Karen Hasara: Conversations with the Former Springfield Mayor

by Brian Hendricks

HIS 520 – Prof. Deborah McGregor

November 22, 2004
OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS

For my HIS 520 project, I decided to interview former Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara. Since she was Springfield’s first female mayor, and since no biographical interview of her existed in the UIS Archives (with the exception of a 1998 interview series where she, along with several others, discussed women’s issues), I felt that she would be a perfect narrator and subject.

Having met Ms. Hasara on several previous occasions, I called her in September 2004 to verify her mailing address, then sent her a letter outlining my proposal. Ms. Hasara was more than happy to be the narrator for the project, and we had agreed upon September 30, 2004 (the same day as the State Capitol shooting) as the interview date. The interview would take place at her Springfield home.

My research materials consisted primarily of old articles I had saved from my “previous life” in politics. I had several articles about Ms. Hasara’s administration from Springfield’s State Journal-Register, and a few more polemic articles from the Illinois Times that I felt would generate lively discussion. I also had several past copies of the Illinois Blue Book at home, and some of the earlier editions covered the years when Ms. Hasara was a State Senator.

As I had moved to Springfield in 1996, I had virtually no information on Ms. Hasara’s first election victory as mayor, so I acquired more articles on her from the State Journal-Register’s 1995 election coverage. Thankfully, these articles also provided me with more biographical information, particularly her parents and her education.

Decisions on the wording and phrasing of the questions were made with the reader’s knowledge base in mind. As this interview would consist of one politically-minded person “talking shop” with another, I wanted to leave out any political jargon
that might confuse a non-political reader of today, not to mention one who would read this twenty years down the line and who would have no clue or context as to what was being discussed. To that end, my questions on some issues are quite lengthy, and they would seem at a glance to be reminders to Ms. Hasara on things that she was already fully aware! Thankfully, she did not mind, and I had explained my reasoning on this matter prior to the interview.

Considering the content of the questions, I wanted to balance the personal and the professional of Ms. Hasara’s life. Reading a strictly professional interview would provide nothing for the reader that he/she could not glean from reading an old newspaper. I wanted to encapsulate what it was like being a public official in the 1990s, and what it was like to be a woman in politics during this time. Furthermore, I wanted to provide some biographical background so that this was not just an interview about 8 years of Ms. Hasara’s life.

During the interview, I was pleased to reaffirm that Ms. Hasara has a clear and deliberate speaking style, which is wonderful for any transcriber. I was dismayed, however, to realize I had forgotten to ask her and her husband to turn off the ringer on their phone! Thankfully, the phone only interrupted us once. In many ways, Ms. Hasara proved to be an excellent narrator for this project. She has always been known for her candor (and tact, which is not an easy combination to possess), and she did not disappoint now that she is no longer a public official. As one who has been interviewed on several occasions throughout her life, she was fully aware of the “interview environment” and did not show the slightest sign of intimidation over the whole process.

Upon concluding the interview, it was my intent to complete the transcription right away and get a copy to Ms. Hasara for her input and correction. However, I was unable to finish transcription until mid-November. As Ms. Hasara remains a busy woman who likes to travel, I had the unfortunate realization that she would not
be able to edit the transcript until early December!

I was pleased to learn upon reviewing and transcribing the tape that I had achieved my objective of providing the proper context on political issues within the wording of the questions. I was also glad to notice that I did not interject ("Really?" "O.K." "Wow") as much as I had feared.

In seeking to preserve the informal, conversational style of our interview, I decided to preserve unfinished thoughts, repetitions, and hesitations. This was done mostly through usage of the ellipsis. However, I did decide to leave out several instances of "um" and "mm hmmm." In some cases, the "mm hmmm's" are interpreted as [Yes.]. The ellipsis, I feel, is the one "punctuational" expression that can both signify a broken thought and preserve the speaker's integrity at the same time.

I have been doing genealogy research since I was nine. Engaging in this project has renewed my motivation to use oral history to preserve the voices, speaking styles, and personalities (not to mention information) that my relatives can provide. I was also pleased at the opportunity to re-acquaint myself with the narrator. In all, this was a project that I thoroughly enjoyed.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Springfield State Journal-Register

April 4, 1995 -- "Questions Raised About Curran's Fitness for Office."
April 5, 1995 -- "Springfield Chooses Hasara; Mayor-Elect Vows to 'Get the City Back on Track.'"
April 8, 1999 -- "Springfield Mayor: Karen Hasara vs. Allan Woodson."
April 14, 1999 -- "Hasara Wins in a Runaway; Incumbent Mayor Receives 60 Percent of the Final Vote."
Nov. 15, 2002 -- "Hasara Won't Run; Mayor Says She Decided a Month Ago."
Nov. 17, 2002 -- "Hasara Gets High Marks." (Editorial)

Illinois Times

Feb. 20, 2003 -- "Jammed: Five candidates vie to become mayor of Springfield."
Mar. 20, 2003 -- "The buck stops where? Forum on citizen police review board finds fault at the top."

INTRODUCTION

This manuscript is the product of a tape recorded interview conducted by Brian Hendricks for the History 520 - Oral History Methods class on September 30, 2004, at the home of Ms. Karen Hasara in Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Hendricks also transcribed the tape and, along with Ms. Hasara, reviewed and edited the transcript.

Karen Hasara was born on October 17, 1940, in Peoria, Illinois, to Joseph and Theresa Churchman. She was Springfield’s first female mayor, serving two terms from 1995-2003. In this oral history, Ms. Hasara discusses the many eventful moments that marked her eight years as mayor, including the transition phase from being a legislator to being an executive, handling race relations, and presiding over a revitalized downtown area, culminating with the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Ms. Hasara also discussed her upbringing and education, family life, retirement, and offered her opinions concerning the future of women in politics and the future of Springfield.

Brian Hendricks is currently a graduate student in history at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He has lived in Springfield, Illinois, since 1996. He has also received a Master of Arts degree in political science from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has worked in the legislative offices of Governors Jim Edgar and George Ryan, and has been a legislative liaison for the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. At the time of publication, Mr. Hendricks is an account technician with the Illinois State Police.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken work, and that the interviewer and narrator sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Unfinished thoughts, repetitions, and hesitations are preserved (mostly through usage of the ellipsis), but several instances of “um” and “mm hmmm” are left out or re-interpreted. The University of Illinois at Springfield is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

The intentions of the interviewer were to record and preserve a record of Ms. Hasara’s thoughts and reflections upon her life and, more specifically, her two terms as Springfield mayor. It was also the interviewer’s goal to provide proper context on political issues – within the wording of the questions – so that future readers who may not be immediately aware of those issues being discussed will have the necessary information within the dialogue. Thankfully, this objective was successfully met.

The manuscript may be read, quoted, and cited freely. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from the University of Illinois at Springfield Archives, One University Plaza, MS BRK 140, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## LIFE AFTER MAYOR
- Foreign travels, "Sister Cities"  
  1

## FAMILY LIFE
- Parents  
  2
- Education  
  4
- Children  
  5

## EARLY PUBLIC LIFE
- County Board  
  6
- Circuit Clerk  
  7
- State Representative / State Senator  
  8

## MAYOR OF SPRINGFIELD
- Retirement announcement in 2002  
  10
- Running in 1995  
  11
- Transition  
  12
- Revitalizing downtown, R/UDAT  
  14
- Law enforcement, race relations  
  17
- "Karen’s Kitchen Cabinet"  
  20
- Leptospirosis in Lake Springfield  
  21
- Relationship with City Council  
  21
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum  
  21
- Issues with CWLP and “The Channelizer”  
  23

## PAST REFLECTIONS, FUTURE PREDICTIONS
- Not chosen to be Jim Ryan’s running mate  
  25
- Trends of women in public service  
  25
- The Illinois Republican Party  
  26
- Governor Rod Blagojevich  
  27
- 2004 Presidential election  
  28
- Springfield issues / Mayor Davlin’s performance  
  28
Hendricks: The following is an interview conducted between former Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara and me, Brian Hendricks, a graduate student in history at the University of Illinois at Springfield. This interview is taking place on Monday, September 20, 2004 at the home of Ms. Hasara, and is for the project in History 520 - Oral History Methods. Mayor, thank you so much for consenting to this interview.

Hasara: You're welcome.

Hendricks: I'd like to begin by asking about your life after City Hall. Since you left public office last year, what has a typical day in the life of Karen Hasara been like?

Hasara: Well, fortunately they're all different. Like the days before I left, I've been fortunate in that throughout my career, all of my positions have been very fluid. And my life since then has been the same. I've done traveling, and probably I'm out of Springfield about half the time. But when I'm here, I'm involved in different community activities, so every day is somewhat different, and much less stressful now, I'll have to say, than the days before I retired.

Hendricks: Now, I understand you like to travel. Have you had the opportunity to do much traveling over the past year and a half? Have you been out of the country?

Hasara: I had a wonderful experience traveling to Russia a couple of months ago . . . actually with a sister city of Bloomington-Normal – a city that asked for some assistance in setting up a tourism plan, so I was one of a team of three people who went to Vladimir, Russia, a town of about 350,000 people, and spent a couple of weeks there. It was a wonderful experience.

Hendricks: Now, you've paid at least one visit to . . . Ashikaga . . .

Hasara: Yes.

Hendricks: . . . Japan? And . . . what is the significance of having a sister city? What . . . what all does that entail? Do we have any others besides that one?

Hasara: We have another official sister city, which is San Pedro, Mexico, but we also have a couple of what we call "twin cities," which are less-formal relationships than sister cities. "Sister Cities" is actually an
international organization. So if you don’t go through that organization, but you go out and create a relationship, you can call it anything you want. Some call them "friendship cities," we have called ours twin cities. We have one in Killarney, Ireland. There’s one somewhere in Austria . . .

Hendricks: Because I remember your taking a trip to the Ukraine. I didn’t know if that was a . . .

Hasara: Yes. Actually, that was another program sponsored by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. And we applied as a city to be a part of a “community partnership program,” it’s called, which matched us with Svitlovodsk . . .

Hendricks: Svitlovodsk?

Hasara: . . . Ukraine, yes. If you can pronounce it that quickly, that’s wonderful! [Laughter.]

Hendricks: O.K. I wanted to get some biographical background. I was wondering if you could tell me a little bit about your parents. I understand your father Joe was in the Navy?

Hasara: He was.

Hendricks: In World War II?

Hasara: He was Lieutenant J[unior] G[rade] in the Atlantic during World War II. He was actually born in Calhoun County and . . . came to Springfield as a child, and went to Notre Dame University, which has created a lot of tradition in our family . . .

Hendricks: Of course.

Hasara: . . . and got his CPA and worked for the Internal Revenue Service for thirty years. And then, after retiring, worked for a couple of private CPA firms.

Hendricks: OK. And, his . . . his name – your maiden name is Churchman,

Hasara: Right.
Hendricks: Right? O.K. So let’s see, if he... if he was in the war, I have... let’s see... you were born in 1940...

Hasara: Right. He...

Hendricks: When... when did you, when did you get to know him really?

Hasara: Now it was an unusual relationship, I think, because I was almost five when he came home from the service. He was gone over three years, and...

Hendricks: Wow.

Hasara: Yeah. So I missed all of those years that I think are so very important for young children to have a father, and of course, there also were hardly any men around, and it’s strange – as young as I was, I remember a lot about the war, because I think it was such a significant period in my life and so many other lives. It was just very different.

Hendricks: I have read a lot about families that had fathers, brothers in that war would have a map on their wall and would keep track of where they thought they were. Did you do that?

Hasara: We did. We lived in an apartment right across the street from the Esquire Theater. And we did keep a map on the wall. And then my grandmother actually lived on Whittier, so it was just a few blocks away, and I actually spent most of my time at her house.

Hendricks: O.K. And your mother is a... or was a... a nurse?

Hasara: Yes.

Hendricks: Is that right? Her name is Teresa?

Hasara: Right.

Hendricks: Is she still alive?

Hasara: She is...

Hendricks: She is.
Hasara: She’s 90 years old, still alive, and she grew up on Whittier Street where my grandmother lived...

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: So, and then after the war, we bought the house where I grew up, and my mother still lives on South Walnut, so we never really left that neighborhood.

Hendricks: Where all did you attend school?

