

University of California, San Diego

25th Anniversary Oral History Project

Interview with Governor Edmund Brown

August 20, 1985 — Governor Brown's office in Los Angeles

Interviewer. Dr. Kathryn Ringrose

1 **BROWN:** Well, let's begin.

2 **RINGROSE:** I'm interested in the fact that when you became governor in 1959, the first
3 Democrat to hold office for a considerable period, Dr. Kerr was developing his plan for a multi-
4 campus expansion of the University of California. I am curious to know what you thought of
5 those plans, how they matched your ideas about the directions that education should be going
6 in California.

7 **BROWN:** Well. I haven't any recollection of what happened. I can only tell you that I had been
8 attorney general for eight years and I had been a lawyer in that capacity for two Republican
9 governors, Governor [Earl] Warren and Governor [Goodwin] Knight, and I had a real conception
10 of the growth of California, not only in education but in every field of activity. I cannot remember
11 what part Dr. [Clark] Kerr played in it, but of course he was the key to the University of
12 California. I can't remember if I knew him before or not, or whether I met him after I was elected
13 governor. But, we had around 300 to 350,000 new people coming into California in 1958. These
14 figures may be wrong. We had approximately 200,000 youngsters entering the first grade of
15 school and twelve short years later they would be graduating from high school or leaving high
16 school. I just figured that if only 40% wanted to go on to higher education that that would mean
17 about 80,000 new students every year. There was not only this birth rate but there was in-
18 migration bringing in more children. Well, that made 80,000 that you had to provide for twelve
19 short years later. You don't build a university overnight, so whether it was Dr. Kerr or my
20 educational advisers or myself that developed a plan for a multi-campus expansion, I can't tell
21 you. I only know that I knew what I had to do during my first year. I had won the election as
22 governor by over a million votes, and I knew I had a lot of power.

23 **RINGROSE:** Well, you had also campaigned as a big supporter of education. Hadn't you?

24 **BROWN:** I had. My wife is a graduate of the University of California, and my daughter is a
25 graduate. I think she graduated in 1958. I can't remember, but at any rate I had a tremendous
26 respect for the university. That was supplemented by the fact that I had no university education
27 at all. I went right from high school into law school, so I probably had an inferiority complex with
28 respect to the university, so I wanted to develop and build it. When my wife was going to the
29 university, I was over there every weekend to see her, and I just had tremendous respect for
30 higher education. Whether Dr. Kerr developed the plan for the multi-campus...

31 **RINGROSE:** When I interviewed him, he said that initially he felt that you favored expanding
32 the state colleges, and, as you worked together, you became the best supporter that the

33 university system has ever had. He was very flattering about that. I am interested in the way
34 you're thinking might have changed in this regard.

35 **BROWN:** Well, I just wanted... You could only take care of so many at Berkeley and at UCLA
36 and let's see, where else did we have campuses at that time?

37 **RINGROSE:** There was a small campus at Riverside.

38 **BROWN:** At Riverside, and that was kind of specialized, too. And at Davis. Davis was an
39 agricultural college at that time. So, I just knew we had to invest in higher education, whether it
40 was Dr. Kerr's plan or mine or my advisers. I can't tell, but, you see, the university was only one
41 thing that we had to expand. We wanted to expand the water program for the state. We wanted
42 to expand the highway program. We wanted to expand the prison program. I wanted to provide
43 for growth, and I wasn't then, and I am not now, too concerned about taxation. I realize the
44 effect that it has on business coming into California, but I wanted the government to play its
45 proper part in making California a great state in which to live.

46 **RINGROSE:** This particular issue is of interest to us in San Diego because initially, I think,
47 there was some thought of turning San Diego State into a branch of the university, and they had
48 to work out whether we would start over with a new branch that was our own separate, based
49 on the Scripps Institution at La Jolla, or whether a major expansion program would go on at San
50 Diego State.

51 **BROWN:** Well, we also expanded the state colleges. I think we started six new state colleges
52 and three new University of California campuses. We started one at San Diego, we started one
53 in Orange County, and we started one at Santa Cruz. Then we made general campuses out of
54 Davis and Riverside. So, there was a real investment in higher education when I became
55 governor.

56 **RINGROSE:** How do you feel about this in the longer term, looking back at decentralization
57 and the creation of these regional campuses. Do you think it was a good idea?

58 **BROWN:** Well, I don't see how you could have done anything else. A university now of 30 or
59 35,000 students is too big for any degree of individual training and contact with the students. As
60 a matter of fact, the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los
61 Angeles have still been the most popular campuses, even though they are the biggest.

