

## LOU GORDON

### AUDIO SCRIPT

\* = Audio Edit Points

**CLIP:** TEACHERS STRIKE COMMENTARY

**IN:** IT'S INEXCUSABLE!

**OUT:** IF THAT'S WHAT THE TEACHERS HAVE DECIDED TODAY.

**BABIARZ:** LOU GORDON WAS BILL O'REILLY RUNNING ON NITRO METHANE FUEL. AH JUST AH VERY POWERFUL INTERVIEWER.

**DEBORAH:** HE ~~HA~~ HAD AN OPINION ON EVERYTHING. \* AND I DON'T THINK HE WAS EVER AFRAID OF ANYBODY AND I DON'T THINK HE REALLY EVER CARED WHETHER ANYBODY LIKED HIM OR THEY DIDN'T.

**CLIP:** BROOKS PATTERSON EXCHANGE

**IN:** LOU - I THINK YOU'RE A DANGEROUS DEMAGAGUE.

**OUT:** PATTERSON - I WOULD WELCOME THAT CONFRONTATION.

**SCOTT:** ONE OF DAD'S GREAT THRILLS IN LIFE WAS GETTING A GUEST, ESPECIALLY A POLITICAL PERSON TO ACTUALLY WALK OFF THE SHOW.

**CLIP:** FRANK RIZZO WALK OFF

**IN:** RIZZO - LET ME SAY THIS TO YOU...

**OUT:** LOU - NATIONAL JOURNAL REVIEW.

**KELLEY:** I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER LOU GORDON ~~AS A,~~ AS A GOOD MAN WHO TRIED TO DO GOOD FOR THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE MOST PART HE DID.

**CLIP:** MICHIGAN BELL RALLY

**IN:** AND THIS DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT...

**OUT:** I INTEND TO CARRY ON THIS FIGHT. AND I INTEND...(APPLAUSE)

**GRAPHIC:** MOTOR CITY CELEBRITIES/LOU GORDON

**CLIP:** PBB SCANDAL

**IN:** THEY HAVE ILLEGALLY DUMPED PBB INTO THE PINE RIVER

**OUT:** TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION.

**SCOTT:** IN AH AN INTERVIEW WITH MY FATHER, SOMEBODY ASKED HIM IF HE WERE THE LAST ANGRY MAN. I I THINK MY DAD SORT OF DIDN'T AGREE WITH THAT PARTICULAR PHRASING, BUT HE DID AGREE WITH I AM THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

**BABIARZ:** AH HE SAID, FATE AND CIRCUMSTANCE HAVE CAST ME IN THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE AND THE VOICE OF DESCENT AND I LIKE THE ROLE, MORE THAN THAT, I LOVE IT. AND HE DID.

**KELLEY:** I THINK THAT LOU HIMSELF CAME FROM A FAMILY BACKGROUND WHERE PUBLIC MORALITY WAS IMPORTANT. I THINK HIS FATHER WAS A A JEWISH SCHOLAR IN THE JEWISH RELIGION AND ~~I THINK WAS,~~ I THINK WAS RAISED IN A FAIRLY STRICT HOME WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PUBLIC MORALITY AND PUBLIC DUTY, PUBLIC ACTION. AND I THINK LOU WAS ALWAYS PART OF IT, ALWAYS WANTING TO GET INTO THAT INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC. I DON'T THINK HE EVER WANTED TO BE A CANDIDATE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT HE WANTED TO BE A SOCIAL CRITIC AND PART OF THE ACTION AND HE SUCCEEDED.

**DEBORAH:** MY DAD WAS BORN ON MAY 17, 1917. HIS NAME WAS LOUIS J. GORDON. \*HE WAS BORN IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN. \*MY DAD GREW UP IN A VERY CLASSIC DETROIT JEWISH NEIGHBORHOOD, HE GREW UP ON LASALLE BOULEVARD. \*MY FATHER'S FATHER, ABE, EVENTUALLY GOT INTO THE ~~OH...~~ DRY GOODS GARMET BUSINESS AND HE WORKED AND HE WORKED FOR A COMPANY CALLED KROLICK AND SONS AND THEY SOLD SLIPPER SOCKS, STOCKINGS, SOCKS AND HE WAS SUCCESSFUL, HE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. HE MET MY GRANDMOTHER WHO WAS ALREADY LIVING IN DETROIT, HER NAME WAS ANNA PRAGG, ~~ANN PRAGG.~~ AND ~~UM~~ THEY GOT MARRIED AND THEY THEN HAD THREE BOYS, MY DAD WAS THE MIDDLE OF THREE. \*AND WHILE THE REST OF THE FAMILY WAS VERY OBSERVANT, MY FATHER AT THE END OF THE DAY DIDN'T HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF PATIENCE FOR THAT, HE WAS JUST KIND OF ALWAYS THE ONE THAT WAS THE REBEL IN THE FAMILY; IN A GOOD WAY, BUT THE REBEL. \*MY DAD WENT TO HUTCHINS MIDDLE SCHOOL \*HE WAS IN THE DEBATE CLUB. AH, SO EVEN BACK THEN, HE WAS RIGHT OUT THERE GETTING INTO THINGS. HE WENT ON TO BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF HIS CLASS, THE CLASS OF 1934 AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN DETROIT. \*MY DAD ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. \*RIGHT AFTER WORLD WAR II BROKE OUT, HE ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AIR CORP. \*HE WAS VERY PROUD OF HAVING SERVED. SO ~~UM~~ IT WAS AFTER THAT HE CAME BACK AND WENT TO WASHINGTON, DC. \*HE ~~UM~~ GOT LUCKY AND GOT INTO THE NEWS BUSINESS WHICH WAS TRULY HIS LOVE AND HE WORKED FOR ~~UM~~ A NEWS SERVICE AT THAT TIME; \*GENERAL NEWSPAPERS. \*THIS WAS IN THE FORTIES. ~~UM,~~ DREW PIERSON, \*HE WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL WHAT THEY CALL MUCKRAKERS. HE WAS A VOICE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WAS DIGGING INTO WRONG DOING AND MY DAD SIGNED ON WITH DREW PIERSON AND ABSOLUTELY LOVED BEING IN WASHINGTON, DC.

