

Male Speaker: Let us start with a hard question. Please say your name and spell it.

Anthony Nizetich: Anthony V, standing for Vincent, Nizetich, spelt N-I-Z-E-T-I-C-H.

MS: Anthony, what year were you born and where?

AN: I was born in San Pedro, February the 1st, 1923.

MS: So, let us go back and talk a bit about your parents. Tell us about them. Where did they come from? Why did they come here? What did they do?

AN: Starting with my father, my father was born in 1898 on the island of Brač, and at that time, was Austria, in the province of Dalmatia. At that time, his mother passed away at birth, and his father left my dad with his sister in a small island in the little town of Selsa, S-E-L-S-A. He got on a ship and went to the territory of Alaska. Because evidently during his youth, these lumber ships used to come to the Adriatic coast and to split into Dubrovnik and those ports and Trieste, which was right near the border of Yugoslavia, not Yugoslavia, but Dalmatia. So, he got on as a cabin boy and jumped a ship in Alaska, which was a territory of the United States, and stayed up there. My father was raised on the island. There was nighting fishing. The island of Brač had a lot of marble and granite. He worked in the granite mines, and whatever they call them there. Then when it started to break out in First World War I, my grandfather wrote to my father and tell him to get on the ship and get up here. Because it's going to be a war and they're going to draft him. He was fourteen years old at that time. So, he and several, as a matter of fact, a large contingent from that island got on these ships, all boys, fourteen, fifteen, and whatever their ages. One of his classmates, or not classmates, but lived next door to him, was the famous Croatian or Yugoslav, Mr. Bezmalinovic, who was Nick Bez that eventually founded Peter Pan and Northwest Airlines and was a fishing buddy of President Truman. He cut his name from Bezmalinovic down to Bez. So, my father goes to Alaska and worked in the timber mills with his father. Then when the war ended in 1917, the United States government gave all of the immigrants that were in the territory of Alaska, being it was part of the United States, open visas to come into the United States without visa papers from their home country. So, they migrated down to Tacoma, Washington. So, Nick Bez says to my dad when he gets down there and they started to go fishing. He says, "Tom," my dad's name was Tom, or his nickname was Baldo. He says, "Baldo, we're going back to Alaska and pan the gold." My father says, "No. I'm going down to San Pedro because they just started harvesting sardines and mackerel with a purse net," which they'd never did before. He says, "The weather is just like in our country. It has a beautiful harbor and fishing and just like from our island in the old country." He said, "No, no, no, no, no. We're going back up and get the salmon. That's where the gold is." So, Nick Bez went north. My father came down here. I think there were about forty or fifty of them that came down here. They got involved in the fishing, pioneered that part. My mother came here in 1902 with her mother. My grandfather was already here in Biloxi, Mississippi where he had some relatives there that were in the shrimp business. So, my mother came here through Ellis Island. Then migrated from Biloxi and to San Pedro I guess in around 1915 or [19]16, something like that.

MS: Now your father was in the fishing business. Your mother had a market on Terminal

Island. Tell me about that.

AN: My father started fishing when he came down here in 1917. He fished –

MS: Let us start one more time.

MS: I am still checking my focus.

MS: My father...

AN: My father fished until 1950, I guess it was. My mother had no education. She married my father in 1918 or 1919, I believe. Then had my sister who passed away when she was about eleven days old or something. Then my older sister was born in 1921, and I was born in [19]23. My mother was a very entrepreneurial type of woman. She wasn't educated, but she could speak very good English. She could speak Yugoslav. Fishing was not a big deal in those days. They were struggling and whatnot. They had a lot of problems in their early [19]30s. But she opened up a grocery store on Terminal Island and serviced the fishing boats. There was a fleet here of about two hundred and some boats, and about fifty or sixty of them used to come down from Monterey to fish for sardines during the sardine season. My mother serviced those boats. She stayed there for forty some years.

MS: But tell us about her market in Terminal Island. What was Terminal Island?

