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## Delahanty, Tom, II oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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## **Interview with Tom Delahanty, II by Andrea L'Hommedieu**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

### **Interviewee**

Delahanty, Tom, II

### **Interviewer**

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

### **Date**

March 10, 2000

### **Place**

Lewiston, Maine

### **ID Number**

MOH 180

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### **Biographical Note**

Thomas E. Delahanty, II was born in Lewiston, Maine on June 6, 1945 and raised in the Lewiston community. He is the son of Thomas Delahanty I and Jeanne (Clifford) Delahanty. His father was a political activist, Congressional candidate, Muskie supporter, and Maine superior court Judge. He attended St. Michaels College in Vermont and University of Maine Law School. He was on the County Democratic Committee and the State Democratic Committee. He replaced George Mitchell as U.S. Attorney. He is currently a superior court judge in Auburn, Maine.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: 1954 Maine gubernatorial campaign; anecdote about political consultant for Democrats in 1954; 1980-81 Secretary of State; Democratic Party in Maine; Clifford and Delahanty families and political involvement in Lewiston/Auburn, Maine; personal recollections of 1954 campaigns; Maine Democrats; "Caucus in a phone booth"; and prejudice.

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## **Transcript**

**Andrea L’Hommedieu:** This is an interview with the Honorable Thomas E. Delahanty, the second [II], on March the 10th, the year 2000 at the Muskie Archives in Lewiston, Maine. This is Andrea L’Hommedieu. If we could start, I’d just like to ask you to spell your full name, to say it and then spell it?

**Thomas Delahanty:** It is Thomas Edward Delahanty, II, Delahanty is D-E-L-A-H-A-N-T-Y.

**AL:** And where and when were you born?

**TD:** I was born here in Lewiston, June 6th, 1945. Lived in Lewiston all my life except when I was in college and law school.

**AL:** And where did you go to college and law school?

**TD:** I went to college at St. Michael's in Vermont and law school at the University of Maine.

**AL:** And growing up in Lewiston, which schools did you attend in this area?

**TD:** I attended Pettengill School on College Street, Frye School, St. Patrick's School, and Lewiston High School.

**AL:** So the public school system.

**TD:** I went to three years of parochial school.

**AL:** Oh, say that again, which school was that?

**TD:** St. Patrick's.

**AL:** Oh yes, okay.

**TD:** I thought I had said that, but that was, I think my father thought the nuns, I needed the guidance of the nuns for a couple years.

**AL:** Wonderful. So your mother's family, tell me a little about her background, how far did they go back in this area?

**TD:** My [Jeanne Clifford Delahanty] mother's family, the Clifford family, has been here since before the turn of the century, the last century. And they've been very active in civic affairs and still are in the Lewiston-Auburn area, and actually in the state of Maine. Her maiden name is Clifford, her father was John D. Clifford, Jr. who was a very prominent trial attorney in the area, active in politics, a boxing promoter, and later became a United States attorney and United States district court judge. And she had one brother who was an attorney. And her mother was from Shallot, Michigan and her maternal grandfather was a United States congressman from Michigan, and they, John M. C. Smith. And so the family I guess in all branches has been very active in politics, a lot of times behind the scenes, sometimes as candidates, through the years.

On my mother's side, her father had a brother, William Clifford, who was an attorney and they had quite a number of children, three of whom became attorneys and are still active in town. Robert Clifford is on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, it would be my mother's cousin, or my, I guess first cousin once removed. I'm actually a third generation judge. My grandfather was a judge, my father was a judge, and I am, so my mother has the unique distinction of being the daughter of a judge, the wife of a judge, and the mother of a judge. But she's never been called for jury duty and she hasn't let me forget it.

**AL:** Now your grandfather, your mother's father, Judge John Clifford, how, was he, he was probably the first in his family going back to be a judge.

**TD:** As far as I know, yes.

**AL:** What interested him, how did he get his start into the law, did he have, did he start a different career and then decide to study the law or was that -?

