

INTERVIEW OF JON A. ANDERSON

by Howard P. Willens and Deanne C. Siemer

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Willens: We are on the island of Guam on November 26, 1993. We have the pleasure of interviewing the host of the most distinguished radio talk show in the Western Pacific, Jon Anderson. Jon, we are glad to have you here with us visiting here today. Can you give us a little bit of biographical and educational background?

Anderson: Yes, I was born and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I went to high school there and after graduation I spent a year in Germany as an exchange student. Subsequently I did a year of college in my home town in South Dakota. I then became a sort of indifferent part-time student in Washington, D.C. where I was also a disc jockey for a rock and roll radio station. I was in the School of International Service at American University and then transferred out to the University of Hawaii in the spring of 1964 and finished up my college in Hawaii. I've been in the radio business in one way or another since I was 16 years old.

Willens: What did you do then when you left the University of Hawaii?

Anderson: Well, I was a television newscaster for a TV station in Honolulu. I graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1966, but I was already working as a television newscaster there. I had worked as a radio announcer before that. I was a radio newsman and then I became the local news director for this television station in 1967 and stayed there in 1968. I left there and went to southern California and I worked for two years as the Director of Communications for the Southern California/Arizona Conference of the United Methodist Church because I have a degree in religion. That's my major. I was at one time thinking seriously of going into the ministry. I was going to be a preacher. But I decided that I sinned too much to be a preacher and it would have been hypocritical of me to stand in the pulpit and preach to people. So, I stayed in radio and television instead. In 1971, I went to work for the Trust Territory government. I was hired as a public information specialist.

Willens: How did that come about? Did you hear of the position and apply for it?

Anderson: I had worked with a gentleman by the name of Jim Menke, who was also incidentally the best man in my wedding when I got married in 1967. Jim went out to Saipan in 1969 or 1970 to work for Mike Ashman. Mike Ashman was the Director of Public Affairs for the Trust Territory government and Mike had been hired by Edward E. Johnston. Mr. Johnston had been the State Republican Party Chairman in the State of Hawaii and was a strong supporter of Hiram Fong, who was a long-time Republican Senator from Hawaii. When Richard Nixon was elected President in 1968, Edward E. Johnston, through his connections with Hiram Fong, was appointed the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Ed Johnston went there in 1968 and he shortly thereafter brought on Mike Ashman to be the Director of his Public Affairs Office because Mike worked with him in the Republican hierarchy in the State of Hawaii and had done some communications in public affairs work for him. Mike was actually the Director of Public Relations for the Dole Pineapple Company in Hawaii. Jim Menke's father had worked with Mike Ashman and so they were acquainted. When Mike was looking around for a

couple of PIO types to hire for the Trust Territory government he got interested in Menke, because Menke had done some summer work teaching classes at the East-West Center to Micronesian students, broadcasting students, public affairs journalism students and so forth. That's how Menke ended up there. I was working in Southern California. Menke wrote to me and said there was an opening. If I was interested in applying, I had to go through the routine of becoming a Civil Service employee in the Interior Department. I was living in Los Angeles at the time and I went down to the Post Office there and took the Civil Service exam.

Willens: You passed, I gather?

Anderson: I passed, yes. And then I'm sure that my application was jumped over about 400 others who wanted to go to Saipan for this job, and I got hired.

Willens: How long did you remain on Saipan in that capacity?

Anderson: Four years. They hired State-siders on two year contracts or on transportation agreements. If you fulfilled one year of your contract then you didn't owe the Trust Territory government anything, but you had to pay your own way back to where you came from. After you stayed two years, they would give you a round trip if you signed for another two years. They would send you home to your point of hire and then bring you back again. So, I did one of those cycles and then the second time around I just quit.

Willens: Did you leave the island of Saipan in about 1975?

Anderson: Yes, basically December of 1974 or January 1975. So I was there four years.

Willens: Can you explain for us what the Micronesian News Service was and did in those years?

Anderson: Yes. My working title was Bureau Chief of the Micronesian News Service. When I got there in 1971, the Peace Corps had been and gone from the Public Affairs Office of the Trust Territory government. They were still around in Micronesia but they had been involved with the Public Information Office and then were no longer involved by the time I got there.

Willens: During the 1960's the Peace Corps worked on public information functions?

