

INTERVIEW WITH DAVE MAZOUR

August 20, 2013

1 PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 20, 2013:

2 MR. BARR: This is Jim Barr. It's August 20th.
3 We're in Sutherland, Nebraska, visiting with Dave Mazour.
4 And, Dave, would you want to start out with kind of a little
5 background on yourself?

6 MR. MAZOUR: Well, with respect to this NRD
7 project, I graduated from the University in 1966 and worked
8 my first two years out of McCook, Nebraska, for the Soil
9 Conservation Service. And then in 1968 I was approached by,
10 at the time it was the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation
11 Commission, to come to work for them as a western
12 representative. And so I worked out of Alliance, Nebraska,
13 for the state for two years, from '68 to '70, and then
14 transferred to Lincoln in 1970 and worked through 1975.
15 Concurrent with that I was working on a master's degree at
16 the University of Nebraska in water resources economics.
17 I'm not sure what they call it now, but that's what I call
18 it. And then in 1975 I went to work for 10 years with the
19 Little Blue Natural Resource District out of Davenport,
20 Nebraska.

21 MR. BARR: What did you do afterwards, just as a
22 matter of --

23 MR. MAZOUR: Well, yes, after that I farmed and I
24 was farming, had a small farm concurrent with the NRD job.
25 And after 10 years I had that paid for and my dad was

1 retiring so I farmed my farm, his farm and part of my
2 uncle's farm for two years and found that I was going
3 backwards financially in that world. I wanted to send my
4 kids to college and so I started looking for another job,
5 and actually everything I looked for, nothing came to
6 fruition. But I did get a call from the Central Nebraska
7 Public Power and Irrigation District and they were having
8 some struggles with re-licensing some of the hydros at
9 McConaughy. And so I looked like a good fit, so we moved
10 off the farm to Holdrege and I worked there for nine years
11 and working on re-licensing and other matters.

12 And then after that moved to -- we thought we had
13 all the problems on the Platte River solved, so I thought I
14 would try something a little bit different. So I had the
15 opportunity to go to work in governmental affairs for an
16 electric, a consumer-owned electric generation and
17 transmission utility called Tri-State Generation and
18 Transmission out of, well, it's the Denver area but the
19 office is in Westminster and worked there for 16, 18 years,
20 something like that.

21 MR. BARR: What -- you started -- you were in the
22 McCook area with the Soil Conservation Service and back in
23 the early years with the NRD. Do you want to just visit a
24 little bit about what you did there?

25 MR. MAZOUR: Yeah, in those early years the work

1 was primarily working as a conservationist working with
2 farmers and water shed districts on just practices to
3 improve the conservation efforts on the farms. And so I
4 really didn't hear much about the political efforts in
5 Nebraska to change legislation. And but in 1968 when I went
6 to work out of Alliance as a western representative, it all
7 fell squarely in my lap and became part of my
8 responsibility, was to represent the state, represent the
9 ideas that Warren Fairchild had developed and seek to get
10 support from the folks in basically the western maybe third
11 of Nebraska, is the territory I covered. Very, very
12 interesting opportunity to do that because Warren was so
13 persuasive and his enthusiasm level was so high that you
14 could just -- as you would hear him make a presentation, you
15 would just get really caught up in it. And I recall coming
16 out of a meeting with him and a couple of us were talking
17 and everyone was just so enthused about these ideas that
18 Warren had. And then, okay, now what did he really say?
19 And so, you know, the enthusiasm would carry you a long way
20 when listening to Warren. And he might even go right by the
21 facts that were in his presentation.

22 So that took a little bit of work to try and, you
23 know, dig a little bit deeper and find the factual basis for
24 everything that he was saying. But he was just so
25 enthusiastic, and his way, his presentation I recall when I

1 first moved to Lincoln in 1970 I was to drive Warren to a,
2 it was an Arbor Day meeting at one of the colleges. It
3 might have been Doane. But, anyway, I was driving him, and
4 Arbor Day on April -- is it April 22nd?