**SCOTT:** HE WENT DOWN SOUTH TO COVER BOSS CRUMP AND THE CRUMP MACHINE. ~~UM~~ I DO BELIEVE THERE WAS A NEWSPAPER STRIKE GOING ON

AT THE TIME AND I THINK THE OWNER'S NAME WAS A GUY NAMED SILLOMAN EVANS WHO COULD NOT GET A REPORTER TO GO DOWN SOUTH AND COVER THE CRUMP MACHINE BECAUSE AH BOSS CRUMP WAS THREATENING TO PUT REPORTERS IN JAIL \*AH BUT DAD VOLUNTEERED, \*WHILE COVERING THE CRUMP MACHINE IS WHERE HE SORT OF MADE HIS BONES IN REPORTING.

**LEVIN:** LOU LIKED THE LADIES AND HE WAS A YOUNG MAN IN WASHINGTON AND HE HAD HIS SHARE OF GIRLFRIENDS AND WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, A FREELANCE REPORTER, ~~WHATEVER HE WAS DOING IN WASHINGTON,~~ HE HAPPENED TO BE IN ONE OF THE HOTEL LOBBIES AND HE SAW MARGARET TRUMAN THERE AND NOT REALIZING WHO SHE WAS, WENT UP TO HER AND TRIED TO PICK HER UP AND THEN HE SORT OF CAUGHT THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT IN THE; IN THE CORNER OF HIS EYE AND THEN HE REALIZED WHO IT WAS AND THEN HE BACKED OFF OF IT, ~~BUT HE LOVED TELLING THAT STORY, HE HE TRIED TO PICK;~~ TRUMAN WAS THEN THE PRESIDENT, SO HE LOVED TELLING THAT STORY WHERE HE TRIED TO PICK UP THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER.

**DEBORAH:** MY MOTHER WAS FROM A VERY OLD VIRGINIA FAMILY – ~~DANA GORDON,~~ DANA NELSON GORDON. \*AND SHE HAD TAKEN A JOB WORKING ON CAPITOL HILL FOR A SENATOR. SO SINCE MY DAD WAS AROUND CAPITOL HILL COVERING STORIES, THEY MET. AND THEY HAD, I THINK, A BIT OF A WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP, SHE ENDED UP CONVERTING TO JUDAISM, THEY GOT MARRIED IN 1948 AND MY SISTER CAROL WAS BORN ~~MMM...~~TEN MONTHS LATER. \*SO I THINK HE PLANNED TO HAVE A CAREER IN DC AS A NEWSMAN AND MAYBE AS A WRITER, BUT HIS FATHER HAD A STROKE IN 1950. UM AND MY DAD CAME BACK HOME WITH MY MOTHER TO TAKE CARE OF HIM AND TAKE OVER HIS BUSINESS. \*THIS WAS A LINE CALLED RIPON...R-I-P-O-N. FROM THERE HE WENT TO WHITE STAG HE ~~PICKED UP;~~ BECAME A MANUFACTURER'S REP FOR WHITE STAG AND THEN HE BECAME A MANUFACTURER'S REP FOR EVAN PICONE. HIS OFFICE WAS IN THE DAVID SCOTT BUILDING DOWNTOWN AND HE USED TO SAY HE WAS IN THE RAG BUSINESS. UM BUT HE NEVER LOST HIS LOVE FOR DIGGING OUT A STORY, TRYING TO FIND THE TRUTH, TRYING TO BE HEARD, YOU KNOW LOOKING OUT FOR WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON IN THE POLITICAL WORLD. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT BECAUSE I WAS PRETTY YOUNG, BUT IN THE 1950S, HE MANAGED TO SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, GET A SHOW, A LIVE SHOW BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF TV ON CHANNEL 7 WXYZ WHICH RAN LIVE, ~~I BELIEVE IT WAS AT 11:30~~ EVERY NIGHT, FIVE DAYS A WEEK. \*IT WAS REALLY THE ONLY THING OF ITS KIND, I MEAN NOWADAYS WE'RE USED TO SEEING ALL KINDS OF CABLE OUTLETS DOING ALL KINDS OF INTERVIEW POLITICAL TYPE SHOWS, BACK, BACK THEN THERE WAS NOTHING. SO HE HAD LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES OR ANYBODY ELSE WHO WAS COMING THROUGH TOWN AND THEY DID LIVE HARD HITTING INTERVIEWS. \*AND I

THINK THAT'S WHY, AT HE LIKED TO REFER TO IT AS THE HOTSEAT SHOW, SO HE COULD ASK THESE HARD HITTING QUESTIONS. \*NOW AT THIS TIME MY PARENTS HAD GOTTEN DIVORCED. MY MOTHER HAD HAD UM SOME SIGNIFICANT AH MENTAL ILLNESS PROBLEMS WHICH BACK IN THAT DAY, THERE WAS NO MEDICATION OR TREATMENT, \*SHE LEFT IN ABOUT 1955 TO GO BACK TO VIRGINIA, ~~OKAY HE; AND AS I SAY,~~ HE RETAINED CUSTODY OF THREE GIRLS AND RAISED US, WHICH BACK THEN WAS UNUSUAL. \*IN ~~ABOUT 1959, 1958,~~ HE MET JACKIE. BACK THEN, JL HUDSON HAD A WONDERFUL RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH; BIG BEAUTIFUL LUNCH ROOM AND A LOT OF DETROIT MOVERS AND SHAKERS, EXECUTIVES WOULD HAVE LUNCH DOWNTOWN. \*JACKIE WAS A MODEL. UM, JACKIE WAS A SCANDANAVIAN BEAUTY, TALL SLENDER BLONDE AND DURING LUNCH, THE MODELS WOULD WALK AROUND THE TABLES MODELING THE LATEST FASHIONS. AND MY DAD WAS NEVER A SHRINKING VIOLET, EVER I DOUBT FOR ONE MINUTE IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE. \*SO AH, HE GOT INTRODUCED TO JACKIE. AND THEY STARTED DATING AND THEY DATED FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS AND THEY GOT MARRIED IN ~~1962,~~ NOVEMBER OF 1962.

