

NELSEN, MARLIN B. INTERVIEW

S-1961 Nelsen, Marlin B., State Representative, District 13B., Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, 2 Terms.

1996 Marlin B. Nelsen (1936-1980). Democratic-Farmer-Labor, was a State Representative for District 13B. Elected in 1976 and again in 1978, Nelsen had served on the agriculture, education and environment and natural resources committees.

Born and raised near Northfield, Minnesota, Nelsen went on to receive a D.C. degree in Chiropractics from Northwestern College. He was a chiropractor in Caledonia and then in Aitkin. It was in Aitkin that he participated in various community services such as being the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

In the legislature, Nelsen was involved in such issues as the powerline controversy, fluoridation and he authored a bill to have the Continental Telephone Company discontinue its services in Minnesota. His 2nd term was when the majority rules were set aside and new ones were temporarily adopted during the 67-67 split in party members.

Nelsen discusses his respect for the seniority system and for lobbyists. He felt that lobbyists are really helping the people who are having difficulties in contacting their representatives and are losing their contact with the government.

INTERVIEWERS: Al Nielsen and Calvin Gower

DATE: September 17, 1980

SUBJECTS COVERED: TAPE 1 PART 1

010 FAMILY BACKGROUND:

013- Father's Occupation- Carpenter.
015- Birth- September 18, 1936
023- Childhood post-depression years and WWII
034- Norwegian ancestry

060 EDUCATION:

063- Northfield Jr. and Sr. High School, 1954.
070- Northwestern College of Chiropractic, 1960.

079 WORK EXPERIENCE:

081- Chiropractor at Caledonia and Aitkin, Minnesota.
124- Office of Economic Opportunity, 1971-1972.

140 GOVERNMENT SERVICE:

151- Town Clerk, 1974.

165 COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- 167 - Chairman of Aitkin Chamber of Commerce, 4 years.
- 170 - President of non-profit, low income corporation, 7 years.

209 POLITICAL ACTIVITY - LEGISLATURE:

- 210 - 1976 election success.
- 274 - Position of very anti-gun control.
- 335 - Campaigning 1976.
- 355 - Kept promise and authored a bill to throw out Continental Telephone Company.
- 500 - Difficulties campaigning in such a widespread district.
- 560 - Legislative service was not a surprise.

000 SUBJECTS COVERED: TAPE1 PART 2

000 LEGISLATURE:

- 030 - Respect for the Seniority System.
- 080 - Divisiveness of 67 - 67 split, results in not much being accomplished.

123 ISSUES INVOLVED IN WHILE IN LEGISLATURE:

- 134 - Powerline controversy - tried to help REA Co-op members.
- 179 - Fluoride issue - against medicating people against their will.
- 207 - Generally for DFL platform except for gun control, gay rights, and abortion.
- 240 - Helped Hill City with its problems in funding education.

320 2ND TERM AND END OF POLITICAL CAREER:

- 321 - 1978 campaign difficulties with Republicans
- 350 - Found Senator Dave Rued, of Republican opposition, likable.
- 417 - Decision not to run again because personal life suffered.
- 450 - Majority rules set aside when both parties adopt temporary rules because of 67 -67 split.

000 SUBJECTS COVERED: TAPE 1 PART 2

000 LOBBYISTS ARE VERY BENEFICIAL:

- 021 - Terrible difficulties in contacting Representatives.
- 040 - People have been losing contact with their government

109 GOOD FEELINGS ABOUT THE LEGISLATURE: