

**The Institution of Engineers, Australia; Sydney Division  
Engineering Heritage Committee**

**ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM**

**Interviewee:** Frank Brady

**Tape Numbers:** 7,8,9,10,11 & 12

**Date:** 11 October 1996

**Number of Tapes:** 6

**Restrictions on Use:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Proper Names</b>
<b>Tape MAH 7 Side A</b>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.19</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.19-0.07.35</b>	Born in Tamworth in 1928. Mr Brady speaks of his early years -schooling primary school at the convent in Tamworth -high school at De La Salle in Armidale -gained a Bursary to study Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at Sydney University. - later he completed a Masters in Engineering Science, (Nuclear) at NSW University.  -as a boy he was impressed by the fact that Tamworth was the first country town to have a public electricity supply -his uncle Tom Brady was involved in the opening festivities.	<b>Born 1928 Tamworth</b>  <b>De La Salle, Armidale Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Sydney University</b>  <b>M Eng Sci (Nuclear), NSW University</b>  <b>Tamworth , the first public electricity supply Tom Brady</b>
<b>0.07.35-0.12.15</b>	1949 he commenced working with the Sydney County Council in the Construction Branch doing contract administration. -notes that Bunnerong Power Station had the largest generators in the world at the time of installation, 1939. -notes the problems with the original	<b>Sydney County Council Construction Branch</b>  <b>Bunnerong Power Station - 50 Megawatt generators</b>

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<i>Frank Brady</i>	generators, copper shortening.	<b>Copper -shortening</b>
<b>0.13.15-0.15.24</b>	Demolition of Bunnerong Power station in 1986 - relates a story of the difficulties experienced.	<b>Demolition of Bunnerong Power Station</b>
<b>0.15.24-0.2053</b>	Describes the Velox boilers introduced at the Bunnerong Power Station -explains problems with the boilers	<b>Velox Boilers</b>
<b>0.20.53-0.31.00</b>	Speaks at length on the history an development of the Power Industry in NSW. -at the time he joined the SCC the industry was fragmented with 4 main generating authorities jealously guarding their franchise areas. -no coordination in planning - the Electricity Commission was established in 1950 and took responsibility for the generation and transmission of electricity in NSW, meant that a more efficient industry began to develop. -halted the development of Lugarno and expansion of Pymont Power Stations in favour of the development of Wallerawang on the coal fields.	<b>Development of Power Industry , NSW SCC, Balmain Electric Light and Power Supply Corp., Railways Dept., Southern Electricity Supply Commission established  Lugarno and Pymont Power Stations Wallerawang Power Station</b>
<b>Tape MAH 7 Side B</b>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Tape Identification	<b>British sole suppliers of power industry equipment, labour shortage and industrial unrest 1950's blackouts</b>
<b>0.00.10-0.09.46</b>	-difficulties faced by the industry in the late 40's and 50's were compounded by lack of maintenance and generating capacity, labour shortages, industrial unrest on the coalfields and in the Power Stations.	



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<i>Frank Brady</i> <b>0.09.58-0.24.48</b>	<p>-the inefficiencies of the industry led to the blackouts experienced in the 1950s. Speaks of the emergence of the Snowy Mountains Agreement.</p> <p>-1946 Commonwealth Department of Works, Housing and Postwar reconstruction investigated resources of Snowy.</p> <p>-Prime minister Chifley and Nelson Lemon , Minister for the Department of National Development, convened a meeting between NSW and Vic representatives</p> <p>-established the Commonwealth State Snowy River Committee which reported on the diversions of the Tumut River in 1948 and the Murray River in 1949.</p> <p>-the Snowy Mountains Scheme got the go ahead on the strength of these investigations in 1949</p> <p>-Mr Brady describes the process of negotiating the agreement between the states and the States and the Commonwealth which ended in the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electricity Agreement.</p> <p>-The Snowy Mountains Council was established to design the system</p> <p>- designed the system for a load factor of 17% and the power generated was to be used to handle peaks in the States power systems.</p> <p>Mr Brady recalls his personal involvement in sorting out how to manage the interconnection of the Vic and NSW power supplies</p> <p>-visit to the US with F Sykes to investigate the Automatic Load Frequency Control System and the later</p>	<p><b>Snowy Mountains Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Prime minister Chifley Nelson Lemon</b></p> <p><b>Snowy River Committee</b></p> <p><b>Snowy Mountains Hydro Electricity Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Snowy Mountains Council</b></p> <p><b>17% load factor</b></p> <p><b>Automatic Load Frequency Control System</b></p>