SCOTT: MY MOM CAME ALONG AND ~~AH AND AND~~ SHE BECAME THE MA MOTHER ~~TO THE;~~ TO MY THREE SISTERS, MY DAD'S THREE GIRLS. AND ~~UM~~ ALSO MY ~~MY~~ FATHER ADOPTED MY MOM'S SON FROM THE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, \*I AM THE ONLY ONE COMMON TO BOTH MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER.

COHN: MY HUSBAND AND LOU WERE IN THE CLOTHING BUSINESS AND WE BECAME FRIENDLY THROUGH THAT. UM I WAS JUST; I HAD BEEN THE MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG CHILDREN BUT HAD WANTED TO WORK AND COULDN'T WORK FULL TIME AND LOU HAD GLOMED ONTO ME AND SAID, YOU KNOW, I THINK YOU'D BE PRETTY GOOD AS A GUMSHOE AND I SAID, WHAT'S A GUMSHOE? HE SAID, YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY WHO GOES AROUND AND GETS INFORMATION FOR ME FOR MY RADIO SHOW, I SAID OOH, I THINK I'D LIKE THAT.

DEBORAH: ALTHOUGH YOU KNOW HE HE DEVELOPED A REAL FOLLOWING FROM THAT SHOW BUT THEY THEN DID MOVE HIM TO WXYZ RADIO DURING THE 1960S.

SCOTT: HE WAS FRIENDS WITH CHUCK FRITZ WHO RAN WXYZ AT THE TIME ~~UM~~ AND HE STARTED OUT DOING A LOT OF CONTROVERSIAL REPORTS ON WXYZ FOR CHUCK FRTIZ.

DEBORAH: IT RAN EVERY NIGHT AT 6:25, IT WAS FIVE MINUTES WITH ONE, I THINK ONE COMMERCIAL BREAK AND IT WAS PHENOMENAL BECAUSE IT WAS FIVE MINUTES OF HARD HITTING ANALYSIS OF WHAT WAS GOING ON POLITICALLY LOCALLY.

**COHN:** WHAT I REMEMBER IS THE DELIVERY AND THE FINGER, HE WAS ON RADIO AND HE WAS STILL DOING THE FINGER, THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW. AND IT WAS WITH A GRUFF AND GRAVELY VOICE AND COMPELLING, VERY COMPELLING. HE SPOKE QUICKLY, HE SPOKE SURELY WITH CONVICTION IF HE WAS RIGHT WHICH MAKES SOMEBODY VERY INTERESTING...HE WAS GOOD. HE WAS MY HERO FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

**KELLEY:** I ORIGINALLY MET LOU GORDON AT THE TIME IN 1961 WHEN A YOUNG FRIEND OF MINE, AH VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE, JEROME CAVANAGH WAS DECIDED TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF DETROIT. HE WAS GIVEN NO CHANCE WHAT SO EVER AT BEATING A STRONG INCUMBANT BY THE NAME OF LOUIE MIRIANI AND AH HE JUST WASN'T GIVEN A CHANCE. BUT LOU GORDON WHO THEN HAD A RADIO SHOW, \*AND AT THAT TIME WITH ~~JERRY~~, JERRY CAVANGH BEING THE OUTSIDER AND THE UNDERDOG, IT AH IT APPEALED TO AH LOU'S SENSE OF SYMPATHY FOR THE UNDERDOG AND HE TOOK TO PROMOTING JERRY CAVANAGH ON THE RADIO SHOW ON DRIVE TIME THREE OR FOUR TIMES A WEEK, VERY STRONG. AND I PERSONALLY THINK THAT WAS THE BIGGEST THING THAT JERRY CAVANAGH HAD GOING IN ADDITION TO A FEW OTHER THINGS TO PULL A GREAT UPSET AND BEAT MIRIANI FOR MAYOR OF DETROIT. \*AND I THINK I SHOULD ADD THAT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AFTER JERRY CAVANAGH BECAME MAYOR, LOU SPLIT WITH JERRY.

**LEVIN:** HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN CAVANGH'S PERFORMANCE AS MAYOR AND SOME AH PERSONAL THINGS THAT OCCURRED. \*HE FELT CAVANAGH SHOULD NOT BE MAYOR AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS GOING TO BE AN UPHILL FIGHT AND ~~IT WOULD BE MAKE~~; HE WOULDN'T BE POPULAR WITH CAVANAGH AND CAVANAGH SUPPORTERS, HE NEVER THE LESS EXCORIATED HIM ON HIS TV SHOW.

**SCOTT:** HE TRIED MANY TIMES TO GET DAD OFF THE AIR AND IT SIMPLY DIDN'T WORK. \*TRYING TO SUE THE FOR THINGS MY FATHER WOULD WOULD BRING UP. UM OF COURSE NONE OF THESE SUITS EVER WORKED BECAUSE EVERYTHING WAS PROVEN TO BE TRUE AND ACCURATE.

**DEBORAH:** THEY REALLY ENDED UP BEING, I WOULD SAY ENEMIES. THERE WAS A CARTOON THAT RAN IN THE DETROIT FREE PRESS WHERE MY DAD WAS LAUGHING ABOUT A THREAT FROM JERRY CAVANAGH THAT HE WAS GOING TO PUNCH HIM IN THE NOSE.

**COHN:** LOU SAW VERY LITTLE GRAY, LOU WAS PRETTY BLACK AND WHITE. YOU EITHER WERE A GOOD GUY OR YOU WERE A BAD GUY. \* HE FELT TRUTH WAS IMPORTANT AND HE DIDN'T MIND RISKING HIS OWN

REPUTATION TO BRING IT OUT AS HE SAW IT. REMEMBER, AS HE SAW IT (SMILE/LAUGH).

