

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project
Labor Series

IRWIN LIPPE

*Interviewed by: Morris Weisz
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[Note: This interview was not edited by Mr. Lippe.]

Q: This is the first tape of what I imagine will be many in spite of the fact that Irwin Lippe denies it. We will be recording him today down in his home between Fort Pierce and Vero Beach and continuing when he comes to Washington in the next couple of months and this puts on record the fact that he is committed himself to go into some detail. Well, Irv, I told you a little about the project we are working on and we follow an outline in interviewing people that begins with a statement of where they came from in terms of their education, their work with the trade union movement or otherwise prior to becoming labor attachés. We are going to be interviewing people from the labor movement, from the Labor Department, from the Foreign Service, wherever they came from into the Labor Attaché Corps. Now I would appreciate it if you would outline your pre-State Department activities.

LIPPE: I was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and lived there until I was about 14. My family comes from Rochester, New York, and they arrived there in 1848.

I finished high school at Monroe High School in Rochester, New York, then later went to the University of Illinois, where I was a friend of Irving Bernstein, who was from Rochester. His brother was a great rabbi in Rochester and he went out to Champaign and I followed him. I went there because it was so cheap. I should have stayed home and gone to the University of Rochester, where I had been accepted and all that, but I wanted to get away from home, which most kids do at that age. I graduated in 1938, just took an ordinary bachelor of arts degree and wanted to become a newspaper man. Eventually I did become one and worked in Rochester on the Evening Journal, where a relative of mine who had been a member of Congress was the publisher, Meyer Jacobstein.

Q: A Member of Congress from northern New York? That's interesting.

LIPPE: Yes, from Rochester, and he had been a professor at the University of Rochester and Columbia University too. I don't know what else is important. I worked...

Q: You weren't a labor journalist though?

LIPPE: No, no, I was a newspaper man. Earlier jobs were hard to get, so I got a job

delivering Studebakers from the factory where they were made in South Bend, Indiana. That is where Bernice is from.

Q: Bernice is Mrs. Lippe.

LIPPE: I delivered Studebakers and in the course of delivering Studebakers we were organized by the Teamsters Union by a fine man by the name of Tom Flynn. My first real connection with labor was when I joined that union. Our pay went up to about twice what we had been earning, but the best part of it was that safety matters were much more important. The owner of this drive-away company that delivered Studebakers would pick up the drivers in New York City... (telephone interruption)

Where was I?

Q: You were employed and represented by the Teamsters Union as a Studebaker driver. At the same time you were doing journalism work, but you weren't a member of the Newspaper Guild at that point?

LIPPE: No, no, there was no Guild in South Bend. I joined the Guild much later in Cleveland. You know, there weren't any jobs when I got out of school and if you were a "yiddle" they were even harder to get and I didn't...

Q: By "yiddle" Mr. Lippe means that if you were Jewish and that's one of the things we are going to get into later on.

LIPPE: Any job that was open they looked you over. I didn't have a claim to being a great scholar or anything like that. I had really nothing salable. I majored in political science. It wasn't a difficult science. Later I did get a job on a South Bend newspaper and stayed there a while. The Teamsters' Union hired me to start a newspaper in Indianapolis called the Indiana Teamster. The Indiana Teamster. I edited that for a couple of years and...

Q: That was 1938 to 1940 approximately?

LIPPE: Yes, that's right. Then I worked on the Indianapolis Times too, which was the Scripps-Howard paper then, not covering labor particularly, just news. Then the Teamsters' Union wanted to start a paper in Ohio and I went to Columbus and organized it. It was a fine paper, the Ohio Teamster. I stayed there a while. In fact it was a very successful paper and it was highly political.

Q: When you say highly political, do you mean politically active in the PAC sense? Politically for a certain party or group?

LIPPE: Yes, the Democrats and I took after Senator Bricker at that time. There was an old man who was President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen in Cleveland. There's his picture up there, the white-haired fellow with me in the middle, and the other

guy was with the Newspaper Guild in Cleveland.

Q: That white-haired guy looked like Bricker.

LIPPE: He looked like a railroad president. That is what we used to always say about him. Mr. President. That was A. F. Whitney, you know he was a national president.

Q: Was the headquarters in Cleveland?

LIPPE: In Cleveland.

Q: I didn't realize that. Of course, they moved to Washington later on.

