

The Honorable William Jackson (Jack) Edwards **U.S. Representative of Alabama (1965–1985)**

Using the Recording Studio

Representative Edwards describes recording radio and TV segments for his constituents and how they transported reels of film to the district.

Interview recorded August 23, 2012

EDWARDS: Back in those days, the radio stations wanted me to do something, and so, for almost 20 years, I made a five-minute radio tape that went to every station in my district, on what's going on. And then after I'd been there seven years, the main TV station wanted me to do a weekly, 30-minute program to air every Sunday. And I said, "I'll do it on one condition. Your program goes into Mississippi and Florida. If you'll let me have Trent Lott from Mississippi and Bob Sikes from Florida come on here too, I'll do it and that'd give you a Democrat and Republicans." And so, that lasted for 13 years. And, in fact, it was so popular that when my successor came, he did it for 18 years. And then the current Congressman did it for about six years, and they finally decided that it was time to shut the program down.

WASNIEWSKI: It's a better run than *The Tonight Show*.

EDWARDS: I'm going to tell you one quickie, and I know I'm digressing, but, but everything's changed over the years, and we did these programs on this big reel of film. And my staff guy—we'd do it on Thursday, and my staff guy would take it out to Eastern Airlines and give it to the pilot on the Eastern Airlines plane. And he would fly to Atlanta and give it to the pilot going to Mobile, and he would fly it to Mobile and hand it to the station, who would come out there and get it.