**TD:** No, I think, I wasn't around then but from what I understand he graduated from Bowdoin and then went to Harvard Law School, and you know, then came back and practiced law. And I think there were probably a number of prominent people in town who influenced him to do that. I can't say exactly, I can say his being involved in the law and my sitting at his knee as a young child, and my father's, naturally gave me an interest in the law but I can't really say how he got started. My mother could probably give you more insight on that.

**AL:** And on your father's side, how did he become interested, do you have any idea?

**TD:** Well, a little bit more because, you know, we've talked a lot, but my father is the son of an immigrant. His father came from Ireland in 1909 I believe it was, came to Lewiston. My father's mother came from New Brunswick, but her parents are from Ireland, and my father was born here in Lewiston, grew up in Lewiston, and went to St. Patrick's School, Lewiston High School, and then on to college. His father worked in the mills here in town, and his mother did, and he had one brother and three sisters, they're all deceased now.

But his interest I think in law school was, as he tells me, is he went to college at George Washington University in Washington to play football. He went there and they dropped football after one year and he really couldn't continue in college without the assistance. He called home to tell his mother he was coming home; she told him don't come home without a college degree. So he got himself enrolled in law school, at Columbus Law School which is part of Catholic University, and they, at that time you didn't need a bachelor's degree to go to law school. So he finished up law school, then got his masters in law, came back, practiced in Lewiston with the law firm of Brann & Isaacson for a couple of years.

Then with WWII he couldn't pass the physical to get in the Army so he went in the FBI and he was in counter espionage in the FBI until 1945. He came back to Lewiston, and that started his active involvement in politics. And he was partners with another fellow that he had been in law school, excuse me, that he had been at Brann & Isaacson with by the name of Alton Lessard and they practiced together as Lessard & Delahanty until my father went on the superior court in 1958. Alton Lessard later went on superior court himself, and along with a fellow by the name of Charles Pomeroy who had also been at Brann & Isaacson when both of them were there.

**AL:** Oh, that was a good law firm to start in with.

**TD:** I guess it was. They, and so my father was on the superior court from 1958 until he went to the Maine supreme court in 1974, and then he retired in 1979 basically for health reasons. But

he was active retired and worked part-time until his death in 1985. So, but he was good coach. When I was district attorney, his office was right across the hall from me so, he couldn't hear my cases but he was a good sounding board and a good person to get information from.

**AL:** Right. Tell me about his, has he ever related to you his time with the FBI, what was that like for him?

**TD:** He's talked about some of it, about surveillance when they were doing surveillance in New York City of following suspected spies. There had been some suspected spies landed off Long Island by a submarine and they were trying to tail them through New York City. The eavesdropping equipment and sophisticated spying equipment they had then was nothing like it is now, it was very cumbersome and so it was very difficult to do a lot of that. And they just actually had to tail them and follow them, but he was, spent a lot of time in New York City in the FBI but he was also in upstate New York and in Kentucky for a while. He didn't get into a lot of it, but he just had great respect for the integrity of the FBI.

**AL:** You must have been about nine years old during the 1954 campaign?

**TD:** I was.

**AL:** Do you have any recollections?

**TD:** What I remember most distinctly about the campaign was we had been living in a fairly new house at the time, we had been in there about two and a half years. And we never knew what extra people would be there in the morning that we'd find sleeping on mattresses in the cellar. And it could just be campaign workers who needed a place to crash and bunk, or it could be the candidates, including then later to be Senator Muskie or just, Paul Fullam was running for the senate, or any of the other congressional candidates. There were meetings going on at the house all the time.

But I think the biggest recollection I had is that I used to play baseball in the summer for what was then the Police Athletic League before they had the little leagues, and up until that year my father had been the coach of the team. And because the election in Maine was in September, the summer was a heavy campaign season and so I really noticed that my father wasn't there to coach the baseball team, because he was running for congress. And I remember some discussions at the house that I overheard with my parents, their saying that, "What if you win? What are we going to do? We've got a brand new house," you know, "a congressman doesn't make as much as you are practicing law." At least back then anyway, and you know, what are we going to do? And so overhearing this as a child I was concerned that, you know, what would happen if my father actually won. But I didn't have much control over that one way or the other, but we didn't have to worry.