AN: Terminal Island was the largest Japanese settlement in the United States at that time. It was all hardware stores, grocery stores. Because actually the Japanese, as far as fishing is concerned, really were the first ones on Terminal Island. They had their own community where they lived there. They had their Buddha temples. They had their schools up there, their primary schools. Then the boys that were my age, all went to San Pedro High School, went to the Dana Junior High School.

MS: Did your mother serve the Japanese community?

AN: Yes. See, when she bought that in 1939...

MS: With "My mother," say with "My mother", so we know who she is.

AN: My mother, Zorka, and they used to call her Z.

MS: Start again, from the top. Go ahead.

AN: My mother's name was Zorka. She bought the grocery store from a Japanese person. All it had was a meat market and groceries and some canned goods. But they used to service the Japanese population and also the fishing boats there. I can't tell you the exact population, but it was a large population of Japanese. All of the women worked in the canneries and the Japanese men that weren't fishermen were all foremen and all involved in the fishing industry.

MS: So, what was the store like? Do you remember it?

AN: Yes.

MS: What did it look like? You have to say, "My mother's store."

AN: My mother's store had a small counter for display case, had one butcher. I forget what his name was. He was an elderly man that worked there for the Japanese people. Incidentally, my mother bought the store for \$1,500. That was in 1939. Then she had very few shelves, but they had mostly carried all of the canned products in cases. Because the boats would come in, buy a half a case of this. Not much local trade because it was just right after that the Japanese pulled out of there, a couple of years later. They were leaving from 1939 to [19]40 because they could see the handwriting on the wall. Some of the Japanese were involved in espionage and whatnot. As a matter of fact, one of my close friends who grew up with me and was one of my best friends, his father committed hara-kiri in his home in San Pedro. Because he was found out that he was an agent for the Japanese. But that's a story that is a rumored story, but it was pretty authenticated eventually.

MS: Did your mother learn to speak Japanese?

AN: No, no, no. She didn't service the Japanese. She serviced mostly the boats, the fishing boats. The Japanese people, they still had a few of the small stores up until 1941. They pulled them all out of there in [19]41, massive in January or February of [19]42.

MS: Let us go back into your experience. What is your earliest experience or memories in San Pedro?

AN: Well, I think the fondest memory I had is that I grew up in a great environment. Our playgrounds were the alleys of our blocks and the empty lots. We had no organized games or whatnot. I know that down here on Harbor Boulevard these were all sloughs down here. The water would come up almost to Harbor Boulevard. The biggest event of I guess in our lifetime, when we were about ten or eleven years old or eight or nine years old, used to have a circus once a year. They'd have to wait until the tide went out to put up the tent. We used to swim in that area.

MS: Tell me about the circus. What would you describe it? What was it like? You have to say the circus.

AN: It was just a big tent.

MS: The circus, we do not know what it is. If you say "It was a big tent," we do not know.

AN: It was a circus of the traditional type. I imagined with the tent and animals and rides and outside. I remember the circle where they had the lions and that type of atmosphere, plus a gay way for the children to play and a little makeshift ride of some sort. I can't even remember what type they were.

MS: Well, do you have any specific memories of things that were particularly fun for you at the circus?

AN: At the circus, well, not really, because I think that was a big event. But I think the things that are most memorable is that the neighborhoods where us kids grew up in, we were mostly ethnic Croatians or Yugoslavs or Austrians, whatever you want to call them, but they were all from present Croatia now. We played softball. We skated on Gaffey Street. We played hockey and skated. There were no automobiles at that time, maybe one would come along, and a bus would come along and that's about it. I'll never forget, Louie Trani's father had Trani's restaurant. He opened it in 1927, I believe it was. When I was about, seven, nine, about nine years old, we went to Mary Star of the Sea. Louie Trani and I were buddies, and so, we started a softball team in 1932. We got the Pedro Pop, which was one of the first organized, we had t-shirts and whatnot. We had one ball and maybe two gloves out of the whole bunch and one bat, that type of thing. But our camaraderie and our friendship, we have grown and like today is Tuesday. We have a group that meets every Tuesday at Ante's, and all of us are over eighty, eighty-two, eighty-three years old. We all went to school together. We played together, and we meet every Tuesday. We started off with eleven, and now for the last three or four weeks, we only have about four of us. Because three of them passed away since we started. We reminisce and talk about our good old days.

