

Life Times

TONIGHT

Transcript Archives

Wednesday June 9, 1999

HUGH>> ON LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT, CHILD MOLESTERS AND SERIAL RAPIST: THEY ARE SOCIETY'S MONSTERS. CAN THEY BE CURED AND RELEASED BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY?

SAUL>> WHY ARE YOU HERE, PATRICK?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> I'M A RAPIST.

SAUL>> HOW MANY WOMEN HAVE YOU RAPED?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN.

SAUL>> WHO WERE THEY?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> STRANGERS.

SAUL>> HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> WELL, IT MADE ME FEEL MORE POWERFUL AND IN CONTROL AT THE TIME.

KATHLEEN>> ALSO, WHO WAS REALLY THE BIG WINNER IN THE ELECTION YESTERDAY? WE'LL ASK TWO INSIDERS ABOUT LOS ANGELES POLITICS UNDER THE NEW CITY CHARTER.

HUGH>> THOSE STORIES COMING UP NEXT ON LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1999.

LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS:

THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION
WHICH IS DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMED CALIFORNIA CITIZENRY.

GTE
A COMPANY COMMITTED TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXCELLENCE AND AN OPEN DIALOGUE AMONG ALL PEOPLE.

BANK OF AMERICA
DID YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY? WHAT IF YOU DID? HOW WOULD IT MAKE YOU FEEL? BANK OF AMERICA, PUT THE FUTURE IN MOTION.

AND THE L.K. WHITTIER FOUNDATION
DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE ENDEAVORS IN THE FIELDS OF MEDICINE, HEALTH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

HUGH>> GOOD EVENING, I'M HUGH HEWITT. MY COHOST THIS EVENING IS JOURNALIST KATHLEEN SULLIVAN, WHO IS THE MORNING ANCHOR FOR KFWB RADIO AND UNDOUBTEDLY FAMILIAR TO YOU AS THE FORMER ANCHOR FOR ABC, CBS, CNN.

THANK YOU, KATHLEEN.

KATHLEEN>> THANK YOU. IT'S NICE TO BE HERE.

HUGH>> IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE.

KATHLEEN>> AND I AM A VERY PROUD, LONG-TIME MEMBER OF KCET.

HUGH>> OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT TAKES US INSIDE A DARK AND SOMETIMES VIOLENT WORLD. A WORLD INHABITED BY MEN MANY CONSIDER SOCIETY'S MONSTERS. THEY'RE CHILD MOLESTERS, SERIAL RAPISTS AND SEXUAL REPEAT OFFENDERS. THE JUSTICE SYSTEM LABELS THEM SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS.

KATHLEEN>> THE QUESTION IS, ARE THESE MEN LOST TO SOCIETY? CAN THEY BE TAUGHT TO CONTROL

THEIR DARK IMPULSES? CAN THEY BE CURED AND RELEASED BACK INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

TONIGHT SAUL GONZALEZ GIVES US A RARE GLIMPSE INSIDE A PLACE THAT HOLDS AN ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS, THE MENTAL HOSPITAL WHERE CALIFORNIA COMMITS AND ATTEMPTS TO TREAT ITS VERY WORSE SEXUAL OFFENDERS.

SAUL>> ON A LATE SPRING AFTERNOON, THE HILLS AROUND THE CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE A LANDSCAPE FROM A BEAUTIFUL DREAM. BUT HERE AT A MENTAL HOSPITAL, THERE ARE MEN WHO CAME STRAIGHT OUT OF SOME PEOPLE'S NIGHTMARES. MEN LIKE PATRICK GHILOTTI.

SAUL>> WHY ARE YOU HERE, PATRICK?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> I'M A RAPIST.

SAUL>> HOW MANY WOMEN HAVE YOU RAPED?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN.

SAUL>> WHO WERE THEY?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> STRANGERS.

SAUL>> HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> IT MADE ME FEEL POWERFUL AND CONTROL AT THE TIME. IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD, BETTER, TO BE ABLE TO OVERPOWER SOMEBODY AND CONTROL SOMEBODY.