Anderson: Up until about 1969, Fred Kluge worked in that office. He had rehabilitated and resumed publishing something called the Micronesian Reporter, which was a quarterly magazine that the Public Affairs Office published, and also a monthly newsletter called Highlights.

Willens: TTPI Highlights.

Anderson: TTPI Highlights. Both of these efforts had been given some added stimulus by Kluge and a couple of other Peace Corps volunteers who had been assigned to do that work. And also, early in that period of time, they started providing a weekly and subsequently it became a daily service to the Trust Territory district centers for use by their broadcasting stations. They called it the Micronesian News Service.

Willens: That predated your appearance on the scene?

Anderson: That predated my appearance on the scene. The Micronesian News Service was already underway. It was distributed by telegraphic means, diplomatic communications means. The list of offices to which the Micronesian News Service went read like a who's who of government agencies and entities all over the world that might have some interest in Micronesia. It was transmitted through the military diplomatic communications channel.

- Willens: As you understood it, it was principally a means for communicating the activities of the TTPI Administration out to the districts?
- Anderson: By the time I got there, it was a general news service. It was for distributing information about the activities of the TTPI but also for other kinds of news that we came across. My assignment was to be a news reporter and so we wrote stories about everything. One of the first stories I covered was the burning down of the Congress of Micronesia session hall on Capitol Hill in Saipan. The Trust Territory government operated a radio station in each district center. It was an AM radio station, with either five or ten thousand watt transmitters. They had call letters, and in some cases still do. They still operate. All of them started with W, except for the station on Saipan which was a K. None of this made any sense to anybody who was a broadcaster from the mainland, where we all thought everything west of the Mississippi was K and everything east was W, but there are some exceptions to that. It was very odd. We had WSZE and WSZC and WSCB. They all had these call letters obviously that no commercial station ever would want.
- Willens: How did you spend your time as the Bureau Chief?
- Anderson: By the time I got there, MNS was a five day a week daily service. We prepared anywhere from five to seven news stories each day and we put them on the wire and transmitted them out at the end of the afternoon. They would get distributed around to these radio stations and that became their regional news source, like the Associated Press or UPI. MNS was also sent back to Washington, and also to the *Pacific Daily News* which used many of our MNS dispatches. Sometimes even giving us MNS credit, just like UPI and AP, and that made us feel like a real news service. We were just covering news of Micronesia obviously. We were covering whatever the Trust Territory government was doing, the official news dispatches, but also covering as I said, other things. We covered some crime stories and some drownings and whatever else might come to our attention and we thought would be of regional news interest. And all of the radio stations used this. Some of them translated it into a local vernacular because most of the stations in the district centers were broadcasting in their local language far more than in English. And also as part of my responsibilities, once a week I did a radio tape in English, actually in special English, sort of the Voice of America style of a 15-minute summary of the MNS dispatches of the week, and that tape was sent out by courier to the different district centers. Those tapes were played by radio stations in the various district centers and also by one or more of the commercial stations on Guam. We gave them the tape free but they played it.
- Willens: By the time you reached Saipan in 1971, political status negotiations with the Micronesian Joint Committee had been in place for a couple of years. Was political status one of the issues that you and your colleagues had covered?
- Anderson: Indeed, very much. We covered the political status unit, Lazarus Salii and his group, and the aspirations of the Northern Marianas. We covered all of that. I worked under Neiman Craley who was my overall boss and then [Strick] Yoma, who was the Director of Public Affairs. I also worked with a couple of other people, including Jim Menke. By the time I got there Mike Ashman was gone. Jim Menke was actually the Public Information Officer for a while.
- Willens: Based on your years in Saipan, what in your opinion were the important factors that contributed to the Marianas separatist effort?
- Anderson: My own opinion is that the United States encouraged that. It was both overt and subtle encouragement of the Northern Marianas desire to be a close part of the United States.

Although I didn't have any first-hand knowledge of discussions about it or anything. I think the U.S. military clearly liked the idea of having an option to use Tinian for military purposes. I think the U.S. encouraged the feeling of patriotism that the people of the Northern Marianas seemed to have at being Americans or the idea of becoming American citizens. So they fostered that.