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	trip with HH Gleeson to purchase the system.	
<b>0.55.48-0.27.06</b>	Describes in detail how the Automatic Load frequency Control system worked.	
<b>0.0.27.06-0.31.55</b>	Commissions first digital computer purchase, the IBM 1401. Used for accounting. Any technical computing was done at NSW University.	<b>IBM 1401</b>
<b>Tape MAH 8 Side A</b>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.10- 0.01.52</b>	Notes that the Automatic Load Frequency Control System was an analogue computer and was replaced by a digital system designed by the Commissions engineers.	
<b>0.02.14-0.09.19</b>	1952 secondment to Burrinjuck Power Station as assistant to the Superintendent. -experienced two periods of major flooding on the Murrumbidgee and problems with control cables between the Control Centre and the No.1 Power station-manual operation, unnerving. -describes a previous accident at the dam re collapse of the dam wall and loss of lives. Relates his experience during the flood of watching the timber needles pulled.	<b>Burrinjuck Power Station</b>  <b>Major flooding</b>  <b>Manual operation of Power Station</b> <b>Collapse of dam wall</b>
<b>0.09.19-0.11.50</b>	1955-56, describes overseas trip to US and Europe to review expansion of NSW	<b>Overseas trip with F Sykes</b>



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	power system and later to purchase of	
	'package power stations'.	'package power stations'
0.11.54-0.14.25	Recalls attending the First International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy - Geneva. -notes Dr Homi Bhaba's response to question on why India wanted to develop a nuclear power industry.	<b>First International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy -Geneva</b> <b>Dr Homey Barber</b>
0.14.25-0.20.18	Speaks of involvement in the decision to use digital monitoring and results computer at Munmorah Power Station. -designed by Ebasco and developed with Leeds & Northrup. - explains that the monitoring and results computer improved safety and efficiency of running the power system -describes old monitoring system	<b>Digital monitoring and results computer, Munmorah Ebasco, Leeds and Northrup</b>
0.20.18-0.26.28	Describes improvements that digital technology gave to the industry - eg the Load Frequency Control System at Carlingford - eg off line studies, such as the design of the interconnected system between NSW and Vic.- could design closer to the limiting conditions and therefore increase efficiency -eg later, surveillance of remote substations -automatic systems allowing diagnosis of fault conditions and correction.	<b>Benefits of digital technology</b>
0.26.28-0.31.52	Describes appointment of AWB Coady as chairman of the Commission their trip to UK Europe and US. -World Energy Conference, Tokyo -negotiations re selling coal from the Huntly colliery to Japan.	<b>AWB Coady, chairman of Electricity Commission</b>

