

SPEAKER 1: With your discussion there a couple of moments ago.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you. Thank you. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: I have a couple of points I'm going to make a bit later in this report about those programs.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SPEAKER 1: I want to start it off with a little bit from the past. A flawed drug policy marches on. There's one thing you can say for the war on drugs. It's consistent. The effort is tinged with the same hypocrisy, dishonesty, and propaganda that characterized President Richard Nixon's launch of it, during the early '70s. Earlier this year, the National Archives released tapes Nixon made in the Oval Office, which highlight the prejudice, the ignorance, and self-deception that has precipitated a national tragedy. Now, while the president appointed a commission that called for decriminalizing the possession and small scale sale of marijuana, Nixon pushed for an all out war on all fronts against pot smokers. Now, since then, more than 15 million people have been arrested in the US for marijuana. Now, what was Nixon's big hang up with weed? He saw it as a tool used by those who opposed him. That's what you all were talking about earlier.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Keeping the folks down. The president claimed that, quote, radical demonstrators are all on drugs. He told confidence that every one of the bastards was out for legalizing marijuana is Jewish. He saw the drug war as part of a larger cultural war.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Always trying to blame the poor Jews. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Well, now, listen, he went further. He said, homosexuality, dope, immorality in general, these are the enemies of strong society.

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly. Yeah. How many times have we heard that?

SPEAKER 1: How many different people have put the same voice on that maintained it for Nixon.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Generations. I want to provide you with a couple of quick quotes from the primetime event y'all were speaking of.

JIMMY CARPER: The John Stossel thing? Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: OK. Here's first, from Asa Hutchinson, the administrator of the DEA. He says, we have flatlined. I believe we have lost our focus, to a certain extent. I don't believe that we have the same type of energy devoted to it that we have, in certain times in the past. I can say that I don't know-- but now, if Asa can just get a full \$100 billion per year, he can surely stop all drug use.

[LAUGHTER]

The 1.2 million arrests per year, the asset forfeiture, the billion dollar piss-sniffing industry, and the pleasures of thousands of corrupt law enforcement officers are being maintained at any cost. If we can keep one kid from being able to get high, it'll all be a success.

[LAUGHTER]

Reality has never been a strong suit of the drug warrior [? clan. ?]

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, never.

SPEAKER 1: OK. A second quote here, this is from Jerry Oliver, the current police chief of Detroit, and this is a quote from him. We will never arrest our way out of this problem. If we did not have this drug war going on, we could spend more time going after robbers, rapists, burglars, and murderers. That's what we really should be geared up to do.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: Clearly, we're losing the war on drugs in this country. He goes on to say, it's insanity to keep doing the same thing over and over again. And I got one more quote. This is from a priest in the Bronx. This is part of that primetime special. It's a wonderful program. And this is from Father Joseph [? Kane. ?] The people who were against alcohol were sincere, I suspect, but they didn't see the implications. We know the implications in the year 2002. We know that prohibition doesn't work for alcohol. Why should it work for anything else?

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly.

SPEAKER 1: Now, these are two great hours, a major television broadcast this past week. They're both now available on the web. You can watch them, listen in. The transcripts are available, if you wanted to quote them for a letter to the editor. I, please, suggest everybody write one letter, send it to Congress.

JIMMY CARPER: Very good idea.

SPEAKER 1: The mayor say no more, not in my name. It's just got to cease.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: The first one was from Donahue. It was on Monday. It was titled *Medical Marijuana*, or just plain *Legal Marijuana*. Get an idea where they were going with that show, and primetime, as good as *The Donahue Show* was, primetime just kicked its ass. Primetime on Tuesday was titled *The drug War, The War on Ourselves*.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: And it featured Judge Gray and Sano [? Tree, ?] which were two of my recent guests on my program.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: And their appearances are now available on my website. And I want your listeners to, please, just remember that every week that passes, 25,000 Americans are arrested for drugs. Dozens of corrupt cops are found and arrested as well, and we spend more than \$1 billion tax dollars every week on an effort that has never succeeded and which is destined to eternal failure for the people. But the drug war has been enormously successful for cops, piss-sniffers, politicians, and other criminals of various descriptions who often show their fangs of morality. And then they fight tooth and nail to maintain the deception, to maintain their cut of the loot from this jihad on you and I.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely correct. You hit it right on the head.

SPEAKER 1: Now, I want your listeners, when they get the chance, to go to my website. They can see the real time videos, the transcripts, and it's Cultural Baggage. It's www.cultural-baggage.com.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 1: I just want to say one last thing, that change is possible, but it's going to take more of us speaking in unison. The media is speaking out for us. We need to support them at this time. Now, if you'd like to be part of the change, please, get in touch with Houston Normal or the drug Policy Forum of Texas, and you can do so by calling one number. 713-784-3196.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Sounds good. Dean, thank you for calling in.

SPEAKER 1: Well, I appreciate the time too.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. I'm so glad that we've got somebody like you that can keep us aware of what's going on. And I want folks to remember that's www.cultural-baggage.com.

SPEAKER 1: That's it.

JIMMY CARPER: And you can find out all of the stuff that he talked about tonight and a whole lot more and probably information about Normal.

SPEAKER 1: Indeed. I'm the new president of Normal. I need to spiff up the web page a bit, and I'll get to it here real soon.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Thank you, Dean.

SPEAKER 1: Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Take care.

SPEAKER 1: Goodnight, y'all.

JIMMY CARPER: Goodnight.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: The Kinsey Sicks, and that's S-I-C-K-S. It's a beauty shop quartet, as they call themselves. So it's for drag queens who really can sing well, but they do wonderful parodies. That was "Locked Out of the Chapel of Love," because, of course, same-sex couples cannot get married in this country. And before that, we had Liquid Pie, lesbian group with "If You Want Me for My Money."