Willens: You're aware that in 1970 the United States presented a so-called commonwealth proposal to all of Micronesia. It was rejected by the negotiating group involved and affirmed by the Congress of Micronesia. The Marianas leadership, on the other hand, said it was closer to what they wanted. That, to some people, is one of the points at which the Marianas decided that they couldn't achieve their objectives as remaining part of Micronesia.

Anderson: By the time I got there in January of 71, there was a very noticeable feeling of animosity toward the Congress of Micronesia on Saipan and among Chamorro political leaders of the Northern Marianas. There was some hostility being expressed toward the Trust Territory government as well.

Willens: What were the issues that the Marianas leadership seized on as a way of criticizing the Congress of Micronesia?

Anderson: It was political status. I'm sure there were discussions about revenue sharing but I don't recall them.

Willens: You say you covered the burning of the congressional facilities. I've been told no one ever was identified as the culprit, officially.

Anderson: That's true.

Willens: Although there seemed to be a consensus among the leadership as to who probably did this.

Anderson: That's true.

Willens: Did you form any judgment as to who was involved?

Anderson: Not individually by name, no. But it was never investigated very aggressively by the Northern Marianas police department. They weren't that concerned about it. Earlier in that same year, the High Commissioner's wife and daughter had had rocks thrown at them while they were down at the beach by some people who were never identified or prosecuted and Mrs. Johnston got so concerned after the fire that she pulled up stakes and left the island. She refused to live on Saipan any more. Although her husband was the High Commissioner, she just pulled out and departed because she was afraid for her safety and for the safety of her children.

Willens: What were the High Commissioner's views about the political status situation generally within Micronesia and in the Marianas in particular?

Anderson: I don't know. I don't know what his views were. He enjoyed being the High Commissioner. He liked the status that went with it and he enjoyed the travel and going around to the different islands.

Willens: I have seen recently a reference to the fact that he was off-island a good deal and that also he didn't really delegate anything meaningful to Peter Coleman. Are you aware of any relationship between the two of them?

Anderson: No. I've heard those same stories but I am not aware of any personal animosity between the two of them. But I've heard those stories and he was off-island a great deal. He liked

- traveling around. He liked being feted as the High Commissioner as he arrived in various places like Palau and Truk and Ponape.
- Willens: I've seen some evidence that the TTPI Administration and the district administrators in particular, were apprehensive about the change that would come with a new political status among other reasons because they might lose their jobs.
- Anderson: Yes, they were.
- Willens: Was that a real concern?
- Anderson: I think so, yes. I think that people began to recognize that the Trust Territory government and all of the jobs that went with it would be winding down if the United States succeeded in putting together some kind of self-determination or self-government for these islands. So yes, there were a lot of bureaucrats I think that were opposed to it. My job became after the burning of the Congress of Micronesia traveling around with the Congress and staying with them wherever they were in session and covering their sessions. The first session was in April of 1972 in Truk about two and a half months after the fire.
- Willens: Did you remember that the congressional delegation from the Marianas set out to boycott that session but that Felipe Atalig showed up on schedule and was greeted as a hero?
- Anderson: Yes.
- Willens: Were you in Truk at the time?
- Anderson: Yes, I was.
- Willens: What is your recollection if you have any of the personal involvement of Atalig and then the fact that the others followed him promptly?
- Anderson: There wasn't a unity of feeling on the part of the members of the Congress of Micronesia from the Northern Marianas. And I think they decided after they saw Felipe Atalig had flown down there anyway, even though they didn't want him to go, that they would lose a bargaining position. I mean they would lose a voice if they decided to boycott the Congress and they didn't. They weren't sure how that would affect them because the Congress was going to be meeting in places where they didn't have good communication. They weren't able to keep a close eye on what was going on. So they decided they'd better be there rather than stay back on Saipan just in case things came up that they wanted to have some effect on. So, they gave up their boycott.
- Willens: What was your impression then of Ed Pangelinan? What is your recollection now of how he came across in those years?
- Anderson: My impression of Ed Pangelinan was that he was very bright and a hard working guy and very sincere. I had positive feelings about Eddie Pangelinan. I still do.
- Willens: How about Oly Borja?
- Anderson: Folksy, not terribly influential.
- Willens: How about Herman Q. Guerrero?
- Anderson: Pretty strong.
- Willens: And how about Felipe Atalig?
- Anderson: Ladies man, playboy.
- Willens: Was there any effort at influencing the content of the MNS releases?