**Tape MAH 8  
Side B**

**0.00.00-0.00.10** Tape Identification

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Time	Subject	Proper Names
0.00.10-0.05.13	<p>Speaks of his time as Assistant Manager of the Commission and the negotiation of agreement for power supply to Alcan aluminium smelter.</p> <p>-context of the development of Liddell Power Station and unrest on the western coalfields over open-cut mining of coal.</p> <p>-employment gains through having an aluminium smelter in the region presented as trade off for provision of open-cut coal to Liddell Power Station. Miner's Federation accepted this.</p>	<p><b>Alcan smelter</b></p> <p><b>Liddell Power Station</b></p> <p><b>Unrest in the western coalfields</b></p> <p><b>Bill Parkinson, president of the Miners Federation</b></p>
0.05.13-0.11.10	<p>Discusses his role in and outcome of negotiations on how the proposed Jervis Bay Nuclear Power Station would operate.</p> <p>-constitutional question of Commonwealth's power to generate electricity for the use of a State</p> <p>-change of government and the project was terminated.</p>	<p><b>Jervis Bay Nuclear Power Station</b></p>
0.11.26-0.30.23	<p>1971 became Manager and Secretary of the Commission. Describes role and challenges.</p> <p>-first deficit in 20 years of operation due to reluctance to increase electricity prices.</p> <p>-problems with a civil engineering contractor from Wallerawang Power Station.</p> <p>-35 hour week campaign, Unsworth pushed for the 35 hour week. Claim resisted on grounds that a successful claim in the power industry would 'open the flood gates'. Three specific incidents of industrial action, 1971, 72 and the real pressure in 1973. Describes the Shop Stewards movement and the problems faced as a result of strikes.</p> <p>-describes the effects of the unrest,</p>	<p><b>Manager and Secretary of Commission</b></p> <p><b>Deficit</b></p> <p><b>Contractor at Wallerawang Power Station</b></p> <p><b>35 hour week Campaign</b></p>



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	<p>threats and intimidation, on the Professional Engineers.</p> <p>-describes the end of the period of unrest, stop work meeting at Gosford and decision to lift bans.</p> <p>-speaks of legacy of the 35 hour week campaign/ breakdown in industrial relations.</p>	<p><b>NB. Mr Brady has noted that the final meeting was at Wyong Racecourse, not Gosford as cited on tape</b></p>
<b>Tape MAH 9 Side A</b>	Recorded 18 October 1996	
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.10-0.07.20</b>	<p>Closing comments on the 35 hour week campaign.</p> <p>-one consequence of dispute was destruction of morale of Professional Engineers due to intimidation tactics</p> <p>-relate events of the "night of the long shovels", confrontation between unionists and Professional Engineers.</p>	<p><b>Destruction of Professional Engineer's morale</b></p> <p><b>"Night of the Long Shovels", Munmorah Power Station</b></p>
<b>0.07.25-0.16.05</b>	<p>Discusses sources from which turbines and boilers were purchased.</p> <p>-early years looked to UK,</p> <p>-1966, Liddell turbines and boilers one non- conforming offer from General Electric, USA through Combustion Engineering, Canada. Not pursued but aroused interest re purchase price.</p> <p>-speaks of Tariff Board investigation re improper tendering practices of some UK tenderers.</p> <p>-Liddell equipment purchased from conforming bid from Combustion Engineering Canada.</p> <p>-1969 Vales Point 660 megawatt turbines for Vales Point were purchased from Toshiba, Mr Brady instrumental in the</p>	<p><b>Purchase of turbines and boilers</b></p> <p><b>General Electric Combustion Engineering USA</b></p> <p><b>Tariff Board investigation</b></p>

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<i>Frank Bondy</i>		
	decision. Toshiba supplied equipment for several other Power Stations over the years. -speaks of improvement in service from Toshiba	<b>Toshiba</b>
<b>0.16.07-0.19.43</b>	1978 Eraring Power Station boilers included a successful tender from the IHI Company in Japan.	<b>Ishikawajima Harima Ind.</b>
<b>0.19.43-0.0.28.00</b>	Discusses period of Vice Chairmanship -relationship between Government and the Statutory Authority most important development of the time, started in 1976 under Premier Wran. -changes wrought by introduction of the Public Service Act. Power came to be entered on the head of Premiers Department, Gerry Gleeson. -politicisation of the Public Service -in matters such as raising loans and industrial affairs Statutory. Authorities became less independent. -impact of changes exemplified in the case of wage agreement for Professional Engineers. -construction activities at that time (1973-79) were to some extent politically motivated.	<b>Vice Chairmanship</b>  <b>Wran wins government in 1976</b>  <b>Public Service Act</b>  <b>Gerry Gleeson</b>   <b>Wage agreement for Professional Engineers</b>
<b>0.29.59-0.31.55</b>	Eraring Power Station construction on Lake Macquarie.	<b>Eraring Power Station, Lake Macquarie</b>
<b>Tape MAH 9 Side B</b>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.10-0.08.40</b>	-describes research on impact on marine ecology of the Lake. -describes development and use of fabric filters for dust collection. So	<b>Marine ecology</b>  <b>Fabric filters</b>