Hasara: My entire grade school years were spent at Blessed Sacrament, and then I went to Sacred Heart Academy, for four years of high school, then I started at Marquette University... spent my freshman year there, and then came back to Springfield, to Springfield College, and... then I was asked if I would leave there and take a class to teach at Christ the King School,

Hendricks: Oh wow. O.K.,

Hasara: So, I had 1½ years of college, I was 19, and found myself in a classroom with 52 students in two grades.

Hendricks: Oh wow...

Hasara: So it was difficult, but...

Hendricks: Which grades did you teach?

Hasara: Second and third. Yeah.

Hendricks: O.K. Now, I understand that you were in the first graduating class at Sangamon State [SSU], now the University of Illinois - Springfield?

Hasara: That’s right. The fall that SSU opened was really my first opportunity to finish my degree. So I was very anxious. As I remember, I was the second person in line to register. I was very anxious to get my degree and did want to teach school. So I majored in psychology but got a teaching certificate.

Hendricks: Seems like a psychology degree would be pretty good for what
would happen to you later on.

Hasara: I often recommend people major in it, whatever they’re going to do.

Hendricks: [Yes.] That’s good. And between your education and teaching and your life as a public official, I understand you had some years in real estate sales?

Hasara: [Yes.] I was in real estate from 1975 to 1980. But at the end of those five years, I ended up actually managing a real estate pre-licensing school . . .

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: . . . for the company that I was working with.

Hendricks: O.K. I once remember reading that you . . . at that time in your life, you worked 80 hours a week?

Hasara: In real estate.

Hendricks: In real estate?

Hasara: Yeah. I actually got into it from teaching because teaching is very confining as far as hours, and I had gotten involved in a lot of community activities, and so many of the meetings were in the morning or at noon, and so I saw real estate as a way to do both, not realizing how much time it was really going to take.

Hendricks: Wow. Well, 80 hours a week seems like a lot, even if, you know, even recognizing that you are a mayor 24/7.

Hasara: Right. [Laughter]

Hendricks: You have . . . you have four children. Are they all still living in central Illinois? Or . . .

Hasara: Two are in Springfield, one is in St. Louis, and one in California.

Hendricks: O.K. Which one is in . . . let’s see, I have Tim, Ted, Ann, and Mark.
Hasara: Ted and Ann are here, Tim is in St. Louis, and Mark is in California.

Hendricks: O.K. Around 1975, I was amused when I read this anecdote, and it involves my neighbor and your good friend, Irv Smith. You were asked to be considered for his County Board seat. How did that come about?

Hasara: Well, he was my neighbor, too, and he was my children's swim coach. Three out of the four children were swimming competitively, and I had never done anything politically, but the timing was perfect. Women were just beginning to get involved in politics, and I think the Republican Party saw an opportunity to have the first woman elected on her own on the County Board, so Irv came by my house one day and asked if I would be willing to take his seat with the understanding that I would run the next year, and I was just floored . . .

Hendricks: Yeah.

Hasara: . . . but very excited about the opportunity.

Hendricks: So you were the only woman, and there were close to 30 board members?

Hasara: There were 29.

Hendricks: Twenty-nine board members.

Hasara: There had been women on the board before, but they used to run as a ticket.

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: So, you know, while they ran, they didn't run on their own. They ran with a group.

Hendricks: And you were pretty much thrown in to the deep end of the pool. I understand you were on the . . . you were asked to chair the Jail Committee?

Hasara: That's correct.
Hendricks: And what was that like when you went to visit . . . visit the jail?

Hasara: Right. Yeah. I often like to tell the story that, , it just seemed logical to me that the first thing you do, if you were brand new and put into a chairmanship, was go to look at the jail. And I went up and knocked on the door, and . . . they said no one had ever done that before, and so that was kinda the beginning of my career, and I thought, “I’ll be able to do this.”

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: I mean, just use your common sense. And it worked out very well. I often thought they were trying to do me in by appointing me to the chairmanship, but I ended up, you know, doing fine and getting along fine with the members of the committee. All men, of course,

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: So, it was interesting.

Hendricks: I remember reading about the . . . the County Board Chairman at the time, and the Sheriff at the time, weren’t always easy to get along with . . .

Hasara: That’s right.

Hendricks: So, that must have been quite . . .

Hasara: It was actually the Sheriff’s assistant that I really got along with, and had a lot of respect for him. And we worked very well together.

Hendricks: During your tenure on the board, what all . . . was that when the Juvenile Detention Center was . . . was created? Or was that . . .

Hasara: Yes. It was – when I was on the County Board. I worked real hard on that. I became real interested in those issues, which is what led me to the next step – the next office.

Hendricks: Right. Circuit Clerk?

Hasara: Right.
Hendricks: You were Circuit Clerk for five years? Four years?
Hasara: A little over five.
Hendricks: A little over five?
Hasara: Mm hmm. Ran two times, actually.
Hendricks: O.K., so that was over two cycles?
Hasara: Mm hmm.
Hendricks: O.K. And you ran upon the retirement of . . . I have the name Eddie Ryan?
Hasara: Right. He had been the Sheriff, and, I believe there were term limits for sheriffs at the time, and, so then he ran for Circuit Clerk.
Hendricks: O.K. And then, in '86 . . . we just keep moving along the timeline here . . . you learned that State Representative Josephine Oblinger was retiring. Were you approached by her or by . . . I guess Irv Smith was the [Sangamon County Republican] chairman at this time? Or . . .
Hasara: Yes, I believe he was.
Hendricks: Who all approached you for . . . for running? A lot of people?
Hasara: Some people, but there were others who were interested in the job, too. And, you know, we always went through a screening process, and of course the party was looking for who they thought could win the office.
Hendricks: Right . . .
Hasara: And fortunately I had some experience by then.
Hendricks: Right.
Hasara: So, but I, you know, I sought it out also. I saw it as a great opportunity.
Hendricks: Did you... did you ever have to “sweat out” an election night?

Hasara: Many. You know, I ran ten times, I never had a “pass.” And I had, I would say, at least half of them were very difficult elections. Certainly, certainly that one was.

Hendricks: Now you made adoption issues and child support enforcement key issues of yours... key projects of yours, if you will, when you were a state legislator. Was it your years spent as a Circuit Clerk that really made those... made those issues more prominent in your mind?