5 MR. BARR: Something like that. You know, I don't
6 remember exactly.

7 MR. MAZOUR: Well, anyway, he was to be the
8 speaker at the college and then he had found out that
9 morning that it was -- I believe it must have been 1972
10 because it was the first Earth Day when there was to be a --

11 MR. BARR: I think it was '71.

12 MR. MAZOUR: '71, okay, so we were on the way and
13 Warren says, man, he says, I just found out this morning
14 that this is not to be a talk on Arbor Day. It's supposed
15 to be a talk on Earth Day. And so he was kind of going
16 through, and he had the set of slides, and I'll guarantee
17 you, when we got there and he made the presentation using
18 the same slides, essentially the same thing he did for Arbor
19 Day, and he had, with just a few tweaks, made it sound like
20 and it looked like he had practiced an Earth Day speech for
21 months. It was amazing. The speaking quality that Warren
22 had was absolutely amazing.

23 MR. BARR: What else did you do in your role at
24 the Soil and Water Conservation Commission that might relate
25 to the NRDs a little?

1 MR. MAZOUR: Well, it was primarily to -- Duane
2 Chamberlain was my supervisor and the position had been set
3 up -- Orville Caskey had held it before me and the position
4 was set up to help the local districts through some of, you
5 know, the requirements, the filing requirements they might
6 have or different things. But then since the timing was
7 also, you know, for the -- you know, when the NRD law was
8 being discussed, that became a big part of the job, was to
9 work with them. I know that there were pockets of -- I
10 mean, pretty stiff opposition to the NRD law. And
11 Scottsbluff was one of them. There was a pocket in North
12 Platte. And it was typically where there were established
13 organizations that -- in the two that I mentioned the
14 established organizations were not so much the Soil and
15 Water Conservation districts, but the irrigation districts
16 that were concerned about that -- they were concerned that
17 any change in the law would upset -- well, in Scottsbluff
18 the argument was put forth that this would change the
19 compact requirements between Nebraska and Wyoming. And so,
20 you know, whether -- those fears I think were capitalized on
21 by those who didn't want to see change. And it was a huge
22 undertaking to try and -- because if they had their lawyer
23 telling them it would create a problem, a young graduate out
24 of college sure couldn't take care of their fears, because
25 they wanted to protect those water rights and they did not

1 want to upset the agreement that Nebraska had with Wyoming.

2 MR. BARR: At that time was there talk of having
3 the irrigation districts become a part of the NRDs or --

4 MR. MAZOUR: Early on everything was open, and,
5 you know, maybe because of some of this disagreement is why
6 there was a carve out for irrigation districts. I'm not
7 real sure, because I was not involved in the discussions in
8 Lincoln where the tactical decisions were made on what could
9 pass and what couldn't pass.

10 MR. BARR: You mentioned Duane Chamberlain and in
11 many of my interviews Duane's name has come up. Would you
12 comment a little about Duane and any role he might have had
13 in all this?

14 MR. MAZOUR: You know, in the NRD law he was a
15 true follower. I mean, he was a soldier. So he would do
16 whatever he was told. But Duane was a very, very
17 interesting character and I didn't mind being micromanaged
18 because I needed all the help I could get. But as I would
19 travel, I would put together my weekly schedule, and I would
20 make like maybe three or four stops a day and end with a
21 meeting at night. And every place I would go, I would walk
22 in the door and they would say, we knew you were coming
23 today. Duane -- so he knew pretty much, he kept track of --
24 you know, he didn't have a chip in my ankle, but he knew
25 where I was going. I really enjoyed Duane and I learned a

1 lot from him.

2 MR. BARR: He must have had a little bit to do
3 with some of the direct managers' initial appointments.

4 MR. MAZOUR: I think he probably did. You know,
5 probably Ron Bishop, probably Ron Fleecs, because, you know,
6 he knew since he traveled out there as well, the NRD system
7 really meld the Soil Conservation Service and pulled people
8 that they felt could move into, you know, NRD positions.
9 And it was great for people like that who were working for
10 another district or, you know, working for the federal
11 government and wanted something a little more challenging.
12 So, yeah.

13 MR. BARR: Did you have any special assignments
14 from Warren in terms of -- related to politics or anything
15 like that?

