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**EXHIBIT TALK BY TOM OLIN  
JUNE 19, 2015  
VIDEOGRAPHER: PEGGY HOLTZ  
RECORD ID: 117-DO**

**TO: TOM OLIN  
EH: EVENT HOST**

Transcript of a videotaped talk by Tom Olin at an exhibit of his photographs at the Monroe County History Center in Bloomington, Indiana as part of the ADA at 25 Legacy Tour

[TITLE CREDITS WITH MUSIC]

[00:00:10]

*Image description: The video opens with Tom Olin standing next to a display that has text and images of touring buses.*

**TO:** I started this-- the bus thing started actually in 2007 around then and when the ADA amendments were being threatened. And so Jim Ward and I found a bus and his family and I traveled the US to every state.

*Image description: There are several enlarged photos placed on easels in the hallway. Tom points to an image showing protesters in wheelchairs holding signs.*

So I knew I could do it again. Some of these are real-- I mean not real early but in the '80s. I started to take photos only when I was-- or after -- I was 33 years old when I started to do it. I wish I had done it sooner but I was in the near the early '80s or what are the-- this is at the walk of fame which we called the walk of shame. I mean they did-- I mean back then, you know, no one was doing anything.

[00:01:12]

And it took-- at that point, we realized it took groups to do something and so people started to come together.

*Image description: Tom points to photo of people in wheelchairs holding signs. One sign reads, "Asking did not work." Another sign says, "Rights not jail." There is a photo of a man in a wheelchair holding a sign that states, "No segregation."*

[00:01:24]

And the police didn't know what to do so they gave us citations and that's where this came and that one of the-- I mean everyone can, you know, feel for the-- that sign, "Asking Did Not Work," and that's, you know, that's definitely, the start of, you know, where we're coming from and how people felt, you know, about getting the ADA. And of course, you had-- at that time, you had stores that were inaccessible.

*Image description: Tom points to a picture of a long line of people in wheelchairs along with other people walking along the side of a roadway. There are cars moving on the other side of the road.*

And definitely, with this group, this group right here was ADAPT who came together and of course they, you know, the original ADAPT stood for American Disabled for Public-- for Accessible Public Transit.

[00:02:22]

And one of the things that they realized and-- was that transportation, you took everything else. You could talk about employment; you could talk about even physical accessibility. People might not get it. There is always more questions once you brought it up than there were answers. And any kind of movement as such in organizing for something, you need to kind of have a bad guy.

*Image description: Tom points to image of a bus tire. There is a man under the bus.*

And so one of the bad guys at that point was the Greyhound bus system and then you had your, of course, your local transit systems, you know. And they all-- which is kind of really funny because you've fought against them, you-- the local transits, you fought against them, you blockaded them and nowadays, they're giving us plaques, you know, of how they and you, you know, made things accessible. I love it. And Greyhound definitely, like I said, you know, it was interesting and we found out that if you hit one Greyhound station, it will back up for four states. You hit St. Louis and you close out almost the whole nation down.

*Image description: Tom points to a photo of a man under a police car with his arms wrapped around the police officer's legs.*

[00:03:43]

Now this is-- this is a-- I do have to-- I didn't get to talk about this photo right here but-- and within all these, every agency was involved in a-- whether it be a department of transportation. This is a federal building out of Atlanta but this-- and then this group that you'll see, you'll see just a diverse amount of people on this line, on this march right here. It's-- it was so cross disability.

In fact, this is a guy from People First that he was a part of a group out of Tennessee that would go to the national actions. And it's very typical for a person and the self-advocates or with People First to be non-confrontational whether it be institutional. [coughing] He was from an institution in Tennessee and he was living on his own, came to the ADAPT action with some of the other group from People First and he was-- he would hand out flyers. And then-- and I was watching him hand out flyers. And then the next second, I didn't see him at all. And all the time I was taking pictures, and then here he is, he had crawled under three police cars and went for-- there's a motorcycle policeman at the end of the police car here, and he wrapped his hands around his boot and just stayed there.

[00:05:35]

And then afterwards I asked him, "Why? You know, you're never like this." And he said he had five of his friends who were still in the institution that were-- that had died that year. I mean it was something that was unusual and of course the DOJ came in, and realized what was happening and closed that institution down. But he had to do something and that was what he did.

*Image description: Tom points to a photo of two men in wheelchairs locked to a revolving door.*

You could not actually get-- you cannot cut this bars or anything with a cutter, bolt cutter. But you could use a grinder except that it was so close to their faces that they didn't want the-- you know, I mean they had before. The press would not be there and the press were here at this point. So they left them on for six hours and they were in the revolving door at the Russell Building in Atlanta.

[00:06:36]

And after, you know, and there-- the police were, you know, probably around where I was and then another one was on the other side. And a maintenance man goes by and says do you want these necklaces off-- these locks off. And then, you know, after six to eight hours, there were-- the police were kind of peeved at that kind of nonchalant attitude of this guy. And so, he just keeps on walking and then of course, he says well, if you can, you know, and he came back, takes out a little screwdriver from his pocket. And there were little screws right here, takes them out, and just gets the locks out, you know? And they were just like, oh my God.

*Image description: Tom moves down the line of photographs to a picture of two police officers dragging a person away.*

Well, this is the same action actually. And they're taking people out of the building. Later on, clouds came in, and it started to heavily, heavily rain at that point.

[00:07:40]

And like I said, Evan Kemp Jr. and-- was, you know, knew the president. But the person that he always had played bridge with was C. Boyden Gray. I mean he was a senior counsel to the president at the time. So Evan called him and then C. Boyden called the president and said, "Hey, we've got disabled people down at the federal building that the police are taking out and they're just getting soaked and wet." So the president made it known and just, you know, minutes later, the police were told that-- to

let those people back in and let them sleep all night if they need-- if they want to. And so, that was one of the very few times that actually the president intervened in a demonstration as such.