62 Now, the University of California, Santa Cruz, is a rather isolated campus, and I didn't favor that.
63 I was the one regent that opposed it. I wanted to build it in Santa Clara County. I wanted to build
64 it south of San Jose. There was a great area down there, but the Cowell Cement people were
65 giving us some land at Santa Cruz.

66 Now the campus at Irvine, too, you should be interested in knowing, [the Irvine Company] was
67 giving us 1,000 acres and had offered to sell us 500 more. When I sat in the meeting--I tried to
68 separate myself as governor from my role as a regent of the university because I wore two hats.
69 I had to prepare the budget and take care of other demands of the state and you couldn't give

70 the university and the educational system all of the money, so when I went down there to the
71 meeting for the Irvine campus, I thought to myself, UCLA, and I thought of the stores and
72 businesses that were created by the University of California at Los Angeles and I thought to
73 myself, at Irvine, instead of giving us 1,000 acres they should sell us 10,000 acres and we will
74 develop the real estate and the shopping centers and all that. Well, you could have heard a pin
75 drop because a great many of those people on the Board of Regents, well, not a great many but
76 two or three of them, men that I have a great deal of respect for by the way, they really had a
77 financial interest in Irvine.

78 **RINGROSE:** That's right. I have read about that.

79 **BROWN:** They were on the board of trustees of the Irvine Estate. But you are interested in San
80 Diego.

81 **RINGROSE:** Yes, though we had some similar situations going on in San Diego.

82 **BROWN:** I wasn't familiar with that. I can't remember what you had down there. You had a kind
83 of an oceanographic center...

84 **RINGROSE:** Right. The Scripps Institution for Oceanography is a branch of the University of
85 California.

86 In its early stages the campus was offered at least ten sites in the San Diego area, some of
87 which were analogous to the Irvine site, large tracts offered with the idea that a university
88 campus would increase the value of the rest of the property, but Roger Revelle was committed
89 to the Camp Matthews site, which was military land that was being de-acquisitioned.

90 **BROWN:** I remember Roger Revelle. He was a tough guy in the thing. I liked him and I think he
91 liked me.

92 **RINGROSE:** He had a vision for the campus.

93 **BROWN:** Yes, he did. But then they didn't appoint him chancellor. I think he was rather
94 disappointed; I can't remember. Or was he chancellor?

95 **RINGROSE:** No, he was never chancellor. He was, for a short time, director of the Institute of
96 Science and Technology, which was the intermediate...

97 **BROWN:** He left in disappointment at not being appointed chancellor.

98 **RINGROSE:** He went to Harvard to start a new program, and now he is back at UCSD.

99 **BROWN:** Well, give him my regards.

100 **RINGROSE:** I will. I recently did an interview with him and he is still quite well.

101 **BROWN:** What is the enrollment at San Diego now?

102 **RINGROSE:** I think we are about 12 or 13,000 now.

103 **BROWN:** Yes, well you can't separate the university and the state college and the community
104 college because we came up with a master plan for higher education in which the top twelve-
105 and one-half percent went to the university and the next one third went to the state colleges and
106 everybody else with a high school diploma got into the community colleges. Dr. Kerr was afraid
107 that with more going into the state colleges they would sooner or later become a rival of the
108 university and he wanted to protect the intellectual quality of the university. He wanted a
109 constitutional amendment to keep it twelve- and one-half percent, and the state college people,
110 of course, opposed him. Most of the legislators were not university graduates and didn't have
111 any particular love for the university, so we never got it. Now, they did develop. Now they are
112 called state universities instead of state colleges. It doesn't mean a whole lot.

113 I can't remember whether I favored expanding the state colleges and turning them into
114 universities, but if Dr. Kerr said that I did, I would have to agree with him.

115 **RINGROSE:** Well, it might also be that at the start of your administration there was some sort
116 of an outside perception of what kind of a governor you would be. This may have given people
117 the idea that you might favor the state colleges with their technical focus.

118 **BROWN:** Well, probably their political focus too, you see.

119 **RINGROSE:** Yes, they were much more populist.

120 **BROWN:** Yes, there was. San Diego State, and you had three or four here in Los Angeles.
121 Then you had one in San Francisco, one in Fresno, one in Humboldt. Those are the ones that I
122 can remember. But I am very happy that we did what we did. Now it is twenty-five years later,
123 and I know they want to rethink the role of the state colleges, but I have not been party to any of
124 those talks, so I can't comment.