**LEVIN:** HE LIKED TO BE A KINGMAKER IN THE POLITICAL AREA, ~~IN THE POLITICAL AREA.~~ HE WAS VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN MY CAREER. \*I UNDERSTAND THROUGH CARL AND HIS WIFE BARBARA THAT LOU URGED CARL TO RUN. \*HE WAS MUCH; VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN DON RIEGLE'S 90'S ELECTION (DEBBIE'S VOICE - EDIT OUT) TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE. \* AND LOU LIKED THAT ROLE, BEING A KING MAKER. \*HE FORMED PEOPLE'S OPINION...A VERY POWERFUL PERSON IN HIS DAY.

**\*\*\*\* MACARTHUR PARK STARTS IN BLACK JUST PRIOR TO CLIP'S FIRST VIDEO. START THIS MUSIC UNDER LEVIN'S LAST WORDS.**

**CLIP:** LOU GORDON PROGRAM OPENING  
**IN:** MACARTHUR PARK WITH PROGRAM TITLE  
**OUT:** MY DEAR WIFE JACKIE.

**MAKUPSON:** WHEN FIFTY FIRST STARTED, THEY WANTED TO BE A SPORTS STATION. THEY WERE PROBABLY SOMETHING OF A AT LEAST IN AN IDEA AND IN THOUGHT PRECURSOR TO ESPN. \*WELL OF COURSE THEY GOT INTO A LOT OF SYNDICATION AND DID A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS AND THEN AS AS THEY GREW AH LOU GORDON; \*HE BECAME THE VOICE AND THE FACE OF CHANNEL 50. IT WAS SOMETHING OTHER THAN SPORTS, IT WAS SOMETHING OTHER THAN CARTOONS, IT WAS SOMETHING OTHER THAN SYNDICATED PROGRAMMING BECAUSE HIS PROGRAM GOT VERY POPULAR.

**DEBORAH:** HE OBVIOUSLY HAD ALWAYS INTENDED TO BUILD THIS PART OF HIS CAREER AND MY FATHER HAD AN INCREDIBLY DYNAMIC PERSONALITY, HE WAS VERY SMART, HE WAS VERY PERSUASIVE, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT OTHER THAN TO SAY UM HE CONVINCED SOMEBODY OVER THERE THAT THIS WAS WORTH A SHOT.

**BABIARZ:** LOU PIONEERED THE HARD HITTING TALK SHOW. \*HE WAS PROBABLY FIVE FEET NINE, 160 POUNDS, BUT ON AIR, HE WAS AN 800 POUND GORILLA, A VERY INTIMIDATING PRESENCE WITH A BOOMING VOICE. \*LOU WAS A PIONEER IN THE SENSE THAT HE WAS THE FIRST INTERVIEWER TO GET RIGHT IN A POLITICIAN'S FACE AND STAY THERE LIKE A MONGOOSE, I MEAN HE WAS RELENTLESS.

**CLIP:** GEORGE WALLACE  
**IN:** YOU SAID THAT WOULD BE NICE IF THEY TALKED ABOUT YOU...  
**OUT:** LET'S LOOK AT SOME FACTS.

**DEBORAH:** MY DAD DEvised THE WHOLE FORMAT AND IT WAS GOING TO START WITH THE Q&A, \*PEOPLE WOULD WRITE IN OR CALL IN WITH QUESTIONS AND HE DECIDED HE WOULD HAVE AN ATTRACTIVE FEMALE ASK HIM THE QUESTIONS.

**COHN:** HE CALLED ME UP AND SAID, AND HE WAS GONNA DO THIS TELEVISION SHOW, WOULD I BE THE QUESTION LADY? AND I SAID, THE WHAT? THE QUESTION LADY, YOU KNOW SIT THERE AND ASK QUESTIONS, TAKE QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE, QUESTIONS THAT YOU PROPOSE AND I SAID, OH, I'D NEVER BEEN ON TELEVISION AT THAT POINT, HM, THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING. I TALKED TO MY HUSBAND AND HE SAID, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THAT EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT? I SAID, I DON'T KNOW, I THINK SO AND HE SAID, I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA.

**DEBORAH:** I DON'T REMEMBER WHO THE FIRST PERSON WAS, UM BUT SHE DID IT FOR A PERIOD OF TIME MAYBE SOME MONTHS AND OF COURSE THIS WAS DONE LIVE AT THE TIME EARLY ON AND ONE DAY SHE CALLED, I THINK IT WAS A SUNDAY, AND SHE WAS ILL. SO WHAT WERE THEY GONNA DO? SO MY DAD DECIDED HE WOULD ASK JACKIE TO DO IT. AND I REMEMBER THE CONVERSATION, SHE DID NOT WANT TO DO IT, SHE DEMURED, YOU KNOW SHE SAID, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO AND HE TALKED HER INTO IT. \*AND SHE WENT ON THE SHOW AND THAT WAS IT, FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THEY ALL DECIDED SHE WAS THE WAY TO GO AND SHE JUST BECAME MY LOVELY WIFE JACKIE.

**BABIARZ:** JACKIE WAS KIND OF THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE AND THE QUEEN AND SHE HAD A VERY CALMING EFFECT ON LOU AND WE WERE GREATFUL TO HAVE HER AROUND BECAUSE I COULDN'T TALK BACK TO LOU, BUT SHE COULD AS HIS WIFE SHE'D SAY, LOU BE QUIET OR CALM DOWN.

### **TRANSITION NEEDED**

**BABIARZ:** LOU'S FAVORITE TYPE OF GUEST WAS A POLITICIAN. THOSE WERE HIS HIS MOST IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS.

