

00:00:01 SPK\_1

OK, we're started again.

00:00:03 SPK\_2

OK.

00:00:05 SPK\_2

As I was saying the the support of the of the local medical society was extremely important because that was one of the things that the University of Texas.

00:00:15 SPK\_2

System was requiring of us.

00:00:20 SPK\_2

Locally, we felt that that was a way of trying to.

00:00:25 SPK\_2

I guess.

00:00:27 SPK\_2

Make us fail.

00:00:29 SPK\_2

Because I I don't think the University of Texas system.

00:00:33 SPK\_2

Wanted to have another medical school.

00:00:36 SPK\_1

At that point, right?

00:00:37 SPK\_2

At that point, and I think a lot of it had to do with just a number of things between, you know, the academics, the cost, all the other things associated when you set up a medical school.

00:00:50 SPK\_2

And and so they were putting things in that were very difficult for us to get and we we met with Doctor Feigel a number of times both myself and Mike Allen and.

00:01:03 SPK\_2

Others and trying to get them to.

00:01:07 SPK\_2

To allow us to do that.

00:01:09 SPK\_2

At this time, Leo Montalvo was the mayor at the time. You know, it was kind of started with other brand and then, you know, we got the, the legislation passed and we convinced you to and

then Leo became mayor and he became the person that had to finish carrying that ball.

00:01:27 SPK\_2

The first proposals that were submitted committee from the Board of Regents and the staff did not like it.

00:01:36 SPK\_2

They felt that too much of the cost was going to be borne by the University of Texas system and more need to be borne by the local communities.

00:01:47 SPK\_2

And.

00:01:49 SPK\_2

We were not real happy about that, at least in McAllen.

00:01:55 SPK\_2

The chairman of the committee called during a City Council meeting and orders us to attend the meeting.

00:02:02 SPK\_2

And for us to recess the City Council meeting and go to the meeting and the Mayor, Leo Montalvo said no, we weren't gonna go.

00:02:09 SPK\_2

So that was not very good for us, but at the same time we thought it was not.

00:02:16 SPK\_2

Very professional or.

00:02:19 SPK\_2

On their part, I'm a little demanding.

00:02:23 SPK\_2

For for them to demand that we recess a.

00:02:29 SPK\_2

Meeting with been posted and we had citizens there.

00:02:33 SPK\_2

If they were gonna come down, they should have had the courtesy to give us a couple of days notice so we could have made arrangements to attend the meeting.

00:02:41 SPK\_2

So anyway, they they rejected the first proposals that were submitting, and so we.

00:02:45 SPK\_1

This was Mr. Sanchez came down, right, yeah.

00:02:49 SPK\_2

OK. And so.

00:02:51 SPK\_2

So then we went ahead and did a second proposal.

00:02:56 SPK\_2

And we put together which was much more aggressive.

00:03:00 SPK\_2

Mike Allen and Keith Patridge were.

00:03:03 SPK\_2

All over the mayor and City Council for McAllen about being more aggressive and putting more.

00:03:09 SPK\_2

On the table to try to attract the rack.

00:03:15 SPK\_2

I think if Mike was alive today, he'd tell you that I'm pretty bottom line driven. I always take a look at what the ROI is on it.

00:03:23 SPK\_2

And I just didn't see the ROI for the amount of money we had to come up.

00:03:28 SPK\_2

For the rack, and we didn't make it make the proposal a little more attractive.

00:03:34 SPK\_2

Was it?

00:03:36 SPK\_2

Much, much better than what we had put in the 1st place. No, it was better, but not much better.

00:03:42 SPK\_1

The first one I understand was all the valley cities kind of presenting a joint proposal, wasn't that?

00:03:49 SPK\_2

Well, that was briefly put together that way. I don't remember. I remember a city meeting our own 3 ring.

00:03:55 SPK\_1

Binder, yes.

00:03:56 SPK\_2

And and it was a little bit coordinated, but I think the UT system.

00:04:03 SPK\_2

Kind of put a lot of pressure on us to be more aggressive and then we, that little coalition kind of fell apart.

00:04:11 SPK\_2

And everybody submitted their own and so we put together.

