

Exit Interview with Sylvia Ehrhardt, White House Press Office

Interviewer: David Alsobrook, Presidential Papers Staff

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Transcriber: Lyn B. Kirkland

Alsobrook: Sylvia, what position or positions have you held in this particular White House?

Ehrhardt: I was a staff assistant in the Press Office.

Alsobrook: Did you work directly for Caroline Shields or Jody Powell?

Ehrhardt: I worked directly for Pat Byer who is the deputy press secretary and I have worked with her ever since I came on.

Alsobrook: When did you first come to work here?

Ehrhardt: August 28, I believe it was, 1978.

Alsobrook: Did Pat hire you?

Ehrhardt: Yes, as her special assistant.

Alsobrook: How would you describe the duties that you have had since you have been here?

Ehrhardt: Well, as of right now, you mean, what I've been doing recently?

Alsobrook: Right. If you would like to tell me what your duties were when you first came and how they have changed.

Ehrhardt: Well, I was basically hired on to be pretty much a backup person for Pat when she had special projects that had to be in depth done I would do it, to get material for her (she would keep passing on things to me) and I would basically get all of the material together and then give it to her so that she would be informed for her task force meeting or whatever it was. As time went on our office started to do more and more briefings and what I was doing was picking up some of that and as it turned out I moved into that full time with other duties besides and Pat would still give me special projects to work on. Right now what I was doing, the primary thing, was the briefings in the East Room. There were several categories of the briefings in the East Room. There was one was with Betty Rainwater and Sarah Weddington that handled the state briefings. We would bring in about 200 people from the states and top officials and I would handle the press for this. This meant trying to get publishers or editors from the papers from within the states to come to the all-day briefings that started at around 9:30 or 10:00 and last until

4:00. And the other was to call the bureaus here or the stringers that they had here and notify them that all these top officials were coming. These were political, community or civic leaders that they invited, and we let them know that these people would be in town and if they wanted to they could interview them and set a place and time for an interview and when the day came I would follow through with that, having the list of people available that were here, the agenda and then take the crews, the radio, television as well as the press, over to interview these people and stay with them while they were doing the interviewing. The other briefing in the White House system was with Anne Wexler and those were various briefings, especially SALT. We had a series of about fourteen groupings on SALT with her. But anything that was a key issue, such as energy briefings, inflation, hospital cost containment. This meant that they would call in about 300 political communities and civic leaders that were from all over the country.

Sometimes they were specialized, for instance if it was the Alaskan land bill for people that were interested in preserving land in Alaska such as the ecologists and so on. If it was SALT briefings we did just for individual states usually. We would call in key people that we thought would be interested in the briefings on SALT and would be able to go back to their states and do whatever they considered they wanted to do with it. My part in the whole process was to get the press to come. This would be, if we had 300 people coming, we would make home town calls. I had two interns that worked with me. We would make home town calls to the newspapers, the dailies or the weeklies, the newspapers that had these people in their communities and let them know that this person was coming into Washington and if they were interested they could either interview them when they got back or they could come to Washington to the briefing themselves and interview the people in the White House and this meant they were allowed to go into the East Room to get briefing with Zbig Brzezinski, if it was SALT, and the President and go to the reception afterwards. And also we contacted the press people here in the city, like for instance if it were a small town newspaper that had a representative here, we would invite them to come to the briefing as well as the reception, and to interview the people.

Alsobrook: I was wondering, are these some of these briefings that sometimes the Star and the Post would pick up on, like on Sunday morning, and say in a briefing session of out of town editors?

Ehrhardt: Right. No it's not the out of town editors. That was a different one.

Alsobrook: Oh.

Ehrhardt: This one you would see when the President would be speaking at these briefings there would be about a five or ten minute period when we would bring in the Washington press corps and usually you would find it on the news. The President said there was one man that got up and threw acid on the floor.

Alsobrook: Oh yeah.

Ehrhardt: Well, that was one of my briefings. It turned out I also helped with the Washington press corps, having them come in and go out and all that, but that was just a side line. My major responsibility, whether it was specialty press or whether it was the bureaus or whatever, or the local press people coming in, making sure that they had to be escorted. The TV crews had to be set up, radio had to be set up and I did the whole logistics of everything there and making sure the whole thing was covered. We would get a lot of feedback from the local newspapers saying that had interviewed such and such and we would get clips from the newspapers there. So this was a very important part of the briefings. In other words, extending out to the local newspapers.