I do remember on the night of the election when the returns came in and the vote from Lewiston came in, my father went seventy-five hundred votes ahead. And they, and my mother being happy that he was ahead but also again its pressing concern about what if you really do win, and they, but he didn't. Then he came back and coached baseball the next year and I was happy. But

they, he went on, because Muskie did win, and that was a big, obviously, watershed in Maine politics.

**AL:** Were your father and Muskie together on election night when the results came in?

**TD:** That I don't remember. All I remember is there just being a hell of a lot of people at the house. We had a big house and there was a lot of room. They might have been at one point but I can't really recall exactly who was there, but I do remember Muskie being at the house many times during the campaign and finding him sleeping on a mattress on the cellar floor. Somewhere I think my mother has some pictures of him actually reading bedtime stories to us. We're sitting around in our pajamas and he's holding a book, you know, I don't remember what it was, but I had two brothers who were younger and he was reading the stories to them.

But I remember other campaigns, even when I was in high school they'd have a Democratic club and a Republican club, and debating on different points in the election with people and doing that at the school. Everything of campaigning from passing out signs and bumper stickers to, you know, doing what you do. I was always involved in that.

**AL:** Did your father remain active as well?

**TD:** Oh yeah, until he became a judge.

**AL:** What year was that again?

**TD:** He became a judge December 31st, 1958, Muskie's last day as governor. And he appointed him to the Public Utilities Commission before that. And so I would go up to, if we had a day off from school or something and my father was working in Augusta at the Public Utilities Commission, which then was only a part-time job, he'd take us up to the State House. And, of course, we'd run around the State House and go into the governor's office and if he wasn't busy in a meeting in there he'd invite us in. Or if the office was empty we'd go in and sit in the chair and swivel around and play with the things on his desk, you know, with somebody watching over us, but it was a fun time. And, you know, of course, you get up there enough and everybody knows who these little kids are running around and, you know, they help you out.

**AL:** What did you think of Muskie, did you have an impression of him at that age?

**TD:** Kind of in awe of him, because in the sense that he was very, I think even, I think now I look back to those times and I think of him as being Lincolnesque. I know a lot of people have talked about that, but I mean, he was tall and gaunt. And the, around the house, I mean I saw him at the house, you know, without a necktie on, without a suit coat on, with his feet up on the table, you know, just sitting back and relaxing and discussing strategy and just talking about things, and I might have been hanging around. I had no idea what they were talking about or what the significance of it was, but it was, I remember it as a very relaxed group of people whoever was there.

You know, people, you know, Frank Coffin, other people that were active in the campaigns in

one way or another, just, I mean local people. John Maloney who had been a, Jack Maloney who had been a candidate for congress in '52 I think it was. Tony Karahalios, a next door neighbor who, I mean, Frank Coffin was around then. A fellow by the name of Dick McMahan who was a staunch Muskie supporter and helped him out a lot, but I remember him as a great big, rotund fellow who was always in the kitchen at the refrigerator. And my mother always had it full of, at our house the refrigerator was always full and it was always open.

And even if it wasn't campaign people coming through, it was kids in the neighborhood, so. And our house was always the center for activities of one type or another. It didn't matter whether it was my father's political friends or our friends from school. And once in a while if Muskie was at the house, you know, kids in the neighborhood would come around, you know, even the few times he might have been there after he was governor and, you know, had gotten his name around. They'd come around, he'd shake their hand and pat them on the back.

**AL:** Your house that you're talking about, was that on Delcliff Lane?

**TD:** Right, yeah.

**AL:** And how did that street come to get that name, it comes from Delahanty and Clifford, right?

**TD:** So I understand, I didn't name it. I think it does, because it was, the house was actually the second house on that street.

**AL:** Did you know June Griffin, whose house -?

**TD:** Oh sure, sure.

**AL:** She was a neighbor, wasn't she?

**TD:** Yeah, right next door, yeah right next door. She had a son, Richard, who was my age, we were in school together and so we were, you know, friends and we were, I was either over there or he was at our house all the time.