[LAUGHTER]

Seems like an apropos song, just for the moment. You're listening to *After Hours, Queer Radio with Attitude*, Jimmy Carper and Whitney is here, and Chris is here.

Yeah. As soon as the mic comes on.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: I knew enough to wait. I couldn't hear myself breathing in here.

[LAUGHTER]

No, that's Big Roy.

[HEAVY BREATHING]

We were going to be speaking to Matt Laughlin from Club Insomnia.

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Which has received a lot of attention here lately.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, from the TABC.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. I spoke with him earlier. And we--

JIMMY CARPER: As well as Venture-N. But, hey, that's another subject.

SPEAKER 4: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Well-- and I spoke with Matt earlier in the about it.

SPEAKER 5: Oops.

SPEAKER 4: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. Oops is right.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

SPEAKER 2: And we were hoping to have him come in here and talk about some of the issues that were going on with that. So hopefully, he's just on his way--

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SPEAKER 2: --since we're somewhat hard to find.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, he is open now.

SPEAKER 2: Yes. He is still open.

JIMMY CARPER: So-- and Club Insomnia is open from 2:00 until 6:00 in the morning.

SPEAKER 2: Yes. And for--

JIMMY CARPER: Because it's an after-hours club.

SPEAKER 2: Yes. And the part is that it's no longer BYOB.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: And so I did a little research. It was strange for me. I had to actually call one of those establishment--

JIMMY CARPER: 1-800 numbers?

SPEAKER 2: No.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SPEAKER 2: No.

SPEAKER 4: [LAUGHING]

I said it was unusual.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

SPEAKER 2: One of those totally nude female clubs, where you go in, and--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

SPEAKER 2: --they strip completely. Because they're also BYOB.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. And what's the difference?

SPEAKER 2: Well, the fact is this. At those clubs, they also tell you you can no longer drink at 2:00 a-- after 2:00 AM.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

SPEAKER 2: Really. The way the law reads-- and I-- I actually went on the web and pulled down the TABC code from their website. And the way it reads is that the only reason we can have after-hours-type clubs, that you can even drink after midnight, is because of the population.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

SPEAKER 2: A County having a population of \$500,000 or more, they can have what's called an late-hours mixed beverage permit so that-- so they can sell between midnight and 2:00 AM.

JIMMY CARPER: What? Who knew this?

SPEAKER 2: This is-- this is the--

SPEAKER 4: Where do they--

SPEAKER 2: --strange--

JIMMY CARPER: I thought it was--

SPEAKER 4: --come up with--

JIMMY CARPER: --2:00--

SPEAKER 4: --this stuff?

JIMMY CARPER: --all over Texas.

SPEAKER 5: No.

SPEAKER 2: No. The way this--

SPEAKER 5: Most of it's midnight.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. I didn't know that. Well, I don't drink, for one thing.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. This is how strange it is here. This is Section 105.03. Hours of sale, mixed beverages.

JIMMY CARPER: But they're not selling them.

SPEAKER 2: Yes. But see, it's-- it comes down to this part of-- let's see. Where did it say? It doesn't matter if you're selling it or not. It's the fact that it's in-- that your establishment--

SPEAKER 4: Consuming it.

SPEAKER 2: --that's consuming it.

SPEAKER 4: [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 2: OK. Here we go. Hours of consumption. "Extended hours areas mean an area subject to the extended hours of sale provided in 105.03 and 105.05." Standard hours are-- here it is.

SPEAKER 4: It sounds [? funny. ?]

JIMMY CARPER: Your guest has-- has just shown up.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, good.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

SPEAKER 2: In a standard hours area, a person commits an offense--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Who said he wasn't going to show up?

SPEAKER 4: [LAUGHTER]

MATT LOCKLIN: Oh, is it 2:45?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. [LAUGHING] Hey, Matt Locklin.

SPEAKER 2: Hi.

MATT LOCKLIN: I'm working, man.

SPEAKER 2: I know. You're trying to keep it as much as you can going there.

MATT LOCKLIN: Hey, man. The club's finally busy tonight, man.

SPEAKER 2: Hey, good.

MATT LOCKLIN: I hated to leave, man.

SPEAKER 2: Good, good, good, good, good.

MATT LOCKLIN: People are starting to catch on that. Hey, we're still open.

SPEAKER 2: Good. Good.

SPEAKER 4: That's good. Because we were--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Chris was just pointing out the law.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah, OK. Well, I've had the wonderful conversations with the TABC on this. 1--

SPEAKER 2: I'll bet you have.

MATT LOCKLIN: --see, 0.01.06 of TABC law says no person may consume alcohol after 2:15 AM until another certain hour. On Sundays, I think it's 12:00 or something like that. I don't know what the ending time is.

SPEAKER 2: Until noon on Sunday and 7:00 AM on the rest of the week.

MATT LOCKLIN: So people can BYOB up until 2:15. Now, when we first opened Club Insomnia, we tried this. We started opening it at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We tried 9 o'clock. We tried opening up at midnight. Nobody ever came in.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: It's easy too easy to go to the bar and just order a drink. That way, you don't have to carry a bottle and stuff like that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: Houston is really a shift-working working town. And there's a lot of people who like to--

SPEAKER 2: Careful how you say that.

MATT LOCKLIN: [? --watch. ?] [LAUGHING]

[LAUGHTER]

I didn't say working in the shift. The-- people like to party. You know what I'm saying?

SPEAKER 2: Sure.

