smaller, more efficient car to compete with the foreign models that were coming in. George Mason then passed away. He passed away in the middle '50's and when he passed away, they made my dad the president, chairman, and chief executive officer of American Motors.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. So by that time he was probably in his late 40's?

G. Scott Romney: He was in his late 40's. He was 47 and young for the head of one of the auto companies at the time.

Bill Ballenger: Wasn't Jeep part of American Motors?

G. Scott Romney: They later on bought Jeep. They bought Jeep and made it part of American Motors.

Bill Ballenger: Right. Well American Motors was an incredible story in the late 1950's. I remember it and I remember your father on the cover of Time magazine and I remember his phrase "gas-guzzling dinosaurs."

G. Scott Romney: He was that and he was also named the Associated Press Businessman of the Year two years in a row. The Rambler at that time became the third-largest selling car in the United States. Chevy, Ford, and the Rambler. So it was a very successful business. There was an effort by Louis Wolfson if you go back in your history to try to take over American Motors and he was a raider that would then divide up the companies and sell them off for more than what they were worth individually or together. He ended up failing at this. He dropped out and the stock went from six to 90 under my dad's leadership. So it was a very successful venture.

Bill Ballenger: Absolutely. You could sleep in a Rambler. That was a big deal. It had the full backseat.

G. Scott Romney: He loved doing that. Dad would sleep in the Rambler. When he was governor, he would travel to Lansing and sleep in the car.

Bill Ballenger: Right. Absolutely. When did you get an inkling, now we're talking in the late 1950's and you're going to Cranbrook School if I'm not mistaken.

G. Scott Romney: That's right.

Bill Ballenger: When did you get an inkling that your father might be interested in politics or government?

G. Scott Romney: Well I think as I said, my mother's father was obviously involved in politics and my dad's father had some small involvement in politics, but my dad was asked in the late '50's to chair an effort by the Detroit School System to raise money for bonds and to improve the quality of the schools. He accepted that job as chairman of that organization. That sort of began his interest in politics. Then as he saw the tremendous division between Governor Williams and the Republican legislature and how they really created havoc with the state and had payless paydays, it really caused him to think that there must be a better way to run the state government. So in the late '50's, he formed with Walter Reuther and Bob McNamara, who at the time was head of Ford Motor Company, Citizens for Michigan. They began to make an effort to try to improve the future of the state.

Bill Ballenger: So out of Citizens for Michigan came the effort to perhaps reform the Michigan Constitution and have a constitutional convention and there were a series of ballot proposals. Do you remember anything about all that?

G. Scott Romney: Sure. I remember that that was what the outcome, that they decided that the only way to really change things the way that they wanted to change things was

to have a new constitution. So they put forth the effort to have a new constitution. Of course then Citizens for Michigan didn't need to exist anymore. There was the constitutional convention that created the draft of a new constitution.

- Bill Ballenger: You mentioned Walter Reuther just a minute ago. Of course that's really fascinating. Here was this icon of organized labor and George Romney who everybody thinks is the quintessential successful corporate businessman. Do you think that profit sharing, which was I think part of the culture of American Motors and I think your father was instrumental in developing that, that was probably very appealing to Walter Reuther, wasn't it?
- G. Scott Romney: Well what happened in those days was that the unions would go to General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler and negotiate their contracts. Then when they came to American Motors and the other company that did exist at the time, Studebaker-Packard, they could ask for more.
- Bill Ballenger: Yeah.
- G. Scott Romney: So their employees were actually being paid more than the big three, and my dad, in order to point out to the union the need to have appropriate rates for American Motors, suggested the idea to Walter Reuther of profit sharing. So they agreed on an idea of profit sharing, and that's what caused that to happen.
- Bill Ballenger: Well once it was pretty obvious there was going to be a constitutional convention as I understand it, unfortunately you had to leave for your missionary work.
- G. Scott Romney: Yes. From 1961 to 1963, the summer of '61 to '63, I was in England. So I sort of kept in touch with what was going on at home but not entirely.
- Bill Ballenger: Yeah. Unfortunately, at least in terms of our political history, you missed the whole con-con, the constitutional convention because you were across the pond, and then your father decides at the end of 1961 while the convention was still going on that he wanted to run for governor. He ran against the incumbent Governor John Swainson and he won. You missed that too.
- G. Scott Romney: I missed all that.
- Bill Ballenger: You picked a terrible time to go.
- G. Scott Romney: No, it was a great time to go, because I saw a lot of other things subsequently, but yes. When they had the con-con, he ran to be the head of it. I forget what they call the head. He didn't make it. He was the vice chair and that actually was a benefit to him because then he was able to be more free to run for governor. He felt that he needed to run for governor to be able to encourage people to

vote for this new constitution. He really ran for governor to be able to adopt this new constitution.

Bill Ballenger: Well he won the election in November '62 and then he campaigned tirelessly for four months, and in March of '63, so this was only four months later, two months after he took office -- it passes. It was very close and probably it wouldn't have passed if your father hadn't campaigned for it the way he did.

G. Scott Romney: He worked tirelessly for that. He really believed in it.

Bill Ballenger: Well then maybe everything was an anticlimax after that.

G. Scott Romney: No, he enjoyed the other things they were able to accomplish. That constitution though created the first Civil Rights Commission in the United States. Damon Keith and John Feikens were two heads of that.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: That was a major effort that he was involved in and was very proud of that. Of course it did many other things to reform the government of the state of Michigan.

Bill Ballenger: Well we'll get into that, but let me just ask you. Do you think that one of the reasons he was such an apostle of the Civil Rights Commission and putting it in the constitution and open housing which was another big issue later on in his term as governor was because maybe he was a little sensitive about the Mormon Church and the fact that they did not allow African-Americans in the priesthood? Do you think your father felt "I got to show people I have a totally different attitude and I'm not bound by the tenets of the Mormon Church. My attitude toward African-Americans is very different?"