MS: Now you worked in the cannery for a while.

AN: Yes. Let's see, my mother opened a store in [19]39. I was in Mary Star of the Sea. I graduated in 1938. I was a senior in high school, I mean in Mary Star Mid-school, 1940, no. I guess it was, yes. My Uncle Vincent was Vincent Thomas of the bridge. He was a graduate of Santa Clara. He was quite an athlete in Santa Clara. Then came back from school in 1933 and went to work at StarKist as a dock boss. So, during the sardine season, the mackerel season, they had the small mackerel boats, not the purse nets, and they used to come in on Saturdays and Sundays and get bait. So, us kids used to grind the bait for them at StarKist. That was in 1938, [19]39. I started working at StarKist in 1938, [19]39. From then in high school, all of us kids at high school that were playing football or baseball or basketball, our coaches used to work in the canneries in the summertime. Then they'd hire us kids in high school to work during the bluefin season. We'd work in the cannery. I always had a job at StarKist because my Uncle Vincent was there until he ran for assembly. Then he was in the assembly for some fifty, some forty-eight years. The longest serving assemblyman in the state of California.

MS: I want to go back. You have to introduce who was Vincent Thomas. Give me the whole story. Who he was and why is he so important to this town?

AN: Well, Vincent Thomas was my mother's younger brother. She had two sisters and two brothers. When my mother came to San Pedro and she married, she was up in Oakland with her mother and father. Then her mother and father died in the flu epidemic in the early [19]20s, [19]20-something, [19]23, [19]24, something like that after I was born. So, my mother was left with my Uncle Johnny, my Uncle Vincent, my Aunt Lina, and my Aunt Jane. So, my mother raised the kids. Because my father, when he married her, I think they met six months or so, my

dad was renting. How should I say, I get confused. He was a renter of one of his cousins on 16th Street and my mother was living across the street at that time. So, they met each other, they ran away, and got married. I always kid my mother. The joke is, she had to find someone to help her raise those four kids [laughter] because she was just one of those. They stayed together for fifty years, so big deal.

MS: Well, let us go back. Give me the life story of Vincent Thomas and why he is important.

AN: Well, Vincent Thomas, he went to school at Santa Clara, and he wanted to become a lawyer. He came down from school and he took the bar in 1932. No, he came down to Loyola University to finish up his law school and took the bar. He took it four or five times, and he couldn't pass it. Just couldn't pass it. But he was a debater in high school. A famous debater, what's his name from Hollywood that represented all of the movie stars? Gregson Bautzer was a high school student of Vincent's, and they were on a debate team. I think Gregson won the National Debating Contest in 1927 or something like that or in [19]28 when they graduated from high school. He was politically typed, and he ran in 1940. The longshoremen, they put up another fellow by the name of Thomas because they didn't know Vincent Thomas. So, there were eleven candidates that ran, all local businessmen. Vincent was the only thing that he knew that he was an athlete in high school, and we were raised here. He wasn't born here, but they came here in what, 1914. He was a labor man, but he wasn't in the labor movement. But he ran on the ticket of secession, which was just revitalized here a few years back. Which we almost won, but we didn't. But that's another political story. But anyway, he ran on a secession ticket, eleven candidates, and he won by sixty-seven votes. From then on, his motto was God first, my constituents in San Pedro second. No, my family second. Third is my constituents, and fourth is my country.

MS: Give me the motto again. "His motto was," you have to repeat it.

AN: His motto was "God first." I may be recollecting this incorrectly, but it was "God first." I think the second was his country, third was his constituents or family third.

MS: Why not start again? I will give you one more time.

AN: One more time.

MS: Vincent Thomas' motto was...