LIPPE: No, they are still in Cleveland and so are the Locomotive Engineers. Don't you remember they tied up the country and Truman threatened to spend all their money to defeat Truman? So that's when they hired me. They liked what I was doing down there. He [Whitney] wanted to take the railroad brotherhoods, at least the one he was chief of, out of...

Q: It's the railroad brotherhoods that moved to Washington.

LIPPE: Well, yes, Art Lyon and the Railway Labor Executive, they were in Washington. I was always associated with them in everybody's mind, but I really wasn't his particularly and he wanted to be more militant. He was the most militant of all the railway labor leaders and it wasn't hard to find militant people there because even though the railway labor organization... You know why they were organized? Because they couldn't get insurance. We were a benefit company...

Q: They had an old tradition of being.... they could feel comfortable with a guy at one time like Eugene Debs in the...

LIPPE: I had his job, the job he would have had if he had been living. He wanted the newspaper to be militant. It was too militant for a lot of its members. We had 200,000 members at that time.

Q: What was he trying to do? To get you away from the Teamsters?

LIPPE: He wanted me because he thought I was militant. I wasn't nearly as militant as he thought.

Q: In effect he was saying, "Quit the Teamsters and come with us."

LIPPE: Yes, he offered me more money. I was making \$100 a week with the Teamsters' Union and he asked what I would take.

Q: You were making \$100 a week before the war?

LIPPE: Yes.

Q: Boy, you were well paid!

LIPPE: Yes,. I was overpaid, because I was only putting out a paper once a month. But he offered me more and wanted to know if I could come right to work. He laid out what he wanted me to do. He wanted me to help him beat Truman and he handed me a box full of clippings that had every nasty thing you could say about Truman in them.

Q: He said build a paper around it.

LIPPE: Well, he wanted me to take over. So he took me with them to the Brotherhood's convention in Miami Beach.

Q: By this time it's after the war, isn't it?

LIPPE: Oh yes, this is 1946.

Q: What did you do during the war?

LIPPE: I wasn't in the war, but...

Q: I know you were still working for the Teamsters.

LIPPE: That's right. The Teamsters' Union and the Indianapolis Times and a couple of other little papers. He wanted me to really crank out something that was going to beat Truman, but in the meantime he made up with Truman and there was a wonderful picture in the New York Daily News which showed A. F. Whitney, who had promised to spend \$40 million to beat Truman, sitting on Truman's lap and licking his cheek. It was a priceless picture.

Q: Well, we are now approaching the late 1940's and about the time when you got into government, wasn't it?

LIPPE: No, I didn't get into government... Don't forget I started the Trainman News in Cleveland and I kept that going for five or six years.

Q: Oh, really? Till the early 1950's?

LIPPE: Yes. And that was when Jim Taylor got a hold of me.

Q: Jim Taylor is the Labor Department honcho on labor attachés since God only knows.

LIPPE: By this time I was, to tell the truth, good and tired of being the editor of a labor paper. I enjoyed it; I learned an awful lot; but the idea of becoming a diplomat was sort of

attractive too.

Q: Did he invite you to be interviewed?

LIPPE: Yes. In those days it went on for a long time. He used to interview potential labor attachés. You had to be reasonably literate, and you had to have some claim to the American trade union movement. Lots of others had different ideas about...

Q: What we refer to later on as a sympathetic interest in the trade union movement, but a willingness to be independent.

LIPPE: Yes. The other chap who was interested in me was over in the State Department. What the hell was his name? He came from Moscow, Idaho. That's the nearest thing he came to being a Communist I ever heard of. McCarthy went after him once and listed him as one of the Communists in the State Department. [John Fishburn]

LIPPE: Anyway he liked me...

Q: Otis Mulliken?

LIPPE: No, I know Otis. No, he was in ARA, and he's retired and lives in Virginia if he is still alive. And they sent me to Havana. That was my first post. It was 1951.

Q: Okay, 1951, which would have been the year after this famous Labor Attaché conference in Havana. You came there after that?

LIPPE: Yes. There I am [in a photograph] with the author "Papa".

Q: Oh, Hemingway, yes, I see. Down in Cuba?

