

This is an interview with Ernst B. Schulz for *In the Age of Steel: Oral Histories from Bethlehem Pennsylvania*. The interview was conducted by Amy (Roland) Churgin on July 9, 1975 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

00:00:00 Roland: This is an interview with Mr. Ernst Schulz on December 9th, 1975, at his home on State Road in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania. This is Amy Roland. Mr. Schulz, could you tell me a little bit about your family background, about where your parents came from, what your father did, and so on?

Schulz: My father and mother were born and raised—well, my father was born in Germany, came over here when he was 3 years old. My mother was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and they were married, and lived for a while in Dayton, and moved to Cleveland. And I was born in Cleveland, and raised there, lived there some 20-odd years, ‘til I went to the University of Michigan¹. Well, before then, I had attended what was then Case School of Applied Science², and is now Case Western Reserve. And went to the University of Michigan, and studied naval architecture and marine engineering. And then I worked for a Master of Arts degree in Municipal Administration, and then eventually for a Ph.D. degree in Political Science, which I received in 1927. I was Secretary of Bureau of Government in the Department of Political Science at the University of Michigan, and then an instructor. And then there was one year I taught at the University of Cincinnati³ while a man was on leave, and came to Lehigh⁴ in 1927.

Roland: I see. Now, could you tell me a little bit about what your father did, and what you did as a child?

Schulz: My father was a commercial artist. And well, he painted that picture of my mother. He painted those two. My father painted this one; this is from out here, this house. And what did I do? Well, I went to school, East Wildredge (sp?) School in Cleveland, Ohio, for 8 years, and East Technical High School for 4 years, then Case School of Applied Science, at that time, for 3 years, and I transferred to the University of Michigan, and got my degree in Naval Architecture, and so on, in 2 years. And then I got the Master’s degree, I guess, the year after, and then the Ph.D. in 1927.

00:02:23 Roland: Now, this is when you were living in Cleveland?

Schulz: Well, technically my home was in Cleveland, yes, but of course, my wife and I were married in 1921. And I guess from ’21 [1921] to ’27 [1927] we must have been residents of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Of course, I had been in Ann Arbor as a student

¹ A public research institution located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

² Founded in 1880, this school was located in Cleveland, Ohio and was focused on providing students with a technical education.

³ A public research institution located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

⁴ A private university located in Bethlehem PA.

from 1918 on, but you don't acquire residency just as a student. And since then, we've lived—and we lived in Bethlehem from '27 [1927] to '39 [1939], and then we bought this place, and we've been out here ever since. I was born in 1896, and I lived (laughs), well, like most boys do, we played in the neighborhood: baseball, and all that sort of thing. And we didn't raise Cain, the way young people do these days. And life was much nicer than it is now, in my opinion.

00:03:24 Roland: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Schulz: One sister. She's dead. (Pause) She was older than I was.

Roland: And could you tell me a little bit more about your family?

Schulz: Well, we had 4 children: a son, Robert E. Schulz is Chief Pathologist at Wooster and Ashland, Ohio, Hospitals. And 3 daughters: Constance, she married Leonard Suffradini (sp?); they live in California. And the (inaudible)—well, Windsor Place; Santa Ana is the mailing address. Then the second oldest one lives in York County, by the way, went to Bryn Mawr, and Dorothy to Ursinus, and then the youngest one, Mary, who lives down the line here, went to Ursinus. And Connie teaches at the University of California, Irvine Branch, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry. And Dorothy taught; she also worked in Pittsburgh, somewhere. What in the world did she do? Computer stuff; mathematics was her line, and taught school for a while. And Mary taught school, and of course she's married. I have 10 grandchildren: 3 in Ohio, my son's; Burbank, Ohio is where they live. And Connie, 2 on the west coast, California, and Dorothy, 2 in York, and Mary, 3 little girls, 10 years old, and 10, 8, and I guess 4. And that's what you see around here! (Laughs)

Roland: (Laughs)

Schulz: And that's about all. And my wife, of course, who's a Lillie by name, L-I-L-L-I-E, originally from Pittsburgh, and then Detroit, Michigan. She went to University of Michigan. And she has a brother who was in the Marine Air Force, and he lives in the Virgin Islands. That's enough information needed. And I've always had daschunds, ever since 1921. You want more details? (Laughs)

00:05:55 Roland: No, that's fine. Could you tell me a little bit about your first job, your early work experience?

