

were there instructions coming down from above or did a bunch of local leaders get together and say, "We favor Mr. X"?

P: Yes, they, they, they....

K: Correct.

P: ...they do that and then they'd usually, if they agreed, they'd get together and then they had certain men, they had the clubs or certain cigar factories or one man in the cigar factory or organization and, but I saw evidence the machine in two elections, although I beat the machine the second election. The, and after that I carried the precincts nearly all of the time. But they, they would mark them in, but I think when the machines were, the people were able to carry a machine vote is because they didn't know the individuals. They hadn't, didn't take time to see them. They relied on their leaders. I think when they would get out and see the individuals, those young Italian lawyers, the young Spanish lawyers, and you met them and they liked you, the machine couldn't operate. They said, "No, I'm going to vote for Pete, or I'm going to vote for so-and-so," because they knew him. But if they hadn't campaigned, they didn't know him, and some of the leaders said, "Well, you'd like, vote for so-and-so. I'll mark your ballot then."

K: So what you're saying, sir, is that then in these early days it was the influential people in the Italian and the Cuban or Spanish communities, say the factory owners or somebody...

P: Yes.

K: ...who would say, "Why don't you vote for..."

P: Yes, "he's a good man...."

K: ...Congressman X or Senator Y," and why, and then say the say the cigar workers or whatever...

P: Yes, that's right.

K: ...would follow along?

P: And that's not only true of the Spanish and Italian, but it is also true of the other workers in other places.