LIPPE: Yeah, I didn't seek him out. I used to have lunch in La Floridita, which was a restaurant that he went to every day and I didn't have lunch with him, but I did have a daiquiri with him every day. Well, he did something for me that he doesn't do willingly or happily. They took my picture around Christmas time in that Floridita Bar and he signed it and he really went out of his way. He drew his heart. He liked me.

Q: Anyhow, that begins your Foreign Service. You were in Cuba. Mention if you can the Ambassadors who were there and tell me how long they...

LIPPE: Yes, there's his picture. Ambassador Beaulac. There I am with Ambassador Beaulac and a visiting trade unionist from New York. I can't think of his name any more. That bottom picture.

Q: Okay, then you served in Cuba from 1951 until...

LIPPE: 1953. My son became ill and I thought he was going to get a curvature of the

spine like Bernice had. I wrote to the President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. They wanted me...

Q: By the way, what was his reaction to your quitting the organization and going into government?

LIPPE: Oh, they had a big banquet for me. They were honored, see.

Q: Good. So in 1953 you went for personal family health reasons? You applied to go to Europe for the ICFTU?

LIPPE: No, I went back to the Trainmen in Cleveland. They gave me my old job back, only they tacked on Director of Public Relations too.

Q: You were back with the Trainmen in 1953?

LIPPE: That's right.

Q: Until?

LIPPE: Early 1955. Then Jim Taylor asked me... Meantime I was always in Washington and I was in touch with him. He asked me if I would care to go to Singapore.

Q: By the way, you learned Spanish during this period in Cuba?

LIPPE: Yes.

Q: You had not known it before?

LIPPE: No, no. Well, I had had a little Spanish, but in learning French, I put all the Spanish out of my mind, because I wanted to learn French.

Q: Then Taylor called you as he was always in telephone conversations and asked you...

LIPPE: We had nice lunches in the National Press Building. Remember that steak restaurant on the ground floor?

Q: Yes.

LIPPE: We had nice lunches that I paid for or the Trainmen did and that kept me in touch with him but he didn't look for that of course. No, Jim wasn't that way.

Q: And then you went to...

LIPPE: Singapore. Nobody out there thought I.... In Singapore the other mission... This was a Consulate General after all. It wasn't a country and they weren't independent. They

thought I was with the CIA, because I obviously was a fairly highly paid guy compared with what they were getting.

Q: You were the Labor Attaché?

LIPPE: Labor Officer. I liked it there. Singapore was a great spot. But don't forget, I had the mindset of a journalist. Let me tell you it was the best thing that ever happened to me, that I had this background in journalism, because it put me ahead of everybody in every embassy or mission I ever served in.

Q: In terms of being able to write?

LIPPE: [In terms of being able] to pull it together. I couldn't anymore, but I did then.

Q: You were selected to be the Labor Attaché in Singapore...

LIPPE: And you know why I was selected? Brussels was a much wanted post and I was very green as far as the international labor movement was concerned. It involved the CIO and AFL, so I came along and Art Lyon made me a railroad man. That's why.

LIPPE: I wanted to show you [a picture of] my boss in Brussels. There was Tony Freeman, who later was Ambassador to Mexico. And that's Stan Cleveland there.

Q: You were working for an ambassador named Anthony Freeman, I guess?

LIPPE: He wasn't an ambassador.

Q: Oh, he wasn't?

LIPPE: No, he was DCM and that is Stanley Cleveland with him; he was my friend. Who's the chap who was Labor Advisor for so long?

Q: Dan Gooft?

LIPPE: Dan Gooft. Dan Gooft didn't like him. Dan Gooft didn't do anything for him in Paris, but he did for me.

Q: Well, then you served in Brussels for four years, was it?

LIPPE: Yes, maybe a little longer than that.

Q: 1957 to 1961?

LIPPE: Yes.

Q: And then you went to?

LIPPE: I went home to the Department and became Labor Advisor for a little while.

Q: For which area?

LIPPE: Europe. One of the best breaks I ever had was that the chap who knew me from Singapore wouldn't okay me to go to Rome. As a result I went into the Department and European Bureau, which was much better for me, because I wasn't satisfied with the situation that I knew to be in Rome. God, you got two labor movements; you got two sets of everything to worry about.

Q: Plus Tom Lane in addition to the...

LIPPE: Plus Tom Lane, yes. Who was the Labor Attaché there in Rome?