- Anderson: No, none that I can recall. A couple of times Neimen Craley, who was the Director of Public Affairs at the time, got angry at a couple of stories that we ran. That was after we put them out. It was never an attempt to tell us not to do something beforehand.
- Willens: You mentioned that your coverage of the airline route competition between Pan Am and Continental was one of the subjects that prompted that kind of discussions. What specifically was it about that competition that prompted the difference of view? Did you have a particular point of view in covering that story?
- Anderson: I didn't. There were people who believed that we did. The rumor was that Ed Johnson had a share of ownership interest in Aloha Airlines which in turn was a minority partner in Air Micronesia, and that therefore, the Trust Territory government spin was to support the Continental Airlines bid for the route.
- Willens: The Congress of Micronesia supported Continental, was that correct?
- Anderson: The Congress of Micronesia passed resolutions or considered resolutions supporting Pan Am, Continental, and Northwest and asked that all three of them be given consideration at different times.
- Willens: Who ultimately got the award?
- Anderson: Continental. They just celebrated their 25th anniversary. That's a remarkable story, the story of that airline and the role that that airline played in the emerging of Continental Airlines from bankruptcy this most recent time. The Air Micronesia operation headquartered out of Guam has been hugely profitable in the last several years. And for a time was the only profit center that Continental Airlines had. So it became a very key point in the negotiations to bring the airline out of Chapter 11.
- Willens: Turning back to political status, you mentioned that you did cover the Congress of Micronesia. At various points the Congress of Micronesia enacted resolutions in opposition to the separate Marianas status negotiations. Did you have any sense that the leaders in the Congress thought that they could in fact prevent those negotiations from going forward?
- Anderson: I think they thought they could appeal to the United Nations to pressure the United States to keep the entity intact. I recall that there were a number of expressions of concern that if they let the Northern Marianas go, that financially the rest of the Federated States of Micronesia was going to be in bad shape. The Northern Marianas had just begun to be identified as a tourist destination, and it had just begun to look like it was going to have a fairly bright economic future. The first major hotel there opened in 1971. It was the Continental Hotel which is now the Hyatt. Part of the Continental Airlines agreement to serve the Micronesian area was that they would build hotels in all the district centers.
- Willens: At each of the district centers.
- Anderson: They actually built three of them.
- Willens: What do you recall as being the triggering factors that led to the economic development of the Northern Marianas? Why was it that you fixed in the early 1970s as a point at which they seemed to be taking off?
- Anderson: Because in 1967, flights to Guam from Japan started bringing Japanese tourists into Guam, and Saipan started to look at that and realized that there was an affinity of interest here and that if Guam could start building hotels and attracting big numbers of Japanese, Saipan could probably do the same thing. So the Northern Marianas began to be looked

- at and investor interest also started to be expressed in the Northern Marianas in the late 1960s and early 1970s by outside entities that wanted to come in.
- Siemer: What was the Trust Territory government's attitude about that?
- Anderson: The Trust Territory government fostered that. They had an economic development division. I forget what the name of the department was now, but they carried on negotiations and discussions. They looked for outside investors to come in. They were trying to promote independent economic development.
- Siemer: What was your judgment about how effective they were?
- Anderson: They were not very effective.
- Willens: There was supposed to be an effort during the late 1960s and the 1970s to replace the expatriates with Micronesians and there were policies in place that every expatriate had to train a Micronesian to replace them. I have heard a good deal of criticism about the way in which that policy was implemented. Do you have any opinion based on your experience as to that policy?
- Anderson: I replaced myself with a Micronesian. In 1974, when I left, Frank Rosario took my place. I took that seriously, but I didn't have a long career in federal government service to protect either. There were a lot of people out there who were at the tail end of fairly lengthy careers in the federal government service, and they wanted to hang on until they could retire.
- Willens: I've heard it suggested that many of the people there came from earlier assignments within the Territorial service, including positions in Alaska. Is that your recollection?
- Anderson: Yes, also the Virgin Islands and American Samoa. Joe Screen, for example, used to be a government official in American Samoa. Then he came to the Northern Marianas and then he left the government service and went into private enterprise.
- Willens: What is your recollection of Joe Screen?
- Anderson: Very outspoken.
- Willens: Do you recall his having views with respect to separate status and the readiness of the people for self-government?
- Anderson: Joe Screen was a very strong proponent of the Northern Marianas going its separate way. He was actively engaged in hotel, resort, and historic development for Joeten Enterprises.
- Willens: From time to time, the business community in Saipan expressed some concern about outside competition that would come with separate status. Do you recall hearing any of that concern?
- Anderson: No.
- Willens: What was your impression of the leaders of the Congress of Micronesia?
- Anderson: I was very impressed with Lazarus Salii. My personal recollections of Lazarus Salii were that he was a very sharp individual and very sincere. A very nice man. I was very impressed with him. I also thought that Andon Amaraich was a very knowledgeable and sincere individual and quite bright.
- Willens: There were a few leaders in the Congress who were advocates of independence. Was there a significant independence element in the Congress?