Schulz: Well, when I was at Case, I had summer jobs in civil engineering and at Prince, Lemaster, and Mullen (sp?) Construction Company⁵. And then I worked for a surveyor whose name I've forgotten; I think it was Huffman (sp?). And then, of

⁵ Project staff were unable to locate this business.

course, then I went to the University of Michigan, and during the summer I didn't hold any jobs. I had the work at the University, of course, Secretary of the Bureau of Government, and things like that. And when I was younger, before I went to college, I played tennis; I swam. I loafed. I enjoyed myself. (Laughs) No job!

00:06:55 Roland: And then you came to Lehigh in—

Schulz: In '27 [1927].

Roland: —1927, right.

Schulz: That's right.

Roland: And could you tell me your first impressions of Bethlehem? What really stood out?

Schulz: Oh, my! That's a question that is very difficult to answer. I don't know what my impressions were. I had an aunt and uncle who lived here. My uncle was connected with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

Roland: Could you tell me a little bit about him?

Schulz: Well, he was a competent man. He was Superintendent⁶ of the Gray Mills⁷, and then eventually Assistant Superintendent of the Saucon Plant [Bethlehem, Pennsylvania]. Had 3 sons. Wait a minute—yeah, 1, 2, 3. No, there were 4—4 sons, yeah. One of them, I think, is still alive, and I'm not too certain of that. I know the other 3 have passed out. They went to Lehigh, so they're ex-Lehigh people. But I don't know, my impression of Bethlehem as a place? I don't know whether I had any impression.

Roland: Well, what happened when you first—?

Schulz: My general impression of people along the Atlantic Coast is that they're extremely provincial, as compared to the attitudes that prevail the farther west you go. But maybe that's a false impression.

Roland: Well, if it's your impression, it's not.

⁶ A person in management charged with overseeing or directing an organization.

⁷ A wide flange structural shape mill located in the Saucon Division consisting of three stands, each driven by a twin tandem reversing steam engine.

Schulz: Well, I just had that feeling. But you know how those things are; they don't mean anything. But that was my impression.

00:08:34 Roland: Well, what happened when you first came to Bethlehem? You were employed in the—?

Schulz: At Lehigh University, Department of History and Government. Gipson⁸ was the head of the department, an historian. Sidney Brown⁹ was an historian. He's dead. George Harmon¹⁰ was an historian; he's still alive. I was the government man. And this personnel changed eventually. They added another government man in the '30's [1930], and then eventually—I say eventually too often. The Department of Government was created, and separated from the Department of History and Government. And Tressolini¹¹, who is now dead, was head of the Department of Government. And we had, let's see, Tressolini and I, Ross Yates¹², Donald Barry¹³, who's still over there. Ross Yates, of course, is. He was Dean of the College of Arts and Science. And Patterson, who left; I don't know where he is. And who else was there? Probably that's about it, but there may have been someone else in there. Let me say this quietly, so they won't hear. (Whispers) I guess that's all. (Laughs) Go ahead!

Roland: No, what were you going to say?

Schulz: Well, I was just checking up on the personnel. I might have overlooked one.

00:10:22 Roland: What was Bethlehem—I'm really interested in what Bethlehem was like at this time. Where'd you live in Bethlehem? What was it like?

Schulz: Well, first of all we lived on New Street. And then we moved to Center Street [Bethlehem, Pennsylvania], and then we moved to Wall Street[Bethlehem], and then we moved to Linden Street[Bethlehem]. And from Linden Street, we came out here.

Roland: So you did quite a bit of moving.

⁸ Lawrence H. Gipson was a former professor of History at Lehigh University who won the 1950 Bancroft Prize and the 1962 Pulitzer Prize for History.

⁹ Taught European History at Lehigh University.

¹⁰ Former head of the Government and History department at Lehigh University.

¹¹ Refers to Rocco J. Tressolini who taught Constitutional Law at Lehigh University.

¹² Former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Lehigh University.

¹³ Former professor of Government at Lehigh University.

Schulz: Well, the reason was that the New Street place was nice, but a little too small. And then the Center Street place I thought was nice. It was an old house; it's still there, and sort of an attractive yard. But my wife was the one who wanted to move. And what motivates women is beyond me; after 79 years, I still don't know. And then we lived on Wall Street, and liked it very much there, and I think that place was sold. And then we moved to Linden Street, then we came out here. And that was it.

00:11:35 Roland: Okay. In terms of transportation, how did you get yourself to Lehigh, and how did everybody else?