16 MR. MAZOUR: Well, there's two incidents that pop
17 in my mind. The second one will answer your question more,
18 but the first one was, you know, I took seriously my job
19 description. And it said that I was to be the spokesman for
20 the, well, we'll just call it the Nebraska Natural Resources
21 Commission because I don't know exactly what year it was.
22 But I had a meeting in Valentine and so I was to be the
23 spokesman, and this was a meeting where Warren was coming
24 out as well. So I felt that even though he was the boss of
25 the boss of the boss of me, that my job description said

1 that I was the spokesman for the Natural Resources
2 Commission. And I think he probably scratched his head at
3 this young punk up there. You know, the way I wanted to
4 actually MC the meeting, and I did, and it all worked out
5 fine, but it was kind of a curious situation and I hadn't
6 quite figured out why -- well, it was a great meeting. But
7 I really was -- felt I was the spokesman for the Natural --
8 and but when I moved to Lincoln and the politics was pretty
9 invigorated, so to speak, in terms of who was lining up for
10 and against the legislation. And there was a group that had
11 formed. I think it was called Nebraskans for Nebraska Soil
12 and Water. And some of the names I remember, Irwin Matulka,
13 Al Smith, there was a colonel, a retired colonel.

14 MR. BARR: Charlie Gold?

15 MR. MAZOUR: Charlie Gold, yeah, and these are
16 some of the names that I remember. And Warren had heard
17 that there was a political rally developing somewhere in,
18 you know, a small town in the upper reaches of the Upper Big
19 Blue Basin. I don't remember the town. And so he sent me
20 to go and hear what was happening at the political rally.
21 Well, interestingly, this was the year that Exxon was ramping
22 up his campaign as he was running for the Senate for the
23 first time. And he showed up at the rally and he was a
24 strong supporter, as he told them, strong supporter of their
25 efforts to stop this from happening. So I'm not sure if the

1 words were exactly to stop it from happening, but it was --
2 the words were, you know, I'm strongly on your side,
3 whatever message they were presenting to him. And so I came
4 back and gave my report to Warren on that little mission
5 that I had.

6 But Warren was, you know, he was -- it was almost
7 hard to believe that his education was as a soil scientist,
8 a soil mapper because he is so much the opposite of what you
9 would expect to be, someone who would go out and map soils.
10 And the enthusiasm and the vision and the way he could get
11 people going was, again, it was remarkable. I'm not sure a
12 project like this would happen without someone like Warren.

13 MR. BARR: Well, this is one of the questions that
14 has always come up in these interviews and elsewhere, is
15 this is -- a lot of people say this is a good idea but why
16 hasn't it happened in other states. And that is -- if you
17 might speak to that. I don't know if you had any thoughts
18 on that.

19 MR. MAZOUR: Yeah, it's a project that is -- when
20 you look back at it and the changes that have to occur, and
21 so you have to take people who are the -- you know, that
22 actually believe in conservation efforts because -- and then
23 because those are the people on the boards, and to move
24 forward they have to sacrifice, you know, their role, their
25 history, everything they have done for the sake of something

1 new. And so it's a transforming process that is extremely
2 difficult to get through because you have to get those
3 people to move ahead. Fortunately, Nebraska had a number of
4 those leaders, but they also had some people that were just
5 fearful of change. And so it allowed for -- you know, the
6 opposition could include the good, bad and the ugly, so to
7 speak, because it could involve all of those elements of
8 human nature and so to move forward it would take an
9 extremely charismatic person and dedicated and Warren did
10 that. And, you know, not to diminish anyone else, you know,
11 the Maurice Kremers, and the Jules Burbachs, the Dale
12 Williamsons, you know, all of these.

13 But, you know, I remember hearing Warren during
14 the legislative session and whether I heard it directly from
15 Warren or Dale I'm not sure, but during the legislative
16 session he would actually have to give a pep talk to Maurie
17 Kremer at least once a week because it was tough. I mean,
18 it was really tough.

19 MR. BARR: Did you remember anything else in
20 particular between then and when you went to the NRD as
21 manager either while you were at the University that relates
22 to the NRDs?

23 MR. MAZOUR: Well, not any specific instances, but
24 I do remember the nature of the people who were involved and
25 those that were, you know, part of the old districts that

1 eventually became -- that transitioned into the new ones.
2 The nature of the people was just absolutely incredible.
3 The dedication and, you know, how truly they believed in
4 what they were doing. They were true stewards of the
5 resources. And I want to make special mention of the north
6 central area, the Valentine, the cowboy country and Jim Cook
7 who -- and, you know, when I traveled up there, you know, I
8 truly felt like I was part of the family insomuch that they
9 would have socials, like ice cream socials or something like
10 that on Sundays and then tie it in with a meeting. And I
11 would get invited from Alliance to travel, you know, up into
12 Keya Paha County or, you know, Cook was not in Valentine.
13 He was in Keya Paha. But, you know, it was the nature of
14 the people were just -- I mean, they would invite you. You
15 just became part of their community and that was such a
16 wonderful experience.