00:04:15 SPK\_2

A much better proposal. But it was not anywhere as close as what Harlingen put together. I mean, Harlingen put everything in the kitchen sink in their proposal. I mean, it was.

00:04:28 SPK\_2

Very aggressive.

00:04:31 SPK\_2

I think to this day.

00:04:33 SPK\_2

There are a lot of us who still have a bad taste in our mouth about the University of Texas system always coming down and taking advantage of people who don't have as much money as UT system.

00:04:46 SPK\_2

And I can tell you, I I still have that. I think if you ask Leo Montalvo, he'll tell you the same thing.

00:04:53 SPK\_2

I think Mike Allen was still alive. He'd tell you the same thing. Keith will probably tell you the same thing. Doctor Crossland. Dr. Gotta have since passed.

00:05:02 SPK\_2

Ultra Brand Senior has since passed.

00:05:05 SPK\_2

But a lot of us felt that.

00:05:09 SPK\_2

The University of Texas system was taking advantage of smaller communities.

00:05:15 SPK\_2

There's a gentleman who was our mayor Pro Tem at the time. Was he the mayor Pro Tem, Jane Klink?

00:05:22 SPK\_2

He would probably say the same thing. And there was a commissioner of Carlos Garza was president of a local bank.

00:05:27 SPK\_2

Probably say the same thing. We just felt that they were asking so much.

00:05:33 SPK\_2

From our small smaller communities, I mean.

00:05:37 SPK\_2

And it's hard for people to I think to understand that you know McAllen is 140,000 now, but back then there's probably 100 and 1012 and and so for.

00:05:47 SPK\_2

For me to say, well, we're a small community and Weslaco will probably was probably at about 25 was saying you're not a small community, you're a big commute. No for we're a small community. If you're a million population, you're large community, half a million, you're large.

00:06:02 SPK\_2

But for community of 100,000 and Harlingen was probably 55 or 60, for them to put up as much as they did was.

00:06:11 SPK\_2

Very hard.

00:06:12 SPK\_1

And this is when Austin has a reputation for always telling the valley you have to play together and and be joint.

00:06:19 SPK\_2

Right now and there's a there's a lot of that going on that we felt that they want us to play together, but they were.

00:06:26 SPK\_2

They create an RFP that.

00:06:31 SPK\_2

Forces.

00:06:33 SPK\_2

To not play together, they they forced us to.

00:06:39 SPK\_2

Kind of turn on each other.

00:06:41 SPK\_2

And.

00:06:45 SPK\_2

I don't think it was very good.

00:06:48 SPK\_2

And you take a look at what we have now and I think as a result of that, I mean we had, we became very disjointed and now we have a medical school and it's a little disjointed.

00:07:01 SPK\_2

We.

00:07:04 SPK\_2

Corrington extent is kind of left holding a bag.

00:07:07 SPK\_2

With the rack not having the medical school.

00:07:13 SPK\_2

I think these version of Texas system probably taught us that playing together, sometimes you don't win that it's about.

00:07:22 SPK\_2

You know who gets the marbles and who has more marbles and the more expensive marbles is going to win and.

00:07:30 SPK\_2

Yeah, I I think at the end, I think we kind of all lost in South Texas a little bit.

00:07:37 SPK\_2

So I don't know.

00:07:40 SPK\_2

I think medical school is.

00:07:42 SPK\_2

Is doing well, but even then, the way the creative medical schools you've got to have.

00:07:47 SPK\_2

You know, some in.

00:07:49 SPK\_2

In.

00:07:50 SPK\_2

Edinburg and some in McAllen and some in West school Mercedes and some in Harlingen and.

00:07:59 SPK\_2

It's not set up.

00:08:03 SPK\_2

Very efficiently. Just like UTRGV. It's not set up very efficiently. I mean it's one university, but.

00:08:11 SPK\_2

You've got professors who are teaching business classes from Edinburgh having to drive all the way to Brownsville and vice versa, and it's not a very efficient use of resources now. It may not make a difference 10 years from now, because you're going to have.

00:08:29 SPK\_2

Umm.