G. Scott Romney: I don't think that made him overly sensitive. He believed that our church was fair and equal to everybody and he didn't believe that that was a discriminatory practice. Obviously he was delighted when it was changed in 1978 and really pleased about that. What really affected his view in civil rights was when he came back to Michigan and worked with so many African-Americans in business and in charity and in other areas. If you go back to the library at the University of Michigan, you'll see the letters he wrote to his own father about how he felt so strongly about equal rights for everyone and that it was something he really firmly believed in largely because of his association with people that were here in Michigan. So he just believed it was the right thing to do.

Bill Ballenger: Right. Okay. Now, you come back finally from your missionary work in Great Britain and it's like the summer of '63 if I'm not mistaken?

G. Scott Romney: Yes, it was.

Bill Ballenger: You decided to transfer to Michigan State.

G. Scott Romney: I didn't actually. I went back to Stanford for one more year.

Bill Ballenger: Oh, okay.

G. Scott Romney: I went back to Stanford for a year and was there '63, '64. Then the '64 convention of the Republican Party was held in California at the Cow Palace. So I was there at that convention when Goldwater was nominated.

Bill Ballenger: So you hadn't gone to Michigan State at that point yet?

G. Scott Romney: I had not. I went the next two years after that.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. But while you were at Stanford, the family had had to move to East Lansing. I think your family, your father bought a house or rented one in East Lansing, didn't he? Your sisters were there. Mitt would have been there. Maybe he was going to Cranbrook at this time.

G. Scott Romney: Yes. They rented a home first. Then they bought it. My sisters were pretty much out of school by that time and were married, in college or then shortly after married. Mitt spent his final two years at Cranbrook as a boarder at Cranbrook.

Bill Ballenger: Oh, okay.

G. Scott Romney: So he actually didn't live in that house.

Bill Ballenger: He isn't there either.

G. Scott Romney: They kept their home in Bloomfield Hills. So my parents would come home every weekend and be at that home. Then on the weekdays, they'd be at their home in Lansing.

Bill Ballenger: Well now speaking of your home, your mother and father had a famous marriage. Your father was famous for supposedly, I don't know whether this is apocryphal or not, placing a rose on her pillow every morning of their married life. Is that really true?

G. Scott Romney: Well he did. He provided a flower for her almost every day of their life. I don't know how he did it in the winter all the time, but he did with a little short note about that he loved her. As a matter of fact, when he was in the cabinet in Washington, DC, they lived in the Shoreham Apartments next to the Shoreham Hotel and he'd go over to the Shoreham Hotel and grab a rose to put in the kitchen or wherever so she could see it in the morning. One day, the manager of the hotel came out and said "Governor, I see you've been taking a rose from our garden every day and plucking it from the bushes. Here's a pair of scissors. It would be much less damaging if you'll use scissors."

Bill Ballenger: Clean cut. A clean cut.

G. Scott Romney: He continued to do it.

Bill Ballenger: That's pretty good. That was even later than we've been talking about.

G. Scott Romney: That was later. My dad and mother did have a fabulous marriage. It as quite something. He loved her enormously. Whenever it was her birthday or an anniversary or anything, he would buy, get a bunch of dresses. He wouldn't buy them all. He'd get a bunch of them that she could try on and then she could pick which one she wanted to keep. I remember we'd all sit around and watch her twirl around the room in whatever dress that he brought and then she'd be able to pick what she wanted.

Bill Ballenger: Well now, your mother probably had been active in a civic way in several capacities, but did she get into politics more heavily once your father was governor, did that impel her to go around, and let's say make speeches to Republican women's groups. She seemed to remember a lot of that.

G. Scott Romney: Well she did. In '62 when he ran, she went all over the state. She went to all the counties of the state and my brother went with her. And they traveled everywhere and she made speeches everywhere. She was a great speaker. She ended up helping him with his speeches. She'd had a background in theater so she knew how to emphasize the things that were supposed to be emphasized in a talk. So she was very helpful in that way, and she had her own ideas about what she thought was important and what she didn't think was important.

G. Scott Romney: She'd always been active in church affairs, and so, one of the important aspects of my parents' lives was their activity in our church. In addition to being a governor, and a great governor of this state, he was also a major leader of the Mormon church in this community and was an early major leader. And my mother was very active in that. And then she was very active in a number of other charitable organizations, one of them being opera with Mrs. Henry Ford.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: And others being a number of other things. But she became, when my brother was born, it was a traumatic event for her and she was ill. She was never quite as well after that as she was before he was born. It took a lot out of her.

Bill Ballenger: The last of four children. How old was she about when he was born?

G. Scott Romney: I have to think about that, and that'll take too long for this taping.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. Well in any event, you were out at Stanford then, for the '63-'64 academic year.

G. Scott Romney: She was in her late 30's. She was in her late 30's.

Bill Ballenger: She was in her late 30s. Okay.

Bill Ballenger: Did you miss everything that was going on? Do you feel in your father's first term or did you get reports? Were you following it? You'd come back on vacation. And of course, the Cow Palace in San Francisco, you say you went to the convention. We'll get to that in a minute. But then you came back and in the fall of '64, you started at Michigan State, right?

G. Scott Romney: Yes.

Bill Ballenger: Okay, so you were there at the tail end of his first term before his second term began. Do you remember anything about what was going on at that time?

G. Scott Romney: Well I do remember they had, remember there was a lieutenant governor that was not a member of his party.

Bill Ballenger: T. John Lesinski.