Alsobrook: As far as those briefings went, you mentioned the one where the man threw the acid. Was that a SALT briefing of the President?

Ehrhardt: Right.

Alsobrook: Do you know exactly what he was protesting?

Ehrhardt: He was protesting against even having as many nuclear warheads as we were. He was from Iowa and he was with the anti-SALT, no, not anti-SALT, the anti-nuclear group and he had been in jail many times before and I don't know how he slipped through secret service. I was really kind of shocked.

Alsobrook: Was that really a frightening experience?

Ehrhardt: It really was because here we thought that secret service had checked everybody out and it turned out this guy was only two rows away from the President and when he jumped up in front of all the cameras we didn't know if he had a bomb or whatever he had and it seemed like a long time for secret service to walk up to him and get him out, but in reality it was only less than a minute. I think everybody's heart stopped because we didn't know what he was going to do and he pulled out this bag and turned it upside down and threw the acid on the ground. I tell you, that was really scary to think that someone could get into the White House and do such a thing as that.

Alsobrook: Were there other memorable briefings that were perhaps memorable for other reasons?

Ehrhardt: Well, one person had a heart attack. That was memorable because it was very surreal in the foyer of the White House we had ambulance people and doctors giving heart, whatever they do, jumping on his chest, mouth to mouth resuscitation and in the next room was Brzezinski briefing 300 people and, you know, you could hear it going on. It was really incredible to see all these people standing there and yet the other people did not know what was happening. We didn't really know if he was going to die; he came very, very close to dying.

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Alsobrook: Oh, goodness.

Ehrhardt: And that was kind of a scary thing too.

Alsobrook: While this was going on you were standing right outside of both rooms, right?

Ehrhardt: What happens is that during the whole briefings I have to move back and forth. Sometimes there are people coming in, sometimes press people, sometimes press people leaving. Also, when a situation happens you immediately have to find out who it is because the press will want to know immediately. That too was reported. So we have to find out the facts immediately so we can go back to the press people and be informed. There are other briefings I did too.

Alsobrook: OK.

Ehrhardt: I handled all the background briefings for the press, for instance, if we had an issue, we would make an announcement. We did a call out to the press, the specialty press as well as the bureaus, and tell them put it on the wires and then have them come to our conference room, so I managed that with my interns. And then there were announcements, like for instance the President would make an announcement on something and we would have to call the press up for that. And I would do the calling on that or have the interns. We would organize that and make sure it was handled correctly.

The briefings were my major responsibility but I also did other things, for instance, editorials. When legislation was going through like the energy legislation, Pat would ask me to check all the editorials that were coming through on a daily basis, for windfall profits tax, energy mobilization board, different aspects of the energy bill, as well as hospital cost containment when that bill was up, or whatever legislation was coming through that was really important and there was a task force that was involved with us trying to do different aspects of this legislation, such as media. Pat would have me work on all the editorials and what I did was news summaries. And the way I did it I would pull out excerpts pertaining to specific subject that you wanted and put it in summary form for her so that she in turn, and this was done about every week or two weeks, she in turn would send it out to key people on the task force or wherever in the White House they happened to be, she would send it out to them.

Alsobrook: But the briefings took most of your time then and all of the logistics involved in those, right?

Ehrhardt: Well, the briefings were top priority because they were going out in an instant. These were also top priorities. The briefings had to be done first because it happened and it was there and I helped the interns that worked in the call outs and things like that.

Alsobrook: Was it Walt Wurfel's idea to start using some of these briefings? Do you know exactly how all of that came about?

Ehrhardt: It was before I came on but I think Carter really wanted to handle the briefings, especially the editorial briefings, out of town briefings, to try to get more press media from outside of Washington involved. This is also true of the East Room briefings that I handled. We encouraged and invited reporters from all across the country and we would call to let them know that Sam Jones from their area was coming in and encourage them to send a representative if they wanted to and many of them did and it was an extremely important thing for them because they could see the whole process of what's going on, and they may not have agreed with it but at least they could understand the administration's position which was really, that was part of it.

The briefing, I don't know if you are aware that there are really two parts to these briefings in the East Room. One is to give in-depth briefings to the people that were invited and the other is to hear what they have to say. In other words, it is open for questions from the floor and got the feedback so that top officials and the President could get some understanding of what the concerns were or the feelings from the states; how do they feel about cost containment; **what are the concerns, were there regional problems, whatever,** so that's a grass roots way of giving them some of the information they couldn't have otherwise.