Schulz: Well, I generally drove in my car. Once in a while I walked, but walking from the North Side, over, you know, and climbing up the hill. In the summer, you'd perspire, and in the winter, I'd perspire. And driving a car was the easiest way, and there wasn't any parking problem then, the way there is now. You can't even get near the place! It isn't so bad down at Maginnes Hall¹⁴, but up—our office were in Coppee Hall¹⁵.

Roland: I just want to—I hate to interrupt you, but I just wanted to ask: when did you get your first car, do you remember?

Schulz: My first car?

Roland: Yeah.

Schulz: A 1918 Ford Model T, with lights on magneto, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It cost me 50 bucks.

Roland: Oh, wow!

Schulz: I drove it a couple years, and I sold it for 100 dollars.

Roland: That's a pretty good bit.

Schulz: (Laughs)

Roland: And then so when you came out to Lehigh, to Bethlehem, you had your own car?

¹⁴ Opened in 1970 as Maginnes Hall of Liberal Arts, this Lehigh University building is located at 9 West Packer Avenue..

¹⁵ Named for Henry Coppee who was the first president of Lehigh University, this is a building on Lehigh University's campus located at 33 Coppee Drive.

Schulz: We had a Ford Coupe at that time. I think it was a 1926 Ford Coupe.

Roland: Do you remember how—the other modes of transportation in the city?

Schulz: Here?

Roland: Yeah.

Schulz: In Bethlehem?

Roland: In Bethlehem. How else did everybody else get around? Did most people have cars?

Schulz: Well, a great many did. I'm just trying to recall. Buses? I don't remember any—I don't know whether there were any trolleys or not—probably not. But I presume buses, and yet that seems a little strange, back in 1927. I think it must have been buses. I visited Bethlehem in the summer of 1920; I visited my aunts. And by that time, the depot, the Lehigh Valley [Pennsylvania] and the so on depot wasn't there. And it seems to me there was a trolley that ran then. That's 54 years ago! Don't expect me to remember things like that! My wife can tell you everything that happened from the day she was born until now, but I'm not like that.

00:14:10 Roland: Okay, well then, could you tell me a little bit about how you saw Bethlehem changing, from 1927 'til now?

Schulz: (Laughs) God! Well, since I've lived out here, I don't go into Bethlehem any oftener than necessary, for obvious reasons. And of course, now they're messing around with Broad Street [Bethlehem, Pennsylvania], and tearing down buildings, and what are they creating? A mall, or putting up another hotel, and things of that type? And frankly, I am not enthusiastic about the idea, but that's what they're doing. But otherwise, the residential areas are about the same, so far as I can recall. Of course, there has been more movement out, into the surrounding area—what you'd call suburban area, but it isn't really in the sense that you speak of a suburban area in the Philadelphia section. So, it's hard to say! I doubt that it's changed a great deal. Maybe it has.

Roland: What about in terms of safety?

Schulz: Hm?

Roland: In terms of safety, have you seen it change? I know that it was a favorite pastime back then to take walks at night?

Schulz: Oh, yeah, well you could move around anywhere, in Cleveland, or Ohio, or here, and you weren't likely to be mugged or anything. And if women were raped, they never put it in the newspapers. I never heard about it. And I think it was perfectly safe to move around. It's only in the last, what is it, 10 or 15 years that this sort of terrorism has developed. But I never thought anything of walking around at night. I don't know that my wife went out so much, but if she did, she didn't worry about it. And one nice thing about Bethlehem, in those days they had these small grocery stores. And you could walk, for instance, from Center Street[Bethlehem, Pennsylvania] down to Main Street [Bethlehem, Pennsylvania]; there was a nice small grocery store. And then there was one at the corner of Center Street right near our home. And of course now, all that's out. Those little stores have folded up. You have your supermarkets, and you have to drive your car, and park, and part with your money for very little, as you will know if you start buying food, and so on. That's about it, I guess. So there has been change in that way, but it isn't peculiar to Bethlehem.

Roland: I understand. I know that since you've been at Lehigh, the school has grown in population.

Schulz: Yeah, I was trying to think the other day of enrollment when I came in '27 [1927]. You can check it. I think it must have been around 1,500 students.

Roland: That sounds about right.

Schulz: Close to it—probably a little higher. Then, there was a time when it was 1,800. But now, what is it, over 3,000? I don't know what it is.

Roland: Yeah.

Schulz: Well over 3,000. Expensive place to go, too.

Roland: Mm-hm. Could you tell me how the growth of Lehigh, as a university, has changed Bethlehem? Have you seen that? Is there any way you could describe that to me?