**DEBORAH:** ROMNEY CAME ON THE SHOW TO BE INTERVIEWED. \*AND UM THE BRAINWASHING STATEMENT CAME OUT.

**CLIP:** GEORGE ROMNEY

**IN:** LOU – IN RECENT WEEKS, YOU SAID, YOU DIDN'T THINK.

**OUT:** ROMNEY – THEY DO A VERY THOROUGH JOB.

**DEBORAH:** IT WAS JUST A THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATION ABOUT VIETNAM. AND I DON'T THINK AT THAT TIME MY DAD WAS REALLY

GOING FOR THE JUGULAR, HE WAS TALKING TO ROMNEY ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN VIETNAM. \*IN HINDSIGHT, SURE IT WAS AN HONEST THOUGHTFUL STATEMENT FOR HIM TO MAKE AND UM HE SAID IT AND RIGHT AWAY UM THE PUB PUBLICITY BROKE AND THAT WAS IT, THAT WAS IT FOR ROMNEY.

**BABIARZ:** LOU BELIEVED THAT THE KEY TO A GOOD INTERVIEW WAS PREPARATION. \*LOU WOULD AH READ THE AH DETROIT NEWS, DETROIT FREE PRESS, AH WALL STREET JOURNAL, AH NEW YORK TIMES, AH WOMENS WEAR DAILY, I MEAN HE READ SEVEN, EIGHT NEWSPAPERS A DAY.

**DEBORAH:** HE GOT EVERY PAPER HE COULD GET HIS HANDS ON.

**SCOTT:** VERY FREQUENTLY AS A SMALL CHILD, I WOULD SEE THIS TAXI CAB PULLING UP FOR APPARENTLY NO REASON AT THE FRONT DOOR DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS FROM THE AIRPORT.

**DEBORAH:** HE WAS A NEWSPAPER ABSOLUTE JUNKIE. HE READ IT AND HE MARKED IT UP, THEN HE CLIPPED IT OUT, THEN HE SAVED IT.

**BABIARZ:** ONE DAY; AND OUR OFFICES WERE ADJOINED BY A DOORWAY, LOU SHOUTED, JOE GET IN HERE, GET IN HERE! AND I THOUGHT WELL THIS IS IT, I'M GOING TO BE FIRED. AND HE SAID, GRAB A NEWSPAPER, AND I GRABBED THE FIRST ONE I COULD FIND, \*AND HE GOES, GET HIM, GET HIM! WELL, THERE WAS A WASP ZOOMING AROUND THE OFFICE. \*I GRABBED THE NEW YORK TIMES. AND HE GOES, NOT THE TIMES, NOT THE TIMES, THAT WAS HIS FAVORITE NEWSPAPER. SO I PUT THE TIMES DOWN AND WHACKED THE WASP WITH THE DETROIT FREE PRESS INSTEAD. BUT THERE WAS A HUMOROUS SIDE TO THE MAN.

**SCOTT:** HE DID SCOPE MAGAZINE ESSENTUALLY BECAUSE OF THE DETROIT NEWSPAPERS STRIKE IN THE SIXTIES. AH THERE WERE NO NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE IN WHAT IS A TOP TEN MARKET IN THE UNITED STATES. AH SO HE FELT THAT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO FILL THE VOID, FILL THAT GAP AND STARTED PUBLISHING A MAGAZINE AH TO DISSEMINATE NEWS AH SINCE THERE WERE NO NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE. UM AND HE DID THAT QUITE SUCCESSFULLY UNTIL THE STRIKE WAS OVER.

**CLIP:** DAVID ABRAHAMSEN INTRO NIXON VS. NIXON

**IN:** WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF RICHARD NIXON'S DOWNFALL?

**OUT:** CHILDHOOD SEXUAL DESIRES FOR HIS MOTHER

**DEBORAH:** BADGE OF HONOR TO BE ON NIXON'S ENEMIES LIST. HE WENT AFTER NIXON WEEK AFTER WEEK DURING THE NIXON ERA. AND LET'S FACE IT, THERE WAS PLENTY OF FODDER.



**KELLEY:** AND NOT ONLY THAT, HE DIDN'T LIKE ANYBODY WHO SUPPORTED NIXON.

**DEBORAH:** BOB HOPE CAME ON I'M SURE THINKING HE WAS GOING TO TALK ABOUT BEING BOB HOPE AND ALL THE GOOD HE'D DONE AND HIS LIFE AS AN ACTOR AND WORK WITH THE USO, BUT THAT WASN'T MY DAD'S INTEREST IN BOB HOPE. MY DAD NEVER WATCHED MOVIES, MY DAD KNEW BOB HOPE WAS A NIXON SUPPORTER AND HE WANTED TO KNOW WHY?

**CLIP:** BOB HOPE

**IN: LOU** – I HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU.

**OUT: HOPE** – I SAY HE'S INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY.

**KELLEY:** THE DETROIT NEWS AT THAT TIME, ~~THE DETROIT NEWS~~, WHICH WAS PRETTY MUCH REPUBLICAN IN ITS EDITORIAL CONTENT WAS A BIG SUPPORTER OF NIXON'S BECAUSE MARTIN HAYDEN, THE PUBLISHER OR THE EDITOR; CHIEF EDITOR OF THE DETROIT NEWS FANCIED HIMSELF AS NIXON'S FRIEND. SO MORE THINGS ABOUT NIXON WOULD APPEAR IN THE PAPER THAN ORDINARY. AND SO LOU GOT TO CALLING ON SUNDAY NIGHT, HE'D SAY, WHAT DID THE NIXON NEWS HAVE TO SAY THIS WEEK? HE CALLED THE DETROIT NEWS THE NIXON NEWS. AND HE BLASTED THEM FOR OH MAYBE A YEAR. AND GUESS WHAT HAPPENED? (LAUGH) THE DETROIT NEWS CALLED HIM IN AND SAID, HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST US TO HAVE YOU BE A COLUMNIST FOR US? AND QUIT PICKING AT US BY THE WAY. AND ~~LOU~~, LOU CALLED ME UP AND SAID, I'M NEGOTIATING WITH THE NEWS, WHAT DO YOU THINK? I SAID, IT'S FINE AND ~~AH HE AH AH~~, HE SAID, HOW MUCH SHOULD I CHARGE? I SAID, FIND OUT WHAT IS THE LARGEST FEE THEY PAID ANY COLUMNIST THAT WRITES ON THE PAPER, I MEAN LOCALLY, THE OTHER GUYS, THE STRANGERS, BUT THE LOCAL PEOPLE, HOW MUCH DO THEY MAKE? AND YOU ASK FOR ONE DOLLAR MORE, SO THAT WAY YOU CAN SAY YOU'RE THE HIGHEST PAID COLUMNIST WORKING FOR THE DETROIT NEWS. AND HE DID THAT.