Alsobrook: I was curious. Did you find that most people when they got in there, whether it's small town editors or just ordinary people, were they uninhibited in dealing with the President of the United States?

Ehrhardt: Very much so. They felt it was there one chance, if they had a gripe, to get up and tell the President. They were not just people who were pro whatever the issue was. I think the President really wanted to go out of his way to get people in. For instance, like SALT, we would go to Republican and Democratic senators, as well as, as other people. Congressmen and so on. They sent us their list of people they thought might be interested in the SALT briefings and we would invite these people and a lot of them were against SALT, so it was really a way for them to be informed about what the administration's position was and a way for them to be able to ask questions that they really felt were important.

Alsobrook: What seemed to be the President's reaction while all of these questions were going on? Did he seem to react favorably?

Ehrhardt: I personally feel that the President is at his best in small groups and you know, he is such an informed person. It is just incredible the information he carries around with him that no matter what it was that had been sent out to him as far as the questions were concerned, he could handle it and I think they were very satisfied with this. In fact, people who were against him said I wish he would go around like this because it is very helpful to understand what is going on. Generally I think the reaction to it was very favorable and the President came off beautifully every time. Some weeks I had three briefings a week and to be able to say the same things over and over again and yet with so much feeling, I think he really believed in what he was saying.

Alsobrook: Did ya'll ever talk about maybe videotaping these?

Ehrhardt: No, because he really felt this was like almost a one on one. Other than having an open floor for the first five or ten minutes for the press coverage what he was doing, he felt the questions should not be taped.

Alsobrook: Hmmmm!

Ehrhardt: We would have to put the reporters out at that time. In fact, there were no cameras or tape recorders allowed during the question period. Primarily because we felt that we didn't want to inhibit anyone so they could say I'm "Joe Blow" from such and such, like "I really think this is a horrible situation". Whatever, they could say what they wanted to say and he really wanted to hear what they were saying. He didn't want to use it for publicity one way or the other. I think it worked out very well. I think it was an excellent way for administration to try to get whatever their position was across.

Alsobrook: Uh huh. Did you ever find that the national media, especially here in Washington, sometime resented the fact that they were excluded from some of these?

Ehrhardt: Well, you see, they never were really, really excluded because they knew I was doing this and if they were really interested in coming they could come to me and I would take them in, yet it was by invitation only to the press. In other words, they couldn't just go in with the West Wing camera crew or the press that they knew were going in and decide to stay. They couldn't do that. But they knew I was there and many of them I had to contact because if they were a major bureau and the people from the states were there, I would call them and say so if there was an issue they were really interested in, they could call me and I would let them come.

Alsobrook: Hmmmm!

Ehrhardt: But it was still closed as far as camera crews were concerned for broadcasting. We had one situation where there was this big briefing and it was about the Iran situation and one of the questions was somebody asking about the conditions of the prisoners and that was when the President had said something **about them being tied and really horrible conditions**. At that time one of my reporters that had come from out of state, I had given the ground rules of no recorders during the President, and he went up to somebody else and he went up to Betty Rainwater and asked if he could record and she was not in charge, as I was. I was not there at that point because I had left because I thought everything was under control and I had to do something else. She told him, "Well, I can't tell you not to record." I don't know why she said that but anyway she did because the ground rules were very clear that they were not to record. So he recorded it. He was from Manchester.

Alsobrook: Oh yeah.

Ehrhardt: Well, he recorded it and took it down to NBC. Because I came back. Within a few minutes I came back. I didn't realize he was recording at that point and he took it down to NBC and CBS and gave them the tape recording of it. He was told he couldn't use it but he gave it to somebody else, and it turned out in that particular instance he was amazed to find out that the hostages had been mistreated and he felt it was just too hot not to do it.

Alsobrook: To respond to the question, do you mean? You mean the President...

Ehrhardt: No, to tape it, you know, because this was the first time it had been asked of the President and he had just come from a meeting where he had heard about it and he was very emotional about it

Alsobrook: Uh huh.

Ehrhardt: And he conveyed the emotion through this tape recording. And I was really upset about that because they had broken the ground rules and I let them know they had broken it and told them it just wasn't fair for the other reporters that had been there. There had been four radio stations as well as two television stations which could not record and they all abided by the ground rules...and he had broken it and, you know, I think they were very upset about it and they let me know, so this was pressure from his own peers that happened. There was nothing much we could do other than never invite him again to the White House.