SAUL>> AND SEE THEM AFRAID?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> SEE THEM AFRAID. SEE THE FEAR.

SAUL>> PATRICK GHILOTTI IS ONE OF NEARLY 300 REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS COMMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL.

THERE ARE SEXUAL SATISTS, RAPISTS AND CHILD MOLESTERS THE STATE CALLS SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS.

CRAIG NELSON>> THE PREDATOR IS REALLY SOMEONE WHO IS OUT SEEKING PREY, TRYING TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL VICTIMS.

SAUL>> CRAIG NELSON IS IN CHARGE OF THE SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR PROGRAM.

CRAIG NELSON>> IT'S USUALLY SOMEONE WHO HAS A PREFERENCE OR AT LEAST AN EXTREME INTEREST IN SEXUALLY VIOLENT ACTS. TYPICALLY THESE PEOPLE OFFEND AGAINST STRANGERS OR THEY ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF VICTIMIZATION.

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> BETWEEN '87 AND '89, I MOLESTED FIVE YOUNG GIRLS. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE EXACT AGES OF EACH OF THEM, BUT THEY WERE ALL YOUNG GIRLS UNDER TEN.

TO BE HONEST, WHILE I WAS DOING IT I DIDN'T REALLY ENJOY IT, IT WAS THE LEADING UP TO IT THAT WAS FULFILLING. IT WAS NOT THE ACT OF THE SEXUAL CONTACT BUT THE ACT OF APPROACHING THE VICTIM WAS, I THINK, THE MOTIVATION.

SAUL>> THRILLING?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> YEAH, IT WAS THRILLING. I FELT LIKE I WAS IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.

SAUL>> ASIDE FROM THEIR CRIMES, MANY OF THE PREDATORS HERE ONCE LED NORMAL LIVES.

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> I WAS MARRIED. I HAD A BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND DAUGHTER. AND ANYBODY LOOKING INTO MY LIFE WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN EXCEPT WHEN I WENT OUT ON MY WALKING SPREES THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG.

SAUL>> YOUR WALKING SPREES?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> YEAH.

SAUL>> THAT'S WHEN WITH YOU WOULD GO OUT AND LOOK FOR VICTIMS?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> LATER ON IT BECAME LOOKING FOR VICTIMS, YEAH.

SAUL>> MEN LIKE PATRICK GHILOTTI ARE AT THIS MENTAL INSTITUTION BECAUSE OF A LAW PASSED BY STATE LEGISLATORS IN 1995.

RATHER THAN SET FREE RAPISTS AND MOLESTERS AFTER THEY'VE SERVED THEIR PRISON SENTENCE, THE LAW ALLOWS MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO CONFINES SEX OFFENDERS TO AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS

OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT EXTENDABLE TO A LIFETIME IF A JUDGE OR JURY SO DECIDES. IT'S A PROCESS CALLED INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT.

THE LAW WAS PASSED BECAUSE OF PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE RELEASE OF SEX OFFENDERS BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY WHERE IT WAS FEARED THEY WOULD REOFFEND AGAIN.

(SHOWING CLIP)

CRAIG NELSON>> I THINK HIGH PROFILE CASES OF MEN GOING OUT OF PRISON AND REOFFENDING IN BIG WAYS. AND EVERYONE SCRATCHES THEIR HEADS AND SAYS, "HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? WHY DIDN'T SOMETHING HAPPEN SO THAT WHEN HE WAS RELEASED, OUR CHILDREN, OUR SISTERS, OUR MOTHERS, OUR WIVES WERE PROTECTED?"

SAUL>> THE SEXUAL PREDATORS AT THE HOSPITAL ARE DIAGNOSED WITH PARAPHELIA, DEFINED AS EXTREME AND CHRONIC SEXUAL DEVIANCE.

WHILE HERE, THE SEXUAL PREDATOR POPULATION LIVES TOGETHER IN SEPARATE HOUSING. THEIR ROOMS ARE SPARTAN, BUT PATIENTS ARE ALLOWED TO DECORATE THEM AS THEY WISH.

PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT FOR COOPERATIVE INDIVIDUALS CONSISTS OF BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION THERAPY CALLED RELAPSE PREVENTION.

CRAIG NELSON>> THE PURPOSE OF THE TREATMENT IS TO HELP THE OFFENDER LEARN WAYS TO MANAGE THE URGES. WE NEED TO HELP THE OFFENDER LEARN WAYS AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO MANAGE AND TO BECOME MOTIVATED IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE CAN BE RELEASED TO OUTPATIENT SUPERVISION AND MONITORING IN THE COMMUNITY.

SAUL>> LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT WAS NOT PERMITTED TO FILM ANY PART OF THE HOSPITAL'S TREATMENT REGIMENT. IT IS SIMILAR, HOWEVER, TO THIS PROGRAM FOR REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS IN VERMONT.

HERE, MEN ARE TAUGHT TO STOP RATIONALIZING THEIR SEXUAL DEVIANCE AND FIND EMPATHY FOR THEIR VICTIMS. IN THIS SESSION IT'S DONE BY HAVING THE MEN LISTEN TO A 911 CALL FROM A RAPE VICTIM.

(SHOWING CLIP)

SAUL>> SESSIONS LIKE THIS PLANT THE SEEDS OF A CONSCIENCE AMONG SOME SEX OFFENDERS.

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> I'VE GROWN A LOT MORE MATURE. I'VE LEARNED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE AND NOT TO BLAME OTHER PEOPLE FOR THE THINGS I'VE DONE; TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND SAY, HEY, THESE ARE MY ACTIONS. I'M THE ONE THAT DID THIS. NOBODY MADE ME DO IT.

SAUL>> AS CALIFORNIA ATTEMPTS TO TREAT ITS REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS, CRITICS OF THE PROGRAM ASK A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. DO THE MEN LOCKED UP AS SEXUAL PREDATORS HERE REALLY HAVE LEGITIMATE MENTAL PROBLEMS?

SAUL>> SO WHEN IT COMES TO A SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT PERSON?

CRAIG NELSON>> THEY'RE A CRIMINAL. YOU COULD ASK ME THE SAME THING ABOUT A MURDERER, A BANK ROBBER OR DRUG DEALER. "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?" THEY WANT SOMETHING THEY CAN'T GET LEGALLY.

SAUL>> DR. THEODORE DONALDSON ONCE EVALUATED SEXUAL PREDATORS FOR THE STATE. HE ARGUES THAT BECAUSE MOST SEX OFFENDERS ARE RATIONAL AND IN SELF CONTROL WHEN THEY COMMIT THEIR CRIMES, IT CAN'T BE ARGUED THAT THEY SUFFER FROM A LEGITIMATE MENTAL ABNORMALITY.

THEODORE DONALDSON>> THE FACT THEY HAVE AN URGE DOESN'T MEAN THEY HAVE TO GIVE IN TO THAT URGE.

IF YOU LOOK IT AT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CRIME, THEY DON'T ACT LIKE THEY'RE TOTALLY COMPELLED WITH THE BEHAVIOR. THEY ACT LIKE IT'S SOMETHING THEY WANT TO DO IT AND THEY DO IT. I THINK THAT'S AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION AND YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF GIVEN WHAT THIS PERSON DID BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THEIR CRIME, IS THERE ANYTHING THERE THAT MAKES YOU THINK DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT? I RARELY FIND A CASE WHERE I THINK THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> I UNDERSTAND WHY I DID WHAT I DID. THERE WAS NO MENTAL ILLNESS INVOLVED, NO UNCONTROLLABLE IMPULSES. THERE WAS NO MAGIC THING HAPPENING. IT WAS MY CHOICE TO GO OUT AND DO WHAT I DID.

SAUL>> IF THESE MEN MIGHT NOT BE MENTALLY ILL, SHOULD THEY BE CONFINED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION EVEN AFTER THEY SERVE THEIR PRISON TIME?

LORENE MIES>> WE DO HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO GO OVERBOARD BECAUSE WE'RE AFRAID HE'S THE BOOGIE MAN UNLESS WE HAVE HARD AND COLD REASONS TO DO SO.