**DEBORAH:** YOU REALLY COULDN'T PIDGEON HOLE MY DAD BECAUSE UM HE WAS REALY ALL OVER THE BOARD. I WOULD SAY IN GENERAL, HE WAS FAVORABLE TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IF YOU LOOKED AT WHO HE BACKED AND WHO HE DIDN'T, BUT HE REALLY DID CALL IT AS HE SAW IT. HE WAS A HUGE BILL MILLIKEN SUPPORTER; ABSOLUTELY TOTALLY ADMIRERED BILL MILLIKEN. ~~UM HE WAS KIND OF YOU KNOW~~ HE WAS JUST HONEST ABOUT HIS VIEWS.

**SCOTT:** AH DAD WAS ONE OF THE FIRST REPORTERS TO COME OUT PUBLICALLY AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR AND HE DID THAT IN 1964.

**KELLEY:** I WAS A CHAMPION AGAINST PUBLIC UTILITY ABUSE AND I WOULD SUE THE UTILITIES FOR IMPROPER RATE INCREASES ~~AND I ALWAYS WON AND LOU WOULD AND THAT'S VERY COMPLICATED YOU KNOW, TRY SUING A UTILITY OVER RATES WAS COMPLICATED. WELL, LOU WOULD HELP ME, HE HE'D GET ME ON HIS SHOW AND EXPLAIN TO LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE WHY I'M DOING THIS AND WHAT'S INVOLVED AND SO ON. AND HE EVEN HAD THE HEADS OF THE UTILITIES ON HIS PROGRAM AND ROASTED THEM PRETTY DARN GOOD.~~

**DEBORAH:** HE'D BE READY WITH THE ZINGERS. ~~AND YOU KNOW, NOWADAYS PEOPLE WOULD PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY EXPECT THAT MORE, WE'VE GOT MORE OF A GOTCHA THING GOING IN GENERAL IN THE MEDIA, BUT BACK THEN IT WASN'T AND I MUST SAY EVEN FOR THE GOTCHAS TODAY, OTHER THAN MAYBE A TIM RUSSETT WHO'S THOROUGHLY PREPARED, NOBODY WAS PREPARED LIKE MY DAD.~~

**CLIP:** FRANK RIZZO

**IN: LOU** - QUOTES THINGS THAT YOU SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, I AM NO HITLER...

**OUT: RIZZO** - I HAVE NEVER USED THAT EXPRESSION.

**BABIARZ:** LOU SOMETIMES SAID HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING UNFAIR TO HIS GUESTS AND HE SAID ALL I DO IS CONFRONT THEM WITH THEIR OWN WORDS, WHAT COULD BE UNFAIR ABOUT THAT?

**CLIP:** DICK CAVETT - PART 1

**IN:** I LOVE BEING INTERVIEWED, I LOVE IT, I JUST EAT IT UP

**OUT:** YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY WORK.

**SCOTT:** DICK WAS A GUY THAT WAS VERY TOUGH TO FLUSTER AND UM DAD NOTICED THAT DICK HAD SORT OF PLAGERIZED HIMSELF, IF THERE IS SUCH A THING, ~~UM HE HAD WRITTEN;~~ DICK HAD WRITTEN SOMETHING FOR PLAYBOY MAGAZINE AND ~~MANY~~ YEARS LATER AH HAD WRITTEN A BOOK. AND AH DAD NOTICED THAT HE HAD BASICALLY LIFTED WORD FOR WORD AH FROM THE PLAYBOY ARTICLE AH THE DICK HAD WRITTEN YEARS BEFORE, HE LIFTED THAT AND ~~PUT IT,~~ PUT IT IN HIS NEW BOOK. AND WHEN DAD CONFRONTED CAVETT WITH THIS, UM DICK REALLY; ALMOST HAD A MELTDOWN.

**CLIP:** DICK CAVETT - PART 2

**IN: LOU** - ALRIGHT DICK...

**OUT: CAVETT** - SLAMS BOOK AND PAPERS... "THERE!"

**SCOTT:** DAD WAS KNOWN FOR ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS, BUT HE WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR ASKING QUESTIONS THAT PEOPLE AT HOME WANTED

TO KNOW THE ANSWERS TO AND THAT INCLUDED ARE YOU A HOMOSEXUAL?

**BABIARZ:** BEAR IN MIND THAT 30 YEARS AGO, THAT WAS A SUBJECT THAT MIGHT RESULT IN SOME DERUSION. AND AH, HE HAD HAD RALPH NADER ON THE SHOW AND HE ASKED RALPH NADER THAT QUESTION.

**SCOTT:** AND THIS IS WHY AH YOU KNOW HE HAD ON VERY INTERESTING GUESTS AT TIMES INCLUDING YOU KNOW SNAKE CULTISTS, JOEY THE HITMAN WHO APPEARED AH IN FULL SKI MASK UM AH WHO HAD WRITTEN A BOOK AT THE TIME. \*AH AND AH DAD WAS ALWAYS AH VERY COGNIZENT OF OF WHAT THE AH PERSON AT HOME WANTED TO ASK AND LET'S FACE IT, HE WAS ALSO COGNIZENT OF RATINGS. \*HAVING A TRANSSEXUAL ON OR AH AH THE FIRST GAY FOOTBALL PLAYER TO COME OUT WAS ON DAD'S SHOW. UM MANY MANY OF THESE TYPES OF INTERVIEWS WERE FIRSTS IN THE COUNTRY ON THE LOU GORDON PROGRAM.