AN: Vincent's motto, not the motto, but platform or philosophy, or what it is. God first, it has to be family second, third was his constituents, and his country, in that order.

MS: Good. So, he ran for assembly right from the top?

AN: Right from the top.

MS: So, tell me, what kind of an assemblyman was he? Talk about his career. How effective was he?

AN: Like I say, he was a lawyer, trained at law ed, took the law. He believed in strict construction of the constitution. Very conservative, very conservative person. He believed in the principles of conservatism, but he was a Democrat. Because that's all we had at that time was Democrats. So, he wasn't active in the political parties or anything. He just came out of the blue and said, "I want to do something." But he was, in a sense, I would say, fiscally, he was conservative. Civil rights, he was a moderate or even a liberal because there was no animosity, no discrimination or nothing. Because we lived in an ethnic community where we had every nationality and group that you could think of. We all assimilated like we were just homogenized, and we all lived together. We're one and the same. So, he believed in the labor movement. So, he became a leader in the Democratic Party. As a matter of fact, he learned the game of politics in order to get something for your community. Because assemblymen are more of a local politician, period. The big picture of the state of California was done by the statesmen and the senators and the assemblymen. So, he was worried about San Pedro. He figured that if he wanted something from San Pedro, he had to give something to somebody in San Francisco County in exchange for the vote to get his bill passed. So, he learned the art of politics. He never was a big orator. He was a good public speaker. But words are words, and he knows how to play politics. He became a very, very, very close confidant to Governor Brown. He was Governor Brown's eyes and ears of the assembly. They called him Constitutional Thomas because he was a strict constructionist in that sense of the word, which gave him his conservative attitude vis-a-vis his liberal attitude towards labor. I don't know what you'd call it.

MS: Covered the waterfront.

AN: Covered the waterfront. [laughter]

MS: What were his great accomplishments? Tell me how long he served and what were his accomplishments?

AN: One of the biggest accomplishments I think was actually when he was fifteen or sixteen years old, he used to fight boxing. The Navy was here. He used to box down at the gym in San Pedro and make \$10 or something fighting the Navy fellows. So, he was always interested in boxing, and he became active in the legislature in the boxing commission. He was a very, very close friend of Max Baer. As a matter of fact, one of the stories that when he was in Santa Clara after he graduated, he was a minor sports coach going to law school. He earned his tuition that way. So, he was the boxing coach. I'll have to think of his name, the dancing boxer. There was a movie made of him with Errol Flynn, I can't remember his name.

MS: Yes, the *Gentleman Jim*, Jim Corbett?

AN: Yes, Corbett. Corbett came to Santa Clara to visit. So, he was talking to the head of the school, and he says, "I'd sure like to work out with somebody." He says, "Don't worry, we have the man, the toughest man on the campus. He was a boxer, and he's our boxing coach. He could probably beat you." That's what his reputation was because he was tough. He was wiry. So, they got in and Vince went, "Are you crazy? I can't fight Corbett." So, they danced around for a couple of rounds or something. That's one of his stories. He got pension rights for boxers. So,

there was unemployment insurance and et cetera for boxing which sort of took almost ten years to do that. Because the boxers were nothing but a pawn in some of the promoter's pocket. So, that was one of his greatest accomplishments.

MS: Did he live to see the bridge built?

AN: Yes.

MS: Tell us about how that bridge started, how it got its name, and what it was like.

AN: It was right after the war now, and things were starting to hustle. The canneries were getting bigger and the shipyards, and the traffic was terrible. We only had the little ferry boat, and the car ferry could only carry ten cars and people had to go. Ten thousand people were working on the island and these little boats going back and forth. So, he started it, and then it took him, I think it was ten years or eleven years. Because they had all kinds of tunnels and they had designs and teams that were going to study from Wilmington, I mean from San Pedro to Wilmington, to this way. Then out at the point from where the federal prison is now across there to Warehouse One, a tunnel that came off of Harvard and all kinds of things. But to make a long story short, he passed it after something like twenty some years or almost fifteen, twenty years. He started it early in his career.