Q: That was before Tom Bowie. At that time it was the guy who had been forever in Paris and shifted over to Rome and did very poorly there. Eldridge, was that it?

LIPPE: Yes, Eldridge.

Q: Okay, you went back to the Department then for two years for 1961 to 1963?

LIPPE: Yes and I went to Geneva.

Q: Then you went to Geneva, which is another top post. By the way, you were the guy who had the four top most posts in the world.

LIPPE: Yes and I didn't deserve a one of them.

Q: And there you stayed four years too.

LIPPE: Yes.

Q: The fact that you received that appointment [in Geneva] means that you had a reasonably good relationship with Weaver. No?

LIPPE: Never. I was lucky I didn't get selected out from that post.

Q: Because of Weaver?

LIPPE: Weaver. Weaver had a fellow on my promotion panel who worked for him. He was a Latino in the Labor Department. Weaver had him field some kind of a story that I wasn't effective and that I wasn't able to make friends with the Director General. The reason I wasn't friendly with the Director General...

Q: Because of the Director General.

LIPPE: And because of George Weaver.

Q: You served in Geneva from 1963 to 1967.

LIPPE: Yes.

Q: You went to Paris, where you served four years from 1967 to 1971. And then you went to London, where you were from about 1971 to...

LIPPE: 1974, I think.

Q: You retired in 1974?

LIPPE: 1975, I think. Oh, wait a minute. I had a job that I wasn't suited for. What's the cultural organization in Paris?

Q: UNESCO.

LIPPE: UNESCO. I was the agent in the Department [of State] for UNESCO. Well, I went to their meetings, because we were members...

Q: Why did you retire so early? How old were you when you retired?

LIPPE: I was 60. They asked me to stay on, but I had had enough of it. I just... It didn't last long.

Q: Tell me about your parents, background, middle class...

LIPPE: Yes, my father was a pretty well educated chap. He came from a good family. The name was Lipski and Lipski is a great name in Rochester. And why did I change my name? I am ashamed of it. I changed it to Lippe. I am ashamed of it

Q: I thought maybe he changed it. Why did you do it? So they shouldn't know you were Jewish? All they got to do is...

LIPPE: That was during the Hitler period. If you were a Jew, it was hard. I am still ashamed of it, very much.

Q: It wasn't hard for me because I was in the Labor Department.

LIPPE: That is when they hired Stewart and Michaels to lighten up the part of the Labor Department they were working in.

Q: I would like to ask if you have any comment on the fact that many people have mentioned to me a degree of surprise that so many of the labor attachés were Jewish and

came from New York and things like that.

LIPPE: Yes, I've heard that.

Q: Did you feel that way or what explanation would you have for that?

LIPPE: Well, I'll tell you about one fellow who came to the Embassy in London some time later...- I can't think of his name. My mind is slipping.- ...he was high up in the Government in the Nixon Administration. He asked me why so many labor officers and labor attachés were Jews. Well, I explained that it was sort of normal. These were chaps who had an interest in social affairs and they naturally would have worked as sociologists or labor people. That was where they could get in. That's the point. You remember the economist in Washington at the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainman... subsidized...

The Public Affairs Institute, Dewey Anderson. Dewey Anderson knew that I was open for offers. He said that's the only place you'll get into the Foreign Service - in the labor field. And that was about the truth.

Q: Well, it was true, but there were exceptions. Hank Cohen.

LIPPE: Oh, he's a good friend of mine.

Q: He's a good friend of mine, too. As a matter of fact, he started out as a Labor Attaché, because I was serving in Paris and he was in his first assignment and he walked over from the Embassy to the Talleyrand one day and he asked to see me. I had never met him before. He said, "I went to City College also. How do you become a labor attaché?" So he became a labor attaché. I recommended him to Phil Delaney.

LIPPE: I like him very much.

Q: He is a wonderful guy and doing very well, but in general you are absolutely right. It was the place where we could get in most easily, and it was natural with the labor background in economics and sociology and all those things where a higher proportion of the experts are Jewish in origin. It was interesting to me, as it was to you, that somebody who was not Jewish and who is not unfriendly to Jews - you know a good guy - would say to you, "How come that this happens?"

LIPPE: Well, this guy, I would think, was unfriendly to Jews.

Q: Dewey Anderson?

LIPPE: Dewey Anderson? Oh, no, I was talking about the fellow who asked me in London. I can't think of his name.