[00:08:43]

*Image description: The next picture is a woman in a wheelchair with one arm raised and fist closed sitting outside an elevator door. Another woman stands behind her along with a police officer.*

An elevator takeover at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. This was the last demonstration against the-- in that lobbying group before the signing. This was about six months before the signing of the ADA.

*Image description: Tom turns to the photographs on the other side of the room to point to a picture of Justin Dart. People in wheelchairs and other people standing surround Justin. The picture below Justin Dart shows people in wheelchairs marching along with people walking down the sidewalk to the U.S. Capitol. A few people are holding up signs. There is one large flag being carried by the crowd.*

And on this side, this is three months before the signing of the ADA. Now, you've got these four pictures right here. Of course -- this is a photo of the walk and march from the White House to the Capitol. And as you can see, there are-- you have--Tom Harkin. Just above right there, you have Ralph Neas right here from-- he was a staff member of Kennedy -- then later became part of the American Way. You have I. King Jordan right here. Then of course, there's Justin Dart. And on-- there's a young lady-- child, I should say who was about-- I think she was 14. Either 14 -- I think she was 14 years old in this photo. And that's Jennifer.

[00:10:27]

*Image description: Tom points to a photo of a girl crawling up the stairs to the U.S. Capitol. A man with a beard is next to her scooting up the stairs.*

And this is Jennifer over here too. Now, right after this march, we had speakers. Justin was one of them, Major Owens. You had the representative out of-- woman representative out of Colorado but I'm blanking on her name. But we had a lot of really good—I. King Jordan was-- also came and spoke there. But right after that rally, about 50 people in chairs went to the bottom around the other side to the bottom of the steps of the Capitol.

[00:11:11]

And got out of their chair and climbed up. And Jennifer was one of those. In the video of PBS video "Life Worthy of Living", there's a part of her in it, there's footage of this, video footage but also the personnel [inaudible] both of their comments on their climb up because Michael Winter who later became the head of the Civil Rights Office in-- at the Department of Transportation looked over after he just said, "OK, this is it. I've had enough. I'm tired, you know. I'll just, you know, get out." So then he goes out and there is Jennifer crawling past him and he just turned around and had to go with her and not have her show him up.

[00:12:16]

But like I -- this was a media event. You could get into the Capitol at that time but the press -- I mean, just to show the inaccessibility of what we had to go through, anyone with a disability had to go through, it's just perfect, you know. And I have a friend that came back from France, that had seen this one on TV that day in Paris. That's how-- it was like someone had called us the shot that, you know, that was heard around the world for people with disabilities.

**EH :** So you said this was-- this occurred like a few months before the--

**TO:** Three months, yes.

**EH:** And so what-- why were they demonstrating because I would think by then that all will be--

[00:13:08]

**TO:** No. It was-- actually, what was happening in the Capitol is-- in Congress, you had the Senate and the House conferring on the bill that was to be. And they had all these different ways of how they thought the bill should look like. And one of them was, they would take some of the disabilities away with-- I mean, one of my favorites is epilepsy. You know, it's not a disability because I mean, you take a pill. And-- I mean they were getting to the point where amputees, you know, you have a prosthesis, you know? That's not-- you don't have a disability anymore. And each time that they did that, the community-- we had people like Pat Wright and other people that were, you know, really strong people that give-- turn back to the community.

And they know-- they knew the answer, you know, we just steadfast. And it was one of the greatest things that, you know, we as different organizations that worked together. And it's the people out here that did it. It wasn't the Beltway people that did it. And I always, I look at anything that's videotaped, you know, it's always like the Harkins and, you know, everyone, they did it, you know, and, you know, to me it wasn't. You know, I always -- got to be on all these, you know, different protests. It was, you know, it took a long time. Well, it didn't take a long-- it took shorter than it would have. In fact, I don't even know if it would've, if it wasn't for all of us, you know, making sure that it did.

*Image description: Tom points to the Justin Dart picture again to point out man in the back of the picture.*

[00:14:59]

This is Ryan Duncanwood. He is the secretary of the Self-Advocates of the U.S. right now. You know, and look at how young he is, you know. And the thing is we really, you know, they want to know our history. That's why coming here is even special for me because, you know, this is -- these are the places where we, you know, is a deposit of the history. You know, I would hate to think -- that we did have places for this and it was up to, you know, until I die and then who knows, you know. So I've got myself in at an University, you know, I know it's going to be, you know, carried on and that's part of your job. You know, is to carry it on and make sure there are places for this for the young people to use. They don't want to recreate the wheel again and again, you know. I'm seeing that, you know, they're -- what's funny is that things are being taken away and we're losing parts, you know, of transportation and other things and so

they are getting a little mad right now. I think that sparks, you know, gets people going, you know, unfortunately or fortunately, you know. That's how it has always worked. I see things happening. You know, I'm really impressed with a lot of young people. And it's up to us to, you know, make sure that they get together with other people.

[00:16:54]

We were kind of, you know, one of the things that we had for us and we don't have for us-- I mean people with mobility disability, it's hard to get together. The other side during this time is that we had conferences that we could go to. Now, we don't have enough money to go to those conferences as much, but we got to figure out ways for them to get together when we can get together, you know, whether it be a state-run conference that oh let's put some [inaudible] so they can come and, you know, get to talk to each other. And if they want to talk to us, you know, great, you know, but we've got to make a way for them to get together. Because we-- that's how we got together at those. The ADA, a lot of the original thoughts from it came from -- not people talking together, well people talking together, but people talking together at conventions and at workshops and things like that, so.

[END OF TALK]