17 MR. BARR: At some point you became a manager of
18 the Little Blue NRD, unless you had something ahead of that.

19 MR. MAZOUR: Well, the last couple years, well,
20 the five years I was in Lincoln I worked on the master's
21 degree and so many of the issues that were covered in that
22 program that Warren actually covered in his talks. It made
23 that the easiest college experience. Maybe being married
24 and having two children at the time probably had something
25 to do with it as well. But it was really very, very

1 enhancing to me in the career. And then when the resources
2 development fund was authorized in legislation, then I was
3 asked to put together the rules and regulations and there
4 were a number of folks that -- I think you were involved in
5 that.

6 MR. BARR: Yeah, Donna and I were involved in it,
7 too.

8 MR. MAZOUR: Donna Cederston and Warren White.
9 But, anyway, Gail Star and I took a trip to Sacramento,
10 California, to study the -- California had a bill called the
11 Davis Scrunsky Act. And the Davis Scrunsky Act was what
12 would some people would say were the crumbs from the table
13 that they wanted to give to the northern part of California
14 in exchange for the water plan that moved all the water from
15 the north to the south. So the Davis Scrunsky Act was a
16 program that would provide some dollars for resource
17 development in the north in exchange for moving so much of
18 the water south. And so it was really a good one to study.
19 Gail and I had really a nice time and learned an awful lot
20 from that. And then that became kind of the primary
21 knowledge base that we used to develop the resources
22 development fund. And then the resources development fund,
23 you know, became a big part of what we tried to achieve and
24 accomplish with the Little Blue NRD and get some of those
25 funds. Because we had a lot of needs that the competition

1 from Ron Bishop and all his projects and Steve Oltman and,
2 you know, Ron Bishop -- Ron Fleecs and Ron Bishop, you know.
3 So it was -- there was an awful lot of competition for those
4 funds.

5 MR. BARR: As I recall, Steve got the first --

6 MR. MAZOUR: Probably.

7 MR. BARR: So what are some of your experiences
8 with the NRD? And I can't remember exactly when you started
9 with the NRD.

10 MR. MAZOUR: 1975.

11 MR. BARR: '75, so it had been running a little
12 bit prior to -- and you would have been there about the time
13 the first elected boards --

14 MR. MAZOUR: Yeah, the first manager was Warren
15 Rice, who was the manager of the 32-mile Creek Watershed
16 District, and so he took over as the manager. He was a
17 retired federal employee with the agriculture research
18 service and then he went to work for 32-mile and then the
19 manager for the first couple years at Little Blue. And when
20 I came in 1975 the board was the reduced board. So he dealt
21 with the larger numbers than I did.

22 MR. BARR: Well, as I recall, the larger board was
23 the amelioration of the various board members of the
24 districts that were brought together and then they usually
25 picked the executive committee to run the day-to-day or

1 whatever.

2 MR. MAZOUR: Yeah. We still had a very large
3 board. As I recall, we had 17, which is a large board. But
4 it seemed to work.

5 MR. BARR: What were some of the initial projects
6 and programs that you worked with for the Little Blue? Or
7 what were some of the issues that you were faced with in the
8 Little Blue? Maybe that's a better way to ask the question.

9 MR. MAZOUR: Well, you know, the extension of the
10 flood control issues because there were a couple watershed
11 projects in the Little Blue, both in the Fairbury, Hebron
12 area and then up in the 32-mile Creek. The emerging issue
13 was the declines in the water table and those issues, you
14 know, became the models really indicated we needed to do
15 something quickly. And, fortunately, the models weren't
16 quite accurate because if some of the projects had come to
17 pass, there would be much more serious problems in both the
18 Upper Big Blue and the Little Blue now. But there were
19 issues that both the Upper Big Blue and the Little Blue
20 needed to deal with because the water table was dropping.
21 We had some dry periods. And so monitoring that,
22 encouraging water conservation and actually looking into
23 forming groundwater protection areas within the district
24 were big issues for us at the Little Blue.