SAUL>> LORENE MIES IS AN ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO HAS REPRESENTED SEVERAL REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS IN COURT.

SHE ARGUES IDENTIFICATION OF SEXUAL PREDATORS IS MORE GUESSWORK THAN HARD SCIENCE AND INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT UNFAIR BECAUSE IT LOCKS PEOPLE UP FOR OFFENSES THEY MAY OR MAY NOT COMMIT IN THE FUTURE.

LORENE MIES>> I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU FOR SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT HAVE DONE YET. I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BAD BOY IN THE FUTURE. I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU LOCKED UP SO YOU CAN'T BE A BAD BOY. "I'M NOT GOING TO BE A BAD BOY." WELL, I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE. "HOW DO YOU KNOW?" I JUST KNOW.

HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT?

CRAIG NELSON>> LET'S FACE IT, SOMEONE WHO GOES OUT AND MOLESTS CHILDREN, IS INCARCERATED; MOLESTS AGAIN, IS INCARCERATED; MOLESTS CHILDREN AGAIN, IS INCARCERATED, IS NOT A NORMAL WELL-ADJUSTED INDIVIDUAL. THAT'S SOMEONE WHO HAS SOME VERY SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.

SAUL>> THE SUPREME COURT AGREES. IT RULED IN A 1997 KANSAS CASE THAT INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS WAS CONSTITUTIONAL.

INCLUDING CALIFORNIA, THERE ARE NOW 14 STATES WITH SUCH LAWS ON THE BOOKS.

OF COURSE, THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS RESTS ON THIS QUESTION: CAN SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS BE RETURNED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD WITHOUT FEAR OF THEM STRIKING AGAIN?

EVEN THE DOCTORS WHO WORK WITH THIS POPULATION OF MEN SAY THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FOOLPROOF CURE.

CRAIG NELSON>> NO ONE IS GOING TO WALK OUT THE DOORS OF A TREATMENT CENTER, NOT GOING TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH NEVER HAVING ANOTHER SEXUAL URGE OR FANTASY OR DESIRE AGAIN. BUT INSTEAD, TREATMENT IS REALLY ABOUT HELPING OFFENDERS LEARN WAYS TO COPE WITH THOSE URGES AND FANTASIES MORE EFFECTIVELY.

FOR CHILD MOLESTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MEANS NOT BEING AROUND KIDS, NOT HAVING KIDS YOURSELF, NOT BEING AROUND WHERE THERE ISN'T GOOD ADULT SUPERVISION; AND I MEAN SUPERVISION WHERE THERE ARE OTHER ADULTS WHO KNOW THE OFFENDER'S PROPENSITIES.

SAUL>> IS IT WORTH THE RISK RELEASING YOU?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> ABSOLUTELY.

SAUL>> JUST BECAUSE YOU SAY YOU'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN?

PATRICK GHILOTTI>> THAT'S ALL I CAN GIVE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A MAGIC ANSWER. ALL I CAN SAY IS I KNOW I WILL NEVER REOFFEND AGAIN. I CAN TELL YOU POINT BLANK IF I EVER GOT INTO A SITUATION WHERE I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO REOFFEND AGAIN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN THAT PLACE AGAIN. AND I WOULD PUT A BULLET THROUGH MY OWN HEAD BEFORE I EVER WENT BACK THERE.

SAUL>> THE HOSPITAL RARELY BELIEVES SUCH CLAIMS, HOWEVER. SINCE THE PROGRAM HAS STARTED HERE THREE YEARS AGO, ONLY ONE PATIENT HAS BEEN RELEASED.

MEANWHILE, THE HOSPITAL IS BUILDING A NEW WING FOR A SHARP INCREASE OF THE NUMBER OF REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS COMMITTED HERE. THAT WILL MAKE IT HOME TO THE LARGEST POPULATION OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS IN THE COUNTRY.

I'M SAUL GONZALEZ FOR LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT.

HUGH>> REPORTER SAUL GONZALEZ JOINS US HERE IN THE STUDIO.