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		<p>successful that there was no visible emission from chimneys - Civil Aviation Authority had to warn helicopters from flying through the plumes.</p> <p>- acquisition of a Power Station simulator for training and research purposes-developed by Toshiba and IHI</p> <p>-simulators installed at Bayswater, Liddell, Wallerawang and Mt Piper.</p>	<p><b>Civil Aviation Authority</b></p> <p><b>Power station simulators</b></p>
<b>0.08.53-0.13.20</b>		<p>Discusses development of environmental conscious during the 1970's.</p>	<b>Environmental concerns</b>
<b>0.13.30-0.17.43</b>		<p>Discusses the setting up the Computer Services Branch between 1971 and 1973.</p> <p>-acquisition of Deck range of VAX computers.</p>	<p><b>Computer Services Branch</b></p> <p><b>VAX computers</b></p>
<b>0.17.50-0.20.43</b>		<p>Discusses setting up the Contracts Formation Branch.</p> <p>-formalisation of process of drawing up contract documentation.</p>	<b>Contracts Formation Branch</b>
<b>0.20.43-0.24.56</b>		<p>Discusses later development of Project Management needed to meet the accelerated electricity development program of the late 1970's early 1980's</p> <p>-describes program; complete Eraring, build Bayswater, build Mt Piper.</p> <p>-successful completion of the program a testament to the coming of age of power engineering in Australia.</p>	<p><b>Project Management</b></p> <p><b>Accelerated electricity development program</b></p>

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<i>Frank Brady</i>		
<b>25.05-0.30.00</b>	Speaks of other professional activities undertaken while Chief Executive of the Commission -Chairman, Electrical Research Board of Australia -member executive committee International Committee for Large High Voltage Power Systems, CIGRE also Chairman of the Australian committee. -describes activities of CIGRE -describes Electrical Research Board activities.	<b>Electrical Research Board of Australia</b>  <b>CIGRE</b>
<b>Tape MAH 10 Side A</b>		
<b>0.00.10-0.00.20</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.20-0.05.07</b>	Describes CIGRE's role and notes the Ziedler Committee, 1979, under chairmanship of Sir David Ziedler. Examined the feasibility of high capacity interconnections between NSW and Victoria and South Australia. - planned to assist in times of industrial unrest. - proposal unsuccessful but Committee recommended continuing investigation of interconnection including submarine cable between Victoria and Tasmania. - describes negotiations re interconnection of supply of three states.	<b>Ziedler Committee</b>     <b>Submarine cable between Vic and Tas</b>
<b>0.05.07-0.07.08</b>	Electrical Research Board, Chairmanship for 9 years. -describes role of the Board, initially to keep academics in touch with industry and visa versa. -expanded to hold a budget of more than 1 million dollars, seed money for research.	<b>Electrical Research Board</b>



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0.07.08-0.09..26	Describes his role in setting up the ESAA Mechanical Engineering schools.	Electrical Supply Association of Australia
0.09.26-0.16.23	Describes post-retirement activities -Chairman of the Advanced Plasma Engineering Centre. Plasma torch development. -Consultancies-evaluation of value to be assigned to water from Dartmouth Dam -columnist for Australian Electrical Engineer. -Member of Board of Sydney Youth Orchestra. -Institution of Engineers, Heritage Committee.	Advanced Plasma Centre Plasma torch
0.16.23	End Tape	