MS: It being the bridge, right?

AN: The bridge.

MS: You have to repeat he started the bridge idea.

AN: He started the bridge idea. He got the funding for it, and they started construction. So, every time Vince would come back, he'd come home every weekend from Sacramento, he'd go to the bridge. He'd go down there and see how it was going. So, in [19]62, we dedicated the bridge, and they named it Vincent Thomas Bridge. Because Governor Brown had so much respect for him, and they were pals and whatnot. It's the only bridge at that time that I know of or that it's come out to say that a new bridge named after a living person.

MS: So, were you there for the dedication?

AN: Yes.

MS: That must have been pretty moving.

AN: At that time, I was manager of the Fishermen's Co-op. So, I had one of my skippers with one of the largest fishing boats that worked for StarKist and whatnot. I was working at the time with the fishermen. I wasn't at StarKist yet. So, we had all of the dignitaries. We had two or three boats, and we had a big parade and whatnot. Where they dedicated it from the boat and all that, it was quite spectacular.

MS: What was his response to all that? Was he moved?

AN: He was very moved. He was a very emotional person anyway. I would say this, that there are a lot of other legends. When I started in the fishing industry in 1960 as a manager, I was hired to manage the operation, in which we had a hundred and some boats. Then my biggest job was the fishing laws of the state of California. So, he was on the fish and game subcommittee. At that time, the recreational fishermen were wanting us to quit fishing sardines, quit fishing anchovies because it was a lack of feed for all of the game fish. So, he was instrumental in getting past legislation to protect the fishing industry from the canneries and the labor, the industrial part of the canneries, the fishing boats. I lost my train of thought there on a particular subject.

MS: We are going to change tapes.

MS: Would you like some water?

AN: Pardon?

MS: Want some water?

AN: I'd like some.

MS: Yes, okay.

MS: You can tell another of Vincent Thomas' accomplishments.

AN: I'm going to go back a little bit. Vincent Thomas had a brother, Johnny, and Vincent started high school in 1921. He graduated from high school in 1928. All of these boys in San Pedro, like my Uncle Johnny...

MS: Wait a second, can we get the microphone over there again?

MS: You want to start again, Vincent Thomas.

AN: My Uncle Vincent started high school in 1921. In the summertime or during the off season of playing football or baseball, most of the boys in high school went to work in the oil fields in Wilmington.

MS: I am sorry. My mic took off here.

MS: Start again.

MS: I apologize.

MS: My Uncle Vincent.



AN: My Uncle Vincent started high school in 1921, and this is the way the story goes. He could have started in [19]22 or [19]23, but he graduated from high school in 1928. Like I say, he was quite an athlete. He was a football player and a baseball player and that's how he got his scholarship to go to Santa Clara. But in the summertime or in a certain time of the year, in order to make money for the family, all of the boys in San Pedro, they sold newspapers all the time to the Navy. That was a year-round job. They'd do that when the fleet would come in. They'd take the newspapers out to the ships. Even my Uncle Johnny ran away from home once and got on one of the ships and went up to Bellingham and came back. Vincent raised Dickens with him because he left school and whatnot.

MS: So, what did they do in the summer? They did newspapers and what else?