00:08:32 SPK\_2

I guess it's called tell education that you're using technology. So you could have a professor lecturing in a class, you know, in Hartford, CT and we could be sitting in a class listening to the professor talked about was whatever they want to talk about.

00:08:49 SPK\_2

So it may not make a difference 20 years from now.

00:08:52 SPK\_2

But I think for the people who lived with the process still have a bad taste in their mouth. I still have a bad taste in my.

00:08:58 SPK\_1

Mouth, it's not that it's it's it's not traditional the setup but it going beyond that it's not very efficient or possibly.

00:09:07 SPK\_2

Effective. I question how effective it's going to be and I think eventually 80% of it's going to be in the McAllen, Edinburg, Edinburg, McAllen area. I think that's what's going to happen. I mean guess what's going to happen and that's probably the way it needs to be.

00:09:23 SPK\_2

But I think it created a lot of hard feelings. I know there's a lot of hard feelings and orange and I wasn't hanging for 11 years, so I thought you were. I was city manager there. So I know Randy Whittington very well. He was the mayor when I was there. So, I mean, I worked for Randy I worked for.

00:09:44 SPK\_2

Sam, I worked for bill card. So I mean I I worked for a number of mayors and they're good managers and they mean good and they try to help their community. But sometimes when you have Austin kind of making rules, it causes us to.

00:10:02 SPK\_2

For family to fight.

00:10:04 SPK\_2

And, and I I'm still very leery. I don't like the name of the UTRGV mascot.

00:10:11 SPK\_2

You know I I I, I, I sometimes feel that we have we still have people coming outside the region

trying trying to tell us how we have to do things and they force us to do things. And so I'm I don't don't care for it but I'm not going elected official you know you know I I take my marching orders from.

00:10:31 SPK\_2

Whoever my mayor and City Council is, and as long as they don't ask me to do anything illegal, they're morally improper.

00:10:37 SPK\_2

I'm going to get it done and so to the best of my ability, but I think there's been things that have been done.

00:10:47 SPK\_2

To us in South Texas that have Fosse.

00:10:50 SPK\_2

Forced us to fight with our brothers and sisters. And so I I sometimes I don't think that has been.

00:10:56 SPK\_2

For the best.

00:10:57 SPK\_1

You mentioned two names. I'm not familiar with Doctor Guerra.

00:11:04 SPK\_2

Doctor Romero Guerra and and Doctor Miro Castle.

00:11:09 SPK\_1

No, it's from.

00:11:11 SPK\_2

So, and and and Doctor Guerra, Dr. Guerra and Doctor Kassel had.

00:11:18 SPK\_2

Doctor's offices in downtown McAllen.

00:11:22 SPK\_2

Two blocks away from the old hospital for City Hall, OK? And so they both were very they viewed themselves not as doctors but as healers.

00:11:33 SPK\_2

And they.

00:11:37 SPK\_2

We're.

00:11:38 SPK\_2

Fabulous doctors. They told me before you have all the articles how stress can cause heart



attacks. Before we had articles in research that did this. They told me that back in 1993 that I need to watch my stress because I'll die of a heart attack. So what? How can that do this as well?

00:11:58 SPK\_2

Adrenaline.

00:11:59 SPK\_2

Goes through your body and before you would fight the Tigers that was coming into The Cave. But now you get stressed off because stressed out because a mayor or Councilman or citizen is yelling at you and you can't do anything and you can't fight. And so you sit there and running, coach your arteries and it plugs it up and then you have a heart attack. But they viewed themselves as healers. They also told me that. And as you get older, if you want to work longer, take a 15 minute break, elevate your feet.

00:12:29 SPK\_2

Above your head.

00:12:31 SPK\_2

For 15 minutes and let the blood equalize in your body and it will rejuvenate your energy.

00:12:38 SPK\_2

And.

00:12:39 SPK\_2

I don't know, four or five years ago there's a big study that that's what's good for you. So they were old school doctors, very, very smart.

00:12:48 SPK\_2

Doctor Guetta was the city of Mcallen's health director for a number of years until he retired and.

00:12:54 SPK\_1

Recall his first name.