MATT LOCKLIN: And this was a good place. A lot of waitresses and bartenders and stuff, after they'd get off of work, they like to have a place to relax and come dance and patio. This is run by a group of community volunteers.

We are people of the community who are active in politics and stuff. We've been through TABC hearings. We've been through TABC licensing. At no time did anyone ever say anything--

JIMMY CARPER: To think--

MATT LOCKLIN: --that BYOB was illegal here.

JIMMY CARPER: I remember the days before there were mixed drink bars and that there were private clubs all over Houston.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well--

JIMMY CARPER: Where you-- for a membership, you went in, and you drank until whenever.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. Well, they say we can't do that. They said we can serve near beer.

JIMMY CARPER: Near beer.

MATT LOCKLIN: [LAUGHING]

SPEAKER 2: Well, who the hell wants that?

MATT LOCKLIN: Hey, all the adult-- this is where I'm saying-- I'm a hollering discrimination. OK? I'm an old AIDS activist and gay and lesbian activist and stuff from way back. And every-- excuse the term-- titty bar in town that doesn't have a liquor licence-- wasn't grandfathered with a liquor license. These people BYOB until 5:00 AM. 2:00 AM to 5:00 AM.

And they advertise it. There's the hookah bar down on Richmond, BYOB until 4:00 AM. We have all out-- I'm not going to name any names. We have all our clubs serving behind the counter their specials, and so on and so forth. Saying, why don't TABC go raid them?

SPEAKER 2: Exactly.

MATT LOCKLIN: They have a license. You know what I'm saying? They're not supposed to be doing these kinds of things. And yet it goes on, and on, and on. It's called payola.

And AIDS Housing Coalition Houston, who runs the Club Insomnia--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. Now--

MATT LOCKLIN: OK?

JIMMY CARPER: I get it.

MATT LOCKLIN: This is my assumption. How could these businesses go on year, after year, after year?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: TABC brought it up to my attention. Sir, didn't you operate for three years? I didn't pay anyone. Our money has-- it's entirely-- that building that we work out of is the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston Community Center.

We do-- during the day, we have a food bank there. We have a clothing shelter.

JIMMY CARPER: I didn't know that.

MATT LOCKLIN: We do. We have a social services offices. They're in the back of the building. You don't see it during when you're partying there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Because I've been there. I've been to your club.

MATT LOCKLIN: The front of the building is the dance floor, and the game room, and stuff like that. People come and sit on those same couches to wait for social services and stuff during the day.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

MATT LOCKLIN: They go out and sit on the back patio and do interviews and stuff, where it's comfortable and stuff. And back-- we go and talk with people. And the people I deal with are on their last leg. So we go out and sit by the koi fish pond and get out of the little sterile world of the office situation.

And we work with people on a personal basis. We were using this money-- we didn't start off with Club Insomnia. We've been here since 1994. We used to do garage sales. We've never taken any government money.

JIMMY CARPER: You used to do Access Houston, too.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. Yeah, we used to do AIDS Talk Houston TV. I did that show when they were still burning people out of their-- back when I went on the air those little boys were being burned out of their home.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: And Ryan White was still alive when I was doing AIDS Talk.

JIMMY CARPER: That's exactly-- yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: That's back during the days when they beat the AIDS activists out there at Republican National Convention. That's pretty much what brought AIDS Talk Houston onto the air, was over that situation. I saw that there was a great need to educate people about AIDS here in Houston.

A friend of mine, while I was in the hospital district reforming that whole system out there on AIDS, I started seeing a lot of people that were homeless. And they couldn't take their medication. They couldn't-- what good is a food bank if you had no place to put food?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: You can't carry around canned food in your backpack. It's too heavy. Where do you supposed put the meat they give you, and the milk they give you-- and so that's why-- if you have no home?

Can you imagine being out on the streets right now? What they've done is--

JIMMY CARPER: At that, with AIDS?

MATT LOCKLIN: --effectively, shut down--

JIMMY CARPER: No. I can't imagine.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Because I have AIDS, and I know what it takes. And you've got to take medicines at certain times. And some with food, some without. And it's complicated if you're-- you have an apartment and self-sufficient. But--

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, my comment--

JIMMY CARPER: --if not--

MATT LOCKLIN: --to TABC is why couldn't-- if they-- if all these places are illegal, and they're going to get around to them, why couldn't they start with them? And then, end up with the last one, which was all going for non-profit community use?

They have effectively shut down the only emergency shelter in Houston. Now, my friends-- and these are worthy services. I'm not putting these people down. But my friends at Steven's House and Milam House have become very sanitized about who they accept into the building. And it takes weeks to get in there.

And it's a needed program, but you have to pass through hoops to get into their-- to their programs.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: And you need a place where-- and then we need services like that. But we also need a place where people can come in. They have personal barriers and that we can deal with those personal barriers, and help them go get help with them. Whatever barrier it is that exists that keep them homeless. Then we need to do that.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, as I understand it, this is-- what you were operating, was it temporary housing for folks?

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, we're doing transitional housing, which is a 90-day housing program.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

MATT LOCKLIN: Emergency housing is something like you do--

JIMMY CARPER: That's what Steven's House does.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. Well, they're-- No. But see, they're not emergency. It takes two weeks to get into Steven's House.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I didn't know that.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. It takes a lot of paperwork. And you have to have a history with the case manager. What do you do if you come into town-- there's a lot of people that come into town every day-- come to Houston from little towns and stuff like that that don't have any connection with an HIV case manager?

Who don't have any connection with a local doctor here? Who don't know the people over at the PWA Coalition, and Steven's House, and Milam House?