AN: Shine shoes and they worked in the oil fields and worked in the canneries. But most of the boys in San Pedro, my Uncle Johnny's age and Vincent, they used to sell newspapers. Because the fleet was so large, and they got attached to different ships. They were the sole providers. They had their little gangs and whatnot. Not gangs, but groups of, "My territory's this one." That was the newsboys. You'll hear a lot about that talking to the old timer, but there's not too many of them left that can talk about it. Another accomplishment, getting back to Vincent in Sacramento, the fishing industry is a state fishery and a federal fishery. Anything outside the three-mile limit, the federal government controls. Anything inside the three-mile limit is the state controls. So, our biggest competitors of trying to tell the fishermen were the recreational fishermen, which was one of the biggest lobbyists in Sacramento. They were always fighting that we were depleting the stock. So, Vincent, always being the head of the committee, he was the one that they couldn't get anything through him. Vincent would never, ever take a bill from the Labor Fishermen's Union, or from the Fishermen's Boat Owners Association that I represented, or the canneries who represented the canneries, or the labor, unless it was agreed to by all parties. He would never let his group come to Sacramento. The unions are fighting the boat owners. The boat owners are fighting the canneries. The canneries are fighting the marketing people. If you're an industry, we're going to do it for the industry. What's good for the labor is good for the management, good for the canneries and whatnot. That was his catechism. So, we'd all fight down here for hours and days and months before we even agreed on legislation. Our biggest competitor was the recreational. So, all state legislation was mostly legislation. It was during that time, the fishermen, the boats were operated like a cooperative. It was a joint venture. Everybody was on shares. They were independent contract, each of the fishermen. You go out and catch fish. At the end of the month, there were ten men on the boat and the captain would get three shares for owning the boat, paying his bills and whatnot. They'd divide the money, \$1 for you, \$1 for you, \$1 for you, \$3 for me, and that's the way they used to pay it. We're independent contractors. So, they had no unemployment insurance. There was no employee-employer relationship. So, after the war, when the boats were getting larger and the tax people got involved, they incorporated the boats. So, they made the fishermen, for purposes of unemployment, members, and employees. So, he got employment benefits for the fishermen, which up to that time had nothing, had no medicals. Then that's when the unions came in and the unions that organized the ILWU and AFL. That's another long story. You probably talked to John Royal. He and I were adversaries in a sense because the vessels were owned by independent people. The crew members, they hired him. So, John organized the ILWU into a fisherman's charter, and then organized the fishermen became union and that's another long

story. So, he was responsible for getting unemployment and for the boxers. Those are big accomplishments from a political point of view.

MS: Let us go back. We will start from zero. What is StarKist? Give us a little sense of its history and how did you get involved with StarKist?

AN: Well, let's see. I have to go back. StarKist was started by two men, Martin J. Bogdanovich and Joseph Mardesich. They were partners. They came from the same island in Yugoslavia or Dalmatia. They came here, and they opened French Sardine Cannery, 1917 or twenty or something like that. They were partners, and they were packing primarily sardines and mackerel only. They weren't tuna at that time. They started later. Then they had an argument. So, Mr. Mardesich walked off and Martin kept French Sardine. Joe Mardesich went down the street and opened up Franco-Italian Packing Company. Those were two of about twenty canneries at that time. There was a South Coast. I can't remember them all, Puss in Boots, and all over. So, Martin Bogdanovich, he was the owner of French Sardine. French Sardine changed its name to StarKist in I think 1927 something like that. Most of the Slavs or Yugoslavs or Croatians, this conflict of who is what, but anyway, they were all Slavs. Because Mardesich was a Croatian and came from where all of most of the fishermen came from here in San Pedro. They came from the island of Komiža. They came from the island of Brač. They came from the Korčula and all of the islands. They came to San Pedro. Most of them were, I say, running the boats. The Italian boats, the same ethnic, they went to Van Camp. Van Camp was the first that started everything, the largest fish cannery. So, they had all of the Italian boats and the Japanese and whatnot. The AFL took over that union and the Slavs were all part of the ILWU. They had a big split up. As a matter of fact, they split in 1957. They had a big lawsuit. The thirteen Slav boats pulled out of Van Camp to come over to the ILWU, which was John Royal at that time. This is where we split up. When I got in there, they had an appeal going. I practiced very little law because I couldn't make a living practicing law in San Pedro.

MS: Let us clarify this. I did not know. This is all very interesting. So, how was the canning industry divided by essentially national origin? What companies were with whom and how did that divide up?