**AL:** You spoke about Alton Lessard a little bit.

**TD:** Right.

**AL:** Can you tell me more about him?

**TD:** Well, I knew him long before because his, he was my father's law partner so I'd see him all the time. He had a daughter who was my age in school and, but he was, you know, again, active in local politics, a prominent attorney, and you know, ultimately went on the bench in the superior court as well.

**AL:** Was he active in the campaigns with your father?

**TD:** As far as I know he was. I mean, he would be another one who would be at those strategy meetings and planning sessions. And there are just a, I mean a lot of people in and around those meetings, you never knew who was going to show up. And they, but there were things about the election in 1954 that my father has told me that, I remember he . . . . They hired a political consultant from someplace who came in from out of state to give them information as to how they could run a campaign. And the first question he had was, "How much money do you have?" And they told him twenty-five thousand dollars, and that was for the governor, the senate, and three congressional races. And the fellow closed his briefcase and left.

And they, and I think we still have some boxes of matchbooks. And they ordered, I remember they ordered bumper stickers and matchbooks and this kind of material but they ordered them near the end of the campaign because they could get them cheaper. I remember these matchbooks that said "Delahanty" for congress came in the day before the election. So they, I mean, there were strange things that happened that they'd never think of now.

**AL:** Do you remember Don Nicoll as well?

**TD:** Very well, very well. He was one that would be found sleeping on mattresses in the cellar.

**AL:** Oh really, so he was there quite a lot.

**TD:** Oh yeah. But I, being nine years old at that time, or even subsequent elections, I was a little young to get involved in the discussions.

**AL:** What do you remember from the following elections, what was the -?

**TD:** In the following elections I remember, you know, being more involved in the sense of being groups of kids to go hand out pamphlets, you know, give bumper stickers. I remember when they used to have the Lewiston fair, it was called the State Of Maine Fair at the Lewiston Fairgrounds, the Democratic Committee would have a booth, you know. And they'd want kids to go around and, you know, hand out stuff, you know, pins and whatever, and that's the type of thing that I first got involved in. And even after I left town and then came back after law school, I was still involved in campaigns. You know, doing the same type of things except, you know, instead of actually handing them out I might take a group of kids to, you know, to the fair, recruit a bunch of kids in the neighborhood to go do it. But in one way or another I always was active, because when I came back I got involved myself, you know. So I was running and, you know, everybody would kind of pitch in for everybody else, and I was involved in the county Democratic committee and the state Democratic committee.

**AL:** In what capacities did you serve?

**TD:** Just as a member, you know, worker, grunt, do what had to be done.

**AL:** Now you're, of course you're not active, you're a judge now.

**TD:** Right, yeah, so I haven't been ac-, I mean I, about my only activity now is to vote.

**AL:** Do you have children?

**TD:** Two.

**AL:** And are they of voting age yet?

**TD:** Oh yes, one's, the oldest lives in Boston, he's a computer person who does things with computers that I don't understand. And my youngest graduated from college three, four years ago and worked for a couple of years in Hartford, Connecticut, and then he graduates from Notre Dame Grad School in May. But both of them were involved in politics in the sense that they would work campaigns by helping out, pass out literature and drive people to the polls and so forth. And they got involved working for Joe Brennan and George Mitchell.

**AL:** Oh they did, so they're carrying on the family . . . .

**TD:** And they, when Patrick McGowan was running for congress, my son Patrick, my oldest, met him at some function and I forget what it was. He went and they struck up a conversation and he, they, I think Patrick McGowan flew a plane and my son was taking pilot lessons at the time, and they just struck up a good conversation. And my son Patrick just started working for him all the time, you know, as a volunteer in the campaign. But they enjoyed it, you know, I don't think they've been doing it now that they've moved out of town, but they did it here because they first got involved because, I mean, they knew Joe Brennan because I knew him, they knew George Mitchell because I knew him. But they were, you know, would do it.

**AL:** You mentioned Paul Fullam was another one during the '54 campaign.

**TD:** Right.

**AL:** What was he like?

**TD:** I don't remember him that much. I remember seeing him, I remember, if I see, you know, I can recognize him in pictures, I remember him being at the house. My image and slight memory of him is that he was just a gentleman and, you know, very easy going, very pleasant. And I'm not totally sure, but I think he was a professor at Colby, I'm not sure.