- Anderson: There were some people who emotionally were in favor of independence, but they didn't think it was practical. They didn't see where the revenue would come from to front their independent state. But there were a few people there that recognized even that early on in the early 1970s that to be anything other than independent or semi-independent would mean to get kind of buried in the American political system.
- Willens: During the early and middle 1970s, some of the Micronesian leaders from the districts other than the Northern Marianas thought they really ought to remain in the Trust Territory until they had more U.S. funds for economic development infrastructure and so forth. Do you recall some sense of reluctance in the other districts to make a decision with respect to their political status?
- Anderson: I recall some speeches that were made by some of the leaders in Congress sessions that they expressed disappointment at what the United States government was doing for them to help them develop independent economic activity. They didn't feel that the U.S. was very sincere about enabling them to grow economically, and to develop fisheries and other kinds of economic enterprises that they could do.
- Willens: What was your own sense of U.S. performance in those areas?
- Anderson: My feelings about the Trust Territory government and the way it was administered by the United States are not very positive. I think the U.S. did very little to help the people of Micronesia do anything on their own.
- Willens: Even during the time you served, 1971 to 1975, you didn't see much evidence of substantial U.S. contribution?
- Anderson: No. I think there was an attitude of not really caring too much about that area.
- Willens: How about the Defense Department's interest in Tinian, Palau, and the Marshalls?
- Anderson: The Defense Department was interested in keeping those areas and locking down agreements that would allow them access and use of those areas, but they didn't care about teaching people how to fish or can their fish or farm or do any of the other kinds of things that they might do economically that could enable them to survive without American money. All we really succeeded in doing, it seems to me in 40 some years of administration of the Trust Territory is establishing government bureaucracy that right now is killing the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Willens: Can you elaborate on that?
- Anderson: The Federated States is going to have to go through some really severe tightening of the belt as the funding under the Compact of Free Association runs out because they basically don't have anything else to generate revenue. They haven't succeeded in setting much of anything up in the FSM either. What we seemed to have done as an American colonial power is establish a government hierarchy that provides a lot of jobs and an attitude among the people that the money to pay for those salaries will come from somewhere. People everywhere in Micronesia are sort of vague as to where that somewhere is. If it isn't going to come from the United States federal government, then they're not sure where it comes from. As an administering authority developing economic activity, we didn't do a very good job. I'm not sure we knew how to do a good job. We didn't set up things that these people could carry on with after we were no longer there, and the Federated States of Micronesia had done the same thing. They take the majority of their budget which comes from the United States as grant funds under the Compact and dump it right back into administration. They run their government, they have a nice government headquarters up at Palikir, and they have officials of this and that, director of this, vice president of that and

so forth, all of whom are drawing government salaries and very few of whom are doing anything productive. They're administering.

Willens: Do you think that the deficiencies of the U.S. Administration were such that the people were not ready for self-government in the early to middle 70's?

Anderson: Yes, I do. But at the same time, I think that keeping the United States in there any longer wouldn't have made any difference either. I think the United States was deficient in its administering of the Trust Territory largely because it didn't really know how to administer in the Trust Territory in the sense of bringing them to a point where they would be ready for self-government. I don't think we knew what that meant. I don't think we knew how to do it.

Willens: You concentrated on the deficiencies in the administration on the economic development side. On the political side, there were various programs to provide more self-government but never at the pace at which the Micronesians wanted it to go. What was your sense about that?