**DEBORAH:** THEN HE TOOK ON THE MAFIA, THAT WAS THE OTHER THING, THAT WAS ALWAYS A WORRY. HE'D BE TALKING ABOUT ORGANIZED CRIME ALL THE TIME ON HIS SHOW. ~~YOU KNOW,~~ WE DIDN'T WANT HIM DOING THAT, BUT HE DID IT, I MEAN HE HE SAID EARLY ON HE WASN'T GONNA ~~YOU KNOW WASN'T GONNA BE;~~ COULDN'T LIVE HIS LIFE WORRIED ABOUT REPROCUSSIONS ON STUFF LIKE THAT.

**SCOTT:** THERE WERE MANY MANY TIMES WHERE DAD WOULD HIT ON A SUBJECT THAT AH CERTAIN PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE, WHETHER IT WAS THE MAFIA, WHETHER IT WAS AH PEOPLE IN POSITIONS OF POWER THAT WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE CERTAIN SUBJECTS BROUGHT UP. UM AND THROUGHOUT THAT TIME, THERE WERE ~~WERRR~~ COUNTLESS DEATH THREATS AH NOT ONLY ~~TO;~~ ON MY FATHER'S LIFE IN SPECIFIC, BUT OUR ENTIRE FAMILY'S LIFE. AND THAT WENT ON TO A POINT OF AH BEING ESCORTED EVERYWHERE WE WENT BY LOCAL POLICE, STATE POLICE, AH THE FBI.

**CLIP:** JOEY THE HITMAN

**IN:** LOU - OUR FLOORMAN SAID DURING THE BREAK...

**OUT:** JOEY - BECAUSE YOU'LL BE LAYING WITH 'EM.

**BABIARZ:** LOU WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS WORK AND SO INTENSE, HE NEVER TURNED IT OFF.

**SCOTT:** DAD WANTED TO TALK POLITICS 24/7, THAT WAS HIS GAME, THAT'S WHAT HE LIVED FOR. UM HE WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY SOCIAL GUY, UM HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN COUNTRY CLUBS, HE DID NOT AH YOU

KNOW BELIEVE IN REALLY GOING OUT IN IN TO THE BEING IN THE SOCIAL LIFESTYLE. AH THAT WASN'T HIS THING.

**DEBORAH:** MY FATHER HAD VERY FEW INTERESTS IN THE WORLD. I MEAN, HIS FIRST INTEREST WAS HIS FAMILY AND HE WAS ABSOLUTLEY PHENOMENAL FATHER. UM YOU KNOW EVERYBODY JUST REVERED HIM IN OUR FAMILY. \*HE WALKED THE WALK, HE TALKED THE TALK, HE WAS EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AT HOME AS HE WAS ON THE AIR. HE DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING OFF OF ANYBODY, HE HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. HE WAS FUNNY AS HELL, FROM A YOUNG AGE I REMEMBER HE WOULD SUGGEST THIS AND I THINK THIS WAS PROBABLY BEFORE HE WAS MARRIED TO JACKIE, BUT HE'D BE SITTING AROUND WITH THE THREE GIRLS AND LIKE SOMEBODY DOWN THE STREET WOULD HAVE A SIGN UP, \*SOMEBODY RUNNING FOR OFFICE HE DIDN'T LIKE AND HE'D GO, OKAY AFTER DARK WE'RE GOING DOWN THERE AND WE'RE GONNA TO DUMP TWO BAGS OF GARBAGE ON THEIR FRONT PORCH, AND HE WAS SERIOUS, YOU KNOW HE'D GET A KICK OUT OF THIS KIND OF THING, SO HE WAS ALWAYS JUST WANTING TO STIR STIR THE POT.

**COHN:** HE SHOWS UP ON OUR BOAT TO OUT ON LAKE ST. CLAIR AND I LOOK AT HIM AND I THOUGHT, IS THAT LOU? AND HE SAW ME SORT OF LOOKING ASCANCE AT HIM AND HE SAID TO ME, I ONLY WEAR A TOUPEE WHEN I WEAR A TIE AND A JACKET. WHEN I DON'T HAVE A TIE OR A JACKET ON, I DON'T HAVE A TOUPEE ON. AND THEN HE SAID, BESIDES THE WIND WOULD PROBABLY BLOW IT OFF.

**DEBORAH:** HE WAS A SUN FANATIC. HE HAD TO HAVE A YEAR ROUND TAN, SO HE HAD A SUN LAMP AND HE HAD THE LITTLE GOGGLES AND HE'S SIT IN FRONT OF THE SUN LAMP OR HE'D GO DOWN TO FLORIDA. AND WHEN HE GOT DOWN TO FLORIDA, HE'D GO TO MIAMI BEACH AND HE'D GET THAT LOUNGE CHAIR, HE'D GO TO THE FOUNTAIN BLUE AND HE'D LAY BY THE POOL AND DO NOTHING BUT READ THE PAPERS.