JIMMY CARPER: That say nothing of AIDS Foundation Houston--

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, this is--

JIMMY CARPER: --which is like-- that's a whole nother story. Because I have tried to get help at AIDS Foundation Houston. And there's no way. It wasn't going to happen.

MATT LOCKLIN: Right now, everyone-- there's three different HOPWA levels of emergency funding. Houston Area Community Services, Hacs, on Kirby Drive, does a 30-day emergency motel vouchers.

And then, the Bering Omega group gets the money for rental vouchers and stuff like that. They'll give you up to five months worth of rental assistance. AIDS Foundation Houston does the eviction notice stuff, with the financial assistance through that.

All three of those groups are out of money. In this heat-- 110-degree heat, can you imagine walking the streets?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

MATT LOCKLIN: I have people crying on the telephone going please, help me. I'm dying out here on the streets. I can't-- I'm dehydrated. I can't take my medicines. I can't get a glass of water from anywhere. I can't go to the bathroom.

What am I supposed to do here? I'm wringing my hands. I'm literally operating what we're doing right now off of my Social Security check. I get Social Security Disability. I have never been a paid employee of Club Insomnia. I have never been a paid employee of the AIDS Housing Coalition in Houston.

I volunteer. My day starts at midnight. I work until 7:00 AM. I go home and sleep for three hours and then start delivering social services.

By 11 o'clock in the morning, I'm up answering the phones and dealing with issues. I open the offices at 12:00. I work, usually 7:00 or 8:00 at night, go back to sleep, and then go back to work. So that's my commitment to the AIDS cause here.

I'm very upset with what TABC did. We were not aware that we were breaking any law. We had gone through a system. And to the best of our ability, we didn't know that we were breaking the law. No one had ever warned us.

They could have simply picked up the phone and saved the storm-trooping out to the club and embarrassing everyone. And coming in and calling everyone faggots. And why don't we just throw all these faggots to jail? And hey, you know what?

JIMMY CARPER: Now, was at the HPD officers, or--

MATT LOCKLIN: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: --the TABC?

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, actually, the other day, when I was at the TABC office, I said, well, I didn't see any-- I didn't hear of any TABC officers. However, the-- I found out the undercover officer that was with TABC was one of the main ones that was out in the parking lot going, let's just take all these faggots to jail. Why are we farting around with this?

And you know what? They pulled up with the paddy wagon and the cars, and they were ready--

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MATT LOCKLIN: --they were ready to take everyone to jail. They were there for 2 and 1/2 hours trying to find something going on. They couldn't find anybody doing drugs. I'm not saying drugs don't exist, but we don't allow it open in the club. If we see you with the drugs, we kick your butt out the door.

JIMMY CARPER: I have been at your club, and people have their own bottles and stuff, but I've never seen drugs.

MATT LOCKLIN: Not anymore.

SPEAKER 2: People are just having fun on the dance floor.

MATT LOCKLIN: TABC or HPD have been in there every night since we've been open.

JIMMY CARPER: And I want to--

MATT LOCKLIN: I'm tired of the harassment.

JIMMY CARPER: --and I want to publicly-- I don't know what's going to happen in the future, but I want to publicly thank you for employing Elke former programmer here at KPFT. And she has loved being--

MATT LOCKLIN: Can I share something with you?

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MATT LOCKLIN: Elke is in hospice now.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. OK. I know that--

MATT LOCKLIN: I-- we love her. And if you're listening out there, OK, baby, we love you. We miss you so much.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. She-- she-- I know that she's got liver cancer.

MATT LOCKLIN: She was able to live out her dreams. Elke is a transgendered person--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: And a lot of people-- when she came in and applied at the club, some of the people around me-- not my immediate, but the club people are going, oh, we ain't hiring her and stuff. It's because she's talented.

JIMMY CARPER: She is talented.

MATT LOCKLIN: One night, somebody made the mistake of saying-- calling her the B-word. And said, oh, that B-word didn't play my favorite song. I said you know what? That woman gets on her bicycle, sick with whatever-- what she's got.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

MATT LOCKLIN: And she pedals her butt down there in the wet weather and everything to come down here to entertain you, and to make-- have a good time here and stuff, and help raise money for AIDS. So she is a community hero.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet she is.

MATT LOCKLIN: She's certainly not the B-word.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: So--

JIMMY CARPER: And I want to thank you. I want to thank you for taking care of her.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, we did-- we did everything we could. We bought her a new bicycle when she got sick. It's the least-- I couldn't buy her a car, but we did buy her a new bicycle.

Last year, we put-- just for the record here, we put 45 people into apartments where we paid their first rent and deposit. We did 45 more people through transitional housing. I handled over thousands of telephone calls for HIV referrals and counseling.

And people calling up in the middle of the night crying, and what do I do next, and stuff like that? And--

JIMMY CARPER: Those are tough calls, too.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah, they are. Families that call up. What do I do with my son? He showed up at my doorstep, and he's got these-- homosexual with the AIDS. What are we doing with him?

I'm the only-- if you look up in the White Pages of the telephone book, it says AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston. And there's AIDS Foundation of Houston. There's several other groups.

I'm the only one that actually answers the phone. Everybody else, you get a recorded calling. Please leave a message. Op. Message box is full.

And mine, I actually pick up the phone. I'm a real person. I'll talk to you. So I've done everything I can to help the community.

I'm starting to feel like Dick Nixon. You're not going to have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore.