**AL:** Yes, he was. Now, you were talking about your home growing up always having the refrigerator full and people always in and out, sort of the meeting place. Are there any family traditions that you had growing up that you've carried on that you can think of?

**TD:** The refrigerator's always full, there's always people coming to the house. You know, not so much now that the kids are gone, but the family still gets together, you know, the holidays and so forth. And I think the family traditions though are more, we have a summer cottage at Pine Point that's been in the, it was my mother, my mother's parents and then my mother and we've

just gone down there every summer for my whole life and the, there's just a lot of, you know, get-togethers. The, you know, some holiday traditions and so forth, but that's about it.

**AL:** Your father and Ed Muskie must have spent a lot of time together during that '54 campaign, probably spent some time in the car. Did your father ever give you stories about riding around the state with Muskie?

**TD:** He did, I'm not sure I can remember that many of them, but for the time they were running out of gas and didn't have any money. And, you know, literally had to figure out who they knew for Democrats in this little one-hole town and, you know, call them up and beg five bucks so they could put gas in the car to get wherever they were going. They, you know, always looking for somebody they knew as a place to stay so that, you know, they wouldn't have to pay for a hotel room. You know, things like that. Looking for a bake sale to get lunch, you know, I mean it was a low budget campaign.

And that's, I mean, the, that's when campaigning was shaking hands and meeting people and, you know, you didn't have the television and the media blitz, you know, and you really got out to the county fairs and, you know, any kind of a gathering you went. And even the voters would respond, I know, I think my father, I think going through some pictures there were some pictures of campaign stops, there'd be three or four candidates coming to speak at, you know, Grange Hall Number 6. And, I mean there'd be actually, you know, a hundred, a hundred and fifty people that would show up. You know, if you did that now, you wouldn't have anybody show up. So the times were different, too, obviously.

**AL:** Do you remember some of the stories that your dad told about Muskie over the years, were there particular ones that were repeated often or that stuck in your mind?

**TD:** Not really.

**AL:** Did you ever see Muskie's temper?

**TD:** Personally I didn't, I didn't, because I saw him in the campaign stages more in a relaxed setting where they would show up at the house, you know, after a day of campaigning when they just wanted to sit back and put their feet up and talk about what went on and what they're going to be doing tomorrow. Or if he was there, I might see him at breakfast when they're all fired up about what they're going to be doing that day. I mean, that's my image. I mean, I've heard of it but I personally never saw it at that point or at a later point.

I do remember one of the last times that I actually had a chance to actually sit down and talk with him one-on-one is I had, I was in the U.S. attorney's office, he'd appointed me to be U.S. attorney to replace George Mitchell. And I'd been at the justice department in Washington, D.C. and I got on the plane to come back to Portland and he and, I assume it was an office staff person, was sitting in the first class section, the, I think he needed the room. But the, you know, he spotted me and I spotted him and, "Hi, how are you?"

And so the plane took off and about five minutes after they turned of the seat belt sign his staff

person came back and said the senator, well at that point he was secretary of state, they said, "He would like to see you." And so his office staff person sat in my seat and I went up and sat with him all the way back to Portland. And it was just, "How are you? How's your mother? How's your father, haven't seen him for a while, are they going to be around this summer?" It was all, there was no business, it was just, it was the end of the week and I think he was just coming back to Kennebunkport for the weekend or something, but I mean it was really his relaxed side. And, I never actually got to see, shall we say the business side of him, and, you know, when I saw him outside, I'd see him campaigning and, you know, shaking hands and so forth.

**AL:** Did he maintain a close relationship with your dad over the years?

**TD:** Yeah, they, I mean they didn't get together that often because their, you know, business took them in different directions, but I do know they would talk on the phone, you know. And if there was an occasion when Muskie was going to be in town, usually somebody would call the house and say he's going to be in town, and if it wasn't a political function my father would try and get there. And the, my mother has a picture taken of Muskie and my father sitting together when he came to speak at the Lewiston Rotary Club, they, I'm trying to think, it would have been in the early to mid-eighties. And you mentioned the temper, I think you mentioned that you've got my brother John's name on the list? John was a staff worker for him and would drive him from Fort Kent to Kittery, and so he would spend hours with him in the car and he may have more insight as to some of those conversations in the car.