**FADE OUT**

**FADE IN**

**DEBORAH:** MY FATHER HAD RHUMATIC FEVER AS A CHILD, HE HAD RHUMATIC FEVER BEFORE THERE WERE ANTIBIOTICS, THE RHUMATIC FEVER DAMAGED HIS HEART VALVE, HE KNEW THAT HIS ENTIRE LIFE. AS HE GOT INTO HIS FORTIES AND FIFTIES, WHAT WAS HAPPENING IS HIS HEART WAS BECOMING ENLARGED BECAUSE IT WAS HAVING TO WORK HARD PUSHING THE BLOOD THROUGH THE FAULTY VALVE. SO MY SISTERS AND I KNEW ~~FROM THE TIME WE WERE BORN, I TAKE THAT BACK,~~ FROM THE TIME WE WERE SMALL, THAT MY FATHER HAD A SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL PROBLEM. IT DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS

FUNCTIONING DAY TO DAY, BUT WE KNEW HE COULD DIE FROM IT. SO HE WAS WELL PREPARED FROM A VERY EARLY AGE THAT HE COULD DIE AT ANY TIME. \*NOW HE EVENTUALLY HAD THE SURGERY IN ANN ARBOR AND HAD THE VALVE REPLACED. AND WE WERE SO THRILLED BECAUSE EVERYBODY THOUGHT MAYBE THIS CLOUD HAS FINALLY BEEN LIFTED FROM US AND WE CAN STOP WORRYING SO MUCH ABOUT IT, WELL THAT TURNED OUT NOT TO BE TRUE.

**LEVIN:** THE LAST THING HE DID BEFORE HE DIED WAS TO WRITE A COLUMN FOR THE ~~DET FIRST~~; FOR THE DETROIT NEWS AND PUT IT IN AN ENVELOPE AND LEAVE AT THE FRONT DOOR OF HIS HOME. AND A TAXI DRIVER WAS GOING TO COME BY IN THE MORNING AND PICK IT UP AND TAKE IT DOWNTOWN.

**KELLEY:** I GOT A CALL FROM HIS WIFE JACKIE THAT MORNING THAT AH A HALF HOUR BEFORE THAT SHE FOUND HIM AH AH SHE WENT BACK IN THE BEDROOM AND HE WAS DEAD IN BED. AND SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF AND I OBVIOUSLY TRIED TO AH AH COMFORT HER AND AND TELL HER; GIVE HER A BIT OF ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE THINGS AND AH IT CAME AS A SUDDEN SHOCK, ~~I MEAN HE HAD NO TIME TO PREPARE,~~ HE JUST WENT TO SLEEP AND NEVER WOKE UP. AND SO HE WAS YOU KNOW AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS CAREER AT THAT TIME AND HAD A LARGE LARGE FUNERAL. AND AH THE FAMILY ASKED ME TO BE A PALLBEARER, SO I WAS A PALLBEARER FOR LOU.

**BABIARZ:** WELL FOR A GUY WHO SAID ON THE DAY HE HIRED ME, HE SAID, WITH A LITTLE LUCK YOU MIGHT LAST TWO WEEKS, AH I WAS A PALLBEARER AT HIS FUNERAL AND THAT WAS A BIG HONOR. AND IT WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED. AH YOU KNOW THE AH GOVERNOR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CONGRESSMEN, AH PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. BUT AH I I THINK AH HE WAS MOST GREATLY MISSED BY THE ~~THE~~ AVERAGE JOE WHO WATCHED HIS SHOW, I MEAN THAT THOSE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT REALLY CARED ABOUT LOU WERE HIS FANS AND AH AMAZINGLY HERE WE WERE, THIS LITTLE UHF STATION, CHANNEL 50 IN SOUTHFIELD, BUT ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, WE GOT A BIGGER RATING THAN THE ABC SUNDAY NIGHT MOVIE, SO WE HAD QUITE A LOYAL FOLLOWING AND ~~AS I SAY,~~ I THINK A LOT OF DETROITERS DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE ALSO SEEN IN SEVEN OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

**MAKUPSON:** I REMEMBER HEARING A STORY THAT ~~OF COURSE~~ AFTER LOU DIED, \*AH GEORGE WILLIAMS WHO WAS THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER AT THE TIME RAN STRAIGHT TO HIS OFFICE AND STARTED RUMAGING THROUGH HIS DRAWERS TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT MAYBE HE OUGHT TO HIDE.

**DEBORAH:** ~~I MEAN STUFF WAS HAPPENING AND AND IT WAS JUST A HUGE LOSS FOR EVERYBODY. I MEAN PE; I'M I'M NOT NAÏVE, SOME PEOPLE HATED MY DAD I MEAN THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT, BUT I THINK IN GENERAL, HE WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR AND PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE STOOD FOR. AND SO I THINK IT WAS A SHOCK TO EVERYBODY I MEAN HIS VOICE WAS GONE.~~

**COHN:** HE NEVER LIBLED, HE WAS NEVER SUED, HE NEVER RETRACTED ANYTHING.

**SCOTT:** HE WAS ASKED TO GO TO NEW YORK AND ANCHOR THE NIGHTLY NEWS IN NEW YORK AND NO, HE WANTED YOU KNOW, HE DID NOT WANT TO AH BE A TALKING HEAD AND READ THE NEWS, HE WANTED TO AFFECT CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH HE LIVED AND THAT'S WHAT HE DID.

**KELLEY:** ~~MY PERSONAL MEMORY OF HIM WAS IS JUST AH AFTER SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN, IT WAS A GOOD SHOW OR WHATEVER IT WAS, WE'D PUT OUR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER AND SAID YOU KNOW, HE'D SAY TO ME, YOU'RE THE GREATEST AND I'D SAY YOU'RE THE GREATEST AND WE WERE WARM FRIENDS AND YOU DON'T GET THAT FEELING FROM OTHER HUMAN BEINGS THAT OFTEN. AND SO HE WAS A WARM FRIEND AND AH I MISS HIM.~~

**LEVIN:** THERE'S NO ONE THAT'S REPLACED HIM. NO ONE'S COME UP SINCE THAT WHO IS IN THE PUBLIC LIFE IN THE DETROIT AREA WHO IS THAT VOICE THAT EVERYONE CAN TURN TO AND SAY AH...~~SPEAK FOR;~~ THIS PERSON SPEAKS FOR US AND WILL DEFEND OUR INTERESTS.

## **EPILOGUE**

**CLIP:** LOU GORDON PROGRAM ENDING

**IN:** THANK YOU FOR WATCHING, READ MY COLUMN...

**OUT: JACKIE:** GOOD NIGHT.

## **CREDITS**