G. Scott Romney: T. John Lesinski. And so whenever my dad would leave the state, T. John would become the governor and try to undo everything that my dad would do. So my dad made a point of not leaving very much to afford T. John that opportunity. And he also, he had to work with an auditor or treasurer, remember Billy Farnum?

Bill Ballenger: Yes. Yes. He was the Auditor General.

G. Scott Romney: My dad used to work with a number of the Democrats in the Cabinet at the time. And my dad told me the story once that most of the people that he met with, when he would meet with them privately, would come out and say something totally different than what occurred in their private meeting. And the one guy that would never do that, and that was totally honest, didn't agree with him politically, but was totally honest, was Billy Farnum.

Bill Ballenger: Very interesting.

G. Scott Romney: A very honest politician.

Bill Ballenger: Well maybe that's the reason they named a building after him in Lansing. It's still there.

G. Scott Romney: I'm glad they did, because he's a quality guy.

Bill Ballenger: Well, T. John Lesinski also used to fire up cigars in the governor's limousine when George Romney was absent from the state.

G. Scott Romney: Yes.

Bill Ballenger: And leave a lingering aroma that I'm sure your father did not appreciate.

G. Scott Romney: Well when he met with him he would blow smoke in his face.

Bill Ballenger: Oh geez. Wow. Well anyway, those were the days.

Bill Ballenger: Let me ask you this. I know early on, and this is something maybe you didn't know about that much, but I think there was some publicity. I think your father had the feeling that the Attorney General should kind of be the governor's legal advisor, legal counsel, kind of do what the governor wanted him to do. And Frank Kelley said, "No. I'm elected by the people. I'm independently accountable to the people. I don't follow your orders. You want to have a legal counsel, fine." They went through something for a while. Do you remember anything about that?

G. Scott Romney: Not really very much. I do know that Frank Kelley took the position that he would be, that he was the attorney for the governor and also that he could take the position on the other side. So he preserved the right for the attorney general to be on both sides of lots of issues. And that was a very fundamental thing that he did for many many years.

Bill Ballenger: Well that probably didn't appeal to your father.

G. Scott Romney: I don't think that appealed to very many people, no.

Bill Ballenger: But really, the governor's second year of his first term was dominated by national politics, because that was the fight between Barry Goldwater and Nelson Rockefeller for the presidential nomination. And that was the last time that a governor in Michigan got elected for a two-year term.

G. Scott Romney: Right.

Bill Ballenger: So your father had to run for re-election.

G. Scott Romney: Well actually he was, actually that wasn't the last time. Well he ran in '62 for a two-year term.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, yeah.

G. Scott Romney: And then he ran in '64 for a two-year term.

Bill Ballenger: Yes.

G. Scott Romney: And then '66 was a four-year term.

Bill Ballenger: That's what I mean. He had to run for the last two year terms.

G. Scott Romney: You got it exactly right, exactly right.

Bill Ballenger: So when he ran, he had to run with Barry Goldwater at the top of the ticket. And Barry Goldwater wasn't faring very well in the polls.

G. Scott Romney: Well my dad viewed Barry Goldwater, he would not endorse him, because he was concerned that he was inferring or implying or whatever you want to say a racist tone. And he felt that that was inappropriate. And he was very, very concerned about that. So he would not endorse him.

Bill Ballenger: Was he concerned that Barry Goldwater was going to be on the top of the ticket in Michigan when he, George Romney, was running for re-election as governor, right below him, and could be affected?

G. Scott Romney: I think his principles were more important than anything. Because at the Cow Palace out in California he made it very clear what his view was about Barry Goldwater. He ran as a favorite son, so the state of Michigan would not initially support Goldwater in the nomination process, and made a major effort toward the planks of the Republican Party to include civil rights and other matters that he thought were important. So it was really more of a matter of principle than anything else.

Bill Ballenger: Well, there was a question of survivability.

G. Scott Romney: Well there was. A big question.

Bill Ballenger: Could he survive in the face of a LBJ landslide win over Barry Goldwater? And the so-called ticket-splitter strategy evolved around this time. Maybe it was already in place in 1962. And Walt De Vries was kind of his Svengali guru in the executive office, had some ideas on that. Wrote a book about it called The Ticket-Splitter several years later, co-authored with Lance Tarrance. How much was that part of the '64 campaign and the success your father had in that election?

G. Scott Romney: Well, if they didn't have that strategy and if it weren't successful, he wouldn't have won. I think, I forgot what the total number was, but my mind says it was a million and a half victory for Johnson.

Bill Ballenger: Well I think that the net was, yeah, it was a like a million plus for Johnson and your father won by half a million.

G. Scott Romney: Won by half a million.

Bill Ballenger: So you combine them.

G. Scott Romney: Two million.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, whatever, it was huge. So in other words, explain a little bit. What was the ticket-splitter strategy? What was it?

G. Scott Romney: Well the strategy was to really encourage people, at that time to try to encourage people in the suburbs largely, to vote for Romney because of what he would do for the state. And make sure they understood what value he would bring to the state.

Bill Ballenger: Even if they voted for Democrats for other offices.

G. Scott Romney: Even if they voted for Democrats for the federal offices.

Bill Ballenger: And I think De Vries and others kind of identified who these voters were. And they really targeted them.

G. Scott Romney: They targeted them largely in those days by newspapers. Today you would do it by social media and other means, but that was largely by local newspapers at that time.

Bill Ballenger: So can you remember Election Night 1964. Were you here? You were going to Michigan State at that point. Do you remember the victory party? Were you apprehensive about going in to the election, whether he'd emerge victorious or not?

