1961

Nisbet 1961

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Interviewer: How do you do; you are Mr. Nisbet, aren't you?

Nisbet: Yes, but just call me Steve.

Interviewer: Well, I feel a little presumptuous using the first name with a man who has been virtually the dean of the State Board of Education for 16 years.

Nisbet: Well, it wasn't so much an honor as it was a lot of hard work. But it was fun! By the way, do I have to wear this coat? You see, I still feel pretty much like a small town boy, and I'm more comfortable in my shirtsleeves.

Interviewer: No, by all means, take it off; make yourself comfortable. You've just recently come back from Florida, haven't you.

Nisbet: Yes, and in a way, I hated to come back. Boy, I like Florida! I believe there's only two things that would make me come home early— one would be to select a President for Western, and the other would be to see my grandchildren.

Interviewer: Well, I hope you do as well by your grandchildren as you did by Western. Incidentally, I'd like to get the record straight about some of your efforts for those grandchildren. Is it true that you have a nice creek running across the back of your lot at Fremont?

Nisbet: Yes, that's right. It's a dandy, too.

Interviewer: And isn't it true that your wife, Dorcas, appreciates your ability to make things with your hands, and seems to be able to persuade you to use that ability?

Nisbet: Well, I like to do little odd-jobs; and I guess my wife thinks she persuades me to do them. But, you know, all the time I wanted to do them, anyway.

Interviewer: Well, you built a table out there by that creek, didn't you?

Nisbet: Yes, I did. Designed and built the whole thing myself.

Interviewer: Then, it seems that Dorcas thought it would be nice to have a barbecue fireplace or something out there, didn't she?

Nisbet: Yes— I know what you're leading up to; but go on.

Interviewer: All right. Then, it seems that you needed a well out there for drinking water.

Nisbet: That's right. But that was my idea— saved me from running back and forth to the house.

Interviewer: And so you put in a well. But Dorcas thought it would be nice, as long as you had a well, to build a well-house. So you built that.

Nisbet: Boy, you sure got the whole story, didn't you?

Interviewer: Yes, but there's one more chapter. Didn't Dorcas decide one day, that, as long as you had the table, the barbecue, the well, the wellhouse, you might just as well inclose the whole business and build a summer house out there?

Nisbet: (laughing): I guess you've got me. Yes, I ended up by building a summerhouse.
Interviewer: Well, I think that's wonderful. Won't you miss Fremont, the grandchildren, and Florida while you're on this trip to the moon?

Nisbet: I sure will; but I'm buying a round-trip ticket.

Interviewer: Tell me, why are you making this trip, anyway?

Nisbet: Well, I have two motives: First, I wanted to see if the moon is really made of green cheese; and if it is, there ought to be a way for Gerbers to utilize it some way for a new kind of baby-food. Second, I'd like to get back my religion.

Interviewer: Get back your religion?

Nisbet: Yes; I'd like to go somewhere place where there weren't any Democrats!

Interviewer: Well, we're glad you're coming back, anyway. And we hope to hear from you.

Nisbet: Thank you. Good-bye. Yes, Dorcas, I'm coming!