SAUL, IT DID NOT SOUND LIKE A RINGING ENDORSEMENT FROM THE PROFESSIONALS THAT WORK WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS THAT THEY CAN, IN FACT, CURE THEM.

SAUL>> NO ONE SAYS A CURE IS POSSIBLE. THERE IS NOT A CURE.

KATHLEEN>> SO WHAT IS THE POINT OF IT?

SAUL>> TO GET THEM TO A POINT WHERE THEY CAN CONTROL THEIR IMPULSES AND HOPE THEY DO.

KATHLEEN>> SO THEY'RE NOT TREATING THIS AS A DISEASE, THEY'RE TREATING THIS AS LACK OF SELF-WILL.

SAUL>> PUTTING ENOUGH SAFEGUARDS UP A FIREWALL, IF YOU WILL, BETWEEN THESE MEN'S ACTIONS

AND THEIR IMPULSES.

KATHLEEN>> THEN WHY IS IT TREATED AT A HOSPITAL?

SAUL>> THAT'S THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION, SHOULD IT BE?

HUGH>> I WAS NOT HEARING ANYONE SAY WE CAN BUILD THE FIREWALL; IN OTHER WORDS, WHY IS THE STATE INVESTING SO MUCH OR IS THIS JUST A SHARADE?

SAUL>> THE STATE WOULD ARGUE WOULD YOU PREFER THEM TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT ANY TREATMENT? AT LEAST WE'RE DOING SOMETHING. AND WHILE THEY'RE HERE, WE'RE PROTECTING THE PUBLIC.

KATHLEEN>> WHAT'S THE SUCCES? HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TREATED AND RELEASED?

SAUL>> NOT GREAT SUCCESS. ONE UP IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE SIGNS OF HIM POSSIBLY HEADING ON A FAST TRACK TO REOFFEND.

KATHLEEN>> MOST ALCOHOLICS KNOW THEY'RE ALWAYS AN ALCOHOLIC. DO THESE SEX OFFENDERS ALWAYS CONSIDER THEMSELVES SEX OFFENDERS?

SAUL>> THEY ARE TAUGHT THEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE THESE IMPULSES.

KATHLEEN>> THANK YOU.

SAUL>> THANK YOU.

KATHLEEN>> WE'LL BE BACK RIGHT AFTER THIS WITH A LOOK AT YESTERDAY'S ELECTION AND HOW IT CHANGED LA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOREVER.

HUGH>> IT WASN'T EVEN CLOSE. ANGELENOS SAY YES TO A NEW CITY CHARTER, NO TO A BIGGER CITY COUNCIL AND YES TO A CHANGE IN THE WAY SCHOOL BOARD ARE ELECTED.

WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE NUMBERS AND WHO REALLY COMES OUT ON TOP AFTER YESTERDAY'S ELECTION?

KATHLEEN>> FOR ANSWERS TO THOSE AND OTHER QUESTIONS, WE TURN TO ONE OF THE PEOPLE CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING LOS ANGELES' NEW CHARTER, JOEL WACHS.

AND SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE, A POLITICAL ANALYST AT CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY.

WELCOME BOTH OF YOU TO LIFE AND TIMES TONIGHT.

THERE WAS ONE MAN ON THE BALLOT WHO WAS A BIG VICTOR YESTERDAY.

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> NOT ON THE BALLOT.

KATHLEEN>> BUT HE WAS QUIETLY THERE, WASN'T HE?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> THE MAYOR, OF COURSE. HE WAS THE BIG WINNER.

JOEL WACHS>> I THINK HE IS TO BE GIVEN AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CREDIT TO HAVEN INSTITUTED THE PROCESS IN THE BEGINNING. BUT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS IT WAS REALLY ABOUT WHETHER THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY HAVE A GREATER SAY IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. AND I THINK HE FINALLY OPENED UP THE SYSTEM A LITTLE BIT TO BRING PEOPLE IN.

KATHLEEN>> ARE YOU ALL THE ONBOARD? DO YOU AGREE? DO YOU STAND BEHIND THIS AS WELL?