00:12:58 SPK\_2

I don't. I will tell you after we finish with the interview, I will call and find out for you. I can't. I thought it was, I thought a middle gather.

00:13:07 SPK\_1

OK, could be.

00:13:09 SPK\_1

Because there was. Yeah, there was.

00:13:12 SPK\_1

Caruso, Mario Ramirez, and then possibly.

00:13:16 SPK\_2

Ramiro Guerra. Mario Ramirez was involved in that process because he was still had a lot of

strong connections in Stark County and he had the Stark County Medical Society supporting it always from day one. But it was just trying to get that Algo County. It was a Hidalgo that was Hidalgo.

00:13:35 SPK\_2

Yeah, they had Delaware County Medical Society was really hard, and that's just the way it is.

00:13:40 SPK\_1

They didn't. And what were the hospitals behind it? Or they did what the doctors wanted at that point?

00:13:47 SPK\_2

Account medical was somewhat in favorite. We had a member on our board who was on the Board of Directors and that was John Schrock regional was.

00:13:56 SPK\_1

Board of directors.

00:13:57 SPK\_2

For the Advisory Board for McAllen Medical Center, John Schrock you as a City Council member also and so we got them to to support it.

00:14:07 SPK\_2

Regional.

00:14:10 SPK\_2

A little bit.

00:14:11 SPK\_2

Umm.

00:14:14 SPK\_2

Yeah, less.

00:14:18 SPK\_2

They were somewhat lukewarm.

00:14:22 SPK\_2

Ohh supporting it.

00:14:25 SPK\_2

And part of it had to do with Doctor Getter and Doctor Kassa new the cost of the medical school.

00:14:35 SPK\_2

Also were not involved in the medical community.

00:14:38 SPK\_2

Didn't have a full understanding of it.

00:14:42 SPK\_2

In the beginning, I think as we got to the tail end, we did research we're supposed to do and you didn't have quite you know, where you could Google everything like you can now back in in the early 90s and mid 90s. And so it was a lot harder in late 90s, real hard harder to do that. So it was.

00:15:00 SPK\_2

Doing the research we found out that.

00:15:04 SPK\_2

Most medical schools have a taxing district. Most medical schools have some kind of foundation that supports them somehow, someway to help.

00:15:17 SPK\_2

Doctors or students who are going to be doctors get through the process because they get paid. At the time they were getting paid about 35,000. Someone has to pay them.

00:15:26 SPK\_2

The hospital can help a little bit, but they don't have the resources in which to do that. They have housing issues and.

00:15:33 SPK\_2

All kinds of other expenses.

00:15:35 SPK\_2

And so also people who teach at the medical school, there are doctors, they make more money. So they got you, got to figure out how do you make that up? So a lot of them, they're still practicing and they're still teaching. And so yeah, faculty and specialist. So it's it.

00:15:50 SPK\_2

A medical school is extremely expensive and.

00:15:53 SPK\_1

And a teaching, and that's the teaching hospital in central.

00:15:57 SPK\_2

When the teaching hospital is is expensive, I mean a lot of people like to go to teaching hospital because that's where you have the latest technology and you have the latest research being done and but it's expensive.

00:16:11 SPK\_2

I mean, it's, it's expensive. Education is very expensive.

00:16:17 SPK\_2

And as we did our research.

00:16:20 SPK\_2

5060 years ago, 80 years ago, a lot of people who are in education were in education because they loved education and they knew that they wouldn't make as much money being in the private side.

00:16:32 SPK\_2

And the private sector, but they accepted the fact because they wanted to be educators.

00:16:38 SPK\_2

In today's environment.

00:16:40 SPK\_2

You talk to a young professionals as you want to be an educator in a university and we're gonna pay you.

00:16:46 SPK\_2

90,000 or 100,000 or do you want to be in the private side and make 250,000?

00:16:53 SPK\_2

We're gonna go on the private side. That's why nursing schools are having a hard time having people who have masters degrees in nursing to teach at the Community College or at the university. It's real hard to keep them because they don't get paid enough. And the way the system is set up, it's very hard even for the university to pay them. But it's expensive and that's where foundations come into place and other mechanisms that help offset what they would be making in the private side.