Schulz: I've never thought about it.

Roland: (Inaudible)

Schulz: Well, why would it change Bethlehem?

Roland: Well, I think a lot of people think that Bethlehem is either owned by Lehigh University or the steel company.

Schulz: The steel company.

Roland: I was just wondering what you thought about that?

Schulz: Well, I presume that the steel company has exercised a sort of a dominant influence, but I doubt that Lehigh has. I may be wrong; you don't always know what's going on behind the scenes. I tended to my business, and I don't think I speculated on the question. I suppose Lehigh exerts some influence, but how much, I have no idea. Ask the President of the University, and some of the others, members of the Board of Trustees, and so on. They would know.

00:18:48 Roland: When you were working for Lehigh University, when you were employed as a professor, can you remember one outstanding person who seemed very strong and influential in the university, any one of the Presidents, or the Chairmen of the Board?

Schulz: There would be quite a few that might fill the bill. You're thinking of someone outside the department?

Roland: Right, right, and I was wondering if you could tell me about these people?

Schulz: Well, Max McConn¹⁶, a Dean under Richards. Richards was an outstanding President, Charles Russ Richards¹⁷, and Max McConn was Dean. George Curtis, I think, was Registrar. And McConn was influential; no doubt about that. And then eventually, Glenn Christensen¹⁸ became rather influential. Of course, he was Dean of the Arts College, if I'm not mistaken, and then became Dean of the University, I think. And he was influential. And then the present Dean, a chemist—offhand I can't think of his name. But he was just coming up in the days of McConn and Christensen. Then the Presidents: Williams¹⁹ followed Richards, and then when Williams went out temporarily, the 3 Deans, the Deans of the 3 college,

¹⁶ McConn became Dean of Lehigh University in 1923.

¹⁷ Former President of Lehigh University who was in office when the first graduate degrees were awarded to women by the institution.

¹⁸ Former Provost of Lehigh University who served from 1961-1969.

¹⁹ Clement C. Williams was the president of Lehigh University from 1935-1944.

Callen²⁰, Palmer²¹, and Carothers²² took over. And then they brought in, I think it was Whitaker²³, who was President, and then eventually Harvey Neville²⁴. And now, I think Lewis²⁵ succeeded Neville. Well, I've survived Presidents, as we were surviving, some of them, with Washington. I'll make no comments on what I think of the Presidents of the United States in recent years! (Laughs)

Roland: Could you tell me a little bit about Grace, the President? I mean, the Chairman of the Board?

Schulz: Eugene Grace²⁶? I didn't know him. I think I met him at a Presidential Reception; that's all. I knew about him indirectly through my uncle, but nothing worth mentioning.

Roland: Do you remember him as being particularly influential, or powerful?

Schulz: I think Grace was an extremely influential person.

Roland: Could you tell me why?

Schulz: Well, he's head of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He's a wealthy man, and he was a capable person. And I suppose, although I didn't know him personally, that he had plenty of drive. What else can you say?

Roland: You mentioned Max McConn?

Schulz: Yeah.

Roland: Can you tell me a little bit more about him?

²⁰ Alfred Copeland Callen served as the Dean of the College of Engineering at Lehigh University.

²¹ Philip Mason Palmer served as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Lehigh University.

²² Neil Carothers served as Dean of the College of Business Administration at Lehigh University.

²³ Martin Whitaker was the former President of Lehigh University from 1946-1960.

²⁴ Former President of Lehigh University from 1961-1964 and was the only faculty member elected to this post.

²⁵ Former President of Lehigh University from 1964-1982.

²⁶ Served as the President and then Chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation from 1913 to 1945 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1945 to 1957.

Schulz: (Sighs) I always thought he was an extremely competent individual: well-informed, spoke well, had a nice presence, pleasant, friendly, and competent. That's it.

00:22:20 Roland: To change the topic a little, could you tell me what you did in your spare time, in your leisure time, at Lehigh?

Schulz: (Laughs) Gracious! I bowled, I raced homing pigeons. I played golf occasionally. And of course, I wrote: publish or perish. But I eventually published 4 books, 2 of them since I've been retired. One, I think, on American city government in 1948, and another one that saw publication in when was it—1958? I can look; it's in there. And of course, democracy book in 1966, and Essentials of American Government, with several revisions, beginning in 1969. So, I was writing. But, I wrote a few articles, but I didn't go over the article line. I worked on—the American City Government took me quite a few years to complete, and it's a much more elaborate book in city government than was the case at the time of publication. Most of them were good books, but they didn't have as much in them as mine. Whether that's an asset or a liability is a debatable question.

