

TRANSCRIPT OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW

Interview with Mr. Frank Zeidler

Former Mayor of Milwaukee

Tape Counter Number

000-070 High points of being in office were in the defense of civil rights. Expressed in 2 ways

issue was critical because a group of real estate people would create panic among whites so they could profit from quick sales and resell homes for large profits. No give and take or political deals during his administration; issue by issue only. British type city government with ceremonial mayor and city administrator not best for American town.

Much talk during his administration about the Galveston Plan and city manager govt. but still favored the mayor-council form.

274-167 re: Relationship with county government had no real conflict. County...

before Safran; also very capable.

87-193

Civil defense was a big issue; danger of cities being bombed after the war. Not a popular issue and Meier killed it. Meitland Field. Annexation was a top priority suburbs were

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provide such services. Big contributors to Norquist's campaign from outside the city, which Zeidler avoided. City provided only fire and some library services to the suburbs during his administration. Good rapport with Walter Matteson (conservative), Leo Hanley, John Coffey, Dick Marzewski, Harry Slater, John Dolan in city attorney's office. Existence of the

murders. Race and feminist issues are what people are interested in now. Police and

minority issues surfaced at the time. John Pozlzin was a good police chief. Incident over police dragnet regarding rapes by several blacks. Typical bureaucrats were good employees: Lloyd Knapp, Walter Swetlik, Edward Crumby, George Saffran, Walter Matteson. Virgil Hurliss was "crooked;" Joe Krueger was influential with the Council. Zeidler held monthly meetings with department heads so that everyone knew what was going on elsewhere. Had a very honest purchasing system but none now. Maier elected

in the work of Henry Cottlieb, Art Elco, and others. They had misjudged his character.