G. Scott Romney: I do remember being worried. I do remember my brother and I campaigning, and we went into Detroit and knocked on people's doors. And I remember how positive so many people were about my father in the city of Detroit at the time. And many African-Americans. And then I remember there was a major effort to try to slander my father by saying he was not for equal rights and so forth. And several people came out in his defense, including Damon Keith, to make it clear that he was a major proponent of civil rights. So my father's vote of the African-American community doubled every time he ran.

Bill Ballenger: Right. After he wins re-election in '64, he takes over, but he's got a heavily Democratic legislature for the first time since before the Second World War. Democrats had been out of power something like 26 years. And do you remember any stories or anything he said or what was your impression of how he was able to work with Democrats in the legislature?

G. Scott Romney: Well I don't, Bill. I don't remember that. I do remember going to a budget meeting when I was a student at Michigan State. And I went to the meeting and they were talking about the budget and everything. And they went through a number of different things, and mental health, and this issue and that issue. And then it came to the vending machines in the capital and at the end of the discussion, Dick Van Deusen said, "You know, we spent more time on the

vending machines in the capitol than we did on some other very important topics."

G. Scott Romney: But I don't remember the effort of dealing with it. I do remember that he was able to get some cooperation from a number of people about some of the things that he thought were important. But it was not as easy as he would like.

Bill Ballenger: How about 1966? Now that was the year of the so-called Romney Action Team, where they actually printed up bumper stickers with like Romney/Griffin. Bob Griffin running for the U.S. Senate. Or Romney and whomever the congressman might be, Vander Jagt, Romney/Brown, Romney/Esch. And they went around the state.

G. Scott Romney: You got it, you got the names. Huge victory.

Bill Ballenger: Huge victory where not only he won at the top of the ticket, but he swept a lot of Republicans down ballot in. And it kind of made up for what happened two years earlier.

G. Scott Romney: There's no question it was a significant victory for Republicans. And I think he switched six congressional seats in the state in that election. And of course Bob Griffin won the Senate. And my dad took Bob Griffin with him everywhere. There were pictures of them crossing barbed wire fences to be able to get to some of the events that were labor events and other things. So he really made an effort to help all of the ticket win in that election.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, your father was almost famous for scaling fences, trying to get into union picnics.

G. Scott Romney: Well, there were some great pictures of him in the paper. They were on the Labor Day celebrations, there would be the big stand on the dais with all the labor officials. And then over in the corner, all by himself, would be lonesome George sitting by himself, because he came to those events himself, because he wanted to support those.

Bill Ballenger: Did you and Mitt help him a lot in that campaign?

G. Scott Romney: We went to a lot of things. He would go to the factories and shake everybody's hand. Very active. We were involved, but again, knocking on doors and doing other things, but not much more than that.

Bill Ballenger: Now your father's opponent in that election was Zolton Ferency.

G. Scott Romney: Zolton Ferency.

Bill Ballenger: Democratic state chairman. And didn't President Johnson come in to Michigan to campaign for Zolton?

G. Scott Romney: President Johnson came in to campaign for Zolton Ferency. And when he came in and went to an event for him, he mispronounced his name, which the papers all covered, which was pretty hilarious. But when he came in, my dad as the governor, met him at the airport. And so they went out on the tarmac and President Johnson said, "Come in and sit my car next to me." So my dad sat in the car next to President Johnson. And John Dingell, the congressman, a big man at the time and healthy, grabbed my dad by the shoulders and pulled him out and said, "You don't sit in there!" And President Johnson said, "Yes he does." He went back in.

Bill Ballenger: He went back in. Well of course Johnson was a pretty big man himself.

G. Scott Romney: Johnson was a good sized fellow himself.

Bill Ballenger: He could stand up to John Dingell. That's an interesting story, fascinating.

Bill Ballenger: So the Romney Action Team wins. And then we get to 1967. This is your father's third term, the first four-year term in Michigan history for a Michigan governor under the new constitution which your father championed. And there were all sorts of things that happened in 1967. There was the first state income tax was enacted. The open housing legislation that your father championed was passed. We had the Detroit riots in the summer of '67. We had your father going to Vietnam. We had the interview on TV with Lou Gordon in which your father claimed that he'd been brainwashed by the generals over there. In the meantime, your father had announced that he was interested in running for President. The polls showed him ahead of LBJ at the time he started running.

Bill Ballenger: All these things happened in 1967.

G. Scott Romney: It was pretty exciting.

Bill Ballenger: Very exciting. What do you remember about any and all of that stuff?

G. Scott Romney: Well I remember all of those things. I remember, particularly I remember the riots and how difficult a time that was. And I spent the days with my father. As a matter of fact, we stayed overnight in a hospital downtown. We traveled around. And I remember my father kept trying to get the federal troops to come in to help calm the city down. And asked Johnson for the federal troops and Johnson kept delaying it. He sent Cyrus Vance here. And Cyrus Vance would drive around with my father, and my father would make the request and put it in writing. And then it would come back with Cyrus Vance and the President wanted it worded slightly different. So my father would word it slightly different. And it would come back several hours later saying well that wasn't good enough you need to say this. And so they kept trying.

G. Scott Romney: And it was really political. They wanted him to, they wanted the nation to see, and him to suggest, that it was totally out of control, and they wanted him to swim by himself.

Bill Ballenger: They weren't going to peek him out.

G. Scott Romney: So they weren't going to bail him out. And of course there were major other riots at the same time, in Watts and several other cities in the United States. It wasn't only Detroit. Detroit was one of the worst ones.

Bill Ballenger: Newark was another one.

G. Scott Romney: There were several of them across the country. But Johnson made a real effort to make it political in my view. And I think subsequent writers have seen that. So I do remember that very well.