125 **RINGROSE:** Do you think that the master plan is now outdated?

126 **BROWN:** No, I don't think so. I don't know how else you would change it. What are they
127 suggesting? I don't think it is outmoded. I think that you have to be able to concentrate on the
128 "A" students without minimizing the quality of those who go to the state colleges. Our state
129 colleges are great educational institutions too and their teachers are excellent. My daughter
130 went to Stanford and during the summer she went to Sacramento State University, and she told
131 me that she thought that the professors at Sacramento State were equal if not superior, in the
132 courses she took, to those she had at Stanford. She said that the only difference was that the
133 students at Stanford were better, and you got a greater educational stimulus from the quality of
134 the students because they were just better.

135 **RINGROSE:** Earlier we talked about the legislature, and you said that many of the members of
136 the legislature were not supportive of university expansion. Would you elaborate on the impact
137 of that problem?

138 **BROWN:** The reason is that there were more state colleges, and they were located all over the
139 state and so it took a great deal of work on the part of the chief executive, myself, to have the
140 master plan for higher education adopted. Even though Dr. Kerr wanted a constitutional
141 amendment to freeze it into the constitution, we couldn't get that through, and I didn't fight for it.
142 As a matter of fact, I supported the state colleges. We didn't know how the master plan would
143 work and I didn't want to create a situation where you had to have a vote of the people again to
144 do that.

145 I would like to address an earlier question. You asked whether I felt that the expansion of the
146 university system had worked out well. Several of the regional campuses have failed to
147 measure up to expectations. For example, Santa Cruz has never expanded the way they had
148 anticipated when they started, and it is rather an isolated campus. Have you been there?

149 **RINGROSE:** I have never visited it. I have heard a lot about it. I have a sense that it is perhaps
150 a late 60's campus, a product of its time.

151 **BROWN:** I think so too. As I tell you, and the record will show this, I opposed it because of its
152 isolation. Of course, the Henry Cowell cement people were giving us the property, or perhaps
153 sold it to us very cheaply, I can't remember what it was, but I know that students like to be within
154 reasonable visitation of cities and things like that. You haven't had any Westwood develop at
155 Santa Cruz at all, so when you ask me whether I am disappointed, I am a little disappointed in it.

156 Now, San Diego, I went down there and spoke. I can't remember the occasion just now; I spoke
157 on Earl Warren.

158 **RINGROSE:** It must have been at the Earl Warren Symposium.

159 **BROWN:** I think that was it. I spoke down there at that time. I haven't paid too much attention
160 to higher education. My concern, since I left the governor's office, has been with politics. I am
161 interested in government. For example, I think that Reagan's concept of government is wrong,
162 without getting into it. My principle interests now are the crime rate in the black community and
163 the amount of crime that they are committing, the joblessness in the black community and their
164 dropout rate, which is tremendous, and the Hispanic community's problems because of the
165 language barrier.

166 **RINGROSE:** For all the university's affirmative action, we have had a great deal of difficulty
167 cracking those problems where student populations are concerned.

168 **BROWN:** That's right. You do have some bright black and Hispanic youngsters, but it is tough
169 for them. They are in medical school, for example, and they have an awfully tough time meeting
170 the competition of the white brainy student. You have to be practically a straight "A" student to
171 get into one of the medical schools.

172 **RINGROSE:** It is very difficult, and, though campuses try very hard... It is interesting that the
173 Vietnamese students, for example, are moving ahead very quickly.

174 **BROWN:** Oh, are they? Of course, I have no knowledge of that.

175 I also started three new medical schools when I was the governor. I could see the population
176 growth of California, so we put one down there at San Diego. We put one at Davis, and we put
177 one at Irvine. We moved the school of osteopathy from Los Angeles to Irvine. So, I think you
178 can see my overall concept as governor was to improve the educational facilities. We had the
179 bond issue of 250 million dollars also for first to twelfth grades. That was the important one - to
180 educate those people. So, the bottom line is that I was an investor. I had to raise taxes, there
181 was a small deficit. I had to raise taxes somewhat, but not very much. That was all there was to
182 it.

183 **RINGROSE:** Did you participate directly, beyond your role as a regent, in the decision to build
184 a full university campus at San Diego? Were there political involvements in that decision?

