

the first thing related to movies -- was as a movie critic, in Japan. I worked for the Mainichi Newspapers, and I was a disc jockey for the Army at the same time. Up until the time I was court-martialed, I was able to be somewhat anonymous. You weren't supposed to work while I was there -- this was in the late '50s -- and I wasn't supposed to have a job on the side. But I was writing for these newspapers, under a pseudonym, in English, and it was translated into Japanese. At the same time, Donald Richie was writing for the Nippon Times. I was also an advisor to Shochiku Studios. I had scammed this job as a film critic. I had never written about movies before. I had gone to a lot, but that was about all. They thought that I knew something about movies, so they asked me to be some sort of advisor to them as to which films they should export to America. I think I was single-handedly responsible for repressing some of the greatest movies ever made. Many of them were done by Ozu. (I don't know if you are familiar with Japanese movies here.) I translated them as well, from Japanese into English, which is not to say that I spoke Japanese perfectly. They made a sort of literal translation, then I would try to make it more colloquial. Also, Japanese movies have a tendency to be introduced with long narratives, and I would frequently do the voice-overs in English.

From that, I went into radio. I had no plan, really -- I was going to study philosophy, in fact -- but somehow or other, I