**AL:** You spoke about, was it your father's father started out working in the mills?

**TD:** Right, yeah, he came from Ireland and he worked in the Bleachery mill for, he died at age thirty-nine in 1919, and so he died when my father was four years old and my grandmother then raised the five children. Did a pretty good job. They all went to college.

**AL:** Oh, wonderful. Was that the Pepperill Mill?

**TD:** No, it was called the Lewiston Bleachery and Dye Works, and it's, if you're coming down Lisbon Street, coming into Lewiston, it's on the right hand side. Pepperill would have been on the left, this would be on the right just before Lisbon Street veers off into your two one-way areas.

**AL:** And you said that Robert Clifford and Jere and Bill, they're second cousins to you, is that (*unintelligible phrase*)?

**TD:** I call it second cousins, some people tell me the proper way is first cousin once removed. They're actually my mother's cousins, they're actually of the same generation as my mother, and my mother would be the oldest of that generation. I'm a new generation, and I'm the oldest of that one.

**AL:** Okay, so over the years, what's it been like with some of them being attorneys and you being a judge?

**TD:** They, I usually don't hear their cases. And I mean, Robert Clifford became a judge before I did and he didn't hear that much of any cases that I was involved in, very few, usually in something non-controversial. And since I've been a judge with Jere and Bim [William H.], the only things that I've done are things that, just a few things that really there was no contest. I mean, I wouldn't do a trial with them, or even now Jack Clifford, John IV is my cousin and I don't hear anything that he's involved in.

**AL:** Okay, that must, you have to move things around and -

**TD:** Oh yeah, it's not a problem, yeah, there's enough judges to, yeah.

**AL:** To go around.

**TD:** Yeah, right, for something like that anyway.

**AL:** Did your father ever talk about or share with you his feelings of that time period in the fifties because he was sort of a very integral part of the rebuilding of the Democratic Party, or putting into existence the Democratic Party?

**TD:** Yeah, we talked, after he got ill, diagnosed with cancer, we'd talk a lot. And he talked about the hard work and that they really wanted to do things and change things. And to some extent he was a little bit frustrated that the Democrats now, of course we're speaking ten or fifteen years ago but at that time, and it's probably true now, don't appreciate the roots of the present Democratic Party, and how hard the people like Frank Coffin and Don Nicoll and Dick McMahan and all the others worked to get it even recognized. My father and Muskie met when they were both in the house of representatives together in the Maine legislature.

And, I mean, it's the old story, I mean the Democrats could literally caucus in a phone booth. And they really worked long hours at, you know, personal sacrifice, you know, they didn't have a lot of money to deal with and no fancy organizations and there was a lot of prejudice against Democrats. I mean, you talk about race prejudice or religious prejudice, there was prejudice against Democrats.

And the, my father did tell me about one campaign stop, I don't know where it was except it was in the country. Muskie got up to speak and there were some questions and answers afterwards and somebody in the back stood up and said, "Muskie, we don't hear that name around here very often, be you Catholic?" Muskie's answer was, "I be." That was it. But I mean, just the idea that somebody would even ask that question, that wouldn't happen today. Not that there isn't bias or prejudice, but it's not as open and, but people would express it then. And I mean, there was a lot of hard work, you know, sweat, to put the party together.

**AL:** What do you think Muskie's greatest accomplishments were, one, for the state of Maine, and two, for the nation?

**TD:** I think for the state of Maine, to really bring it into, or help bring it in with the help of other people, to bring it into a two-party system. The, from what I read and have read over the

years, I would think you'd have to say that Maine was very staid, it was not very progressive. That the Republican Party kind of liked things the way they were, didn't want to shake anything up, and he wasn't afraid to do that. And I think if you look at the history of Maine and if Maine has made any progress in being recognized more than a backward state, you could go back to the mid-fifties in his administration and say 'that's when things started to change'. For better or worse, I mean some people would say it's not for the better.