00:17:25 SPK\_1

Umm.

00:17:28 SPK\_1

See, it was Mike Allen you were working with and Leo Montalvo.

00:17:33 SPK\_2

Leo was the mayor at the time, OK? And so you might want to talk to Leo.

00:17:36 SPK\_1

Leo probably think I would he.

00:17:38 SPK\_2

Will probably have some very strong opinions. He is not one to hold back. I know he and other brand never did get along, but they have certain similarities. Very opinionated.

00:17:52 SPK\_2

Both are excellent with numbers. They don't. Neither of them needed to have a calculator, OK? And both of them very fiscally conservative.

00:18:02 SPK\_2

Now, how they approached people is completely different, although was very blunt.

00:18:07 SPK\_2

And somewhat abrasive. And Leo is.

00:18:12 SPK\_2

Much more tactful.

00:18:14 SPK\_2

But at the end of the day, similar philosophies.

00:18:18 SPK\_1

What was best?

00:18:19 SPK\_2

For, for the, for the community and for the area.

00:18:24 SPK\_2

And so.

00:18:26 SPK\_2

Both, both very good visionaries you know you know they're still alive and and that's a blessing and.

00:18:35 SPK\_2

All those since past.

00:18:37 SPK\_1

So your your contribution was kind of hurting cats?

00:18:42 SPK\_2

Yeah, I guess you could say that now. My job was hurting cats, and that's what I did because I also played a role in South Texas Community College. So yeah, MM Allen and myself, our job was to.

00:18:56 SPK\_2

Help direct.

00:19:00 SPK\_2

The efforts.

00:19:03 SPK\_1

Which involved setting up meetings, providing information to the parties.

00:19:08 SPK\_2

Doing research, putting the packet together.

00:19:11 SPK\_2

Putting the packet together was done a lot by Mike's assistant Keith Patridge and my assistant a guy named Brent Brenham and and they yeah we we did the the hurting of the cats but they

actually of working on those little animals and getting them ready. That was Brent and and Keith.

00:19:33 SPK\_2  
Brown.

00:19:34 SPK\_2  
BRANHAM, Brennan.

00:19:36 SPK\_1  
Ohh OK.

00:19:37 SPK\_2  
Brent and then Keith, Patrick, Keith is the EDC director, right. And so they they are the ones that.

00:19:45 SPK\_2  
Spend a lot of time putting that three ring binder and keep in mind this is the time when we still did a lot of paperwork and we did binders and we didn't put it on a.

00:19:55 SPK\_2  
You know JPEG?

00:19:57 SPK\_2  
Or flash drive.

00:19:59 SPK\_2  
And so I mean there was just a lot of work and you had, I think we had to do.

00:20:04 SPK\_2  
I think we have to do 5 and the and the binders are like 3 inches thick and so it was fairly complex and just a lot of work.

00:20:14 SPK\_2  
And so.

00:20:16 SPK\_2  
There's a lot of people that worked on it, but.

00:20:19 SPK\_2  
To Keith and Brent, they did, they did a line share of putting that.

00:20:23 SPK\_2  
Together.

00:20:24 SPK\_2  
And then Mike's my responsibilities.

00:20:28 SPK\_2

Trying to bring consensus.

00:20:30 SPK\_2

And.

00:20:31 SPK\_1

And what did you have to do to?

00:20:34 SPK\_2

Well, if you if you mind, I mean consensus one is.

00:20:39 SPK\_2

In the early part, although ran, his idea of consensus is what he decides has to be done.

00:20:46 SPK\_2

Leo was more collaborative. And so.

00:20:50 SPK\_2

Even if although wasn't very much about consensus building because that was just his style, we still had to have consensus because you need to minimize the amount of people who are angry at you and and throwing rocks in the cog.

00:21:02 SPK\_2

And so we had to, you know, do do a lot of the legwork and plus he never got along very well with Doctor Casso because back in the in the mid 70s there was a big race for mayor and it was between other brand and doctor Council.

00:21:19 SPK\_2

And that that record of the number of people who showed up to vote for that election still has not been broken.