25 Water recharge, we developed a couple of water

1 recharge projects because of the groundwater issue. And
2 then we also wanted to include, at the time in the rural
3 areas they would be considered fringe issues, but they were
4 important as well. And that was wildlife habitat and
5 recreation. And so we tried to make the projects that would
6 lend themselves to multi-purpose. So a flood control
7 project in many cases would be modified to include wildlife
8 habitat and recreation as well, if that was possible.

9 I remember Maurice Kremer coming down to a meeting
10 once and he says, Dave, this was after I had been there a
11 couple years, he says, if you would come up with a phrase to
12 describe what you and your board wanted to do in the Little
13 Blue, what would it be? And without thinking about it, out
14 of my mouth I says, well, we want something for everyone.
15 He thought that was a nice theme to have because the large
16 share of the taxes did come from the urban areas. Not that
17 we had any urban areas, but the cities, the Hastings, the
18 Fairbury and the Hebron. And, yes, a strong agricultural
19 and a protected conservation base is important, but, you
20 know, they kind of liked to have, you know, some emphasis on
21 wildlife habitat and recreation as well.

22 MR. BARR: Any other comments about the district
23 that you would like to make?

24 MR. MAZOUR: I guess I should make mention. You
25 know, you talked about projects. We had Big Sandy Creek

1 projects which were funded by the resources development
2 fund, the plan there. But the other project that we worked
3 very hard on that did not come to fruition was the transfer
4 of water from the Platte River Basin to the Little Blue.
5 And we worked very hard on that. The data that we had
6 analyzed from the Platte River showed that there was
7 unappropriated water at the time and actually got a ruling
8 from the Department of Water Resources that there was
9 unappropriated water. And so that issue, you know, the
10 first time that Neuberger was the director, Mike Jess was
11 the assistant. But John Neuberger felt, concluded, after
12 legal advice, that he did not have the authority to -- even
13 though there was unappropriated water, he didn't have the
14 authority to grant the permit because of the Osterman
15 decision back in the, I think it was in the late '30s.

16 So we went to the Supreme Court and challenged
17 that and the Supreme Court said, yeah, John, you do have the
18 authority. So then he granted the water right and it went
19 to the Supreme Court again and the national environmental
20 community became involved in that case and it was -- they --
21 in their shot at it, the second time at the Supreme Court,
22 it was argued by a lawyer out of the D.C. area that the --
23 at that time our plan was to transfer the water right, and
24 we did. Our intention was to transfer the water right from
25 the Little Blue NRD into an irrigation district which was

1 formed by the group, the Cather Land Reclamation District,
2 because that was the more appropriate local institution to
3 develop that irrigation project. And the attorney out of
4 Georgetown had argued that the Little Blue NRD did not have
5 the authority and that political subdivisions, they can only
6 do those things that are specifically authorized in the
7 legislation. And in the NRD legislation it said that an NRD
8 can acquire a water right, but it didn't say that an NRD
9 could transfer one. And so, you know, that got kicked back.

10 In hindsight, in looking at the Platte River and
11 the Platte River issues the way they are, you know, that's a
12 blessing. I see it as a blessing that that didn't go
13 forward because the water supply would not have been
14 consistent enough to, you know -- well, who knows. Anyway,
15 it happened and we worked really hard on it and had quite
16 some experiences in the Supreme Court. But it was an
17 example of the types of things you can do with an NRD.

18 The NRD was so broad in its enabling authority
19 that it allowed a local unit of government to decide and
20 what they wanted to do within their jurisdiction. Now I
21 suppose that maybe Warren and Jules Burbach and Maurice
22 Kremer, if they had to do it -- Maurie Kremer not, but they
23 probably should have put in there that an NRD can transfer a
24 water right. I'm saying this with a grin on my face.

25 Maurice Kremer would not be -- yeah, he would, too, because

1 he was from the Blues.