Hasara: Certainly, because I had dealt with those, and I knew what some of the problems were. The adoption issues came interestingly through a constituent who came to me for help, and I often use that example to groups that I speak to, because people so often think they... their voice is never heard, and that’s so untrue, because a lot of the legislation we work on comes from individuals who come to us for help. But this particular woman, who was looking for her birth mother, came, and it started me on this whole issue, and I worked for several years on that issue, and did my masters thesis, in fact, on the issue of adoption.

Hendricks: That was for legal studies?

Hasara: Yes.

Hendricks: O.K. I also... I was thumbing through some old campaign articles from ‘94 – it was your last State Senate campaign – and one of the big issues of that year was “truth-in-sentencing.” And I remember that you had mentioned favoring early intervention programs instead of truth-in-sentencing laws that would require tax hikes. Did... did most of your fellow Republicans feel the same way that year?

Hasara: Probably not.

Hendricks: And there were also property tax caps, and... it seemed like there were a few issues that year that, you took a different stance than what your Republican cohorts would have... would have taken, especially in the “collar counties,” I would imagine.
Hasara: There were . . . I had a very unusual district. It was a lot more rural than, you know, other senators’ districts, especially in the collar counties. And my colleagues understood that I would have some different issues and feel differently on some of the issues – guns, for example – and I often did get support from the labor unions, believe it or not, and so that put me in a position of being pro-labor, and I had a lot of blue collar, working class people in my district, so I did have different feelings on issues than some of my colleagues.

Hendricks: Right. Fast-forwarding to November, 2002. Quite a lot of jumping around here! You stated more than once that you had intended to seek a third term, but in November of 2002, you announced that you would not be seeking re-election after all. What changed your mind?

Hasara: Well, to be honest, no good politician would ever stand up two years before an election, or even a year, and say “I’m not going to run.” I did struggle for a couple of years about what I was going to do, and much of that time, I thought I probably would, but as the time got closer, it began to look as if politics was going to change in Illinois. And I was getting older, and it was mostly, I think, facing another election. I was pretty burned out from running campaigns.

Hendricks: Yeah.

Hasara: And that had a lot to do with it, and, so, right after the election, I was certain I wasn’t going to run again.

Hendricks: Right. Has there ever been a time since making that announcement when you thought to yourself: “I wish I would have run again!”?

Hasara: A couple of times, when something happened in the city that I didn’t agree with, but it’s been just a couple of hours probably [laughter]. I’ve enjoyed a lot, actually probably a lot more than I expected, but I had a lot of time to think about whether I really wanted to or not.

Hendricks: Right.
Hasara: So I was fortunate in that regard.

Hendricks: What prompted you to run the first time, in 1995?

Hasara: Oh, I was approached by quite a few people. And I always used to say that if I could have any office I wanted, it would be Mayor of Springfield . . .

Hendricks: Really?

Hasara: . . . because it's my hometown. I'm really fifth-generation of my family here and so after I was approached, I knew it was probably a rash thing to do, particularly since I had just run [for the State Senate]. But I decided that I'd give it a shot. I've never been sorry.

Hendricks: Yeah. Did you . . . did you ever get any negative fallout from just having . . .

Hasara: Oh yeah. It was . . . yeah, it was controversial. And I didn't blame people. But it was either "do it then or never," and I thought I was doing it for the good of Springfield. I . . .

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: . . . don't know if that turned out or not, but I honestly didn't want Mike Curran to be the mayor.

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: And that was my major motivation.

Hendricks: We had . . . at the time, we had other examples. We had a President who ran for governor and then ran for President right after that. And . . . were you surprised that Mike Curran made the final cut instead of Mayor [Ossie] Langfelder?

Hasara: Oh no, because we had been doing polling, and I always told Mayor Langfelder it was not him I was running against. I have a lot of respect for him. There was no doubt in my mind that Mike Curran was going to come out of the primary. I probably would not have run if he hadn't been in the race . . . if Curran hadn't been in the
race.

Hendricks: Really? O.K. The city offices are officially non-partisan, but the political leanings, of course, are known to everyone. In that... in that general election, I understand you were able to draw a lot of support from Democrats. Do you think it was because they were upset with Mike Curran for running against the Mayor?

Hasara: Probably. I did get a lot of Ossie’s supporters after the primary – people who had been loyal to Ossie, and didn’t want to support Curran. And I might add, Mike Curran and I always got along. It was not personal. It was...

Hendricks: Philosophical.

Hasara: Right. It was.

Hendricks: What was that transition phase like? What does a mayor-elect do in that time frame? What did you... How long of a time frame was it for you? Was it?

Hasara: You mean...

Hendricks: Between the time when you defeated Mike Curran and became the mayor.

Hasara: Well, it’s interesting, because the election was in April, and I finished out the term in the Senate ‘til the end of May, so I actually served in both positions for a month. We were sworn in May 1, and of course, that was just wild. But...

Hendricks: The last week of session... the last weeks of session are usually...

Hasara: Right.

Hendricks: ... pretty tame, aren’t they? [Laughter]

Hasara: That one actually was... and we had just started finishing in May, and so that worked out pretty well, and I was at the Statehouse during the day. The end of session is different in that you’re not sitting on the Floor all the time, so I could go back and forth pretty
easily.

Hendricks: And that was right when the Republicans took over . . . everything.

Hasara: It was very exciting.

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: So, it was good.

Hendricks: So what was it like to be a mayor versus being a legislator?

Hasara: It's actually very different. The mayor has – especially in Springfield – has a tremendous amount of power. I don't think people realize we have a "strong mayor" form of government here. And our mayor here can even veto. And I believe we're the only city in the state – even Chicago. I always laugh and say Mayor Daley doesn't need to veto. But I believe that we're the only city. I could be wrong. But it amazed me that almost all cities of any size have a city manager.

Hendricks: Now, what was it like being the mayor of a . . . of the state capitol? You were able to view the city-state relationship from both sides, and . . .

Hasara: Right.

Hendricks: . . . did you experience frustrations as a mayor with a state legislature that you were once a part of?