Alsobrook: [Laughs]

Ehrhardt: At that particular time I think, you know, it wasn't something that would really---I guess eventually it would have come out anyway about what was happening to the hostages but it was really pretty devastating to me to have it happen that he broke the ground rules. I felt I was being put on, my job was, as if I hadn't done my work by telling him what the ground rules were.

Alsobrook: Is that one of the most difficult things about the job, having to lay out these ground rules and having to tell people no when they present all these convincing arguments why you should say yes?

Ehrhardt: I think the press is an unusual group of people to deal with and what happens is that they try to break all the rules they can and, you know, you have to set up a relationship with them and I think over the period of time I've worked with the press I really respected them as human beings and knew they had a job to do. I treated them in such a way that I tried helping them as much as possible because obviously they had a job and obviously we wanted this coverage and so if they did a good job then we had good coverage.

Alsobrook: Uh huh.

Ehrhardt: There are some people who don't feel that way about the press. They feel as though they are hostile and they are. There are times when I told the press people they could not get up

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and interview until during the reception and St. Louis, a radio person, jumped up and saw a senator sitting on the front row and he ran over and started talking to him, trying to meet him, and I had just gone out to check to see if more people had come back and they grabbed him and took him back. There are 300 people, it is kind of hard because I had been very specific in the instructions. If you don't sit down, we will have to throw you out because there are certain rules. We can't have 50 reporters running around trying to interview people. There are times for interviewing and there are times not to interview and it turned out some of them really try to push as far as they can and they are very aggressive and you know it ruins it for other people, but that is the hard part, knowing that you are going to be quoted and you have constantly tell them, "Do not quote me. I am not a spokesperson. If you want a spokesperson I will get a spokesperson for you." Whatever I might say it will be out of context. That sort of thing was really kind of hard and yet I really enjoy dealing with the press, and you know, I found this was one of the most interesting jobs I have had and, you know, I love dealing with the press.

Alsobrook: Did you have any previous jobs that you felt like helped prepare you for this one?

Ehrhardt: Yes, I worked with the Democratic National Committee in communications and I worked during the conventions and handled the press there too but not so that practically everything we did could be recorded, major networks, and this was a little bit more—you have to be more cautious in what's said and you have to make sure the people understand the ground rules. I would say 99% of the press is rules and they get very angry when someone breaks it and usually they tend to put pressure on the person. I personally feel the working relationship with the press can be a very rewarding one and I found it exciting. And it's never the same.
[Alsobrook laughs.]

Alsobrook: Are there basic differences in media and press, like when you're in the White House working for a president and the difference in that and when you are working in the campaign and when you are a sitting President the people tend to listen to everything that you say and scrutinize it very carefully, whereas when it is the campaign some of this is not always picked up on?

Ehrhardt: Well, you always have this large body of reporters, the media that is traveling with you everywhere. No matter what is said, they are there all the time, whereas in the campaign you will have people traveling with you, but not as large. The White House Press Corp is a good body of media and they are always looking. It is their job to try to find out information so they are checking out staff people as well as---and when it comes along, you know, and the President himself and they get very upset when they feel they are being excluded, so we have made it very clear to them that if they wanted to come to the briefings they had to go through the proper channels which was through me and then they could come, but just could not say "I want to go" and appear on the scene.

Alsobrook: During the campaign did you have any dealings with Barry Gagoda?

Ehrhardt: I worked with Barry but I was with the Democratic National Committee. I didn't work on the Carter campaign.

Alsobrook: Uh huh. So you just had sort of tangential relationships with him?

Ehrhardt: Right. In New York City I worked with Barry. He worked in communications and I worked with the headquarters.

Alsobrook: Uh huh. Are there any memories of your work with the DNC that stand out in your mind as you think back about that period?

Ehrhardt: Um. You know, it is very difficult for me to say. I learned a tremendous amount. I worked off and on for over four years.

Alsobrook: Uh huh.

Ehrhardt: Basically dealing with the press and during the convention time and I think that prepared me for working here in the White House dealing with the press and I feel that is one of my strong suits. You know, being able to have a one on one relationship with the press and also if there happens to be something coming up that is kind of a crisis, I know what to do with that adequately and that seems to make life pretty interesting.

Alsobrook: You mentioned you are already living at Harpers Ferry. Are you planning to go back to work or are you just going to ...?

Ehrhardt: Well, Harpers Ferry is a little bit out of the way. At this point I don't think I will unless they call me. I could come in by train whenever they call me and I might come in as a consultant and do some work.