Anderson: I think we did well in one area. I think we did well in education in a sense that most of these young leaders in the Trust Territory government were educated in the United States. So I think our idea of giving people the opportunity to go on to higher education was a good one. We doled out a lot of scholarships and provided a lot of opportunities for bright, young Micronesians to go off and get educated. When they came back, of course, there were no jobs in the private sector for them to do so they all ended up getting into the government. But at least we were dealing with a pretty intelligent group at that point. Somewhere along the line, it seems to me and this is strictly my opinion, in the late 1960s to early 1970s there came a point of no return where we had produced a bright, young crop of Micronesian leaders who were no longer going to accept whatever the United States government told them to accept or wanted them to do. They were going to be aggressive and forthright in their expressions of wanting to do their own thing. They thought they were ready.

Willens: Who are they?

Anderson: People like Lazarus Salii, Tosh Nakayama, Bailey Olter, and Amata Kabua. These people were very strong in their feeling that they didn't need to be told what to do any more.

Siemer: The Carolinians made a number of suggestions that they thought they were not ready for any further political steps.

Anderson: I'm not real familiar with the Carolinian community's political attitudes, but they might have felt a closer affinity to what the other Trust Territory districts were saying. Most of them have their ethnic ties to Truk and some to Yap. I think they may have just been less aggressive. The Chamorros in the Northern Marianas identified with Guam. The Carolinians didn't so much identify with Guam. They identified with the Truk district and the Yap district in the Trust Territory.

Siemer: Who was working with you at the Micronesian News Service?

Anderson: Jim Menke who is now on the staff of Governor Wahaee in Hawaii; Polycarp Basilius who is working in the private sector now in Palau. He was a special assistant, administrative assistant or AA or whatever you call it. And then Strick Yoma, who passed away some time back. He was Ponapean. He was my immediate boss for a while, then Frank Rosario, Francisco Rosario who is now the communications director for the Commonwealth Ports Authority. He worked with me for a couple of years in MNS and then took over as the Bureau Chief of MNS when I left. June Winom went to work for the government in the

Presidio in San Francisco I think last I heard. She might not be living any longer either. She was older. But she worked for the Trust Territory government in Hawaii, on Guam, and in Saipan and was in the public information office there. A couple of other people, Johannas Neuerman was a photographer. A fellow by the name of Patrick Mangar was one of our public information specialists, Micronesian specialist, he's from Yap. Johannas was from Palau. I think Johannas is still on Saipan. Mangar, I don't know what happened to him. But Frank Rosario would be a good one to talk to, if you haven't already talked to him.

Willens: What was the budget for the operation of MNS?

Anderson: I have no idea.

Willens: You had how many employees?

Anderson: I must have had ten. That wasn't just MNS. That was the Public Information Office which published the Micronesian Reporter and Highlights and did MNS. Those were the three main functions. Plus, we generated news releases if there was ever a release to be put out or anything like that, and did some photography, pictures of things going on, you know official type things, ribbon cuttings and so on.

Willens: Over a period of several years you wrote a column in the *Marianas Variety*, isn't that correct?

Anderson: For a little while.

Willens: How long did you do that for?

Anderson: I don't really remember now. I have forgotten most of those columns. Abed Younis is a good friend of mine. Have you talked to Younis? He's an interesting guy.

Willens: Yes. He actually was on the plane with us coming over this morning.

Anderson: He's really a passport-carrying Palestinian Arab. Or he used to carry an Israeli passport. I don't know what he carries now.

Willens: Did you think that the Marianas political leadership that was fostering the separate negotiations was representing the majority view of the people?

Anderson: Yes, because I think the majority of the people in the Northern Marianas still, despite being rejected by Guam, had a very close affinity to Guam. They wanted to be like Guam.

Willens: Well they saw, in Guam at least, the rights of U.S. citizens and they saw the economic development and the higher standard of living to come with it. Those have been identified to me as the principle motivating factors. The economic development in Saipan has proceeded at a fairly rapid pace in the last decade at least. In your view, is that all due to circumstances above and beyond what the Trust Territory did or failed to do?

Anderson: Yes.

Willens: But Saipan had attractions that were going to be the foundation for its economic development?

Anderson: Proximity to Japan, ability to control its own immigration after the Commonwealth compact was finalized. It has enabled them to bring in people that do the service-type jobs that needed to be done. To build hotels and run restaurants, stuff like that.