G. Scott Romney: I also remember his interest in running for President. He felt that he wanted to make a difference and that he could do something to help the country. And really believed in that. So it was interesting because he did go on the Lou Gordon show. He took a trip to Vietnam, and he was convinced that the generals were misleading him, and that Westmoreland particularly was misleading him. And it was kind of interesting because when he did say that he'd been misled and then he said that, and they'd give him the snow job, and then he'd use the word brainwashing. And of course they made terrible fun for using that name that he's so weak to be brainwashed. But it was interesting because Bob McNamara's family wouldn't talk to my dad after he said that. And he was the Secretary of Defense at the time. Had been, of course, because Citizens for Michigan co-chair with my dad.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: Wouldn't talk to him. But then Bob McNamara, what 30 years later?

Bill Ballenger: Years later.

G. Scott Romney: Said that they weren't telling the truth, that they were misleading everybody. And everybody called him a hero. But at the time they made fun of my dad for saying what really was true. They lied to us about what was going on in Vietnam. And so he was on the Lou Gordon show, he said brainwashing. His aide Travis Cross had the opportunity to look at the video afterwards and change, take anything out that he wanted to. Didn't see anything in it that was troublesome. And so that ended up. And then Lou Gordon went out for his, and good for him, he went out and said to the New York papers two or three days later, after it had been aired, nobody had paid any attention to it. Said, hey he said this. And then that caught fire. The Republicans across the country and the Democrats made fun of him for saying he was brainwashed.

Bill Ballenger: Do you really think it was that important in injuring his presidential ambitions?

G. Scott Romney: I think it had a significant effect. I think it was an effort. Of course, Nixon ended up winning the nomination then. And I think they would have done some other things to try to make him look bad as time went along but yes, I think it had a significant effect. You know politicians today can say a lot of different things and it doesn't seem to make as much difference. That's really new in the 2016 on era. But in those days it was a big deal.

Bill Ballenger: What about, I'm just trying to think, his campaign in the fall in New Hampshire. Where did he finally announce he wasn't gonna run again? Did you know in advance he was going to do it?

G. Scott Romney: I think the primary was in early January. He announced late in the year, and I was with him, I was actually in New Hampshire. He decided to drop out, that it didn't make sense, he wasn't going to win. And he felt that he needed to. And Nixon was likely to win and he felt that to give him the support that he needed, he needed to get out and not make a big deal out. So anyway, he dropped out, at that point.

G. Scott Romney: I was with him when he decided to drop out and then we flew to Washington DC to make the announcement, and he made the announcement there.

Bill Ballenger: What was the state of mind at the time?

G. Scott Romney: It was really fascinating to me because I was with him the day he dropped out, I was with him when he talked about it with his staff, and my mom, and then I was with them the next day in the sun room in our home in Bloomfield Hills when he was reading the papers and doing other things and he was calm as you could be. He was the same person before as he was after.

G. Scott Romney: It didn't seem to affect him at all. He just felt that he made an effort to do what he thought was good for the country. He wasn't really in it for himself. And he wrote letters to my brother about that, that he felt he could make a difference, but that wasn't going to occur. He'd done what is best and so on he was going to move.

Bill Ballenger: Did you get the feeling that either he felt, or maybe you, yourself felt, or your mother, felt that he had not been given good advice by a lot of the people who ran his campaign? There were a lot of people who thought he shouldn't have been wasting his time up in New Hampshire where Nixon was likely to beat him anyway.

G. Scott Romney: He should have gone to Wisconsin.

Bill Ballenger: He should have gone to Wisconsin where American Motors had had a plant.

G. Scott Romney: Right.

Bill Ballenger: And, he could have done a lot better there. And he was ill served.

G. Scott Romney: Well, there were people that said that. Some of them at the time, and I think probably it probably was a mistake, in hindsight to do it that way, to go to try to battle in New Hampshire. Everybody felt that you had to go to New Hampshire first in those days. So that was what they did.

Bill Ballenger: So we get to the summer of '68, there's another convention, Nixon is nominated. And there's some talk about your father being picked as a vice presidential candidate.

G. Scott Romney: I don't think he ever expected that to occur.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah. Well, and it was Spiro Agnew.

G. Scott Romney: I think that was a surprise to everybody, because he picked somebody that was not well known and had not distinguished himself significantly in any way. And it was almost like Nixon wanted to pick somebody that couldn't upstage him.

Bill Ballenger: Well, okay, so that campaign comes and goes, and Nixon wins narrowly over Hubert Humphrey. Your father is finishing his sixth year as governor. He's accomplished a lot, but evidently he was still stirred by the ambition to maybe do something at the federal level and Richard Nixon asked him to be his secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the new administration, beginning in January of '69, so your father does something that really is pretty rare in the history of Michigan governors, he resigns in the middle of his second term and turns the office over to Bill Milliken and goes to Washington.

Bill Ballenger: What do you remember about that time? Was that a tough decision for him to make? How did your mother feel about it? How did you feel about it?

G. Scott Romney: Well, I don't know how tough a decision was for him. I think that he felt that he could have an effect on civil rights in the country, on equal housing opportunities for people. That was a major concern of his and something that he thought the Republicans should be pushing.

G. Scott Romney: He also felt that he could bring some efficiency, in terms of modularized homes, and trying to build homes that are more efficient way for the future. And so he felt that he could make a difference in doing that. So he took that job.

Bill Ballenger: So how did he feel about having the job as HUD Secretary? During the time he was there, and after it was over, do you think he had a feeling of real satisfaction? Or by the end did he decide, you know, you can't really get as much done here in Washington as you think you can going in, and I'm a little bit

disillusioned and I'm just going to pack it in and get out of politics and government.