Hasara: Sometimes, and I always laughed about votes that came back to haunt me when I was mayor. But, you know, it just depended on where you were at the time. Actually, the transition was pretty easy, and it was very beneficial because I knew all of the players at the State Capitol.

Hendricks: [Yes.]

Hasara: And it really did help a lot, because you knew who to call for a question, or for assistance, for . . . you know, grants. We could take ideas to different departments, and, you know, they would listen to us, and we, you know, always had the help of the
Governor, and it really was a big help. So, and, of course, the directors of the departments lived in Springfield, so they wanted our town to be a good place, and people at the Capitol want the capital city to be a place people like to be.

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: So that’s a help no matter who’s there.

Hendricks: What role did Brian McFadden play in your office? How long did he work for you?

Hasara: He worked with me the whole time I was mayor. We had worked together in the Senate, he came to the Senate staff right out of college, so he was only 30 when I became mayor, and we just had probably one of the most unusual relationships that I have ever seen in government. He knew his role, he didn’t do anything on his own, and about our talking about it – we thought very much alike, and he certainly knew how I felt on issues, even if it was different from the way he felt, but he’s just a very unusual, outstanding young man, and I think that the President of the Senate now feels the same way about him that I did.

Hendricks: Right. He was your Chief of Staff?

Hasara: He was my Chief of Staff.

Hendricks: And he took over for Carter Hendren afterwards?

Hasara: Right.

Hendricks: Those were . . . those are big shoes to fill, but . . .

Hasara: Very!

Hendricks: . . . I’m sure he can do it. Now, before you were mayor, did they have a deputy mayor system?

Hasara: Yeah, and it was pretty much like a chief of staff. Ossie had Bob Church . . . I believe he called him “Deputy Mayor.”

Hendricks: O.K. Now, when you first became mayor, energizing the downtown
area was ... was obviously one of your top priorities. What did you do in your early days as mayor to set that in motion?

Hasara: I ... I believe that the thing that really started the downtown changing was getting the old Kmart building redone. The old Kmart building to me was a symbol of decay in downtown and it sat right on the most visible corner, or certainly one of them. And everyone went by there, and I think it sat there for, like, 13 years. And we [the city] did assist, but, you know, we went out and got financial assistance and found a developer, and I give Gene Gerber a lot of credit, I mean, I approached him, and he kind of approached me, too. He saw it as a good opportunity, but to me, that changed the whole feeling about downtown, the whole atmosphere, and it also was a symbol that we were going to do something about downtown. And then after that,

Hendricks: Things took off from there.

Hasara: It really did take off. And it became fairly easy to come up with programs, examples, then, of improving downtown.

Hendricks: Which corner was it? I moved up here in 1996. I don’t remember ...  

Hasara: Yeah, it was where 11 West is.

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: The northwest corner of 5th and Adams.

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: It's apartments now.

Hendricks: Right ... o.k. Early in 2002, you brought in the Regional / Urban Design Assistance Team – R/UDAT – to provide a blueprint for downtown rehabilitation. Was that something that you were considering for a while? Bringing an outside group?

Hasara: Well, I would always be interested in getting outside input. I actually was working with the Illinois Architects group, because I actually didn’t know about the formal R/UDAT. And we were, of
course, talking about the downtown, and by then the Library [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum] was planned, and so we knew we had to get busy and make some improvements, so a woman – Shirley Anderson was her name, who was the director of the Illinois Architects group – told me about this team, and she said, you know, it’s not easy to get them. They go to two or three cities a year. But she thought they would be interested, mainly because of the opportunity with the Library coming on, so I made a couple of presentations to their board, and they did [the Illinois group] really helped us get this national group, and, of course, it created a tremendous amount of input and controversy, but it’s been wonderful.

Hendricks: Do you remember . . . what were the main recommendations of this group?

Hasara: Oh, there were . . . it’s hard to say “main,” but there were some that everyone will probably remember. They were shocked at the number of surface parking lots, and the improvement of Capitol Avenue . . . they saw wonderful opportunity with Capitol leading up to the State Capitol, starting, you know, pretty far east, when you look west, and see the Capitol, so we actually have plans for that. Money, of course, is the problem right now. But that’s been one of the major recommendations – helping us make that a beautiful avenue. They also recommended a lot better cooperation between the state and the city. And that’s gotten started, too. The best thing about R/UDAT has been the follow-up. And I took them very seriously, because before they agreed to come here, they came and talked to me, and I mean they were adamantly adamant about appointing a follow-up committee and making sure that it stayed intact. And I did that, and fortunately the new mayor has changed it a little bit, which is fine, and they are still meeting.

Hendricks: How long had the “Scenic Springfield” laws been in effect when R/UDAT came in? Had it been very long? Or . . .

Hasara: No, in fact, it might have even been about the same time.

Hendricks: About the same time. O.K.

Hasara: And of course, they applied to much more than downtown.
Hendricks: You had recognized before you became mayor that a major shakeup was necessary in the police department. You added community police officers, and you went outside of the city to select John Harris as the police chief. What was the rationale behind picking someone “outside?”

Hasara: There was so much controversy within the department, and there had been a couple of chiefs who, I felt, never should have been able to stay on. And there was just so much dissension that I saw “going out,” if you could find the right person, as the only way to try and get things back on track.

Hendricks: How would you rate Chief Harris’s performance in the years you were there?

Hasara: He did an excellent job. I mean, community policing was the number one priority. And it was pretty new around the country, but I went around and studied some of the cities that seemed to be very successful at it, and it’s often difficult for police officers to buy into community policing, and so Chief Harris, by far, had the most difficult job in city government. But we did institute, I think, quite an extensive community policing program.

Hendricks: Just out of curiosity, did you catch any grief for naming Ron Hasara as the Springfield Police . . . or Fire Chief?

Hasara: Actually, I didn’t. And I thought I probably would. But what made all the difference was that the firefighters liked him, and they wanted him to be the chief. And, we’re really not related!

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: And, of course they all knew that. So, if they had not supported him for chief, it would have been a different story. But I really . . . I really didn’t take any [grief].

Hendricks: When you gave your final “State of the City” speech, one of the regrets you mentioned involved race relations in Springfield. And you made the accurate point that most cities our size have this problem . . . have had it for many, many years. Looking back,
what do you think you would have done differently? Do you ever think it will reach a “satisfactory” point in Springfield?

