



My name is Norma Paulus, and I've recently moved to Portland; I'm now a permanent resident of Portland. I lived in Salem, Oregon, since 1950. I've never been to college, although I have four or five honorary degrees, but I was able to go into Willamette Law School, and I was admitted as a special student and graduated and passed the Bar the same year. So I've been a member of the Bar since 1962.

It used to be that you could get a very good job and feed your family, provide for their education and own your own home. As a matter of fact, until 1980, that's the way it was, because every job in this state was connected with timber. So we had a very, very stable, middle-class society then. And poll after poll—it didn't make any difference who took the poll or for what reason—there were two things that showed up in every poll. And the two things that the average Oregonian wanted was to have their own home—and we led the nation, as I said, in home ownership then—and to make certain that their children could go to the University of Oregon or Oregon State. Now, the people that were answering those polls for the most part weren't college educated people, but they made, uh, good wages, and they made good lives for themselves. And they were able to take their children in a camper or go fishing, and they knew Oregon, and they treated Oregon as their back yard.

One of the things I wish that Portlanders would do is to find time to go to other parts of the state. Portland has, has become more and more isolated from the rest of the state, and if Portland wants to help win elections it's going to have to understand the lifestyles of the people in the other parts of the state. And that was another thing: when we were a middle-classed society, people didn't take their children to France for spring break. But I think once the high-tech

industry produced a lot of very, very young millionaires, they don't take their children to Mt. Bachelor, they don't take them to the beach, they don't take them rock climbing in Eastern Oregon or over to the Snake River. But a generation ago people did that, and it gave us a more cohesive political system in the state. Yes, it's interesting to me that Portland has tolerated the immigration of so many different cultures. It's certainly woven a wonderful fabric here. I wish they could show the same tolerance for the people that I grew up with in Eastern Oregon.

Many of the people—mostly men, of course—that have succeeded and made large fortunes or run big companies, in some way they benefited from the public coffers. Many of them had the GI Bill. Most of them went to public schools. Many of them have gotten federal loans of some kind or small business loans. So there is a common good, and we have to understand that and all work toward it and to protect it.

Well, it used to be in Oregon, that it was kind of written into your birth certificate that you had to go to at least three meetings a week. But we do need to take the time to go to public hearings and give our input and be involved in those decisions. This woman came up to me and said, "I just really loved what you had to say at the Historical Society the night you and Vera Katz and Gretchen Kafoury were talking about the 70's and women and women's issues." And I said, "Well, what was it that I said that made you laugh?" And she said, "Well, you said to us"—and they were mostly women in the audience in that night—"I wish you *would* run for the Legislature, and if you think that you're not smart enough just go spend a day at the Legislature." So I do think, I think more people should feel comfortable running for all kinds of offices.

Every individual has the right to vote, you know, to find out what's going on with your legislator and to keep in contact with them. And I'll just tell you this: In the 30 years I was an elected official, one way or another, I knew if I got five handwritten notes on any subject, I'd better be paying attention to it. One letter can make a big difference.