G. Scott Romney: Well, he was there for the whole four years. For the first term of Nixon's presidency, but he early on, felt that he was being thwarted, in terms of doing the things he wanted, and that the White House really controlled things. And Ehrlichman and Haldeman, who were the top assistants to Nixon, vetoed many of the things that my dad wanted to do. And Moynahan, as well. And so it ended up being significantly frustrating for him in being the secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And, he realized that even though you could be a cabinet secretary in the country view, you were an important aspect and policymaker in terms of government, it's really the aides to the president, and the president, that make the decisions and you really can't have very much influence.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

Bill Ballenger: In the middle of your father's service as HUD Secretary, while he's in Washington with your mother, she is either recruited, or she decides, or whatever to run for the US Senate against the incumbent Democratic US Senator Phil Hart.

Bill Ballenger: What do you remember about that? Was that her idea? Was that your father's idea that she would be a good person to do this? Was there impetus to do this from outside the two of them from the party or from somebody else?

G. Scott Romney: I think there was a real effort of the party. First of all, I think that part of it was a Governor Milliken, he wanted somebody that was not going to drag down the ticket terribly.

Bill Ballenger: He was running for election.

G. Scott Romney: And he was running for the first time for direct election, he was the governor, but had been succeeded by my dad after my dad resigned, and so now he was running for his first four-year term.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: The Republican Party decided they would have a group of them get together and try to pick the best choice to be able to run for Senate. And that group selected my mother and she was interested in doing it, and thought it would make a significant contribution.

G. Scott Romney: So it was really the party and Governor Millikan that put her in that position.

Bill Ballenger: Okay. And so how did she feel about the campaign and what happened in the campaign?

G. Scott Romney: Well, it was fascinating, the campaign, because in those days, it was so different in those days. Now Elly Peterson had already run for Senate once. So my mother wasn't the first woman to run as a Republican woman for Senate.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: When they had debates with Senator Hart, and he was a good man, but in those days he would come in and bring her a dozen roses and a pull out her chair, and tell her what a great mother she'd been.

Bill Ballenger: Oh my gosh.

G. Scott Romney: And so it was all that kind of thing.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

G. Scott Romney: Oh, you've been such a wonderful mother, I'm so glad you've been such a great mother. Today, being a mother would be an asset, in terms of running for office, in those days, it was not considered an asset.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah.

G. Scott Romney: It was very difficult for her, and obviously, she lost by a lot. And then Millikan sort of divorced himself from her. Once he saw that she wasn't particularly popular and wasn't ahead in the polls, he wouldn't do anything with her, and that made it very difficult for her too.

G. Scott Romney: He sort of acted like he didn't really care.

Bill Ballenger: He had nothing to do with recruiting her in the first place.

G. Scott Romney: He had nothing to do with the process that selected her in the first place.

Bill Ballenger: What about your brother and yourself? Did you help?

G. Scott Romney: Well, my brother came back. He was at Brigham Young University at the time, and I was with a law firm in New York, and they gave me a leave of absence, so I came back and worked three months on my mother's campaign. I helped write a lot of speeches and do some other things and Mitt did a lot of organizational stuff. And so we worked on it. It was very interesting, and my brother was very wise about the people that worked on the campaign, had a lot of suggestions about things. I didn't know at the time how ahead he was in terms of his political thinking and his organizational skills. But he was really interesting during that time.

Bill Ballenger: You think that's where he really got the political bug? He worked a little before that time.

G. Scott Romney: Going around with my parents in the campaigning, and he did it from the beginning, in 1962 when my dad ran, he was with my mother all the time. When you see all these things. Politics, in some ways, is intoxicating, and you know that, it's fascinating. And to think you could make a difference and improve people's lives is even more intoxicating. So it becomes something that you really would want to do.

G. Scott Romney: Now, my dad always felt that before you go into politics, you need to be able to be successful in something else, so that you have a background. So, for two things, two reasons; one so you're not financially in need of the job. So you can say what you really believe without worrying about whether you're going to win or lose. That you don't have to say something that you don't believe to try to win. That was important to him.

G. Scott Romney: And secondly, so that you're financially independent, again, so that you don't have to rely on the job.

G. Scott Romney: It was a big deal to him to also have experience in private life, so you know what's going on in the country, and understand what happens and what's important. And so he believed you need to be out in the private sector first before you run for public office.

G. Scott Romney: Going around with the people and seeing other people run for office and what they did and how they did it. We saw a lot, learned a lot, figured out a lot of things that happened and it was fascinating.

Bill Ballenger: Well, Richard Nixon is re-elected in 1972, but your father says, "I've served one full term and that's enough." And he resigned. He never sought political office again. And I'm just curious, the last two decades of his life, what did he involve himself in?

G. Scott Romney: He was majorly involved in volunteer activities. He believed that volunteerism was really important in our country. He said, "Money is important, but more important are people helping people." And so he worked very hard for the Volunteers for America. He was helpful in putting together an organization to promote volunteerism. And as a matter of fact, the points of lights under George Herbert Walker Bush was something that was then merged with another organization to make Volunteers for America.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: He was a huge proponent of that and he talked about it to us all the time.

Bill Ballenger: What other anecdotes can you tell me about George Romney and his activities, things he said, things he did, his relationship with you, for instance, as a father? What kind of a father was he?

G. Scott Romney: Well, he was an incredible father, let me talk about that in a second.

G. Scott Romney: But when he was a young boy, it really affected us a lot about his background, that he came from such a poor background. His father going broke five times, and he told us a story that when he was a young boy, his father came home and the only Christmas present they got, they got one red flyer sled for the six boys and one girl, and they each got an orange. That was what they got for Christmas.