185 **BROWN:** I can't think of any. There may have been. Maybe someone who was around at that
186 time can refresh my recollection. The whole educational system was not political to me. It was
187 important. You have to realize that I, not having gone to university, have always felt a lack of
188 that university training. I wanted these bright youngsters to be able to get in and not be
189 relegated to a private institution that would be far more expensive or to the state colleges. My
190 wife, of course, graduated from Berkeley and I had a deep respect for her education because all
191 the time I was courting her we would get into various subjects, and she would show her
192 superiority. She would correct my pronunciation and grammatical errors and things like that.
193 She took paleontology and she would tell me about going out... She probably was
194 responsible... *[laughter]*

195 **RINGROSE:** But you ended up governor!

196 **BROWN:** Well, that's right because they probably would never have elected a woman. She
197 helped.

198 **RINGROSE:** Well, Dr. Kerr made the comment that you used to tell him, jokingly, that here he
199 was building this marvelous new university at San Diego in the heart of the most Republican
200 part of the state and he should appreciate what this must be costing you politically.

201 **BROWN:** Well, I tell a joke which is really not true, but in making a speech I will sometimes
202 say that when I was elected governor in 1958, I carried every county in the state with the
203 exception of three: San Diego, Orange and Santa Cruz. And I said to myself, what is the matter
204 with these people, how could they be so stupid? So, I said, the thing I have to do is educate
205 them. We will put a new branch of the university in San Diego, one in Orange and one in Santa
206 Cruz. Now the only one that has done any good is Santa Cruz. San Diego and Orange are still
207 mentally controlled by their reactionary newspapers, the Santa Ana Register and the two San
208 Diego papers. When Kennedy came to California in 1960 and came to San Diego, he got
209 covered on the second page--or the back page. It is still very conservative.

210 In any case, the legislature must have been supportive of university expansion because we got
211 the budgetary needs we wanted. We got the big bond issues through to build the university.

212 Now, in 1962 we had four bond issues, we had one for elementary and secondary schools, we
213 had one for university, state college and community college expansion, we had one for beaches
214 and parks and we had one for veterans. Well, the Republicans wanted to make me look like a
215 prolific spender so they insisted on putting all four on the June primary so they could say this
216 man wants to obligate the people of this state to a billion two-hundred and fifty million dollars in
217 debt over a long period of time. As a result, we lost the university, and we lost the beaches and
218 parks in the June primary. Well, everybody... the Republicans opposed it. I called the legislature
219 into extraordinary session, and I called the state colleges and community college and university
220 leadership to Sacramento, and we had a meeting. I said, "Now you go out and put this thing
221 over." I didn't put the beaches and parks on because I was afraid that we would lose the
222 university and state colleges. We put it over in the November election. Then I came back two
223 years later with the beaches and parks and thank the good lord I did because if I had been a
224 petty larceny budgetary worrier of the budget like Deukmejian, you wouldn't have had those
225 things. The defeat would have... You would have waited two years and paid higher interest rates
226 and it would have taken a longer time to pay it off. I think that is tremendous evidence of the fact
227 that a state that is growing like California has to invest. They talk about not increasing taxes and
228 a billion-dollar budgetary reserve ---.

229 **RINGROSE:** You built physical facilities that would be virtually impossible to replace today with
230 the increase in the value of land and...

231 **BROWN:** That's right. I am glad that at least one other person of our twenty-six million
232 appreciates...

233 **RINGROSE:** There is more than just one!

234 **BROWN:** At any rate another thing that I favored that has nothing to do with the university was
235 mass transportation. In San Francisco we had the Bay Area Rapid Transit and I cooperated,
236 made speeches, and we put that over. We put that Bay Area ---that bridge in San Francisco just
237 couldn't carry all that traffic. Now maybe they would have built a bridge like they have in Marin
238 County that rides on the top of the water, but, nevertheless, mass transportation is the answer.
239 You need it from Los Angeles to San Diego. I took the train, the Amtrak train, down to
240 Oceanside, and you sit back and read. It is longer than getting in an automobile, but you can sit
241 back and look outside and see the scenery. You should have mass transportation like they have
242 in France and Japan and San Francisco, I mean between Los Angeles and San Diego. It is
243 cheap legislators and governors that don't want to invest in the future of this state... they really
244 drive me crazy. These people that are making five hundred thousand to a million dollars a year
245 in income, and there are a lot of them in this state, or even a hundred thousand, to take, maybe
246 five thousand of that, of their incomes as a surtax of some kind, to build these things... they
247 would get great satisfaction out of it too if we could put it into a special fund and call it the
248 millionaires' development fund... it would be great.