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<b>Tape MAH 11 Side A 0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Recorded October 18 1996  Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.10-0.00.38</b>	Mr Brady notes that this tape is not to be made available to the public until 2010.	<b>Embargo</b>
<b>0.00.38-0.07.30</b>	Speaks of his appointment as Chairman of the Commission in 1978 by PG Hills, Minister for Industrial Relations. -describes his introduction to the political ins and outs of chairmanship, working at the political interface. -JM Riordan was appointed as Deputy Chairman. Trade Union background and was perhaps expected to resolve the re-emergence of the 35 hour week claims by Electricity Commission employees.	<b>Chairman of Electricity Commission 1978</b>  <b>JM Riordan</b>
<b>0.07.30-0.10.38</b>	Describes the events at the end of the 1973 35 hour week campaign and Askin's subsequent legislation pertaining to reduction of working hours as well as political context in 1978. -Riordan's solution to Electricity Commission employees claims, 35 hour week granted in two steps.	<b>35 hour week campaign</b>  <b>Askin legislation</b>  <b>Commission employees gain 35 hour week</b>
<b>0.10.44-0.11.26</b>	Describes working relationship with Riordan.	
<b>0.12.00-0.20.00</b>	Describes Commissions efforts at attracting Aluminium smelters to NSW -Alumax and BHP, Pechiney and CSR -supported by Premier's Department, Gleeson and David Hill -disagreement over Commissions proposed tariff to smelters, tariffs	<b>Efforts to attract Aluminium smelters to NSW - downstream mineral processing Alumax, Pechiney</b>



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	<p>reduced, no take or pay obligation.</p> <p>-negotiations a disaster with Alumax pulling out</p> <p>-describes other problems with those contracts.</p> <p>-renegotiation of Pechiney contract finally successful and included renegotiation of tariffs.</p>	<p><b>Renegotiation of Pechiney contract</b></p>
<b>0.20.00-0.31.20</b>	<p>1979 Prime Minister Fraser called for proposals for Accelerated Electricity Development Program - window of opportunity in a minerals boom. Required blocks of power to be given over future demand.</p> <p>-pressure to be involved in this as well as supplying expanded requirements of the Alcan smelter. Thus had to fast track several infrastructure and upgrade programs as well as negotiating expansion of coal supplies from Ravensworth open-cut mine.</p> <p>-responded by fast tracking Bayswater and Mt Piper Power Stations. Describes what was involved, including the development of the Barnard River Project.</p>	<p><b>PM Fraser</b></p> <p><b>Accelerated Electricity Program</b></p> <p><b>Constraints</b></p> <p><b>Responded by fast tracking construction of Bayswater and Mt Piper Power Stations</b></p> <p><b>Barnard River Project</b></p>
<p><b>Tape MAH 11</b> <b>Side B</b></p>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	<b>Tape Identification</b>	
<b>0.00.10-0.01.45</b>	<p>-Projects completed and then 1982-83 came the Recession. There was a reduction in demand and the Commission was left with a capacity overhang.</p>	<b>Recession 1982-83</b>