G. Scott Romney: And those stories made a difference to us in terms of being able to accept other people and understand where people come from in this world and that, you know, it doesn't always end up easy for everybody. But his love affair with my mother was a huge impression on all of us and his affection for her and his kindness to her, and her kindness to him was a huge aspect of our lives and of our upbringing.

G. Scott Romney: Our father would pray with us every day, he'd kneel down and we'd have family prayer and he'd pray with us. That was a big deal.

G. Scott Romney: I'll get emotional when I talk about the love of his children, he loved his children enormously. And I've had some difficult times in my life, and my dad was there and showed unconditional love for me every time. He was absolutely 100% supportive and just a spectacular father. He really was an incredible support to all of his children and loved them and cared for them enormously.

G. Scott Romney: You know, he was very generous with people. There were a number of people that he helped. There were just things he did, little things that he did. You know, when we were kids, we'd go watch the Thanksgiving parade at Pearl Peterson's apartment in Detroit, and my brother would say afterwards, "Well, why are we watching it here? We don't get a good view here. There are much better at places."

G. Scott Romney: Well after we were adults, we realized we weren't going there to watch the parade. We were going there to be nice to Pearl Peterson. And it was just the way my father conducted himself, the things that he did.

G. Scott Romney: I remember when he ran for governor the first time, Gus Shoal, he somehow got in the press that he was praying about whether to run for governor, and Gus Shoal said, "Oh, what does he think he has a private pipeline to God?"

G. Scott Romney: And my dad said, "I have the same pipeline everybody else has."

G. Scott Romney: He was the one that coined the phrase "gas guzzling dinosaurs".

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: About the big three's cars.

Bill Ballenger: Right.

G. Scott Romney: He just was an innovative, creative kind of guy.

Bill Ballenger: Didn't he, in 1994, when Mitt was running against Teddy Kennedy for the US Senate, your father went out to Massachusetts and campaigned tirelessly for him.

G. Scott Romney: He did.

Bill Ballenger: And he was in his eighties by then.

G. Scott Romney: My mother wasn't particularly well at the time, so he added some space in the house so that a couple could live there and be with her when he was gone, and he was there and he'd go and fly to Boston and take the tube out to wherever Mitt was, and do whatever he could to campaign.

G. Scott Romney: And toward the end of the campaign when it looked like Mitt was not going to win for Senate, against Ted Kennedy, my dad called me on the phone and he said, "You've gotta tell your brother that we can still win this thing." And he said, "We should ... I'm having all the family come, all the grandchildren, all the children, and I'm having them all come and we can spread out across the state and we can win this thing. And Mitt says we should just all stay together and have a good time."

G. Scott Romney: He was in his eighties, late eighties.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, yeah.

G. Scott Romney: And I said, "Well dad, you know, Mitt ought to be able to say he ran the campaign the way he wants to run it."

G. Scott Romney: And he paused for a second and he said, "Oh, you're right."

G. Scott Romney: And it is amazing to see how he could change his mind.

Bill Ballenger: He could change his mind.

G. Scott Romney: He liked to listen to other people's viewpoints.

Bill Ballenger: Yeah, yeah.

G. Scott Romney: And was always open minded in thinking about things that went forward. He would always have a discussion with his children, before he ran for office, and before my mother ran for office. I remember he'd always say, "What do you think about this?" And lay it out, the pros and cons. And my sister would say, "That's great." And my other sister would say, "That's great." And I'd say, "That's

great." And Mitt would say, "Have you thought about this? Have you thought about that?"

G. Scott Romney: He'd always come up with the things that were the negatives. It was really kind of fascinating. But anyway, yes, he was an amazing guy.

G. Scott Romney: He loved to exercise. He walked in the morning, and when he played golf, he'd go over early in the morning and play golf with three balls and run around the course with a putter and a two iron and that was all he'd take, and basically run around the course. And they called him the ghost, because his footsteps would be there, but nobody ever saw him.

Bill Ballenger: Wow. Yeah, I remember those stories. What about his relationship with Nelson Rockefeller?

G. Scott Romney: Well that was interesting because when he decided to run for president, it was after the Governor Scranton and Governor Rockefeller came to him and said that they were going to give him their unconditional support and that they would never do anything else but support him.

G. Scott Romney: And so, after my dad had made the mistake of saying "brainwashing" and things didn't look so good for a while, Rockefeller instantly kind of changed his tune in public. And so it really hurt to the effort of my father and that's one of the things that caused him to drop out.

Bill Ballenger: Do you remember anything about the executive mansion, the governor's mansion on Mackinac Island?

G. Scott Romney: I sure do. We went up there a fair amount and we stayed there. It was very nice. It was a lovely place.

G. Scott Romney: Mitt would take his boat up there and he had a little teeny, 16-foot powerboat and I know he was out there with his girlfriend, Ann, whom he ended up marrying. And one night they were out under the bridge and it looked like the shore was moving and it turned out it was a freighter going by, that narrowly missed them.

Bill Ballenger: I know a lot of legislators appreciated George Romney inviting them up there and playing golf with them, including some Democrats who were never invited by Soapy Williams, or anybody else who had been a democratic governor up there to play golf with them.

G. Scott Romney: Well, my dad loved to play golf and he had fairly decent scores, but Billy Casper, who the pro was who played with him said that my dad was the ninth wonder of the world. His stroke was so bizarre. Have you seen Charles Barkley's stroke these days?

G. Scott Romney: He's be on his tippy toes and dance around a little bit before the club would come down and hit the ball square.

Bill Ballenger: Right. So, Mormonism was such an enormous influence on your whole family and your father's life. I mean, your family was really in on Mormonism from the very beginning wasn't it? Back in the 1830's?