249 **RINGROSE:** Let me return to the university for a moment. Did you participate directly, beyond
250 your role as regent, in the decision to build a full university campus at San Diego?

251 **BROWN:** I am sure that I did, though I have no immediate recollection of it.

252 **RINGROSE:** Were you aware of the extended and sometimes bitter discussion over the site
253 for the San Diego campus? Why was Regent Ed Pauley so opposed to the Torrey Pines Mesa
254 site?

255 **BROWN:** I don't remember why he was. Did he have any property down there, or anything? I
256 knew Ed Pauley, but...

257 **RINGROSE:** He was very much opposed. This is a major issue for the founding of the
258 campus, and very much a mystery. One wishes that he were here to ask.

259 **BROWN:** He was a good regent. He really was. He was a Democrat, but a very conservative
260 Democrat. He loved the University of California. He was a graduate of Berkeley. There is no
261 man, no regent, that loved the university like he did. He did everything he could to build it in
262 every way.

263 He didn't like Clark Kerr and he was one of those primarily responsible for getting rid of Kerr. He
264 would have gotten rid of him during my administration if I hadn't fought so hard for Kerr. Clark
265 and I were never close, we we're not intimates where we would go out and have a drink. Clark
266 is a reserved individual, a scholar rather than a politician. I have no recollection of Ed Pauley
267 fighting the Torrey Pines Mesa site.

268 **RINGROSE:** Did you experience any political pressure regarding this issue from the San
269 Diego business community or the Navy?

270 **BROWN:** The business community and Navy... It just seemed to me that the people that I
271 respected in the San Diego university community wanted the university at this site and I
272 supported them. Now, that is a very feeble recollection.

273 **RINGROSE:** That was probably the most specific question that I wanted to ask you concerning
274 the founding of the San Diego campus. How close to the governor's office did that controversy,
275 that centered on noise from the Marine base, you know the planes went right out over the
276 campus...

277 **BROWN:** Do they bother you now?

278 **RINGROSE:** No because they changed the flight path. That was one of the ways they
279 resolved it.

280 **BROWN:** I remember that now, but I didn't remember it before.

281 **RINGROSE:** When you read the minutes from the regents' meetings during those times the
282 issue comes up again and again and it always seems to be Regent Pauley who is bringing up a
283 short list of what he considers good reasons why the campus shouldn't be on the Torrey Pines
284 Mesa site.

285 **BROWN:** Where did he want to build it?

286 **RINGROSE:** For a long time, he favored Balboa Park. Some people say that was a stalking
287 horse to get rid of the campus entirely because, of course, the people in San Diego would be
288 very reluctant to give up the park. Other people say that it was a sensible suggestion because it
289 was an urban setting and would have meant that the campus would have been right in the
290 middle of the city of San Diego.

291 **BROWN:** Do you consider the University of California campus at San Diego to be a successful
292 campus?

293 **RINGROSE:** Do I? Yes, I think it has been very successful.

294 **BROWN:** I do too. Not only that but I think the graduates of U.C. San Diego are --individually I
295 think they get a better education there than they do at UCLA. or Berkeley. It is a lot smaller. One
296 of my grandsons is a graduate of Davis, another one--well I have three going to the University of
297 California at Berkeley, and they all love it, between them. They really do. One of them went to
298 Santa Barbara. She didn't like Santa Barbara. I think she got a couple of gals that she was
299 rooming with, and they didn't get along and that made it unpleasant.

300 **RINGROSE:** I think that San Diego has turned out very well. It is finding itself. One of the
301 interesting things about celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary and doing this project shows
302 that the campus is beginning to look at itself and ask, where are we coming from and where are
303 we going. We have been talking to some of the people, like Roger Revelle and like you who
304 were involved with the campus from its beginning...

305 **BROWN:** I liked Roger very much and he would influence me. I am sure that he influenced me.
306 I backed him up. He wanted the campus there, didn't he?

307 **RINGROSE:** Yes. He wanted the Torrey Pines Mesa site. He really had a dream, a conception
308 for a university.

309 **BROWN:** That's right, he did.

310 **RINGROSE:** He wanted the proximity to the Scripps Institution so that the Institute could be
311 drawn into the development of the new campus.

312 **BROWN:** Right, right, and time and the elements have proven that to be correct.

313 **RINGROSE:** It has proven to be an excellent location. You could never afford that land now.

314 **BROWN:** Of course. It's a beautiful site.

