

DATE:	May, 20, 1998
TAPE:	Tape 15
INTERVIEWEE:	Thomas Scully, M.D.
INTERVIEWER:	Eileen Barker
PLACE:	DR. Scully's home, 1400 Ferris Lane
TRANSCRIPTIONIST:	Dianne Fernandez

TS: I'd been the Associate Dean for student affairs for about two and a half years roughly, so then Bob said, "Why don't we get you to do some other things, I'll appoint Jerry May to be Associate Dean and we'll get you started on the Alumni Association". In the meantime I had been re-appointed, to the B.M.E. I was originally appointed to the board of medical examiners in 1977 by Mike O'Callahan and I'd been re-appointed by Bob List and by Dick Bryan and finally by Bob Miller. At that time the board of medical examiners wanted the secretary to spend more time, because the work load was enlarging and everything was enlarging, so the board of medical examiners then paid me a salary to be there 20% of the time, about a day a week. The medical school paid me 80% of my salary. So I really split my time between the medical school, jobs that Bob would have me do teaching, because I was teaching all this time. I was teaching ethics. I didn't get into all the details but I'd teach ethics two afternoons a week to freshman and sophomores and I'd make rounds at the hospitals. Then I'd go over to the board of medical examiners. I did that until my B.M.E. term was up in 1996.

EB: I would like to talk about the board of medical examiners and the experiences there. We ought to make that a whole section if you don't mind. I did have a couple questions. Out of curiosity only, this heart attack, with your term of heart attack being a blocked artery, was it

something you could have expected because of your surgery?

TS: It turns out, they're not really sure, but both Dr. Nobel and Dr. Vicks think it is related to the cortisone that I'm on. After I had the transplant in 1987 and since, right up until today, I've been taking a number of medications to prevent rejection. I'm on Imuran, which is an anti-rejection drug as well as prednisone and I take some others. I take a drug for blood pressure and one for my thyroid and I take a diuretic of course to help urine production. When they went in and did the surgery in 1987, the surgeon said to Celia and me, "Tom has very clean blood vessels". "He doesn't have a lot of Atherosclerosis, he doesn't have bad rotten blood vessels". They were looking right at it. Larry Nobel told me the same thing in 1989 when he did the coronary angiogram. He said, "Your blood vessels look pretty good, they're not raggedy and looking like the atherosclerotic". He thinks the clot was created probably by the prednisone because we know that one of prednisone's side effects is what is called hyper-coagulable. That is the blood clots easier than otherwise. Since that time (1989) I have been on coumadin, which is "rat poison", as you know, because Larry wants to keep the blood thin. I bruise easily. If I bang myself I bruise. So, they think that is was probably a drug effect rather than the typical atherosclerotic narrowed arteries. The arteries actually looked pretty good. I apparently had very little heart damage because I've now been back several times and I've gone through the treadmills and that stuff and I walk several miles a day now. So, I apparently don't have typical heart disease. This is probably the drug effect. The net effect is the same, you plug off an artery, and you can get chest pain and all the rest.

EB: But, you didn't have any artery problems?

TS: No, none that I'm aware of and my cardiograms since have been fine. Larry says that I can do whatever I want.

EB: I want to ask a few questions about the Hastings Center. Dr. Callahan, who was a PhD....

TS: His wife also is one.

EB: He started it?

TS: Yes, he did.

EB: What is the Hastings? What's that mean?

TS: That comes from Hastings on the Hudson. The town of Hastings.

EB: Oh, just because it's from the town.

TS: They put it in the house that Billy Burke had.

EB: What was that like?

TS: It was an old mansion kind of thing. You went up a big driveway, circular driveway with a portico. I'm sure it was a lovely place in the twenties. It was falling down by this time.

EB: On the river?

TS: It was on a bluff, off the river maybe oh, I'd guess a couple of miles down the hill. Hastings on the Hudson river, you can go right down to the river from there but where the house was it was up on a hill.

EB: Have they converted it?

TS: They just took it and kept the rooms the way they were. This room might have been somebody's bedroom and now it's somebody's study. The dining room was made into a conference room and a library. The kitchen was expanded. Upstairs the bedrooms, it had six or seven bedrooms, porches and every place where they could stick anybody with a desk and a computer and a telephone they stuck people. It was a very eclectic kind of place. It was fascinating.

EB: What was his background? Callahan's

TS: Dan is a philosopher but also has written for a long time. I think he had been the editor of Common Wheel, which is a catholic oriented, somewhat liberal, I guess, news magazine about what's going on in philosophy, and religion and all that.

EB: Is he a theologian as well?

TS: No, I'm sure everyone thought Dan was marvelous, he still is marvelous, I shouldn't talk about him in the past tense. He is a wonderful guy, has a couple of kids, his wife is a Ph.D. in sociology. She teaches at a local college. He had a lot of background in philosophy, theology and religion. A little bit older than I am. He is a wonderful guy. It was a very intellectual place. Dan has published many books. He is best known now for his recent books on "setting limits" and how are we, as a society, going to "ration health care". His first book was on abortion. He lives in Hastings on the Hudson.

EB: So he is still there?

TS: The Center actually has moved. They got a bigger place up the river. First they went to the college in Briarcliff. But now they are in Garrison, New York, further up. Garrison is right across the river from West Point. So, they now have a new Center up there. He has written several books. I've got all of them here somewhere. I've got a big library down in the basement.

EB: I think probably we'll stop now and pick-up with Board of Medical Examiners and how that went from beginning until now.

TS: A lot of that we already talked about.

EB: Yes, in that book but we'll need it for our records if you don't mind the repetition.

TS: No, I'd be happy to say it again but that is what that "History" of the Board focused on primarily.

EB: I remember that because that was done from the standpoint of the medical examiners

history, but we'll start with it and I'm afraid it is going to be duplication.

TS: I thought I gave you a copy of these books.

EB: I have the "Making Medical Decisions", I don't have the other one.