Willens: During the course of the political status negotiations, did you have any dealings with Ambassador Williams and his staff?

- Anderson: Yes. I knew him, and we talked to him and wrote stories about what he was doing.
- Willens: What was your assessment of his performance and his responsibility?
- Anderson: That's hard for me to assess.
- Willens: What are your recollections of him as a person?
- Anderson: Pretty solid guy, impressive, I liked him personally. We got along all right. I thought he had stature that caused people to sit up and take notice when he was saying something. My recollection of him was positive, but I don't have a lot of memory of observing him really doing political status things.
- Willens: Were there other members of the staff that you got to know better, Jim Wilson or Jim Berg?
- Anderson: Jim Berg I knew. I was a very close personal friend of Berg's. I followed his career for a while. I remember talking to him quite a few times about what was going on and the last time I ran into him he was involved with Palau discussions.
- Willens: With respect to the Marianas negotiations and the Covenant, do you have any judgment now as to what are its strengths and what are its weaknesses? You mentioned control over immigration as being an important factor.
- Anderson: That and economic strength certainly. But the people up there have abused that in the sense that they brought in a lot of domestic servants and drivers and gardeners and various other kinds of workers who haven't been treated terribly well. Then I think they've made a mistake—but I don't know that this is necessarily a weakness in the Covenant—in allowing as many garment factories to come in there as they did. Taking a good thing and pushing it a little too far. So I think they run the risk of losing that whole industry. On the whole, I don't think that the Covenant has been a bad thing for the Northern Marianas. I think they have done well.
- Willens: Do you think the Guamanians have formed certain views about political status based on what they've seen in the Northern Marianas?
- Anderson: I think people of Guam would like to have control over immigration too. There are some who fear that if they got control over it, the same thing would happen that happened in the Northern Marianas. They would import wholesale Filipinos to work as domestics and that to some extent is happening in Palau already. There are a couple thousand Filipino domestics working down there in Palau now already, in a population of 16,000 people, 18,000 people. A lot of people feel that would happen here too and it would exacerbate racial tensions that already are there, underlying tensions between Chamorros and Filipinos. I think some thoughtful people here look at what has happened in the Northern Marianas and say yes, okay, let's get control over our immigration so that we can control this but let's not lose sight of the fact that it could work the other way too. The people who want control over immigration here want to slow down the influx of Filipinos.
- Willens: Were you surprised based on your coverage of the Congress of Micronesia that ultimately Palau and the Marshalls went their independent ways?
- Anderson: No. They both had economic potential that exceeded that of the Federated States of Micronesia. FSM has failed to identify much of anything economically. The Marshall Islands always had Kwajalein, which was a major asset. And Palau is a potentially marvelous visitor destination area, scenic beauty, proximity to Asian centers of population, really good diving spot, and so forth. Truk has never been able to generate much. Ponape is just a little bit too remote. Plus the Ponapeans and the Yapese have allowed the least

economic development. Those are the two districts that most strongly fought against allowing Continental Airlines to build a hotel in their districts. They didn't want it.

Willens: Because of the influence of the tribal chiefs and the desire to preserve the local culture?

Anderson: That's what seems to me, yes. There were some business people in Ponape particularly who wanted to control the hotel. So they didn't want the airline operating a hotel. They wanted their business people to put up hotels instead. But mostly, in my view, it's the desire to keep the traditional way of life and the traditional power structure intact. Ponape and Kosrae too, which at that time was part of the Ponape district, are the most like Samoa of any place in the Trust Territory that I have been. They have a very strong tribal heritage and system of village control and family control and they want to keep that in place. It's stronger than the westernized government system. This is true in Yap also.

Willens: Did you have any dealings at all with the Interior Department people that had supervisory responsibility for the TTPI?

Anderson: Some.

Willens: Did you form any impression of the relationship between Interior officials back in Washington and the TTPI.

Anderson: Interesting question. The few times that I went back to Washington, D.C., I always felt like the Office of Territorial Affairs or whatever it became called later, was one of the most obscure agencies in the United States federal government. The first time I went back there, I was surprised at how small it was, how difficult it was to find, and at how few people in the rest of the building had any idea where it was. I remember asking when I came in the door downstairs if they knew. I finally located it, and it was about as obscure as the Bureau of Mines. I think I wrote a story one time in which I said that there were only about ten people in all of Washington, D.C. whose jobs depend on what happens in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It's little wonder that Trust Territory issues don't get much attention in Washington because nobody's job back there depends on it with those few exceptions. To me, what moves Washington is the number of people in the federal bureaucracy whose jobs are dependent upon either maintaining an influence or a power base or some kind of activity in an area.