315 **RINGROSE** [read by **BROWN**]: Let me ask you about the FSM [Free Speech Movement]
316 conflict at Berkeley. It certainly led to basic questions about the direction and goals of the
317 university system, the nature of authority within the university, the relationship between the

318 university, as an independent educational institution, and political forces in the state. This, of
319 course, became a major issue in the 1966 election. Now, almost twenty years later, what do you
320 see as the outcomes, both good and bad? Did the Berkeley conflict hurt you politically?

321 **BROWN:** Well, to answer the last question first, it certainly did! I had supported the university
322 to such an extent that these kids rioting and everything else was a reflection on my judgment, to
323 spend that money on the university and the Berkeley campus. But I, to this day, feel that the
324 FSM conflict at Berkeley was really not a fight with the university authorities or anything like a
325 question of where they could put their tables and things like that. It was a revolt against the
326 Vietnam war. That didn't come up at that time. I didn't realize it, but as I look back on it, those
327 kids had that threat of being drafted into that Vietnam war, so they indirectly revolted against
328 that by revolting against the campus.

329 And then some of the -- the chancellor over there is a good friend of mine, but it was stupid to
330 not let them have their things on the campus. I mean, you had a kind of a conservative group at
331 Berkeley at that time and I know them and liked them. The outcome of the revolt there at
332 Berkeley, I think it was good. I think the relationship between the students and the faculty gave
333 them a sense of being able to accomplish something, or at least to call attention to it. Some of
334 the best citizens of our state were part of that revolt. So, I think it was a good thing, though, oh
335 god it hurt me terribly. Because, you see, you had not only that riot at the university, but then
336 you had the black riots too.

337 I had my arms around the blacks, and I fought for the Fair Employment Practices Act, and then
338 we had the Fair Housing Act, and I put all my political muscle to work, took it to the Supreme
339 Court and won in the Supreme Court of the United States. All of those things. The members of
340 the real estate community were really Reagan supporters to the core. I had to laugh. I went
341 before a meeting of the California Board of Real Estate Association, and nobody applauded me
342 or stood up. They were just... I stood up and I said, "This is the warmest reception I have ever
343 received." Well, they even had to laugh because it was so funny.

344 **RINGROSE** [read by BROWN]: We all know that Ronald Reagan tried to exploit student unrest
345 in his campaign against you and many felt at the time that he really did not understand the
346 issues involved. In view of the waves of conservatism changing not only Republican but
347 Democratic politics over the last twenty years, is it possible that Reagan understood the mood
348 of the country better than the rest of us?

349 **BROWN:** Well, there is no question in the world that Reagan exploited student unrest and he
350 became a tough disciplinarian. That resembles the way people feel about capital punishment.
351 They are all for it, and I read in the paper that all the Democratic officials that opposed it are
352 now for capital punishment. As a matter of fact, it is pure unadulterated junk. The courts scan a
353 capital punishment case so closely that you never get justice. They reverse the cases. You have
354 got 150 guys over there awaiting execution now and they have taken on poor Rose Bird for not
355 believing in capital punishment, and they should because the people wanted it. If they wanted it,
356 I'd gas em so fast they would come out your ears and then see how they like it. I had 62 capital
357 cases during the eight years I was governor and I let 40 people die and I commuted 22 and

358 everyone I commuted was a tough case. They didn't remember those that I let die. All they
359 remembered was that this guy who killed somebody, I didn't let him go, I just didn't let him die.
360 They served their time in the prisons.

361 **RINGROSE:** What do you think this forecasts for the future?

362 **BROWN:** I don't think it will change very much. People are going to be emotionally concerned
363 when they see their young people violating the law by occupying buildings. No matter what the
364 situation is, the older people are going to revolt against the kids because they are getting a
365 great education free and here, they are revolting. It is not going to change. It is just that I think
366 that I had a greater sympathy with the students and what they were trying to achieve. I don't
367 know. It's hard to say.

368 **RINGROSE:** It is unfortunate that the whole situation let Reagan play the "stern father" role,
369 and that probably was appealing to a good deal of the electorate at that point.

370 **BROWN:** Oh yes, that is true. He is playing the same role now in his dealing with the Soviets
371 and maybe it is working out. Maybe to deal with the Soviets, to call them vituperative adjectives
372 like Reagan does, may make them think that they had better get along with this guy and be a
373 little less haughty than they would be if they were dealing with a person like myself. I don't
374 know.

375 **RINGROSE:** The UCSD campus did not seem to suffer under Governor Reagan despite quite
376 a lot of radical activity.