Q: Well, then the other thing is your political background. Liberal? Democrat? Never active in any radical organizations that you would care to mention?

LIPPE: No, I never was active. If I had been articulate, if I spoke well, I would have been active, but I didn't. I thought - my thinker was all right - but I couldn't connect it up with my mouth.

Q: You had no management background at all?

LIPPE: Oh, Christ, no. Except that I managed a weekly newspaper with a circulation of 200,000. There was no business...

Q: In answer to another question on our outline, you came directly from a trade union to work for the government?

LIPPE: From the trainmen, BRT, which is no longer BRT.

Q: I know, they got some other... Okay, you reviewed the circumstances of your entry into the Foreign Service. It was not self-initiated, that is you got a telephone call from a guy you never heard of.

LIPPE: I had a reputation for being a good writer. True or false, that's what it was.

Q: Well, Jim Taylor [in the U.S. Department of Labor] was looking around for people because we were under so much pressure - I was in the Labor Department then - we were under so much pressure to hire people from the trade unions that we decided to select our own people who could be nominated for those jobs rather than wait until some trade union official telephoned us.

LIPPE: Well, let me tell you something. When the Communist countries began to fall, or at least weren't growing, I took full credit among those who helped plan that. It wasn't true

Q: What was your family's reaction to your entering the labor field in the Foreign Service? Your parents?

LIPPE: God, they... Yes, they were proud. Well, one of my sisters, who isn't living, wasn't particularly proud of the fact that I had worked for these unions

Q: Bernice's reaction to your entering the Government? Willing to go along? Anxious?

LIPPE: Well, yes, anxious, but there were many times later on when we wondered, what the hell. I had my own little world as editor of Trainmen News of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, good pay, plus travel and I had a number of people who respected me, and so on.

Q: And here you were working for a Government where you did not know who you were working for. You had to serve many constituencies. I think that is one of the basic

thoughts...

LIPPE: You know when I went in the Foreign Service, this chap who died who was in FE, what we called the Far Eastern [Bureau of the Department of State]. What was his name? He died.

Q: Sullivan?

LIPPE: Yes, Joe Sullivan, wasn't it.

Q: In a Pan American crash. A wonderful guy.

LIPPE: Oh, God, he was nice.

Q: He had no trade union background at all.

LIPPE: He told me, "We are glad to get you, but some of your worst enemies will be people you think are your friends."

Q: Oh, absolutely, especially within the trade union movement. You and I had, in effect, the same rabbi as Delaney used to refer to himself. "I'm your rabbi," he said. That is the guy who took care of our professional interests if Lovestone was going to screw me about something. Not entirely but to a great degree I could depend on Delaney to warn me, etc.

LIPPE: Delaney liked you. I think George Weaver was right that Delaney really didn't like him because he was black. You find that among the Irish, but he was not even an Irishman. Phil Delaney was not Irish. If it helped him, he went along with it. Phil was an Englishman, you see.

Q: And that was it. Now I would like to go into the training of labor attachés. Now it is very important. We are not getting the right people to be trained, etc., so there is a whole section in the outline which I wrote on how you prepared for your first labor assignment. We know how you were hired. What, if any, preparatory training was there? Was it individual? Classroom? In the Department? Outside the Department? Academic? You know some guys went to Harvard etc. What were your relationships during the training period with the interest groups? Labor? Management? Government? AFL-CIO?

LIPPE: Nothing.

Q: What? You went around and saw the people. You had to do that before you left.

LIPPE: Yes, I did, but in the first place, the State Department really didn't have a real good fix on what the labor attaché was going to do. The Ambassadors rather liked the labor attaché because most of us were politically minded. We saw a political angle in something and that helped them to look better, but generally speaking there is no future for labor attachés in the Foreign Service. That is why I told you the other day, they ought

to be controlled by the Labor Department.

Q: We should have a good debate about that, but I would like to reserve that because I am sort of listing the advantages and disadvantages of pulling out by the Commerce Department. They have suffered as a result of that.

LIPPE: All right, you take Commerce and Agriculture. Those chaps know something about the field that they are in, and it never hurt them. If they were of ambassadorial quality, they would make it. And the same thing is true...

Q: Not with the Commerce Department so totally separate that they can't become ambassadors. That's one of the problems where as...

