

- 1 AB: ... that stuff. And then the downtown, the way they have, emphasized the  
downtown, over the past twenty thirty years as opposed to the neighborhoods. I  
believe they've abandoned the neighborhoods to a large extent=
- 2 BJ: =Mmm hmm=
- 3 AB: =And it's a lot of emphasis on downtown and then the stadiums, and things  
of that sort.
- 4 BJ: Mmm [hmm]
- 5 AB: [And I] really am very disappointed uhhhhh in the city. 'Cause it's not a big-  
this is a small- actually it's getting, it's growing smaller as the years go on. It was-  
more people in this city when I was a kid,
- 6 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 7 AB: [then are here] now. So I, I think they need to get away from this attitude that  
Pittsburgh is Chicago, New York. We're not. We're a small little city=.
- BJ =Mmmm hmmm=
- AB: =And I think they should take advantage of that fact.
- 8 BJ: Yeah, yeah. So, uh, ((2.0)) wh- if you could change, local politics, what  
would, [what would you want to do?]
- 9 AB: [I would, I would] well I would throw out everybody that's in there right  
now, I would not have a Democrat or a Republican, I'd like to see somebody  
independent in there, running the [city.]
- 10 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 11 AB: Uhhhhh=
- 12 BJ: =And you think they should, just give up on downtown, or what what should  
they [do?]
- 13 AB: [No], I- downtown. They maybe they should give up on downtown to a  
certain extent to maintain. I- People do not go downtown, I would think they  
would get this in their heads, for one thing.
- 14 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 15 AB: [There's a lot] of reasons, parking. Ahhh, dahntown (air intake and pause). I  
am shocked sometimes on [Saturday],
- 16 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 17 AB you go downtown, pan handlers, bums, [and] it's not a pleasant, it's it's  
not pleasant.
- 18 BJ: [Mmm hmm] Mmm hmm.
- 19 AB: I know policemen that I know that tell their wi- they don't want their wives  
going downtown shopping downtown.
- 20 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 21 AB: [I mean], I don't know if it's quite that bad, but it doesn't ((sigh)).
- 22 BJ: [Mmm hmm]
- 23 AB: I [was, I] went downtown on a weekday one time. Usually I'm not downtown  
on a weekday. And this was about ten o'clock in the morning. I saw nothing but  
panhandlers and people standing on corners drinking liquor out of bags.
- 24 BJ: Yeah.=

25 AB: =And it's, there was no policemen anywhere. I did not see a policeman  
anywhere.

26 BJ: Mmm hmm=

27 AB: =And it's just, it's it's. I- I think the downtown, I think they need to accept  
the fact that it's not going to come back the way it once was.

28 BJ: Mmm hmm.

29 AB: The reality is, people are going to th-. It's easier to- you can park easier

30 BJ: Mmm hmm

31 AB: and I, I I, I think they have to accept that fact,

32 BJ: Mmm hmmm

33 AB: which I don't think they they want to.

34 BJ: Yeah. Well, I, no, they obviously don't want to yet, but

35 AB: I just don't think [they we-]

36 BJ: [I mean,] I think it's the people who work down- I mean whatever s- stays  
open down there, is just because

37 AB: Yeah, [oh yes, yes]

38 BJ: [the people who work] there go shopping during their lunch break,

39 AB: [Yes]

40 BJ: [That's] basically [[it. And then there's]]

41 AB: [[that's what it]]

42 BJ: the cultural district, which, [is a whole different]

43 AB: [right,] that's a [[different]]

44 BJ: [[it's a totally  
different]] thing, and that's really nice, that's

45 AB: [Yeah that]

46 BJ: [I think that] works really well=.

47 AB: =That part of it works, uhhh the businesses, and then you're right. And that's  
why, when I, I kind of laugh when they ((swallows)) talk about taxing the people  
living outside the city. They oughtta be on their hands and knees thanking these  
people, 'cause they are keeping the downtown the stores and restaurants, they're,  
they're what keeping, they're- they are the ones keeping that open, that=

48 BJ: =Mmm hmm=

49 AB: =that work downtown=

50 BJ: [right]

51 AB: [And I,] I can't see tax-, and then you want to tax them, and oh, I, I. We need  
to-, I think the-, we need a new m- mayor, ((laughing)) and a whole new city  
council, I

52 BJ: ((Laughing)) Well, we're not getting that this time.=

53 AB: =No, we're not gonna get that this time, and probably not in the near future  
either. ((laughing))