377 **BROWN:** No, it didn't. He talked more than he acted. As a matter of fact, the university has
378 established such educational prestige throughout the country and the faculty are good minds,
379 good heads, and even a man like Ronald Reagan who believes that the state should not
380 subsidize these things will be impressed. You go to the Board of Regents meetings and the
381 University of California campus, and you are indoctrinated whether you like it or not. It must be
382 that way for you, working at the university, the greatness of it is a very... it becomes a part of
383 your being. You know that it is doing good. You see these young people who are enjoying it and
384 studying... I go to the University of California to make a speech occasionally here at UCLA and I
385 watch the students. They are a serious group of young people, and the state is providing them
386 with four years of intellectual stimulus and their hard work begins when they graduate, but those
387 four years are wonderful for them. I miss it terribly because I didn't go. I still feel I would have
388 been President had I gone to the university.

389 My wife went to the university. She entered the university when she was fourteen and a half.
390 She was one of those scholars that they send, she started high school when she was eleven.

391 **RINGROSE:** All her brothers and sisters went to the university, too, isn't that correct?

392 **BROWN:** They all went to Berkeley, yes. Alice, Corine -- Corine was the least scholarly of the
393 family. Then Bernice also went there. Then Bud went there. He got his degree in engineering.
394 Then May was a brilliant student, too. She graduated from the University of California. My wife

395 was too young even to join a sorority. She went through rushing, but no one asked her -- but I
396 asked her!

397 **RINGROSE:** The last thing I wanted to ask you about was the Board of Regents. I am very
398 interested in the board and its relationship to the university and, perhaps I am wrong, but it
399 seems to me that it has changed a great deal during the last thirty years, and it is clear that
400 under Reagan, when he was governor, the Board of Regents was politicized.

401 **BROWN:** There is no question about that.

402 **RINGROSE:** Currently the board tends to reflect special interest groups and regional groups. I
403 wondered if you might want to comment on those changes. You have certainly watched the
404 Board of Regents over many years.

405 **BROWN:** Reagan put his big financial contributors on the Board of Regents. They were a very
406 conservative group. I know most of them. I have met most of them. They loved the university,
407 though. Once you got on that Board of Regents you felt --- when I say loved it --- I think you
408 develop a special interest in seeing that its greatness is perpetuated and developed, and that
409 was the case with these people, even though they were much more conservative than the
410 people I appointed.

411 I tried to appoint people who had gone to the University of California and people who could
412 contribute something. I did try to put people with some money on the Board of Regents. Not all
413 of them. The University of California alumni came to me with suggestions. I can't remember the
414 name of the man I put on. I put Norton Simon on. He was a high school friend of mine. Norton
415 was only on the board for four or five years. I put Fred Dutton on the board, and [William] Bill
416 Coblentz. They were all intellectual superiors, if I can use that term, and most of them had gone
417 to the University of California, some campus. I tried to get people who had attended the
418 university, rather than strangers to the university. Whether that was good or bad, I don't know.

419 Now, Reagan didn't do that. His appointees were not lovers of the university, if I can use that
420 term, when they came on. I think they did, later on, become supporters of the university. I think
421 they fought for the university.

422 Now, my son, when he became governor, put people that I think --- he tried to get people on the
423 Board of Regents who were ethnically --- he put a black on, and a Chinese, and women. It didn't
424 make any difference to him whether they had gone to the University of California or not. Now,
425 how they have turned out I am not prepared to say. I just don't know. I haven't watched them.
426 But his concept of a regent was far different from Reagan's or mine.

427 **RINGROSE:** So, you would see the change as coming with your son, rather than with Reagan.

428 **BROWN:** Well, Reagan made radical changes too in putting people of great wealth on the
429 Board of Regents. Jerry [Brown] put people of diversity, ethnically diverse people, on the board.

[END OF PART ONE, BEGIN PART TWO]

430 **BROWN:** I suffer from a lack of memory for names now. I can't remember names anymore.

431 **RINGROSE:** That happens to all of us, though.

432 **BROWN:** Of course, as governor, when you meet a person, they know you even though you
433 are an old governor. Of course, Jerry's governorship enhanced the memory of my governorship.
434 Like, you go back beyond Governor Warren, and --- who ever heard of Frank Merriam, or
435 William Stephens? You've heard of Hiram Johnson and the Progressive Movement, but the rest
436 of them --- and C.C. Young was a good governor. He only served four years, but you never hear
437 of him. You wouldn't know anything about him. So, with Jerry in there they will remember me at
438 least until 1988!