Roland: In terms of leisure time, you said you bowled and raced homing—?

Schulz: Oh, bowled, and I raced homing pigeons. I still have them; I'd like to get rid of them. I haven't raced them. But you can't get rid of them except by killing them, and that I'm not going to do. I guess some of them are 14 and 15 years old. But, and then, of course, we used to play cards, and bridge. I think my wife belonged to a bridge club, and of course, she went to this ladies' stuff at the university, whatever they call it. The ladies have an organization, the wives of the faculty; I don't know. She can tell you all that. (Laughs) But that was about it. We'd go out for a picnic on the weekends, because the kids always enjoyed it, in the general vicinity, along the Delaware River²⁷, or up in the Poconos [Pennsylvania], places like that.

Roland: Did you belong to a bowling league?

Schulz: Did I? Yes.

Roland: Were you on a team?

Schulz: Well, the bowling began with Sidney Brown²⁸, who was in the History Department. We bowled, the Episcopalian Church, for quite a few years. Then I bowled at the PNP Lanes in Hellertown [Pennsylvania]; I was on a team there. We won

²⁷ A major river on the Atlantic coast of the United States.

²⁸ Taught European History at Lehigh University.

several championships. And now I bowl at Quaker Lanes. I bowl on a team, Thursday night, and I generally bowl 3 afternoons a week with the ex-Postmaster of Coopersburg, Tilghman Cooper²⁹. That keeps us in shape, and also keeps us aggravated, because when you get old, you don't average as well as you once did. I used to average in the 180's, and now I battle for the 160's. And of course, we don't like it! (Laughs) When you're 79 years old, you don't have the control or the balance that you once had, so you simply have to accept it.

00:26:01 Roland: Were you involved in the community in any way? Being a Government Professor, did that lead you to—?

Schulz: No. There was a time, and I've forgotten just when, when I was still living in Bethlehem, when Carl Palmer³⁰, who was the son of Dean Palmer, and I led a movement. We circulated petitions directed against the then-Superintendent of School and the School Board. And I think that eventually that bore fruit. But that's the only time I was active in civic affairs. And (chuckles) it took a little time; it was an interesting experience. And I believe that it paid off, although it's difficult to say. You can look up the accounts in the *Bethlehem Globe-Times*³¹. It was in the '30's [1930], before we came out here. (Clears throat) of course, it might have been in '37 [1937] or '38 [1938]. You might be interested in reading it. We presented the petition before the School Board. As I recall it, they didn't want to recognize us, and we just popped these things down on the table. But this is just a recollection, which is sort of dim! (Laughs) I don't try to store trivial things in my mind for any great length of time. (Clears throat) But some people have memories that are sharp as to what happened years ago—my wife, for example. But I don't. I don't try to remember things like that. (Clears throat)

00:27:44 Roland: Could you tell about the social life at Lehigh? About, if you ever remember chaperoning a—?

Schulz: Oh, we chaperoned one or 2 fraternity dances; I recall that. One, at least—I think 2. And I guess we attended some of the dances they gave for the faculty. Yeah, it must have been up in Drown Hall³², as I remember. That's about it. I wasn't active socially, as compared to some of the others. We'd be invited out to play bridge, which we did, and occasionally, of course, invited people over. But, I would say that on the social side, we were comparatively inactive. I'm comparing myself to some other faculty members whose names I will not mention! (Laughs)

Roland: What about in terms of the sports events? Did you ever go to Lehigh football games?

²⁹ Served as the Postmaster of Coopersburg, Pennsylvania from 1933-1970

³⁰ Project staff were unable to identify this person.

³¹ A newspaper published in Easton, Pennsylvania that is now called the Express Times due to merger with The Express newspaper.

³² Named after Thomas Messinger Drown, former President of Lehigh University, this building on the Lehigh University campus currently houses the English department.

Schulz: I attended some, yeah. But, I wasn't an enthusiast. After attending football games at the University of Michigan, it was quite a come-down. And I went, but well, you couldn't help but compare the differences. What would you expect? The Big Ten compared to this? And Lehigh's football has improved tremendously, but I haven't been to a football game here for years. They always send us a pass, but I just don't want to bother, getting into crowds and everything. I'd rather sit, or work outside, or do something like that.

Roland: Can you tell me what the students did at Lehigh—their social life?

Schulz: Well, I don't know what they do today, but—

Roland: No, what they did back then.