SPEAKER 2: [LAUGHING]

MATT LOCKLIN: They're actually now, even after I went and talked to the TABC and explained to them we're in complete compliance with the law, and so forth, now, they're shooting their mouths off about how they're going to try to prosecute me and all this crap.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MATT LOCKLIN: I'll be glad to go get a lawyer. But you know what? I need the community's support on this. I need you guys to get your butt up some night, and come over to Insomnia, and spend some money. And buy a non-alcoholic beverage.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: There's people in there now. I was surprised. Last night, it was dead. But we're packed. Not packed, but we're rather busy tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. Good. I'm glad to hear.

MATT LOCKLIN: I'm glad to see--

JIMMY CARPER: Because there's a lot of people who still want to party that just want to dance. They don't care about the drinking. They don't-- they just want to have a good time. And--

MATT LOCKLIN: See?

JIMMY CARPER: --you can have a good time at Club Insomnia. It's got great dance music, and great dance floor and a really varied and interesting crowd-- folks who seem to all get along with each other.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. They--

JIMMY CARPER: I went there, and I just hung back and looked around and get my bearings and see what was going on and that. And people are having a really good time. I had a-- really, I had a good time there, and I'm not a dance person.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, before we opened the Insomnia, I went out to California and Denver, and Tucson and stuff. We went around to the different bars to go look and see what they were doing out there. And everything out there was mixed crowds.

And it was Top 40-type format and stuff like that. And I was coming back to Houston, and everything was techno. And it was very, very split crowds and stuff like.

And we've actually-- I'm very, very proud that I've been able to get straight people and gay people to come to the same bar and have a good time.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Why not?

MATT LOCKLIN: Why not?

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

MATT LOCKLIN: We went with the route to get a TABC license. And our friends that lived in the neighborhood who were gay, Republican-- Log Cabin Republicans went down, and actually took the day off of work, and came to the TABC hearing to prevent us from getting a liquor license.

So we have our-- these people have since moved. I now have notarized statements from all the neighbors in the neighborhood who would endorse us having a liquor license because they don't want somebody else coming in there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, very good.

MATT LOCKLIN: We've been there three years. We have a good reputation. We don't wake up our neighbors. We don't allow prostitution to go on in front of the building and down the street.

We don't allow people to loiter more like-- more than five or 10 minutes. We're a good neighbor. We pick up the-- I have two shifts of people who pick up trash in the neighborhood, whether it's our trash or not.

Because it's perceived to be our trash. We've done our part.

JIMMY CARPER: Being a good neighbor is, I think, number one.

MATT LOCKLIN: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: And I know that you're in the outskirts of the bar area, and a lot of people-- a lot of folks there do complain about noise levels and things like that. But if you're the good neighbor-- and Ooh. I got to jump in there, and remind folks that they are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

I'm Jimmy Carper. And we've got-- it's Chris's segment. And so I should shut up and let him do the talking.

SPEAKER 2: No, it's fine. I'm actually--

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

SPEAKER 2: --I'm having the same problem Roy has. Unfortunately, I didn't get to have a slab of Hispanic beef in my mouth to cause it hurt.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

SPEAKER 2: Ooh.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh. I haven't had a slab of beef--

MATT LOCKLIN: I would say--

JIMMY CARPER: --of any kind in so long. Hey.

MATT LOCKLIN: --I guess this is all payback for when I used to get on TV and call Johnny Cleveland [? Hagar ?] murderer.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

MATT LOCKLIN: They used to put people with HIV in the-- immune-deficient people into the infectious disease ward. I used to call him a murderer on TV. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Because they couldn't get their medications.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. But when I went to go get my TABC licensing and three people showed up and said, well, a prostitute may urinate in my yard. My property values may dip. The man behind me, when he just got tired of us being there, he moved. He sold his condo for twice what he bought it for less than 10 years ago. So how did he suffer?

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

SPEAKER 2: Well, because we've seen the-- I remember earlier when you were actually starting to go through the process of trying to get the alcohol license, I think, at least *The Chronicle* came down and did a story about it.

MATT LOCKLIN: We were--

SPEAKER 2: And they were talking-- there was mainly from the axis of the neighbors were up in arms about it. And probably one of the television stations, I think, came out as well for it.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, just two months ago, we were on the front page of the Metropolitan section of *The Houston Chronicle*. And it clearly stated that we were BYOB. Why didn't TABC pick up the phone and say, Matt, what you are doing there is illegal?

Why did they send in 12 or 15, or how many ever agents there were? My security staff works at all the little cantinas in town. He said normally when they come in and raid a cantina it's three agents and maybe two or three HPDs. It's not that many people.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. But that's the typical process for what's-- of how they raid the bars here in-- the gay bars here in the Houston area.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, they came in very heavy-handed. And they were very rude. And they were screaming. And I kept asking the agent to please take a deep breath and calm down.

Every time I tried to ask a question, he told me I was under-- I was going to be under arrest if I kept arguing with him. And I wasn't arguing. I was asking questions.

I'm like, where's your search warrant? Why am I being searched? After reading again the TABC-- the first paragraph of the TABC law, it gives them broad, Nazi-like powers to if there's an ounce of alcohol anywhere in the building, they have the right to come in, and search and seizure, and so on and so forth.

I openly let them come in my offices and look around. There was no liquor behind the bar. There was no liquor in any storage area. There was no liquor in any offices. There was liquor in the storage cabinets, which are the customer cabinets, like rental lockers.

And where people-- they will come in on Wednesday or Thursday night. And they will bring in a bottle, and that's what they'll use all weekend. They share it with their friends and stuff like that. We have people that-- who are volunteer hosts.

Now, these aren't people that came in and registered and went to a day of blah, blah, blah, and went through community service orientation. They're just regulars that come in the bar. And they're like our bottle hosts.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

MATT LOCKLIN: And they would hang out with a bottle, and people would get to know them. And sometimes, they would share and stuff like that. And that was always the tradition at Insomnia.

