

## **The Honorable John Dingell, Jr., of Michigan**

### **Reaction to the Attack**

Recollections of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

*Interview recorded February 3, 2012*

Well, everybody was outraged. And, and that was a time where everybody remembers exactly what they were doing. My folks lived over in the Methodist Building, 110 Maryland Avenue, over there. And I was out playing around the neighborhood. All of the sudden somebody came out and told my brother and I, the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor and they sank every battleship we had out in the Pacific. Some of them we were able to raise, put back to work. Some, there were about two or three, we couldn't. But they also thought at that point that the Japanese were going to invade, invade Hawaii. We thought that they would probably invade the West Coast. They actually had submarines bombarding the West Coast. They invaded Attu and Kiska islands up in the Aleutian chain. And there really was concern as to whether or not we could win. We were totally unready. Roosevelt had known that there was a Depression, and had spent a lot of time on it. But he also knew that a war was coming. So he spent an awful lot of time on that.