2 MR. BARR: Yep.

3 MR. MAZOUR: Yep, especially Maurie would.

4 Another story, and this may not be -- but it's kind of
5 related. It's to NRDs. Rudy Kokes from the Loups. And he
6 would just -- he was in the chamber when Maurie Kremer was
7 and he was not a supporter of NRDs. And so we had some
8 meeting down in -- this is when I was still working for the
9 state. And, you know, there was some -- Rudy was running
10 for the legislature again and so there was a few articles
11 that came out in the Loup papers that Maurie Kremer is
12 trying to steal our water. So we're sitting there after the
13 meeting and Rudy is there, Maurie is there, drinking beer,
14 except for Maurie, and they are kind of exchanging, you
15 know, why do you do that, you know. I don't want to steal
16 your water, you know. We'd like what you don't need. And
17 Rudy just kept kind of acting on him. And then Maurie left
18 and I says, Rudy, why do you do that all the time? And he
19 says, that's all I have to do to get elected. He says, I
20 don't have to have any kind of a campaign. He says, you
21 know, it just gets close and all I have to do is I am
22 protecting the Loups from Maurie stealing our water. So,
23 yeah, there's some interesting characters.

24 MR. BARR: Any others you'd like to mention?

25 MR. MAZOUR: I can't think of any.

1 MR. BARR: Any board members or leaders in the
2 Little Blue, for instance, that should be recalled?

3 MR. MAZOUR: Darrell Bowder was -- he was a true,
4 solid conservation minded individual and so, you know, he
5 was a leader in that area. I'm trying to think of the guy
6 that got under his skin in the Fairbury area. He was on one
7 of the watershed boards and he was a retired military. His
8 name escapes me right now. He actually is John Turnbull's
9 uncle, Con Callaway. And Con was -- I mean, he did not have
10 the background that Darrell had, but because he had -- he
11 was retired military and I don't think he even was raised in
12 Nebraska. But when he retired from the military he took
13 over the family farm ranch down in that area between Hebron
14 and Fairbury, very, very -- he was a brilliant man. And to
15 get someone like Con Callaway on your side, you know, was
16 very helpful because, you know, he would test you. I think
17 he probably was not supportive of NRDs but he would really
18 push the envelope on testing.

19 And Vernon Pierson out of Shickley on the
20 groundwater issues, he was another brilliant man that, as
21 the manager there, that was my -- I could always, as I
22 prepared for meetings, what kind of questions will Vernon
23 ask me. He was a true -- but, boy, he'd get on your can if
24 you didn't have all the answers, he really would. So there
25 was some discipline that he brought to the board, but it was

1 wonderful people.

2 MR. BARR: Is there anything about your time with
3 the Central and on that McConaughy issue that you'd like to
4 mention in relation to this general area?

5 MR. MAZOUR: Well, yeah. One of the interesting
6 things that happened that I was not a part of in the
7 development of the NRDs and the boundaries was at one time
8 there was to be a natural resources division of a public
9 power and irrigation district. And that was negotiated. I
10 don't know who negotiated it, but I know that Ted Johnson,
11 who was on the Central Nebraska board at the time, and
12 Warren were -- I'm presuming that they negotiated that to be
13 part of it and that eventually got thrown out. And I'm not
14 sure of the politics behind that. But as I think about that
15 and what we are seeing now with the conjunctive use issues
16 that have developed between the Platte River and the
17 groundwater mound, I'm just wondering if that would have
18 come to fruition if that might have produced some mechanics
19 on attitude that would make it a little bit easier today to
20 move the central Nebraska system into the conjunctive
21 management program that it potentially can do.

22 So that's a thought that I had, you know, and it
23 came after some of the NRDs and the Central Platte and Twin
24 Platte had developed a plan to use the central system.
25 That's a whole different item of debate, but there is

1 animosity there, and I'm just wondering if that division had
2 been established, and it was actually part of the same
3 decision base, the same people, if things would be happening
4 differently.

5 MR. BARR: Well, any other thoughts in relation to
6 how NRDs worked or how --

7 MR. MAZOUR: Well, yeah. In the last year and a
8 half I have been working as a part-time employee. I'm most
9 retired, but been working with this Water Balance Alliance
10 which is approaching water management, you know, just from a
11 community standpoint rather. And it's been started by rural
12 electrics. And it's been a little bit interesting to see
13 the resistance from NRDs and some of my friends that I have
14 known for years and years and some of these names that I
15 mentioned in this interview. There just seems to be a
16 little resistance. And I can understand, you know, seeing a
17 new group come in and what the hell are they doing here?
18 Why are they telling us what to do? Are they saying we are
19 not doing a good enough job? And so I guess the challenge
20 that I would see is for the NRDs now is after, how many
21 years is it, 50?