JIMMY CARPER: I noticed that.

MATT LOCKLIN: Share and share alike. There was no-- people would come up to the bar, and they would go, how do I get a drink? I would go, there's no guarantee. You need to bring one.

But now, you can't drink it all there. So most people--

JIMMY CARPER: For the time being. Until it all gets sorted out.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, I'd like to get a lawyer. And get an exemption, at least, for non-profit organizations, that we should be able to--

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

MATT LOCKLIN: --if it's going to community--

JIMMY CARPER: And you are non-profit.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yes. 501(c)(3)

JIMMY CARPER: Ta-da.

MATT LOCKLIN: --all the way. All the way, baby.

SPEAKER 2: Because I've-- when I was looking through-- I didn't bring that part of the TABC code. But I know they've got exemptions for fraternal organizations, for veterans organizations. They even had a special-- there was a part on there about bingo operators. Bingo parlors have a certain mark.

[LAUGHTER]

MATT LOCKLIN: We went through the bingo [INAUDIBLE]. We were originally going to open up a bingo hall there. And it was just--

JIMMY CARPER: It's popular everywhere.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, I know. But I watched two different-- they make it so difficult. And we got the licensing, but we watched two different organizations. One was a new one, and one was an established one. Both of them went bankrupt.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

MATT LOCKLIN: You have to have 90 days' worth of prize money in the bank.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MATT LOCKLIN: I never imagined that. It takes a while to build up your bingo crowd. I tried to say, well, in Atlanta, they do it. And they sell the tickets in advance so that they have all their money in advance. They're sold out of tickets.

And you can't do that here. You have to just take the gate at the door. So you have no certainty that you're going to sell out the crowd or stuff like that. And they make it very complicated here to get the licensing.

And we went through hell and high water to get this licensing. We went and leased a building. And we got in there, and the board started taking a look at our financial situation. They go, there's no way we're going to make it.

So let's apply for liquor license. And we'll open up the bar. Maybe we can make enough money we can get the bingo going. Well, we waited the 90 days. The Avondale Association-- they're so fair about everything-- they waited until the last moment of the last day and walk in with a protest with three or four people's name on it.

And, of course, now, since I've been denied my TABC license, the Meteor Bar has opened. And there's two or three straight bars around the corner that opened, within-- I could throw a rock and hit.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I don't understand that.

MATT LOCKLIN: They're out harassing [? Mayla's ?] bar, which is the lesbian bar next door to ours. They pulled her license for some technical reason and shut her down for a month. I'm sure--

JIMMY CARPER: And she just happened to be the female Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. They just happened to do it the week of the Pride Parade, too. So she wasn't-- I don't think she was really legally open the night the Pride Parade was there. I'm not quite sure what her situation was. We don't talk much.

But I'm sympathetic to anybody that's been harassed by these Nazis. And I don't-- I don't know what else to do, guys. I've tried my best. And I'm a volunteer.

And now, I'm hearing people saying that I was squandering money. I drive around-- one time, I wrecked my van, and they-- the-- somebody else hit me. It wasn't my fault. And they bought me a rental car while my van was in the-- so I was driving around in a Cadillac, which was paid for by the insurance company, not me.

I can't afford a Cadillac. Well, oh, now, it's like, Matt Locklin went bought a Cadillac off of money off of AIDS money. And--

SPEAKER 2: Well, that's--

JIMMY CARPER: How does this crap get started?

MATT LOCKLIN: Hello. I drive a little simple man.

SPEAKER 2: They hear a title, and they hear the word corporation. And they see something like that nowadays in our society-- and the way things are going, and people will jump to that kind of conclusion.

MATT LOCKLIN: The problem was I was too generous helping people. We had no money-- no back-up in the bank. We had just-- we'd been burglarized a few weeks before this thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

MATT LOCKLIN: It wiped out our change fund. And that-- and it wiped out the night's-- one night's receipts on Saturday night. And that effectively put us in the hole.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. I was wondering about that. Because I read that you had been closed down, then all of a sudden, you were out of money. And I thought, wow, are they-- were they operating--

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, we were--

JIMMY CARPER: That close to the--

MATT LOCKLIN: --yes. Because we're non-profit.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

MATT LOCKLIN: I raised 292,000, I think, last year. And not all of that was through Club Insomnia. But-- and we spent 291 with 1,000 rolled over to the next year.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

MATT LOCKLIN: Sure. We were putting money away in savings and stuff like that. But when we got hit with the robbery, we had to replace the change fund, and so on and so forth.

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha.

MATT LOCKLIN: Of course, now, we have new security. But we have armed security guards that take the money to the bank. Now, we don't leave any money in the building overnight, and so on and so forth.

But actually, I was sick that night, and I wasn't able to take the money to the bank. I was ill, and I went home early. And somebody broke in before we got into the business the next day--

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch.

MATT LOCKLIN: --and did a lot of damage. We had to pay for the damages. We had just financed the new air conditioning system because we just signed another three-year lease on the building. So now, we're in debt.

I'm in credit card debt on my business line. Which we could have easily handled, but where does the money come from? So now, we have to-- do we have to file bankruptcy? Are the board members-- are they going to come after their assets?

Ray Hill told me that, hey, I've been through this a few times. They don't-- there's some protection there for non-profit. But--

JIMMY CARPER: Daddy Ray. Yeah, he's--

MATT LOCKLIN: I have risked--

JIMMY CARPER: --a good one to talk to.