LIPPE: I never heard of anybody in the Labor Department who was good at manpower or economics or anything who wasn't generally pretty smart. He would make it as a generalist in the Foreign Service and he would be better off not to be stamped as a Labor Attaché.

Q: It's an interesting thing and we will be going over that.

LIPPE: I think that Agriculture proved it. Some of those old Agricultural Attachés were really able guys, and they were quite leftist too.

Q: Did any of them become ambassadors? No.

LIPPE: How do you think Tom Byrne became an ambassador? How do you think that would work? Because he was so able and articulate? No. Because...

Q: You know who his father-in-law was, don't you?

LIPPE: No.

Q: McDevit.

LIPPE: Oh, yes. That's right. I don't know whether that had anything to do with it, but Tom was a political animal. He had great connections in the Teamsters' Union.

Q: He was an employee of the Teamsters' Union at one time, but...

LIPPE: ...but they were behind him and I don't think Meany helped him get an ambassadorship. Somebody in the labor movement helped him.

Q: Yes. I'm going to interview him about that in a couple of days. We'll see.

LIPPE: Well, I could be all wrong.

Q: He had a Ph.D.

LIPPE: That's right. Oh, yes. Well, you know the British didn't have a bad labor attaché program. All of them, except one whom I knew, were from the Ministry of Labor or Social Affairs, whatever they call it now.

Q: Yes, Labor Ministry types.

LIPPE: They knew something about what they were working with.

Q: Well, that is a question of knowledge but the question of what do you lose if you don't have... Well, take the Commercial Attachés that I have known. None of them was part of the team, I don't mean the Country Team, many of them were part of the Country Team, but none of them were part of the Foreign Service team and they were always subject to suspicion. What is he writing home? Why are we getting this cable from...

LIPPE: I want to tell you something you'll enjoy. I came to Paris at the right time. The CIA was absolutely out of it. They were not there any longer. What was the name of that chap from Louisiana who was there for a while for the CIA? I can't think of his name anymore. I did well. I was actually not running the embassy, but everybody was looking my way and I did a good job and that's why I got promoted to Class One.

Q: Irv, I want to get into this question of training. You did not get any formal training, university training or otherwise? You didn't need it in the labor field?

LIPPE: No. I got some training from protocol over at the Foreign Service Institute.

Q: That's what I want to know. You got the formal State Department [course]?

LIPPE: I found out where I had to sit in the car with the ambassador and so on.

Q: You never got any classroom education in the labor field?

LIPPE: No.

Q: Labor Economics?

LIPPE: No. I could have used it.

Q: It is interesting to note that I have never given any course that I have taken and I have given courses that I have never taken: industrial relations, labor history, and all those things. I had a perfect record. Anyhow, you too. You never had a labor course?

LIPPE: No.

Q: You got it through osmosis by working for the trade union movement.

LIPPE: That's right. And I wasn't such a great trade unionist either. Yes, I was loyal and all that, but I didn't negotiate agreements. I knew Jimmy Hoffa pretty well and I never dreamed that he would become a crook. Never. When I knew him, I never thought that.

Q: Well, he wasn't. That's the tragedy of the Teamsters. Many of them come in legal and then they make concessions to the crooks and then the crooks take over. I did organize for the ILG, and one time we were at a shop out in Newark and the gangsters came over to me - the people were on strike - and offered to get a good deal, practically everything we wanted, for a minor fee. As far as the money was concerned, it might have been worthwhile, but my trade union leader said, "Once you let them in, you can't control them. They will start controlling the union or busting your heads." And that is the thing about the Teamsters that permits...

LIPPE: Let me tell you something. Jimmy Hoffa was a great negotiator. He was articulate. He was a tough guy, but when all the rest of the business agents who were negotiating over the road contracts in Chicago...

Q: He got better agreements for them...

LIPPE: He did his homework every night. While the rest of them were out whoring around and drinking, he did his homework, and at the next day's meeting, he was on top of every single angle.

Q: Gibbons was the same way. Did you know Gibbons?

LIPPE: No. I didn't. From St. Louis?

Q: Yes. The same way. He had gotten in. Anyhow that is off the subject. I want to get back into this training thing. You had no academic...

LIPPE: No.