Schulz: Well, they had dances, and I presume they played cards. And I think there were—I'm not sure. I'm thinking—there were bowling alleys in the Michigan Union at Ann Arbor. I guess nothing like that at Lehigh. And I suppose they imbibed, beer and other intoxicating beverages, but I don't know to what—I don't ever recall seeing any of them drunk, except maybe on some of these social occasions. I'll say one thing for them: they had short hair and no—(pause in recording).

Roland: If you could just tell me what you were just saying, about long hair?

Schulz: Well, I don't care for these long-haired men and boys with a lot of whiskers. I like short hair and clean face. That's a matter of individual taste, that's all. If a person wants long hair, that's his business. But I don't have to look at him unless he gets in my way, and of course, some of these long-haired people don't take proper care of their hair, and I don't suppose they wash it, and so on and so forth. But I'm just old-fashioned in that respect.

00:31:29 Roland: Back when you came to Lehigh in the late '20's [1920] or early '30's [1930], was there a closeness between the students and the faculty? Can you see how maybe the esprit de corps has changed (inaudible)?

Schulz: Well, I don't know what the present situation is. I think that you came to know your majors pretty well, because you'd see those. Other students, you'd get to know in a sort of incidental way, but not as well as you knew your majors. And of course, you confined your activities to one building, and so far as the teaching was concerned, it was Coppee Hall³³. And you didn't get to see too many of the others, except, you know, as passing by, or in a large class, you sit there. I could look

³³ Named for Henry Coppee who was the first president of Lehigh University, this is a building on Lehigh University's campus located at 33 Coppee Drive.

up my roll books and look at all the names; some of them I remember, but most of them I don't. But I still have those kicking around somewhere.

Roland: Do you think that it was—you were closer to your students earlier rather than in the '60's [1960], or just before you retired? Did students come to you with their personal problems, or was it more on a more student-faculty—?

Schulz: Well, I imagine the situation didn't change over the years, so far as I can tell. Some students will always come in to see you, and others don't bother unless there's some particular reason for it. So I don't know that there's any difference, or there was any difference between 1927 and 1965, when I stepped out. It might be that there was, but I wasn't aware of it, and I guess I didn't give it any thought. But one interesting thing, which you haven't asked me, is that during the years there, and until the war, the Departments of History and Government, and Lafayette, held a monthly meeting, at which some designated member of the group read a paper. So that was cooperation with Lafayette. They had some very competent people at Lafayette, and of course we thought we were competent at Lehigh. But the war broke that up. See, that was inspired by Dr. Gipson and Stever (sp?), who was head of the Department of Government at Lafayette³⁴.

00:34:21 Roland: Could you tell me how the war affected Lehigh?

Schulz: Well, (sighs) I think we had 3 full semesters a year, and the Foreign Area Language group was brought in here. You may have heard about it. And I had a very large group of students, a large Foreign Area Language group, that filled Room 1 in Coppee Hall. I've forgotten how many seats were there.

Roland: Quite a few.

Schulz: Must run well over 100. And the ROTC³⁵ was active; of course it had been prior to the war. It still is, isn't it?

Roland: Mm-hm.

Schulz: So, that's about it. And of course, it helped me financially, in a way, teaching that extra semester. It helped me educate my children. And of course, my son could go to Lehigh tuition-free, and the daughters eventually took graduate work there, all 3 of them. And that didn't cost anything. I guess now they charge for it, don't they? I think the situation has changed. So that was about it, but—

³⁴ A private, four-year college located in Easton, PA.

³⁵ Stands for The Reserve Officers' Training Corps in which students agree to serve in the military for a period of time in exchange for college tuition.

Roland: What about in terms of population in the school? During the war, was there a lot of people coming in?

Schulz: Well, these Foreign Area Language people came in, definitely, yes. But I have no idea about the statistical angle of it. That you could probably find in the records of the university, yeah. But I know there were a good many of them. I was trying to think of other things that might be interesting, but at the moment, I can't think of anything. You ask me some questions. Maybe you're running out of gas! (Laughs)

00:36:26 Roland: No. Let's see. Being that you were a Government Professor, how do you view Bethlehem, or more Lehigh's political stance on things? Do you think they're liberal, conservative? And how do you feel about this?