Hasara: I think it will get better as time goes on. But it probably will be . . . will never be the way most of us would like to see it.

Hendricks: Right. I know you were lauded by publications such as the Illinois Times for appearing on the east side as frequently as you did on the west side. I know the east . . . the development of the east side was . . . is a very important issue. While downtown was being revitalized, how . . . what sort of steps did you and the administration and the aldermen take to revitalize the east side?

Hasara: We did a lot, actually. We encouraged any kind of development, and certainly Mike Pittman, who is the most visible black developer (and we assisted him in any way we could) – he was very motivated to improve the east side, and all . . . almost all of the development along 11th Street, for example, is an outcome of Mike Pittman’s efforts. And he got city assistance for doing that. He also did some housing on the east side. We also brought in some outside consultants to do a study of the east side, and that happened kind of late in my second term, but that was . . . that was eye-opening.

Hendricks: Have you . . . have you worked with Unity For Our Community? Was that . . .

Hasara: It was just starting when I left office, so . . .

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: I really was not . . . a little bit involved at the beginning, but that was all.

Hendricks: Now, I want to bring up a . . . a situation that was quite a headache for the whole city: the Renatta Frazier incident, she being the African-American police officer. In 2002, as you know, the city did not clear up false allegations that she didn’t do enough while on duty to prevent the rape of another officer’s daughter in 2001. And there were many lawsuits and threats of lawsuits, and the Davlin administration, as I understand, has reached a settlement with the litigating parties. When you read the terms of the settlement, what
... what was your opinion? Do you think... do you think it's fair to everyone? Would you have... would you have acted differently had you been the mayor then?

Hasara: I'm almost afraid to comment because, while that part of the lawsuit is over, she... there are still suits involved, in... maybe not in that particular issue, but...

Hendricks: Certainly.

Hasara: ... before I comment, I probably should check with the city attorney.

Hendricks: Absolutely.

Hasara: Because I will be called, I'm sure, as a witness in the remaining cases.

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: I would like to comment! [Laughter]

Hendricks: Understandable. Toward the end of your second term, you were quoted as saying that you actually hoped to be sued by the Black Guardians – another Illinois Times quote. Why did you want that to happen?

Hasara: Because we felt that we had done a lot to try and honor some of their requests, we had brought in some federal mediators who had not found anything wrong, you know, with our efforts, and I just... their lawsuit, first of all, we had so much trouble getting out of them what their real complaints were, and when we saw them – I mean, some of them were about things that happened 15 years ago. So we really were anxious to see exactly what it was, and what their complaints would be. And, of course, that suit is ongoing.

Hendricks: Ongoing. In November 2002, your administration hired a Peoria law firm to look into the treatment of her [Ms. Frazier] and another officer, Rickey Davis. What did that report reveal? Was it anything new?
Hasara: It wasn’t anything new to me.

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: But it was, of course, a public report that could not pinpoint, of course, but – and racism’s like that. It’s very hard to pinpoint any specific example of racism, and they did not find any. They found a lot of complaints, you know, about the department, and allegations, but no mistreatment.

Hendricks: On to another policy pursuit. When did synchronizing traffic signals become a policy pursuit of yours?

Hasara: Before the election!

Hendricks: Really?

Hasara: Before the first election. It was a big issue in the community.

Hendricks: I know I really appreciate driving down Clear Lake [Avenue] now!

Hasara: Right.

Hendricks: Did . . . what is, or what was, “Karen’s Kitchen Cabinet?”

Hasara: It was my political arm that helped me with fundraising, and we met several times a year. It had maybe about a hundred members from both parties. And I would bring in speakers that I thought would be of interest to the group.

Hendricks: I understand that some of those were city employees, but you never really caught a lot of flak for having . . . I mean, they weren’t coerced into contributing.

Hasara: Right. And that was the difference. I’m sure if I had said to someone, “Pay up, or it’s your job,” it would have become very controversial. But anyone in a visible office that takes a lot of money to run has a similar committee. So it’s pretty well-accepted. And hopefully, I have developed a reputation of supporting things that I thought were the right things to support, not because I’ve got money.
Hendricks: What was your initial response to . . . leptospirosis being found in Lake Springfield?

Hasara: My initial response was “what is that?” [Laughter] I had never heard of it before. So, that was an interesting experience. [Phone rings] Certainly one that I had no control over. But hiring Dr. Graham to come in and help the city meet its challenge, I think, was the best thing that I could have done, because he made everyone feel very comfortable, he’s very well-respected, he knows the issue, and he has a lot of savvy and a lot of common sense.

END OF SIDE ONE

Hendricks: Did you meet with much resistance when you proposed that city council meetings be televised?

Hasara: No, I really didn’t. Quite a few other cities were already doing that, and it gave the aldermen a chance, you know, to be seen. So, they liked it, actually.

Hendricks: Yeah. When was the first televised meeting? Do you remember?

Hasara: It was our first council meeting.

Hendricks: Your first council meeting? Has there . . . well, since it was your first, I don’t know if you can answer this, but . . . was there any noticeable change in the dynamic of city council meetings after they were televised? Or were they pretty much the same?

Hasara: I think there was probably a big difference in the dynamics, but I’m not . . . I don’t attribute it at all to television. It probably helped.

Hendricks: Yeah, yeah.

Hasara: But we had, I think six new council members, if I’m correct. Four or six. So that had a lot to do with it, too.

Hendricks: About half of them. One of the major accomplishments of your time in office, or of any mayor, for that matter, has been the construction of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. After all the work that you did to help that come to pass,
what was it like for you seeing the cornerstone being laid for that complex?

Hasara: It was very exciting, and I think when the stone went up, was, to me... I actually had tears in my eyes, because I thought it was so beautiful. The ceremony, you expect it. But when I actually saw the stone being put on, it was breathtaking driving by there.

Hendricks: Yeah. I understand you had a problem while trying to tighten a bolt, or something?

Hasara: [Laughter] Yes...

Hendricks: During the pursuit of federal funding, there was a well-publicized feud between U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald and, well, many people, but especially Bill Cellini. How... how close do you think that this public feud came to torpedoing the whole library project?