Q: Now what in preparing to go out to your first post - I know of many people including myself - we had to make the rounds, you know? Otherwise, you might be misunderstood. You didn't get to know these people What sort of...

LIPPE: In the Department, you mean?

Q: No, in the Department of State and the Department of Labor and the trade union movement? Did you make any formal contacts with these people?

LIPPE: No, I just went.

Q: You just went abroad without touching base...

LIPPE: Fishburn, John Fishburn...

Q: John Fishburn, who by the way is in west Florida. I am interviewing him next year.

LIPPE: Is he living down here?

Q: Yes. Fishburn did what? He told you...

LIPPE: Fishburn was a friend, but he was the guy the Senator who was chasing Communists was after. The only thing Communist about him is that he comes from Moscow, Idaho.

Q: Oh, he was the guy...very good guy. Anyhow, now I want to go into your status in the embassies in which you served. The relationships with the ambassadors or the political sections or economic sections. What were the difficulties? What were the advantages of having a labor attaché post? Could you discuss that for a little bit?

LIPPE: Yes, well I'm thinking my success as a Labor Attaché was epitomized by Paris because I was in control of it. These other spooks had given up and I knew what to do with the people that I knew in the trade union movement in France. I knew Meany's friend there. What was his name there.

Q: The guy for the FO.

LIPPE: Yes. I was in the Economic Section there, and Stan Cleveland was the Minister for Economic Affairs. He was my friend and quite liberal. His brother was Harland Cleveland. It was a very comfortable assignment for me, I must say, because I was respected.

Q: What were your relations with the Political Section? In effect, even though you were in the Economics Section, the Political Section had to listen to what you had to say.

LIPPE: They had to listen to what I had to say. The chap who was head of the Political Section later became an ambassador. He had been a Princeton man and a nice gentleman and all that, but he didn't like me and ...

Q: This was not Stone. Stone became the Minister later on.

LIPPE: No. My first Ambassador was great. The trouble started when Schriver came there. Schriver was a dead loss, I must say. He wanted to be a Labor Attaché himself. He was like all the Kennedys. If they raise a camera and he's in the room they...

Q: ...focus in on him. I can understand your success [in Paris] given the events that were taking place and your access to Cleveland and the other people. In my experience, the same thing is true. Now, in the other places where you say you were less successful, why was it? Was it because of your status in the Embassy? Because of the personality of the

Ambassador?

LIPPE: In London, the thrust of my assignment to London was to educate the British trade unionists.

Q: ...which didn't need any education.

LIPPE: Well, from our point of view, they needed education in negotiating. I had this chap from New York come over, a lawyer, Ted Kiehl.

Q: We worked together at the NLRB in the 1930's.

LIPPE: We invited Ted Kiehl over to the Embassy and he came and he did a great job. He was a good speaker and I had the employers and the union work together and I promoted this whole thing. He spoke to them and he did a good job. Later I had a dinner party over at my house and the Secretary of the TUC was there and some very prominent people including an economist you would know. I can't think his name. He's at the London School of Economics.

Q: Ben Roberts?

LIPPE: Yes, Ben Roberts and his wife. She was a scholar.

Q: Veronica, she was a judge. .

LIPPE: Veronica. We used to speak French all the time.

Q: She has just gone blind.

LIPPE: What I wanted to say was my job in London was trying educate them to make agreements and to live up to their agreements. They didn't like that.

Q: They substitute their political power for their economic power. When they don't have political power, they are out luck.

LIPPE: They are out of luck. The Secretary of the TUC at that time I had met in Singapore. That was a helpful contact in London, but it was awfully hard to get these people to make any sense out of the American [labor] movement.

Q: The relationships with others in the State Department side. With AID if there was an AID. With the USIA people. With the Agency people. You said that they gave up in Paris.

LIPPE: I was close to them though everywhere I was.

Q: So was I. Some people looked down upon the relationship the CIA, which I didn't.

LIPPE: Not me, some of the best people in the Embassy were CIA types.

Q: Some of the best in my experience and I never had any trouble with them but let me just disabuse you of the feeling that they had given up in Paris, because when I was there in 1972 to 1975 they certainly were active enough in trying to get information from me, especially with respect to UNESCO incidentally.

LIPPE: They really were chagrined because (word ?) came along and they couldn't provide a thing. I did and really it was a lot of fun. I enjoyed that event.

End of interview