Alsobrook: Part time you mean?

Ehrhardt: Part time. And I might also work----I have a lot of friends still in the Democratic National Committee so they asked me if I would go up to New York and work with them up there during the convention. I might do that. I don't know yet. Basically there's been a change in my life, really a very different change in lifestyle. But I think I'm available whenever they want.

Alsobrook: As far as the organization of the Press Office is concerned, within the time that you have been there I know they have brought in Ray Jenkins and Walt Wurfel has left. Are there other changes that have gone on in the structure of the office that you feel like are significant?

Ehrhardt: Pat has gotten a tremendous amount of responsibility besides what she had before and uh...

Alsobrook: Since Walt has left, you mean?

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Ehrhardt: She took over all of her regular duties as associate as well as Walt Wurfel's duties. It looked like they never replaced her and they brought in a couple of assistants, I think. They made one a special assistant to an assistant and brought in another assistant to a project person but they have never really replaced her. I thought it was kind of hard for her and it is hard for her right now because where there two people handling all the conferences, there is only one now. I think she is giving a lot of work to her staff to pick up, and that is when I picked up a lot of stuff too, things she saw that I could really handle. I also worked with the tv in complete interviews and radio interviews that we had, like we would have the Secretary of Agriculture, for instance. We would set up private interviews across the country, six or seven of them and take them over to the State Department and have them there. It was taped on our end, and taped on their end through the telephone and the interviewer would ask the question and then we would send the tape back to the station and they would splice it and it would look as though that they were doing the interview on their own.

Alsobrook: Whose idea was that? That's an interesting concept.

Ehrhardt: I don't know whose idea it was but it was functioning early on. It has been done off and on. I don't think there is a staff person that could do it full time at all and it was just off and on when you needed it, for instance in energy or agriculture or whatever issues were important. That way we could be able instead of sending a person out around the country we would put him down for an hour or her down for an hour and have the interviews. That was the same thing with radio. We would have these talk shows that would be half hour and the interviews there would be people who would call in and speak and I would work with setting up here technically instead of coming to Washington wanting to interview several people and I handled the one from St. Louis and they wanted Mrs. Carter and Jodie Powell, and several other people, so I went through setting it up as well as following it through when the interview was going on and be in the room passing out whatever was necessary.

Alsobrook: Were there other White House units you had to work with closely in carrying out this particular duty of yours?

Ehrhardt: Walker, we worked with, especially in the radio interviews, especially when Mrs. Carter was listed. Basically it seems as though we didn't work with other units in the White House. Press news was pretty independent. And also, because of my radio background in the Democratic National Committee, I had worked for over a year doing actualities there.

Alsobrook: Oh, yeah.

Ehrhardt: I was back up person for Rich Nelson in his operations in radio actualities. When he would go out and cover the President I would handle all the work here whenever there were announcements were coming out, doing all the technical work and he would call back and I would put the whole thing together and put it on the air. Whenever he would travel I would be

the backup person for him or in case of an emergency like if briefings, for instance, were slow and had some time and he needed someone to cover and take a tape recorder out and cover someone, a White House spokesperson that was speaking somewhere, and bring it back and pre-cut some of it and put it in our actuality system.

Alsobrook: Is that the same part of the DNC where Williams Vaughn Regans worked?

Ehrhardt: Yes, exactly, right. I worked in that for about a year with the Democratic National Committee and that's why, when I came in here I could be the backup person for the operation, really just putting it on.

Alsobrook: In times of reporting and approving things, would Pat Barrio usually approve anything that you did? Was she your most immediate superior?

Ehrhardt: She was the boss that approved things.

Alsobrook: But Jody oversaw everything in the office? Is that the way it worked?

Ehrhardt: Not really. I think for big issues Pat would go to Jody. I'm sure she had certain things she could do without having Jody's approval, but she met with him quite frequently. I don't believe that she had to take every single thing before him. I think she was given a certain area of responsibility and if she saw she needed clarification or she needed some guidance she would call Jody and talk to him about it.

Alsobrook: How about staff meetings? Would you have frequent or infrequent staff meetings?

Ehrhardt: Oh, we had weekly staff meetings and I also would meet ad hoc with Pat, with Terry or with other people, with Rich Nelson who was the radio operative, the actuality project. Sometimes, you know, it would be more than once a week.

Alsobrook: Did you ever have meetings involving Jody Powell at any time?

Ehrhardt: If it was really important he would come over.