Hasara: I don’t think it did, because I think he was in the minority, and there were, I mean, even other senators – no one understood what was going on. I mean, here was this feud, but no one was going to nix the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum. And I think most people saw that for what it was – just a political dispute. And you had other people in the Senate, and of course in the House who were huge supporters of the project.

Hendricks: Including the Speaker of the House [Rep. Dennis Hastert of Illinois].

Hasara: That’s right.

Hendricks: Do you think Senator Fitzgerald had a legitimate gripe? Or was he just creating a straw man? Or...

Hasara: I believe he was bitter because he didn’t think he had gotten enough support from the [Republican] Party.

Hendricks: Almost lost amid all the hoopla for the Library and the Museum is the new Center for the Arts. What do you think of the new facility?

Hasara: Obviously, I’m very proud of it. And I think, particularly the timing of the Library opening and the Arts Center are just two very
unusual and exciting things for the future of this city. We probably don’t even realize it now, but it’s a beautiful facility, and we were very lucky. It had been talked about for years – not that particular location, but having one place where all the arts could come together.

Hendricks: Yeah. That was my next question. How long did it take for that to come to pass, since its inception.

Hasara: It probably . . . fifteen to twenty years.

Hendricks: Wow. In 1999, you won your second term by beating Allan Woodson 60-40, somewhere around there. His big issue that he talked about in that campaign was . . . or one big issue, I guess, was the whole incident involving City Water Light & Power. Were you ever fearful of Reliant taking over City Water Light and Power? I believe it was Reliant . . . the group that came in and loaned money, or whatever. Were you ever fearful of that happening?

Hasara: I was never fearful, because we had an agreement that would not have permitted that unless the Council, you know, had wanted them to, and of course that was never going to happen. I saw Reliant as our savior, because, you know, I didn’t want to have to say “we’re broke,” and, you know, “we may have to go belly-up, or lay off a lot of people.” And when Reliant came in, they gave us $30 million up front. And so we were able to say we could settle, we could fight for years if we want. We have the upper hand in deciding how we’re going to proceed, and without their entry into this, we would have been much more vulnerable. But, it was a great political issue. If I had been running against someone who would have been the mayor then, I probably would use the same issue.

Hendricks: One of the things you did was to seek a new medical district to leverage two hospitals and a medical school. What . . . what were the benefits of a move like that?

Hasara: Right. Well, that was a great project. It took quite a long time to finally become law. But we began to, of course, look at the future of economics in Springfield, and it was obvious that government employment was going to be declining, and that the fastest growing segment for us economically was the medical facilities.
And, so, we tried to decide how we could enhance that opportunity for people here. And we looked at the Chicago district – how it became the catalyst for improving that whole area there. It doesn’t happen overnight, and, of course, that district gets a state subsidy, and, to date, we haven’t. But mechanics are in place, and I’m confident that in the years to come, it will become successful.

Hendricks: During most of your second term, you dealt with a “non-partisan” City Council that was split along party lines, pretty much. Did you . . . did you view that as an obstacle to progress, or was that really an issue?

Hasara: There weren’t a lot of straight-party votes. There were some. It was more difficult, certainly, than my first four years.

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: But there were maybe a half-dozen issues that were strictly down party lines. But, you know, you had to make sure you kept your own friends in line, too. Because, you know, people have different wards and their constituents feel different ways, so it was more difficult, and more work.

Hendricks: This is certainly no knock on his successor, but how rough was it to lose [Ward One Alderman] Tom Madonia?

Hasara: It was very difficult. Tom had been around a long time, and he had a good grasp of what had gone on. He had historical knowledge and a lot of common sense. And he didn’t have a huge ego, which made it nice to deal with him.

Hendricks: Yeah. I had some other second term issues to discuss, but I’ll move on, but not before thanking you for moving the channelizer

Hasara: Oh yeah!

Hendricks: At Isles Park and West . . . by White Oaks Mall! [Laughter]

Hasara: Right. That was a difficult thing, believe it or not. I took a lot of heat on that.

Hendricks: By the residents in that area?
Hasara: Right. But I was so convinced that, once it got out of there, they'd be fine. And I've actually had some apologize to me for the way they acted about it, so . . .

Hendricks: Really! In the last Governor's race, 2002, there was some scuttlebutt that you were on the "short list" to be Attorney General Jim Ryan's running mate. Of course, he eventually chose State Senator Carl Hawkinson. How often did the Jim Ryan campaign contact you about your possible interest, and were you interested?

Hasara: Yeah, actually, they contacted me quite a few times. I had three or four meetings with Jim Ryan, and I believe I was on the short list. When he first chose . . . actually a guy that I served with in the Senate . . .

Hendricks: Right.

Hasara: I was . . . I was quite disappointed in the beginning, because after I had met with him three times, I was excited about the opportunity. But, probably within a couple of months, I was very glad that I was where I was. It turned out not to be a good campaign, and it would not have benefitted me, I think, to have been involved in it. But I have a lot of respect for him. Most of it [the failure of the campaign] was not his doing . . . most of the problems he ran into.

Hendricks: Aside from that, had you ever considered running for statewide office?

Hasara: I really never did. I think . . . it's very difficult, I think, to not have a Chicago base and try to . . . and be a Republican, especially, and try to win statewide. Jim Edgar had done it, and actually George Ryan.

Hendricks: Right. Kankakee.

Hasara: But it's hard.

Hendricks: Yeah. In your nearly thirty-year run as a public official – you were . . . from the only female County Board member at that time to Springfield's first female mayor, what changes or trends have you seen regarding women in public service?
Hasara: Many. It’s been very interesting to watch. When I first started, of course, it was so unusual. I was watched a lot more, I think, being the only woman. But now, it’s still . . . the numbers still aren’t up there, but it’s . . . there are still a lot of obstacles for women, I think. Particularly women with a family to try and run for office and be a good elected official. But it’s not that unusual anymore, and I . . . I think most people do not vote for someone because she’s a woman, or because he’s a man. They’ll vote for the person, and it’s been interesting to watch . . .

Hendricks: Yeah.

Hasara: . . . the level of acceptance.

Hendricks: How soon do you think we will have a female President or Vice President?

Hasara: Well, I think . . . you know, it’s really hard to tell. A lot depends on which woman emerges. But I think within the next ten or fifteen years, you could see a President. Certainly a Vice President.