Willens: Did you have any dealings with people on the Hill, either members of Congress or staff with respect to TTPI?

Anderson: No. In my role out there, I was just a news reporter. I didn't have any official status. I was a classified employee of the Interior Department, a Civil Service employee, and I didn't have any stature. I had only the informal status that a microphone and a tape recorder gives you when you go around talking to people which makes them take notice sometimes. But no, other than that I didn't have any authority.

Siemer: When you got to Saipan in 1971 what was the ownership status of the TV station?

Anderson: There was a television station, an over the air broadcast station that operated six nights a week from about four in the afternoon until about ten at night. Monday nights they were dark because they had to give the employee a day off.

Siemer: Who owned that?

Anderson: Scott Kilgore, who was also the owner of KUAN here in Guam. He bicycled tapes over to Saipan from here on Guam. I did some newscasts for him for a while. They used to be located in two rooms in the Royal Taga Hotel, and when they did a newscast or wanted to shoot a commercial they had to open up the door into the hallway and back the camera

out into the hallway in order to get it far enough away so that you could have a wide enough angled shot so you could take a picture of two people at the desk. So when they did the news, the camera was out in the hallway.

Willens: Cable television came in shortly thereafter?

Anderson: Cable television didn't come in that quickly, no. Cable television was just being established on Guam in 1970 and 1971. Lee Holmes took over the cable operation here on Guam in 1971.

Willens: They were always trying to bring it over to other districts.

Anderson: Yes, a few years later but not right away. Kilgore kind of tried to fight them off but not very successfully.

Willens: That was just a black and white television?

Anderson: Right.

Siemer: Who owned the newspaper in Saipan in 1971?.

Anderson: There was no newspaper at the time. The little Highlights monthly thing that we put out at the Trust Territory level was being circulated and then right about that same time, the *Marianas Variety* started. I don't recall again the exact chronology.

Siemer: That came out in 1972?

Anderson: Yes, they had started publishing *Marianas Variety*, which was the first weekly newspaper with any consistency and any level of professionalism. There may have been a couple of other attempts at it. The *Pacific Daily News* tried to publish a Saipan edition once a week, as I recall. They still do that. They do the "Focus on the Commonwealth" as they now call it. But PDN was not very widely read in the Northern Marianas.

Siemer: Did you know Younis at the time?

Anderson: Yes. I met Younis when I first got up there. In fact, one of my more treasured possessions is a original watercolor painting done by Younis that he gave me when I left Saipan in 1974. It's a painting of a Chamorro boy and a cart of bananas. It's an original watercolor, which I had framed and it's in my apartment.

Siemer: How about radio?

Anderson: There was the radio station was operated by the Trust Territory government and it was called KJQR. That was the call letters. It was the only radio station up there. It was an AM station, and it was one of the six stations that were operated by the broadcast division of the Department of Public Affairs of the Trust Territory government. I was in the Public Information Division. We were in the same building, right next door. I would go around outside and go in the back door and into the radio broadcast division to record my tape every week that I did of MNS, the digest of MNS stories of the week that we would send out on tape. Elias Thomas was working there, a guy named Paul Savercool. I don't know what ever happened to him, but he would be an interesting person to interview if you ever find him. And George Callison became the Chief of the Broadcast Division. He passed away just a year and a half or so ago. He was a very close friend of mine. A guy named Gene Lilly, who died several years ago, was the Chief of the Broadcast Division for a time and then quit the Trust Territory government and stayed on Saipan until the day he died. He left a wife who eventually went back to the States. He became frustrated with trying to dislodge her from Saipan and left and married a Chamorro lady that took care of

him until he passed away of terminal obesity. But he was an interesting fellow, really. He operated a radio station in Tucson, Arizona. He was hired to go out to the Trust Territory as Chief of the Broadcast Division.

Willens: Thank you sir. We appreciate very much the time you made available for this interview and your willingness to contribute your recollections to our project.