Alsobrook: When you are talking about arranging interviews, I remember at the end of summer after the President had the session at Camp David, involving the organization and so on, I think Jody was on local news and I think he was even on national news one night, on ABC I believe. Did you ever arrange any of those?

Ehrhardt: We arranged a lot of local interviews that he had and also television interviews. Our office does that. Sometimes I do it, you know, sometimes—this was not my primary responsibility. This is where I helped Rich Nelson. Half of my duties really dealt with the briefings. The other half dealt with a backup person, an assistant or helper to Rich Nelson, what he was doing in his operation which was the actualities, the TV interviews, and the radio interviews. And so I would cover for him or I would do things on my own. In other words, we

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did this together a lot. But the briefings and the editorials were basically my responsibility. Totally.

Alsobrook: Did you ever get involved in that call-in meetings program that they had?

Ehrhardt: No.

Alsobrook: I know you are in a hurry to go and get back home. I want to make sure I cover all my questions here with you. Of all the assignments that you've had, is that any one assignment that really stands out in your mind as being the most rewarding? Any particular special project that you might've done or any of the duties that you've described for us?

Ehrhardt: Well, I think the briefings, especially the East Room, the SALT briefings, especially because I had been just really very involved with those seemed to be the most rewarding because we got direct feedback from Anne Wexler. In fact, she told me that the press coverage and the television and the radio coverage they had was just really a tremendous amount and that was all due to my contacting, and my work and working with the interns and the call outs and bringing the press people and periodically they would send the clippings to Pat to show them what kind of work, you know.

I just thought that was really great because it was not only recognition I was getting from the press office but from other parts of the White House staff that this thing was really working and it was kind of a partnership because if they had just called the people here and it was never recorded, that would be fine, 300 people would go back and understand what was going on, but if it was set up so that the press would also know and there were 300 interviews as well as television coverage and all that, it would have a ripple effect and it really does work in many ways. I know the Panama Canal treaty they did similar things and they thought that was really important to help that passage.

Alsobrook: Does it look like they are going to continue that same procedure? Do you know?

Ehrhardt: I think they will continue doing this. I don't know about SALT. I don't know where SALT is right now, especially with Russia and Afghanistan. It may just take SALT, but I know they will be doing this with other legislation; just as they did with the human rights one. Hospital cost containment legislation is coming up and it is very important.

Alsobrook: Department of Education?

Ehrhardt: Department of Education, right. We've had many, many briefings. Practically all the Ann Wexler briefings in the East Room I have been doing with them for quite some time.

Alsobrook: Have you ever had an opportunity to meet the President during the time you've been working here?

Ehrhardt: You mean directly?

Alsobrook: Yeah, shake his hand?

Ehrhardt: Oh, many times. Yeah. I have also gone to the cabinet room meetings with the President. When he is walking by, he sees me there so many times. He doesn't know me by name but he knows that I am there and meeting with the press and he'll shake my hand if he's close by.

Alsobrook: Hmmmm.

Ehrhardt: I say that I am very fortunate because all these briefings usually involve the President and if I have three briefings a week, I am with the President three times a week, or in the room or close proximity. And so, a lot of people that work in the White House don't have that thrilling exposure and I am really very fortunate.

Alsobrook: That is unique. It really is. I don't want to keep you any longer today but I wanted to tell you that at some future date somebody from the Carter Library may contact you and ask you for a follow up interview because there is no way that we could do justice to everything you've done in the short period of time because you are in a hurry. Could you also give me a permanent address and telephone number perhaps up in Harpers Ferry where we can always get in touch with you?

Ehrhardt: Do you want me to write it?

Alsobrook: Just say it on the tape.

Ehrhardt: Route 1, Box 300, Harpers Ferry, Maryland, 25425. And my phone number is 301-834-9247.

Alsobrook: Is that Harpers Ferry, West Virginia or Maryland?

Ehrhardt: It is Maryland. We are across the river but we have the Harpers Ferry post office.

Alsobrook: Oh, that's unique.

Ehrhardt: We are in Maryland Heights.

Alsobrook: Oh, I see.

Ehrhardt: And we can see Harpers Ferry right across the river.

Alsobrook: OK. Before you go is there any area of your work here that maybe you feel we may have neglected to even mention, you know, something that you might have worked on or been involved in that you think is important?

Ehrhardt: I've really forgotten.

Alsobrook: I appreciate your taking the time to talk to us. Hopefully we'll be able to talk to you again someday.

Ehrhardt: If you need more information feel free to call me.