00:37:27 Schulz: Well, it's hard to say what the attitude is today, but I think that generally over the years, the attitude was on the conservative side, somewhere to the right of center. But how far, I don't know. And that was not necessarily the point of view of members of the faculty, and it isn't now, either, so far—a good many of them are on the liberal side. There are a good many who favored McGovern in the last election. Certainly that was true in the Department of Government; I don't know about the others, but I know what their views were. And so far as influence in the city was concerned, I was Advisor to the Bethlehem City Charter Commission³⁶, and—

Roland: Excuse me, you were Advisor to—?

Schulz: The Bethlehem City Charter Commission. Of course personally, I favor the Council-Manager plan³⁷, but they went for the Strong Mayor-Council plan³⁸, which is an improvement on commission government. But the trouble with a Strong Mayor-Council plan is the same as with the national government: you have separation of powers, checks and balances, divided responsibility. You have government by the calendar instead of by the political situation, and I could go on and on, and so on, but the American people are sold on it. And I ran across a clipping from Will Rogers³⁹ just a little while ago. I'm going to go up and get it, and we'll read it into the record. Can you shut that off? (Pause in recording) Will Rogers speaking (reads): 'On account of us being a democracy, and being run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government for 4 years, no matter what it does.' See, that's all the result of separation of powers, and checks and

³⁶ Project staff were unable to identify this term.

³⁷ A form of municipal government in which an elected, usually nonpartisan, council sets policy, passes ordinances, and appoints a city manager. [link]

³⁸ A form of mayor-council government which usually consists of an executive branch, a mayor elected by voters, and a unicameral council as the legislative branch and in which the mayor has almost complete administrative authority.

³⁹ Well known humorist and social commentator who was popular in the 1920s and 1930s.

balances. And then this one is pertinent (reads): ‘Once a man holds a public office, he is absolutely no good for honest work.’ Put that in the record. (Laughs) I agree, to that in the main! But it’s a waste of time, trying to tell the American people some of these things, at least most of them, because they’re tradition-bound. And now, we’re going to celebrate the Bicentennial? Looking back 200 years? What we really need to do is to look ahead, not only the next 100 years, but the immediate future, and see if we can—if the country will ever get out of the mess it’s in. But that takes time.

Roland: I’m sorry, go ahead.

Schulz: I said, that takes time!

00:38:45 Roland: I just have one more question to ask you, about the way the students and faculty of Lehigh—I understand now that the general consensus of the students and the faculty is that Lehigh as a whole is an apathetic place, that people don’t really care. And I was wondering if you thought that further back in time, did they care?

Schulz: I don’t know. I suppose the people cared, but probably they do now, but fail to express themselves. That could be. See, I’m (inaudible) touch the situation. And you get sort of disgusted, listening to news. And I personally think that most of the troubles in the world today are due to the wars that have been fought throughout the twentieth century: WWI, WWII, and subsequent wars, this Korean venture, and Vietnam, and things of that type. And I remember one statement Eisenhower⁴⁰ made was worth remembering, too—I mean, that is worth recalling. And that is that ‘the military-industrial complex’ should be watched. I’ve forgotten just how he worded it, but he warned the country against the military-industrial complex. And you know yourself that that is the case! War is a big business. It’s money, and you have war-minded people, apparently, in office all over the world, with maybe the exception of Switzerland and possibly a few other countries. And the present administration is willing to spend any amount of money for so-called defense or security, and other things are less important. You can see how my thinking is along those lines. So, it’s too bad. But personally, I attribute a great many of the problems of the day to the wars, and the war spirit, and the militarism which prevails. And all this scaring business, and this constant talk about national security—which is something to be remembered, of course. But I wonder if sometimes it isn’t over done, if it isn’t part of the technique of keeping the pot boiling. I’m just wondering about these things; I don’t know. But that’s all. This is a good country, and bad as conditions are here, I presume they’re—I know they’re worse in some places. Conditions aren’t too good in Great Britain, for example. The Irish are shooting each other, and you have the Mohammedans and the Christians fighting each other in Lebanon, to mention just a few places. And the Middle East is a danger spot.

⁴⁰ Five star general of the United States and the 34th President of the United States from 1953-1961.

Roland: Do you feel that any of these things parallel things that happened back in the '20's [1920] or the '30's [1930]? Or do you think these are new developments?

Schulz: Well, until WWI—see, we got into WWI after it had been in progress for 3 or 4 years. Let's see, it started in 1914. I guess we got into it in 1918, either 1918 or late 1917. And then it ended. And we got into the (inaudible) after the fight had been fought for quite a while. And of course, there was tremendous enthusiasm on the part of the American people for participation in WWI. The bands played, and the songs were sung, and the general atmosphere that I recall was that there was as much excitement and enthusiasm as there is for a Lehigh-Lafayette football game, for example. Well, after, in the later years, these other wars, that enthusiasm was not so noticeable. In fact, it wasn't noticeable at all. But that first, the glorious adventure at first, and it's difficult to understand these things, because war is hell. And even worse, I think.

