

*Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Harris Carr discuss why people in Florida are less interested in the environment, media support and why a Democracy helps with Environmental issues*

(4:55) Interviewer: (5:05) So, let me begin by asking a question about the past. How has public opinion been important in the environmental issues and the public policy development about those issues, that you've been involved in, in your work?

Marjorie Harris Carr: Who are you looking at?

Marjory Stoneman Douglas: You go ahead. Which one are you looking at?

MHC: Dark glasses, eyes.

MSD: Oh, the dark glasses? I can't see her anyway, so.

Interviewer: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie (Carr), I want you to join in as it's appropriate.

(5:37) MSD: Well, in my experience, it's been a long process of getting people interested. I think the problem has been with us, in South Florida, that most everybody came from somewhere else and it took them a long time to understand that they were living in a completely unique country, that had its own problems, totally unlike everything else. So, it's been a long process but I find that a great many more people have are knowing about it and certainly we've been trying to educate them. And we have a much stronger background of public support than we used to, simply because people are getting to understand. When they understand, they support.

MHC: Exactly. Exactly.

MSD: Has that been your experience?

MHC: Oh, absolutely, and I think...you know, in this effort, in the environmental effort, I am constantly made aware of the advantages of a democracy.

MSD: Ah!

MHC: Because truly, you do not ...you don't get action until you have people involved ...public are educated and express their feelings. And, from what I have known of a totalitarian or an authoritarian government, what the public's attitude is does not really cut much ice.

MSD: Consequently. Yes. There's no strength actually then except in the power of the totalitarian...military power. There's really no strength.

MHC: He is the steward. And, if you get a bad steward, everything goes to hell.

MSD: You're out of luck.

MHC: But where the citizenry accepts the responsibility of stewardship, as you have to have in a democracy, if it's working, or... we have the opportunity, in a democracy...and I think that's why the U.S. is extraordinary in the field of the environment and where Florida is a leader, too.

MSD: Yes, I do feel so. And I think that in the schools they're doing some very good work about environment, so the children are coming up already oriented already a little bit informed. They're not totally ignorant about it. They have a feeling for it.

MHC: That's essential.

MSD: And the children who are born here and brought up here have a greater feeling than people who just came down.

MHC: I think the media has done a superb job.

MSD: Oh, wonderful!

MHC: I think it deserves, you know, several gold stars.

MSD: Every possible credit, yes.

MHC: Of course we need to have even more. We need to have even more exposure, media education for the public, but they're doing a magnificent job. We need more more!

MSD: Oh yes, where I am always so grateful. Always so grateful. (8:35)