MATT LOCKLIN: --life to do this. We've had people come in there, threaten to bomb the building. We've had people come in there-- they actually arrested a carload full of people, when we first opened, that had guns, that were going to come in and shoot everybody.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MATT LOCKLIN: They arrested them down at the 611 Club, getting a tank on before they came down there. They had 15 guns in the car. And they were mad because we'd thrown out some drug dealer. And they were going to come in there.

And they charged him with the RICO statute.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

MATT LOCKLIN: I've had people try to assault me over the club. Just-- I mean, they're fundraising. Most of the people are very good people. But I have risked my life for the community to do this. I have risked my own health to do this.

I am a volunteer. I work about 80 million hour a week. And I ask for community's support at this time. Please, pick up the phone and tell Annise Parker to get off her butt and do something.

Annise has been my friend for a long time. But I don't like the comments that she's made lately. The other day, she says, well, maybe it would be better thing if they were under closer scrutiny.

Hello. I use a professional bookkeeper. Kathy Hubbard used to be my bookkeeper--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: --and Kathy-- it got too complicated having the bar and everything. She didn't quite understand all the technicalities. So we went to somebody who did, so we don't have to pay taxes.

Why should we pay taxes on a non-profit organization? Take the money out of the people that need the money and give it to the government. I don't think so. We found a legal way to do all these things.

But Sheila Jackson-Lee has come in. She was in the club just the other day when we're-- of course, at the social service offices. Not at the club partying.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: [LAUGHING]

MATT LOCKLIN: And-- she was in there--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Please, make that clear.

MATT LOCKLIN: --she's trying to help us get an emergency grant from a private foundation. The gentleman that was supposed to come with her, somebody had an immediate death in the family that day, and he had to fly back to Washington.

JIMMY CARPER: So you're getting help from Sheila Jackson-Lee--

MATT LOCKLIN: I hope so.

JIMMY CARPER: --on this. OK.

MATT LOCKLIN: OK. No. My eggs haven't hatched yet, my friend.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. OK.

MATT LOCKLIN: But yeah. She said, Matt, that you are the only HIV shelter in town. I know these things. I've been calling around checking. And there's-- the only one-- same-day-- when I say only one, I'm saying same-day entry.

Sure, you can go the Open Door Mission, but there's a lot of problems there. With your-- if you have no immune system, that's not the place to be.

JIMMY CARPER: No, it sure isn't.

MATT LOCKLIN: If you're homosexual-- and obviously homosexual, it's not the place to be. People do get raped in the showers. I don't care what they say or what their public image is, or anything else.

But things happen there. If they find out you're HIV and AIDS, they will beat you up and throw you-- the clients. Not the staff, the clients. The other residents will harass you and make you leave the shelter.

JIMMY CARPER: [SIGHS] Wow.

MATT LOCKLIN: This is not an option. Now, they supposedly have some type of funding. If you reveal to them at first-- when you first come to the door, that you're HIV positive, there's supposed to be some kind of emergency funding, where they'll put you up in a motel or something.

But how many people do that when they come in the door? You don't come in and say I have AIDS. I need--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: You don't do that. Now, if you--

JIMMY CARPER: You're not. You won't, and then--

MATT LOCKLIN: And if somebody out there is listening is homeless, please go the Open Door Mission, and tell them that you have AIDS. And they will help you temporarily. But we're talking a few nights or something.

I don't what arrangements they have. But they get some kind of minimal funding from the government for this. We need an emergency shelter for people that are transgendered, people who are gay, people who are lesbians.

We even taking people that are end-stage cancer and stuff. We don't just limit ourselves to AIDS. Because we don't get a government grant we don't have to limit ourselves to who we can help. We were helping somebody with sickle cell here a few months ago that was in and out of the hospital and couldn't hold down a job, and was from the community. Provided us ample proof that they needed help and were in need.

The other day, I was delivering food to a girl that-- it was a lesbian from the community. And while the women's groups were trying to get their stuff together to help her, she was starving to death. And I took her down a load of food from the AIDS food bank.

She doesn't have AIDS. But she has cancer. And breast cancer and stuff. She's dying.

And bless her heart, she needed some food. She was starving to death.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

MATT LOCKLIN: We try to help as we can.

JIMMY CARPER: It's immediate help.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: Right now, what we need, is we need funds to be able to pay our immediate utility bills that were, as a result of running the shelter. Because those bills are still coming in. We need small donations \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100. We're at 202 Tuam Avenue-- T-U-A-M-- Houston, Texas 77006.

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute.

MATT LOCKLIN: That's AIDS Housing Coalition Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: You talk fast. People write slowly.

MATT LOCKLIN: 202 Tuam Avenue-- T-U-A-M.

JIMMY CARPER: Tuam, to people from out of state.

MATT LOCKLIN: Tuam. Tam. Houston, Texas 77006.

JIMMY CARPER: Not just a--

MATT LOCKLIN: [INAUDIBLE] in Tennessee and Alabama.

JIMMY CARPER: --not just a zip code. A lifestyle.

MATT LOCKLIN: A lifestyle. But I'm not going to spend any of that money on the club. We're paying off utilities of existing debts from the shelter. The landlord, we pretty much pissed him off because we had all these cottages, and now, we're breaking the leases.

And we can't pay for them. And I asked him, would you please give us one month to get this together? And that-- I told him about my possibilities, and he had no understanding at all. He said no. And you can tell your clients to get out.

I told him, well-- I said, well, I told them they had until the third until they got their check. Nope. The clients must be out by the 31st. That's when you rent's paid. That's-- otherwise, I'm filing against you and suing you.