22 MR. BARR: Forty-some.

23 MR. MAZOUR: Yeah, after all these years, you
24 know, that was all being developed on the idea of moving
25 forward, new change and not being captured by the way you've

1 always done things. And so I think there's a little bit of
2 a challenge out here for the NRDs to not get caught in that
3 spot, to not be, you know, the same issue of protecting the
4 way you've always done things. Now wouldn't be a bad time
5 to take a look and see, okay, can I set aside and look
6 through this through a little bit different lens. So I
7 guess that may be a little bit of a challenge.

8 MR. BARR: Anything else that you'd like?

9 MR. MAZOUR: No.

10 MR. BARR: Well, thank you. Appreciate your time
11 and effort on this.

12 (Second recording begins.)

13 MR. MAZOUR: Another one of my assignments when I
14 moved to Lincoln in 1970 was at that time working on the
15 state water plan, we had this three screen or three
16 projector slide presentation that I did present out in
17 western Nebraska quite a bit. So Warren asked me if I would
18 present that to this class that was -- it was not Fisher but
19 I'm trying to think of the name of -- there was an
20 engineering professor and a law professor who had this joint
21 class on water resources planning. The name will come to me
22 in a little bit. Oh, gosh, I'm --

23 MR. BARR: Well, I remember --

24 MR. MAZOUR: I'm feeling embarrassed now.

25 MR. BARR: I later went to that class and I'm

1 having trouble remembering that because I remember both of
2 those, the engineering professor and --

3 MR. MAZOUR: I want to say Marlet. Marlet is the
4 name.

5 MR. BARR: And the lawyer was Dick Hornesberger.

6 MR. MAZOUR: Hornesberger. Okay, so they had this
7 joint class. It was a water resources class. So it was law
8 students and engineering students. So I go in and I mean I
9 really, since I had a lot of practice with it and I've been
10 pumped up by Warren, I can do really well. And so I gave
11 that with great enthusiasm and, you know, thought these were
12 valuable minds and they would just -- and the questions I
13 got were just absolutely -- I couldn't believe the kinds of
14 questions I got, you know, from these students. I mean,
15 they just drilled me. They challenged me on things that I
16 said, that were part of the script and I just came out of
17 there, I felt like I had been through not hell, purgatory
18 and I had really been pushed hard.

19 And a couple years later then when I was actually
20 taking that class in water resources economics under, you
21 know, the same two professors, and so that was part of their
22 program, to have a presentation from the state water plan by
23 the Natural Resources Commission, and so both Marlet and
24 Hornesberger, they spent like a full couple hours preparing
25 the students, this is what they're going to say. This is

1 kind of a weak spot in their argument and it happened again.
2 I don't remember whether Steve Gall or someone came but it
3 was just like you could just see, where is this coming from?
4 So I mean I really, really enjoyed -- you know, that was one
5 of my favorite classes in the master's program. And maybe
6 there still is at this time, but it seemed like state
7 government was small enough at that time that there was a
8 lot of interplay between personalities at the University and
9 the state agencies. A lot of people became your friends.

10 MR. BARR: Who was your major professors at the
11 University at that point, who you worked with mainly?

12 MR. MAZOUR: Oh, gosh.

13 MR. BARR: Well, we don't have to do that.

14 MR. MAZOUR: Well, Fisher, Lloyd Fisher, I took
15 several of his classes but he was not my advisor. And
16 Maurie Baker was my advisor. And I actually worked on, you
17 know, for my paper, my master's paper I actually wrote a
18 paper on pricing policies, managing water supplies for
19 municipal systems. And I used Lincoln as an example because
20 Lincoln had promotional pricing. The more you used the less
21 the water was. And they were at a time when they needed to
22 expand their well field. And so, you know, I challenged in
23 the paper and then the Lincoln paper got a hold -- somehow
24 got a hold of my paper and they wanted to do an interview.
25 And so I kind of got in the middle of some politics. Dale

1 was kind and he didn't fire me. But what was really
2 interesting is that a couple years after that and after I
3 left Lincoln, Jim Cook claims that I left Lincoln so I
4 wouldn't be subjected to the same water policies that I had
5 advocated when I wrote the paper because a couple years
6 later they changed the policy to really what fit the
7 situation. But Maurie Baker was my advisor and it was
8 really -- I won't tell this story.

9 MR. BARR: Anything else you want to add?

10 MR. MAZOUR: No.

11 MR. BARR: Okay, thank you.