JOEL WACHS>> WELL, OBVIOUSLY SINCE I CAMPAIGNED SO HARD FOR IT, I'M GOING TO STAND BEHIND IT AND DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE IT WORK. AND I THINK IT BEHOOVES EVERY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL TO DO THE SAME.

AND I WILL SAY THIS IF THEY DON'T, THE SAME ANGER YOU SAW EXPRESSED IN THE PUBLIC YESTERDAY WILL HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE AT A FUTURE ELECTION. BUT I HOPE THAT GROWN MEN AND WOMEN CAN COME TOGETHER FOR PUBLIC GOOD BUT IT WILL REQUIRE THE PUBLIC MAKING SURE THE COUNCIL DOESN'T-

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> ONE QUICK REMARK. THERE'S A LOT IN RIDING ON THIS, AND GOES BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY. IF THIS CHARTER REFORM DOESN'T WORK, WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP? THE REVING UP OF THE SECESSION MOVEMENT. I DON'T SEE THE CITY COUNCIL HAS A CHOICE.

KATHLEEN>> YOU DON'T THINK THIS HAS QUIETED SUCESSION?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> NO.

KATHLEEN>> YOU DON'T THINK THIS HAS QUIETED SUCCESSION IN THE LEAST?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> HEY, WE'VE PASSED SOMETHING. IT HASN'T BEEN IMPLEMENTED. SECESSION BASICALLY HAS TRULY TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN. IT'S GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS. THE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR HAVE TAKEN A DRAMATIC STEP. THEY HAVE RAISED THE STAKES.

HUGH>> NOW, SHERRY, IN TERMS OF THE HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES IT IS ETHICAL THAT PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THAT AS A DIVIDING LINE IN THE HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES. IS THIS SUCH A DIVIDING LINE IN YESTERDAY'S ELECTION?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> YES AND NO. YES IN THE SENSE THAT THERE WAS A STATEMENT FOR REFORM. THERE WAS A STATEMENT THAT THINGS HAVE GOT TO CHANGE. NOT YET, I GUESS, IS MORE ACCURATE BECAUSE NOTHING HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE TRULY HAVE AN IMPLEMENTED, WORKING, EFFECTIVE NEW CHARTER.

KATHLEEN>> WELL, I GUESS THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARDS WILL BE PUT INTO PLACE. HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH THAT?

JOEL WACHS>> WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING--IT'S INTERESTING. I FIRST PROPOSED THAT SEVEN YEARS AGO, SO IT'S BEEN IN MY MIND FOR A LONG TIME.

WE WILL HAVE AN ORDINANCE BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IT WILL CREATE THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS WHICH WILL BE GIVEN ONE YEAR TO COME UP WITH A PLAN AND PUT INTO EFFECT IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD IN THIS CITY, A MEANINGFUL COUNCIL THAT GUARANTEES THAT IT INVOLVES A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT NOT ONLY GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS IN THEIR COMMUNITY, BUT THAT THERE BE AN EARLY WARNING NOTICE THAT BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL CAN ACT ON ANY IMPORTANT CITYWIDE ISSUE, THEY GOT TO NOTIFY THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND LET THEM HAVE A SAY IN IT.

HUGH>> GOOD GOVERNMENT LATER, JOEL, LET'S TALK POLITICS. THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES IS AS BADLY DIVIDED IN THE EIGHT YEARS WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS SHOW. WHO IS THE LEADER IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NOW? WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF PUTTING THAT PUZZLE BACK TOGETHER?

JOEL WACHS>> WELL, I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED THAT ANY COMMUNITY HAS A LEADER. IT JUST SIMPLY IS NOT SO. NO COMMUNITY HAS A LEADER.

AND I THINK THAT WHAT THE CHARTER REFORM WAS ABOUT INVOLVES THAT. IT TRIES TO SUBSTITUTE FOR A FEW LEADERS A BROADER INCLUSIVE SYSTEM. IT SAYS THE CITY'S GREATNESS DEPENDS ON ALL THE PEOPLE.