00:44:40 Roland: Well, that's about it. Is there anything else that you—?

Schulz: No, I can't think of anything to add to it. I am not an extremist in any way. That is, I'm not extreme right and I'm not extreme left. I suppose I'm a center of the road person, by and large. I don't like to listen to constant news reports of crime and rape and terrorism. I don't like the crime things and the police things that are on television, a steady diet for the young people who watch them—which they do. Some of them are interesting enough, but I don't like the theme. I prefer a happier theme. The other night—when's it? Last week, they had the Showboat. Did you see it?

Roland: No.

Schulz: Well, it was worth seeing, and the music is nice, and it's an inspiring sort of thing, pleasant. But you don't see too much of that anymore. Nothing I can do about it.

Roland: Okay, well, thank you very much, Mr. Ernest Schulz, for—

Schulz: Right, my name is E-R-N-S-T. It isn't Ernest.

Roland: It's Ernst.

Schulz: Yeah, Ernst, that's the German.

Roland: Right, right.

Schulz: But the Americans always make it into Ernest. Is this thing on?

Roland: Yes.

Schulz: Oh, and another thing that is done in the United States, Schulz, S-C-H-U-L-Z—Schulz, you pronounce the Z like a T-Z. Well then, of course, the United States, and even in Germany, I guess, the T is stuck in, but we don't happen to have a T in. Now, it doesn't make much difference how your name is spelled, but there are times when it's necessary it be spelled correctly. This is not one of the times. But when you're writing a check or a bill, or filling out something like that, then it is significant, so that there is no problem with identification. But I've been battling that—all through grammar school the teachers called me Ernest, and I didn't care; I didn't bother. And the misspelled name, the T in the name, that doesn't mean anything. It's a trivial matter, but I say, there are just certain circumstances when it's important to have your name spelled correctly. And what's in a name, anyhow?

Roland: (Laughs) Thank you.

Schulz: You're a Roland?

Roland: Right.

Schulz: Roland, or Rolland?

Roland: Roland.

Schulz: English background?

Roland: No.

Schulz: What is it?

Roland: I think a really long time ago, it was Hungarian.

Schulz: Hungarian? Well, that's good. It doesn't mean anything. See, this country is a hyphenated country. All the people are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, and they can't forget about the old country ties. And that's why Irishmen here are excited about what's happening in Ireland, or the Germans about Germany, or the French about the French, or the English about English. And the Greeks, and the Poles, the whole bunch of them! And it's just too bad, in a way, because they're over here, and let these, the countries of their ancestors, solve their own problems, without trying to drag the Americans in! But, that's the way we are, I guess. See, there was bitterness in this country. In WWI, of course, everybody who had a German name was labeled pro-German. And I don't doubt that there was some sympathy for the Germans on the part of descendants of Germans in this country. They had relatives over there—it's natural. Just as, I guess, the Irish who live here have relatives in Ireland, and they're concerned about what's going on.

Roland: When you came to Bethlehem, did you live in the German section of the town?

Schulz: I don't even know where the German section is! (Laughs) We lived on New Street [Bethlehem, Pennsylvania]; I've forgotten the number: down the hill, going north, on the right-hand side, in that row of houses. It might have been 1020 New Street, but I'm not certain of that—something like that. Nice trees in the front now; they've grown up since we were there. They were pretty sparse. We lived next door to the Cowan's, Roy Cowan⁴¹ (sp?), who was in the College of Business Administration. He's gone; his wife is gone, too. In fact, most of the people I knew pretty well at Lehigh are gone. Elmer Bratt⁴², Earl Trum⁴³ (sp?), and Fred Bradford⁴⁴, to mention three. So, there aren't too many left of the old-timers. I guess it's a case of the good dying young, and the evil boys last! (Laughs) Well, that's a saying! So, my chances of long life are pretty good!

Roland: (Laughs)

Schulz: Well, that's all. I'm going to bring my wife in and you can meet her.

(end of recording)

⁴¹ Project staff were unable to identify this person.

⁴² Taught accounting at Lehigh University.

⁴³ Project staff were unable to identify this person.

⁴⁴ Taught Engineering at Lehigh University.