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0.01.45-0.08.45	<p>Recalls that 1981 saw another period of industrial unrest with bans and restrictions impacting on the maintenance program in Power Stations and subsequent loss of capacity for the coming winter.</p> <p>-describes coming back to work from a period of hospitalisation to deal with matters, wanted to issue a warning to community re blackouts. Minister reluctant.</p> <p>-by 8pm July 10 1981 blackouts were being experienced and continued for 24 hour</p> <p>-biggest criticism was lack of notice of blackouts.</p>	<p><b>1981, industrial unrest</b></p> <p><b>July 10 1981, blackouts</b></p>
0.39.45-0.23.46	<p>Describes failure of Liddell generators at the time of the blackouts in 1981</p> <p>-notes that at this time Lander was appointed to the energy portfolio</p> <p>-describes difficult negotiations with English Electrics re repair.</p> <p>-Ombudsman investigated the breakdown and causes, much time spent with Ombudsman while also embarking on repair program</p> <p>-Mitsui assisted in international search for gas turbines</p> <p>-negotiated with Central Electricity Generating Board to purchase one of their spare generators and rewind coils. All units back by June 1982.</p> <p>-notes that during this crisis they were still dealing with the demands of the waged workers who were granted a wage rise. This led to claims from foreman and technical officers and technicians.</p> <p>-These claims went before a full bench of the Industrial Commission. All categories</p>	<p><b>Liddell generator failure</b></p> <p><b>Lander to Energy portfolio</b></p> <p><b>Ombudsman's investigation</b></p> <p><b>Mitsui</b></p> <p><b>Central Electricity Generating Board, UK</b></p> <p><b>Further Wage Claim negotiations.</b></p> <p><b>Industrial Commission</b></p>



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	<p>of employees gained a wage rise. -notes that blackouts in 1982 due to industrial action.</p>	
<b>0.23.46-0.30.46</b>	<p>1981 National campaign by coal mining unions re demands for wage increases. -restricted deliveries of coal meant that commission didn't have reserves and by end of 1981 3 or 4 of major Power Stations under threat of shutting down. -wage settlement conceded. -expense of wage increases offset by tariff increase. -describes political response to delay increase.</p> <p>1982 beginning of economic downturn -measures for energy conservation 1982-83 end of period of drought and shortages of water at Liddell and Wallerawang Power Stations were experienced. -describes how the Commission coped at these Stations and in the Snowy. -lessons for the future, should not rely on generating capacity that depended on inland water supplies. In this context he describes the battles with Minister Cox re development of the Mardi site.</p>	<p><b>1981 National wage claim campaign by coal mining unions</b></p> <p><b>1982 economic downturn 1982/3 drought</b></p> <p><b>Minister Cox Mardi site</b></p>
<b>0.30.46-0.31.55</b>	<p>1986 introduced shift-work maintenance. -economy for industry -negotiated with the union that apprentices taken on during the period of expansion in late 1970s offered positions if they agreed to shift-work maintenance.</p>	<p><b>Introduction of shift work maintenance</b></p>

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<b>Tape MAH 12 Side A</b>		
<b>0.00.00-0.00.10</b>	Tape Identification	
<b>0.00.10-0.00.20</b>	Mr Brady notes that this tape is not for public access until Jan. 2010.	<b>Embargo</b>
<b>0.00.20-0.1.57</b>	Impact of the introduction of shift-work maintenance on the Power Industry in NSW. -Unions agreed to employment of contractors on site, increased the maintenance able to be carried out and led to increased reliability of generating plant and reduced the need to install new generating capacity.	
<b>0.01.57-0.08.13</b>	Ravensworth washery in the Hunter Valley debated in the context of reduced demand caused by economic downturn and cancellation of Alumax smelter. -decided it was to be completed to provide washed coal for Liddell. - completion deferred in the face of 1986 coalmining union demands re manning scale and rates of pay. -1987 industrial unrest in the mining industry, further deferment of the washery. -perceived as admission that the washery was a disaster, criticism. -describes resultant political difficulties and Committee of Review to investigate the whether the mines should stay under the control of the Electricity Commission. -further criticism of the Commission.	<b>Ravensworth washery, Hunter Valley</b>       <b>1987 industrial unrest in the mining industry</b>   <b>Committee of Review</b>
<b>0.08.13-0.08.53</b>	Retired as General Manager of the	<b>Retired 1986</b>



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**Time**

**Subject**

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Electricity Commission in 1986  
-proud of the achievement of 6000  
megawatts of Power Station capacity  
constructed on time and on budget  
during his period of office.

**0.08.55**

End Tape

**0.52.41-0.57.30**