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> I AGREE WITH THAT. AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY ONE COMMUNITY. AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, A JEWISH COMMUNITY, A LATINO COMMUNITY. BUT WHAT I THOUGHT WAS SO SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE RESULTS YESTERDAY IN THE 7TH, IN THE 10TH.

HUGH>> THESE ARE DISTRICTS WITH VERY NARROW ELECTIONS.

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> CERTAINLY IN THE 7TH AND THE 14TH DISTRICT AND THE SCHOOL BOARD WAS THIS: THERE WAS A REALIZATION THAT THERE CAN NO LONGER BE A SINGLE ETHNIC CANDIDATE. A CANDIDATE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LOS ANGELES HAS TO REACH OUT BEYOND HIS OR HER BASE.

KATHLEEN>> YOU MEAN THERE IS NO POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM THE FACT THAT NATE HOLDEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IN THIS TOWN WAS FORCED TO A RUNOFF?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> I JUST SAID THERE WAS A POLITICAL SIGNAL. HE WASN'T DEFEATED BECAUSE THE POWER OF INCUMBANCY WAS SO GREAT AND BECAUSE HE DID LISTEN TO HIS DISTRICT AND REACH OUT BEYOND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

HUGH>> I GOT TO ASK YOU THIS WITH JOEL SITTING HERE: WHO WINS IN THE MAYORAL STAKES AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S MASSIVE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WITH NEW FACES LIKE ALEX PADILLA AND NICK PACHECO? WHO'S THE WINNER?

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> ANYBODY WHO CAN FINALLY LOOK AND SAY YOU KNOW THIS MAY BE WORTH SOMETHING AFTER ALL.

HUGH>> JOEL, IS IT WORTH SOMETHING? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY AS MAD AS I SAW YOU IN THE AFTERMATH OF YOUR COUNCIL COMING DOWN AGAINST THE CHARTER. DOES THIS VICTORY PROPEL YOU MORE TOWARDS MAKING THAT RACE?

JOEL WACHS>> I THINK THIS IS WHAT MAYORS SHOULD BE DOING. THIS IS WHY I GIVE THE MAYOR SO MUCH CREDIT FOR WHAT HE DID BECAUSE IT IS WHAT MAYORS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE>> HERE'S ONE LITTLE TIDBIT. IN THE GREAGO AND PACHECO RACE, AND PACHECO WON IN THE 14TH, HE WAS ENDORSED BY SOMEONE WHO IS BEING RUMORED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE AND GREAGO WAS ENDORSED BY VILLARAIGOSA WHO HAS BEEN RUMORED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. SO

MAYBE THAT AFFECTS THE EQUATION.

KATHLEEN>> SO YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR YOURSELF IF YOU HAVE CHANGE IN THIS TOWN?

JOEL WACHS>> NO, BUT IT SURE HELPS.

KATHLEEN>> THANK YOU, JOEL WACHS, SO MUCH.

THANK YOU, SHERRY, IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU.

AND WE'LL BE BACK RIGHT AFTER THIS.

AND THAT'S OUR PROGRAM FOR TONIGHT.

TOMORROW EACH YEAR THE COUNTY REMOVES THOUSANDS OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED KIDS FROM THEIR HOMES AND PLACES THEM IN FOSTER CARE, BUT IS ANYONE KEEPING A CAREFUL WATCH OVER THESE CHILDREN, SOME OF WHOM WILL SPEND YEARS WITH THEIR FOSTER PARENTS?

(PREVIEW)>> SHE WOULD BEAT ME FOR, HOW SHE WOULD CALL IT, CATCHING ME WITH HER SON. SHE KNOWS HE WAS RAPING ME, BUT SHE DIDN'T CARE. YOU KNOW, HE WOULD GET REWARDED, I WOULD GET BEATEN.

HUGH>> THAT IS COMING UP TOMORROW.

NOW, FOR EVERYONE HERE, INCLUDING KATHLEEN SULIVAN, IT WAS WONDERFUL TO WORK WITH YOU.

KATHLEEN>> THANK YOU. IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.

HUGH>> TONIGHT, HAVE A GREAT NIGHT.

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