439 **RINGROSE:** Well, we have pretty much gotten through the things that I was interested in, but
440 do you have any other comments that you would like to make as part of your contribution to this
441 project?

442 **BROWN:** I really like the Master Plan for Higher Education. I like the fact that we have the
443 different campuses. I think Santa Cruz is somewhat of an isolated campus, isolated relatively
444 speaking, but I know some people who are graduates of Santa Cruz. There is a young lady on
445 my Board of Directors for the Edmund G. Brown Institute of Government, I say my institute only
446 in the sense that I have taken a great interest in it, given them substantial sums of money. She
447 loved the University of California, Santa Cruz.

448 I haven't had much contact with San Diego. I don't know why. It just so happens that San Diego
449 and the Republican Party are somewhat synonymous to me. The papers down there were so
450 conservative, so reactionary, and, of course, Berkeley has been close to me, and UCLA. I
451 taught there for a year and a half.

452 **RINGROSE:** At UCLA?

453 **BROWN:** Yes. I led a graduate seminar in political science and government which I enjoyed
454 very much, but I had to give it up because I had too much to do.

455 **RINGROSE:** Those were lucky students.

456 **BROWN:** Well, I think they enjoyed it. I would bring in people who were interested in
457 government. I would bring in the democratic speaker or the head of the prison system, people
458 from all parts of government I would bring into my seminars. The students were all graduate
459 students, candidates for the doctorate or the master's degree. There were no undergraduates,
460 except a few who audited the course. I had about forty or fifty in the class. I think they enjoyed it.
461 I enjoyed doing it.

462 **RINGROSE:** Did you enjoy being on the UCLA campus?

463 **BROWN:** Yes, I enjoyed being a part of the campus. As a matter of fact, they offered me a
464 permanent position which would have necessitated, among other things, leaving my law

465 practice. I didn't want to do that, but I probably would have done it except for the fact that the
466 firm had taken a six-year lease on a building, and I was the principal provider --- I brought in
467 more business than anyone else, so I thought it was unfair to them to walk out and leave them
468 stuck with a six- or seven-year lease. Otherwise, I probably would have devoted full time to
469 UCLA. That experience there was really a stimulating one for me. The contact, as you find out,
470 with the students keeps you young.

471 **RINGROSE:** Yes, it keeps you young.

472 **BROWN:** I was amazed when you told me you had a son old enough to be in college. Are both
473 your sons at the university?

474 **RINGROSE:** No, my younger son is starting his senior year in high school, and the older one
475 just finished his freshman year in college.

476 **BROWN:** Well, I have ten grandchildren, and Jerry isn't married, so my three daughters, one
477 has two, one is a graduate of Davis. The other one dropped out. He wasn't a very good student,
478 a nice boy, but... Then my second daughter, Cynthia, her oldest daughter is a graduate. She is
479 a lawyer and just passed her bar examinations last year. She heard about it in November of last
480 year. The third one is a graduate of Chico State and is teaching. My fourth one just graduated
481 from Berkeley. The fifth just... *[interruption]*

482 My third daughter has three children. One is a junior at Berkeley now, and she is a very bright
483 young lady. The second one is a good student, too. She is in high school. The third one is a
484 boy, and he is just fourteen years of age. He will be here on Friday. He has made a trip around
485 the world with that fellow Murdock and his son, you know, the publisher of the paper.

486 If I could get that son of mine, Jerry, married then I could...

487 **RINGROSE:** I have always assumed that eventually, to advance his political career, he would
488 have to face up to that!

489 **BROWN:** I think so too. He goes with a girl now. She is... I hate to designate her this way, and
490 it annoys her very much, but she is a Chinese girl. I said to her, "Do you know when my parents
491 came to California?" And she said, "No." And I said, "They came in 1850." And she said, "So did
492 mine." She said, "My great-grandfather worked on the railroad."

493 **RINGROSE:** Well, it has been very kind of you to give me so much of your busy morning. I
494 hope that we can entice you to come down to UC San Diego some time. How long ago did you
495 speak at the Warren Symposium?

496 **BROWN:** It has been a long time.

497 **RINGROSE:** Two or three years?

498 **BROWN:** No, it has been much longer than that, but I would love to come down. I would enjoy
499 it. I could talk about the university twenty years ago and now. I would do some boning up, so I
500 could do better than I have done with you.

501 **RINGROSE:** You have done wonderfully, and I do appreciate the time you have given to me,
502 and to the project. Thank you very much.

[END OF PART TWO, END OF INTERVIEW]