And damages. And somebody left a piece of paper in the club. And you didn't repaint before-- he wants us to repaint all the cottages and re-carpet all the colleges before we leave.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

MATT LOCKLIN: I was like, excuse me. Normal wear and tear. But we won't even get into that situation. But I've been abused by landlords, too.

But we're effectively closed at this point, as far as cottages. We still deliver services over the telephone.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

MATT LOCKLIN: I am still-- I have one person in hospice, who I could not turn out onto the streets, that I'm renting an apartment and taking care of on a personal basis. Because they can't go on the streets, they're not quite ready for hospice. We call it pre-hospice.

I helped him-- they just got on their Social Security and started. But he can't live out on his own-- just no way. And I can't-- I didn't have the heart turn him down.

The rest of them were walking and talking. And they were sick and having problems, but they had been there long enough to where they were able to get other situations.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, good.

MATT LOCKLIN: But none of them had a place to go when they came to the door. I've had-- since the 27th, when I was notified that it was going to be-- about the TABC and everything, we figured out that we were going to have to close down and everything. I've had no less than 20 or 30 phone calls for people that had an actual need for housing.

And I referred these people to the appropriate programs. And many of them called back and said that all out of funding. Steven's House is full. Milam House is full.

Hacs has no money. Bearing has no money. AIDS Foundation of Houston has no money.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

MATT LOCKLIN: I started this organization because a friend of mine died out in front of a local unnamed largest single provider agency here in town. Sat on the bus stop out front. They wouldn't help him with housing because he didn't-- didn't fit the system or something. And--

JIMMY CARPER: That's exactly it.

MATT LOCKLIN: I think--

JIMMY CARPER: He did not fit the system.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. He said, well, I have no place else to go. So I'm going to live out here on your bus bench out front here. And when I die, please come and have them bury me. And he died of pneumonia on the front bench that night.

And they came in that morning and asked. They said, look, we found a client card in his pocket. Would you come identify the body?

And he said, look, we got all these thousands of clients. We don't have time for this. And they hauled his body away, and they buried him. And had it-- I had another guy that lived-- at that time, I wasn't doing housing.

I had a guy living under my living room table. But I'd have told him to scoot over and had my friend come move in if I had to. I wouldn't have left him on the streets. But he didn't tell me.

He was on the-- some boards with me. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Those were bleak days.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. I had a friend of mine at the PWA Coalition die. We had a car wash. I begged him not to do it. I said, you never raising money at these car washes.

And he died of pneumonia as a result of working in that car wash. We're talking about giving your life for a cause.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: And--

JIMMY CARPER: Over the years, we've seen a lot of that. And I'd like to think that things are getting better because-- if only because AIDS is now getting more and more into the straight community. So people are taking it serious now. And--

MATT LOCKLIN: At least half of my clients are straight.

JIMMY CARPER: --and-- yeah. And providing services and stuff. Yeah. That's kind of what's happening all over.

All of these-- see, when the AIDS first-- as you know, when first came about, no one in the government would do anything about it. Because, oh, it's just hitting those gay men. And so we had to do something about it. And now, what's happening is that we're finding more and more of the clients are heterosexual.

MATT LOCKLIN: Well, I've often told people, in Europe, it started in the straight community then went to the gay community. I told them that we were fortunate in the United States that it started in the gay community because we were already organized into gay cliques and gay political organizations.

And a lot of them just-- like AIDS Foundation of Houston, came out of Ray Hill and all them being political. They were already gathered together and had the impetus going that had the ball rolling, and they just changed it into AIDS.

Of course, after a few years, they told Ray, you're too controversial for the AIDS Foundation of Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah.

MATT LOCKLIN: Really? I started this on my credit card. What?

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

MATT LOCKLIN: The first housing organization that I started, I went and wrote \$1 million grant for it. And they were going to turn down the grant, because all the homophobic city councilmen we had and stuff. And I got on the telephone and called Felix Fraga and some other people and got them behind the scenes to work.

And it was a unanimous vote. And we got the grant. And it was through the River Hopes Health Association. And they now have the program that I financed sitting at 312 West Alabama. And as soon as they got the money, the first thing they did is kick the queers out of the organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

MATT LOCKLIN: They kicked my butt out of the door. And the minute they got the money, they locked me out and used a Sheriff's deputy to keep me from going to the board meeting.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding?

MATT LOCKLIN: Yes. And then, she immediately started hiring her daughters as \$20,000 a year executive directors and stuff. And it was just a real-- and they're still-- they're still in business over there. I've filed a number of level of charges from the federal government.

FBI is investigating them. They've been investigating them for years. It's a totally abusive situation over there. Please come and see me because I'm slandering them. It's--

JIMMY CARPER: 312. That's-- that's a--

MATT LOCKLIN: It's a HOPWA-funded program over there. And they're--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's a complex--

MATT LOCKLIN: --they're not-- yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --that they're working on?

MATT LOCKLIN: They have the same clients in there for three years now. They've had the same clients over there over and over and over again. They send them into rehab. They start smoking crack again.

They get him out of rehab. They put him back in the program. The woman can easily control these men. They're bilking their Medicare and Medicaid. And they're not--

JIMMY CARPER: They're start--

MATT LOCKLIN: --they're not doing anything for them.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's a low percentage of people living there.

MATT LOCKLIN: Yeah. And the few people that are living there-- you know how many people I can have living there in a year?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MATT LOCKLIN: Now, I'm not-- I was offered the program after the first executive director was-- came under FBI-- the board was reorganizing. Some doctors came on there, and kicked these people out, and reorganized the situation because they saw that it was a bad situation.

But the people they have running it now were handpicked by the HOPWA director here in the Houston area to run this. And I think maybe my indication was that they went to the same church, maybe.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.