G. Scott Romney: My dad's great, great-grandfather. Let's see Helaman, Parley, grandfather who was one of the early members of the church in 1830, within six months after the church was formed he was one of the early leaders. He ended up being assassinated in Arkansas in the 1850's, but yes, and many of my mother's family as well. But my mother's father was an early member of the church. He joined on his own as a teenager in England and came to the United States, but other than that it went back generations.

G. Scott Romney: I think another interesting thing about my dad is that when he was a young man his mother died of asthma when he was in high school. She had a major asthma attack, and in those days, asthma was difficult, and they didn't know what to do. So, one time a doctor said to her, well, if we pull all your teeth your asthma will go away. So they pulled all her teeth, and of course it didn't do anything for her asthma.

Bill Ballenger: Oh, my god.

G. Scott Romney: But she died when he was about 16 or 17 and so when he left to go East to go on his mission he took his dad to his mother's grave and he said, "I will never do anything to bring shame on the family name. I will always provide honor to the name of this family."

Bill Ballenger: That's amazing. Is there something about Mormonism as a faith that has a particular appeal to your family that you can think of? What is it about Mormonism that means something really significant to you?

G. Scott Romney: Well of course, the major aspect, the name of our church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and so the main thing of our church is to believe in Jesus Christ as other Christians do. And so believing in our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ is a huge thing. There are other things. There's several doctrinal things that are a little different and so forth, and the other aspect of it is the emphasis on family. And we believe that people that are married in this life will be married in the next life if they are married in the proper way. And that the families will live together forever, and that there's a family unity that survives death. And so that's a major aspect of our faith and causes you to look on your family in a much more significant way.

Bill Ballenger: At the end of his life, and I know it came abruptly and George Romney didn't expect to pass away when he did, it was right after he had been exercising I believe, on his exercise bike.

G. Scott Romney: He died on his treadmill. He'd called me the night before and said, "Scott, we've got to do this, and Scott we've got to do that."

Bill Ballenger: I know.

G. Scott Romney: And told me things that he thought we needed to do.

Bill Ballenger: He was tireless.

G. Scott Romney: He was always involved in wanting to do something to make the world better. And those things were largely to make the family better. But he kept telling us that we needed to get involved in the community, to help the community, and make a difference in our communities.

Bill Ballenger: Do you think he looked back at his life at that point, I know he wasn't satisfied, because he was never satisfied. There was always something else to do, but do you think he looked back at his life with a great deal of satisfaction in what he accomplished? Particularly in politics and government?

G. Scott Romney: I think he did look back on it with great satisfaction. I think he felt that he had made a significant difference and that he felt that there were other things that needed to be done. He wasn't happy about everything going on in government at the time, but he felt that he'd made a significant difference in his life for the betterment of the government, for his family, for his church, for himself individually. I think he felt that he had lived a very good life.

Bill Ballenger: When you talk about family, his granddaughter, your daughter, Ronna Romney McDaniel, is now the National Republican Chairman. What would your father think of that?

G. Scott Romney: Well, he'd be surprised, and he'd be thrilled. And you know, he didn't see Mitt win as governor. Didn't see Mitt become Presidential candidate and win the nomination. So he would have been very proud of that as well. He would have been proud of all of us. But he would have loved seeing that my daughter's involved in politics and would be talking to her about it all the time.

G. Scott Romney: We did that at the dinner tables. We talked about politics at the dinner tables and I remember there was one time that there was a man name Eustice Seligman came to our home. He was on the board of Hudson Motor Company and was a lawyer in New York with a major firm, and it was such an intelligent conversation with just me, my dad, and Mr. Seligman and it had such a powerful influence on me that I ended up going to law school and joined his law firm at first.

Bill Ballenger: Wow. Let me ask you. The issues today that are predominant, particularly social cultural issues that were not at all prevalent at the time your father was governor. Things like abortion and LGBT rights, and gun rights, and flag

desecration. All these social cultural issues. How do you think your father would have handled a lot of those issues today? If he was involved today?

G. Scott Romney: Well, my father was a pro-life person so he would believe in that. On the other hand, he would honor what people had decided in terms of the country, but he was pro-life. On LGBT things, issues, I think his view was, he'd have his own religious view about how he believed that people should live their lives, but he would believe that we need to be kind and loving to everyone and let other people determine how they're going to live their lives in whatever they wish to live their lives.

Bill Ballenger: You think he would have been able to survive politically in this kind of a climate today that we have with this tremendous polarization over a lot of these issues?

G. Scott Romney: I have no idea whether he would. I do know this. That he was such a dynamic person and so forceful in terms of his personality and in his speaking style that I think that that would be appealing to a lot of people today. But he was very forthright. He did not say wild things about the people and so forth, so I don't know where that would be. And the polarization would be a real concern for him today. I think that would be a major problem that he would want to see people being able to be more civil and to find a way to work together and find common causes in terms of so many things that are important in terms of foreign policy, domestic policy in this country. And he'd be worried about the economy as a major effect and he believes that our country is a truly benefited country and that we have not only helped the people in this country but we've lifted people in poverty around the world more than any other country has ever done in the history of mankind.

Bill Ballenger: Right. Well, Scott Romney, unless you have something else that you'd like to add, I want to thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with us about your father. A unique individual, a unique governor, a unique man. Unbelievable life story. Thank you very much.

G. Scott Romney: I thank you for doing this. And I thank you for the opportunity to try to honor my father. I will tell you again that he's the greatest man I've ever known. He's an incredible hero to me.

Bill Ballenger: Well, to say one more thing. Looking at you and watching you speak, and your smile right now, I see George Romney. George Wilcken Romney.

G. Scott Romney: That's very nice of you. Very nice of you.

Bill Ballenger: There is tremendous connection between you and your father.

G. Scott Romney: Thank you very much. Thank you.