AN: It was 1917. They were catching salmon with a purse net. That's the purse net. The traditional fishing down here was done by gill nets, which was a small net you had to pull. It wasn't a purse we captured the fish. It was the Dragich family, pioneers in fishing, came down here, and they tried fishing with a purse net. Even the Japanese weren't fishing with it at that time because they didn't know whether they could make the mesh small enough to catch sardines and mackerel. Because if it was too big a mesh, they'd all gill, and you'd be pulling them out. So, anyway, they came down here. So, that revolutionized the purse-seining down there. That's why all the Slavs moved down here from Tacoma, Seattle, and that area in Oregon. Because they were all fishing up there for salmon with purse net. When they found out that the big fisheries down here, that's when they all migrated down here. Then in between 1917, 1925 to [19]30, that's when they developed the fishing industry. At that time, the major cannery was Van Camp Seafood and Holland. I can't remember the name of it. It was on the corner. Right after they found this out, a lot of these small canneries really came up, Pan-Pacific, Cal Marine. But the ethnicity part of it, like I said before, when Mardesich went over to Franco-Italian, bought

some of the Slavs boats there at StarKist. But don't forget there were a lot of boats, and they could only handle so many boats. So, they were just dispersed. But the majority of the boats at StarKist were mostly all Slavs, and at Van Camp was all Italian. But then as more canneries came in, there were more boats, and they all went to different places. But then I wound up with only two canneries left. Then the story from there was everybody, the Portuguese were selling fish up here, but they were bait boats. Then when the fishing industry went down the tubes, because of the efficiency of a bait boat, they used to stay out two or three months to load up a freight. Where in purse, you can load it up in three days. So, they were going broke. So, they converted, and our boys here went down there to teach them. Then they created the big Portuguese. That was done mostly by Van Camp and StarKist.

MS: Now, when you were working for StarKist, what was your big job? What were your challenges while you were there?

AN: Well, my going to StarKist was because I was manager of the co-op. I represented the boat owners, the fleet, the boat owners that had the boats. They were the managers and owners that hired the crew members. The crew members had nothing to do with negotiating fish prices with the canners. We were the ones that negotiated with the canners, the boat owners. The crew members, we had to work together because they were the ones that were operating the boats for us. With the captain, if you didn't have the crew, that's why the unions and the boat owners were so close. So, my primary reason at StarKist, I mean at the Fisherman's Co-op, was to represent them in Sacramento, the boat owners, on fishery legislation. So, I became their Sacramento representative, as well as managing their negotiations, their marketing of fish. We had a big supply store where we sold nets and all gear for the boats and whatnot. It was a big business. There are 125 boats. So, I was a manager of that. That was my primary job. But politically, because my Uncle Vincent was the manager of the co-op when it first got started in the [19]30s. After he gave up the co-op job, he went to work in at StarKist as a dock boss and then he became an assemblyman. So, when he's in Sacramento, I'm his nephew, what else?

MS: What were the issues that you were dealing with? What was the legislation you were working on?

AN: Well, the state legislation was fighting the fishing game, fighting the recreational. We weren't depleting the stocks. The tariff that was another, that was a federal when I went to Washington. But the local stuff was unemployment insurance. I got into that area of negotiations, I mean, legislation with the labor movement, which is benefiting our boats. So, that was a big issue. The facilities with the harbor department, the dock spaces, and the shipyards, and the maritime or the port that affected the fishing boats. Docks where we got this slip over there on 22nd Street as an exclusive. For the boats, we got the Fish Harbor and the slip. One of the key issues right now that's confronting the harbor department is that the fish harbor in the law cannot be used for anything but fishing. There is no fishing industry anymore, so to speak, although there still are remnants. So, they want to develop the ports of call, and they want to develop the harbor to put more containers and whatnot over there. So, this is a big, big issue with the harbor department. I am not involved in that in a sense. I have a theory on what I would do if I am active in. But I'm not into such a degree that I'm going to alienate myself – after so many years, I'm going to wind up a turncoat or something like that, So, I stay out of that

politics. But that's going to be one of the big issues that's coming up soon.

MS: We have run out of time.

AN: I'm sorry.

MS: But this is great. You really explained that relationship with it.

[end of transcript]