Hendricks: What Republican women do you think are impressive and seasoned enough to hold a national office? All the talk right now is about . . . if John Kerry loses, Hillary Rodham Clinton running in 2008. Aside from that, you don’t really hear about any other women on the national scene. Do you . . . what Republican women?

Hasara: I think Elizabeth Dole is certainly one of the more attractive candidates, and the Senator from Texas . . .

Hendricks: Kay Bailey Hutchison?

Hasara: Kay Hutchison is an attractive candidate.

Hendricks: Yeah, yeah. Turning to Illinois, how surprised have you been at the turn of events that has taken place with the . . . the state party and the U.S. Senate race this year? I guess my first question is: Do you think the information revealed about Jack Ryan, for example – his personal life. Do you think that merited his dropping out?

Hasara: I do. Not so much . . . not only because of the act, but I was very upset because he was not up front with the [Republican] Party,
and, I mean, that's the number one question you're asked when you get ready – "what negatives will come out?" And, I think he really hid that. That disappointed me, I think, more than what it turned out to be. I could not have trusted him.

Hendricks: Were you surprised when the state G.O.P. selected Alan Keyes to replace him?

Hasara: Shocked.

Hendricks: Shocked? What do you think it would take for the state G.O.P. to be competitive again in Illinois?

Hasara: Oh . . .

Hendricks: Or do you think it's just a cyclical . . .

Hasara: Yeah. I think things run in cycles, and, you know, we talk about the fact that the Democrats lost all the statewide offices. . .

Hendricks: Ten years ago.

Hasara: Yeah. And came back. So, I'm not terribly worried about the future, and I think we've learned some lessons.

Hendricks: What do you think of Governor Blagojevich's performance so far, and what impact do you think his administration has had on the City of Springfield?

Hasara: I'm very sad for . . . particularly for state employees, because almost all of them are terrified that they're going to lose their jobs, and it's created a terrible atmosphere, I think – not only in state government, but they all have families and friends and neighbors, and people are very down. It's a very negative attitude right now. I hate it for Springfield.

Hendricks: Yeah. Did you get to attend the Republican Convention in New York City a few weeks ago?

Hasara: No, I didn't. I went to the '96 convention in San Diego, and it was wonderful. And I said I went to one, and that was fine.
Hendricks: We sat next to each other on the plane, actually!

Hasara: Right! I remember that.

Hendricks: We are just almost one month removed from the Presidential race. Do you care to make any predictions?

Hasara: Actually, no I don’t! I think it’s going to be extremely close, and . . .

Hendricks: Probably not as long of an election night as last time, but pretty close nonetheless.

Hasara: Well, we don’t know that, do we?

Hendricks: Yeah, that’s true!

Hasara: So, actually, I’m reading the book Deadlocked, about . . . it’s written by some Washington Post reporters about the post-election happenings . . .

Hendricks: From four years ago.

Hasara: It’s very interesting.

Hendricks: A few more questions, especially pertaining to some current issues in Springfield. Do you think that Springfield needs a second lake? There had been talk about Hunter Lake.

Hasara: Yes, I do. However, not having access to the latest information, there . . . there were other alternatives to the future water than Lake II. I think, I would say we definitely need to be looking for another water supply. It doesn’t have to be Lake II, but actually Lake II is the most cost-effective alternative.

Hendricks: Do you think that the city and county health departments should be merged?

Hasara: Absolutely. I think that’s a no-brainer, and politics has kept that from happening.

Hendricks: Mayor Davlin has proposed, at one time, annexing the State
Fairgrounds. I guess that’s back on the backburner. What was your general philosophy about annexation? Do you think annexing the State Fairgrounds is a good idea?

Hasara: We looked at it twice, actually, very carefully. And there was no benefit to the City of Springfield. In fact, we thought it would be a drain, mainly on the Police Department, because now the Sheriff’s office has jurisdiction. They would pay less in utilities if they were annexed into the city, and we looked at the amount of sales tax that was generated, and it was not going to be an even trade at all. So we dropped the idea twice. We looked at it real early on in the administration, and then later . . . once more.

Hendricks: O.K. What . . . what has been your general philosophy about TIF [Tax Increment Financing] Districts? Especially the one on Dirksen Parkway that they . . .

Hasara: Actually, I did not support that one, even when it was mayor and it came up. I had promised the school district that I would not be for another [TIF] district unless they really got something out of it, and I think . . . I think maybe they did, in the end, in that district.

Hendricks: O.K.

Hasara: But, certainly some of them have been extremely valuable – the Park South TIF. You can go out there and see all the businesses that have gone in out there, and of course, the downtown TIF.

Hendricks: How would you rate your successor so far on his performance?

Hasara: I think he’s doing a good job. He isn’t creating a lot of new things, which, I think, has been helpful. So, I think if the election were today, he’d be re-elected.

Hendricks: Many years from now, when historians are evaluating your time as mayor (maybe historians like me!), what grade do you think they would give your first term and your second term?

Hasara: It would probably depend on who they were!

Hendricks: Yeah. [Laughter] That’s true!
Hasara: I would probably say 'B’s,' I would hope!

Hendricks: Yeah. What would you list as your top two or three accomplishments and regrets?

Hasara: I think accomplishments are the medical district, the revival of the downtown. Disappointments were race relations, and . . . there's another one that I mentioned in the "State of the City" . . .

Hendricks: I remember you mentioning 11th Street as . . . not being extended, and . . . I guess it's good that we can't think of any more! [Laughter] But, and I'll let you add a third accomplishment, because I think that the Lincoln Library is . . .

Hasara: Right. The only reason . . . it's interesting, because the things that you list as your top accomplishments are things that wouldn't have happened if you weren't there, and I honestly believe the Library probably would have happened if I hadn't been there. I mean, it did help when I got to be on the selection committee for the architect and design engineer, and of course we gave the land, and, you know, extended the TIF. But I honestly believe that, with the powers that were at the State Capitol, that would have happened anyway. The downtown and the medical district probably would not have. And R/UDAT.

Hendricks: R/UDAT.

Hasara: I think, for the future particularly, that R/UDAT was important.

Hendricks: Thank you very much!

Hasara: Oh, you're welcome.