Nationally, again, I think he did a lot to make Maine prominent because he was a dynamic person who would get noticed, just walking into a room, I mean being six foot six, you notice him, and those things help. And being from Maine, he was well spoken, he wasn't afraid to make his feelings known, he wasn't afraid to take a stand, and I think that may help Maine over all. And his stature and statesmanship was recognized when Carter appointed him secretary of state. And, I mean, he's got a lot of legislation but I think, you know, the pollution stuff comes to mind right off the bat. And obviously over the years people sought out his advice, sought out his leadership. And he wasn't somebody just to sit back.

**AL:** Going back to the Lewiston community of which you've lived most of your life, what changes have you seen in this area politically, and who were some of the key players that you have memories of from back in the fifties and sixties?

**TD:** I was never, I think as a matter of choice I didn't get involved in city politics. I mean, obviously the name Louis Jalbert is famous, the, and a lot of people tell a lot of Louis stories. And they, I mean he was somebody that you didn't want him with you but you didn't want him against you either, so if you could neutralize him. The, you know, names like Ernest Malenfant, for better or worse. Paul Couture, Roland Tanguay, I mean these are all people who were very hard workers and who had the ability to muster large groups of people to come out and support, and they were very, very important.

They, I think that again, the, on the local level I don't think the organization is there like it used to be. I don't think the people who are there appreciate again where the party came from and the people that worked hard to put it together. And I think there was a lot of hard work on the local level, you know, just getting the people together, getting the groups, the support groups whether it be the social clubs or anything else, but there was a cohesiveness that I don't think is there now. A lot of it may have come from just a lot of the people worked together in the mills, and the downtown area with all the apartments. I mean, that whole area has changed so much. And I remember when I was in school, grammar school and high school, I had a lot of friends that lived in those apartments and I would go down there. And, I mean yes, they were clustered together but there was nothing wrong with it, I mean they were well kept up, they were clean. And usually the owner lived in the building and had an interest in keeping it up. And I don't, that's not true now, the owners don't live there and so the interest in keeping them up isn't as strong. I mean, it's just totally changed in that whole area.

And if, in the downtown area, I remember campaigning with George Mitchell and, when he was going around knocking on doors. And he was talking about how good it was just to go knock on doors and shake hands with people in Lewiston because in a half an hour you could hit twenty-five or thirty houses or apartments. And you knew that when they answered the door that ninety

percent of the people were going to be Democrats. So it made it easier than going to some other towns where the houses are just more spread out, you could just meet more people. I think that's changed a lot as far as the politics is concerned. And the, I don't think there's the loyalty to the political process that there was, or the party.

**AL:** And the state party in particular, or?

**TD:** Probably, I really haven't paid that much attention to the state party over the past ten years or so since I have been out of politics.

**AL:** Are there things that I haven't asked you that you feel would be important to talk about today, maybe an area that I've missed?

**TD:** I don't think so. I mean my, I knew Muskie, I knew of him, I followed him, I supported him, but I mean I was actually too young to be involved in the first stages, and then when I came back to town I mean he was down in Washington, and I mean I would work on the campaigns but I was working for everybody. And so I knew him at somewhat of a distance because of that, but I, you know, followed politics and participated in it.

**AL:** I think that's all the questions I have at this point. Thank you very much.

**TD:** Very good.

*End of Interview*

**Addendum:** A handwritten note from Tom Delahanty to Andrea L'Hommedieu, dated March 14, 2000 is transcribed below:

Andrea,

I did recall two other instances of meetings with Senator Muskie and later Secretary of State Muskie in Chicago and Memphis. On each occasion I was attending a meeting and noticed that he was speaking to another gathering at the same hotel. On each occasion I "crashed" the gate to listen to him speak and lingered a while afterwards to speak (say hello) with him. On each meeting he seemed pleased to see a familiar face and introduced me to others as a, "Good friend from Maine." It made me feel comfortable.

TED