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Interview with Bruce Chandler by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Chandler, Bruce

Interviewer

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date

August 13, 2002

Place

Lewiston, Maine

ID Number

MOH 360

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Biographical Note

Bruce Chandler was born May 6, 1931 in Nahant, Massachusetts to Henry Warwick Chandler and Florence Johnson Chandler. Henry worked for General Electric Company and became Assistant to the Vice President of the Jet Engine Division. Florence was a teacher until marriage, then a homemaker. Bruce went to Bates College and after graduating in 1953, was drafted into the Service from 1954 to 1956. Later, Chandler attended law school at Georgetown University. He moved back to Maine and became a lawyer in 1961 working with Bob Marden and Dick Dubord, two close friends of Senator Muskie's. Involved in state politics in Maine for 24 years, Chandler worked as an Assistant County Attorney and later served as General Counsel for the Democratic State Committee. He and his wife, Nancy, both served on the State Committee. He was also on the judicial bench for 10 years. Chandler ran for Mayor of Waterville and County Attorney but did not get elected to either office.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family background; college and law school; when Muskie broke his back; politicians in Waterville, Maine; campaigns for Mayor of Waterville and County Attorney; Democratic Party in Maine; years serving on the State Committee; Muskie's campaign

for vice president in 1968; recollections of George Mitchell; Pittston Company, oil refinery business involving Muskie; Muskie temper stories; Muskie name story “Secretary or Senator?”; and Bates College.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Mr. Bruce Chandler on August the 13th, the year 2002, at the Muskie Archives in Lewiston, Maine, and this is Andrea L'Hommedieu. If you could start first just by giving me your full name and spelling it?

Bruce Chandler: Sure, Bruce W. Chandler, C-H-A-N-D-L-E-R.

AL: And where were you born and raised?

BC: I was born Nahant, Massachusetts, and I was raised in Massachusetts. Lived in Lynnfield most of my life. I was living in Lynnfield at the time I came to Bates College. Then I went to law school at Georgetown University in Washington, and then came back to Maine, in Waterville, to practice law.

AL: And what is your date of birth?

BC: May 6, '31.

AL: Now, growing up in Massachusetts, what type of a community was it that you grew up in?

BC: Very rural community. It isn't any more, but it definitely was then.

AL: Religiously, what was it like?

BC: I don't know. We were Congregationalists, my mother and father were, and I had several relatives who were Congregational ministers. We had a sizeable church, but I assume there were Baptists, and Catholics, and Episcopalians. I don't know, we never really paid that much attention.

AL: What was the business or such that ran the economy in your town?

BC: There wasn't any, it was strictly a bedroom community for the city of Lynn, where General Electric had a big plant, and there were several other large plants. That was about a half hour's drive away. People were just beginning to move out of the city and into more rural areas. It was the beginning of the rural movement. And that's what my folks wanted to do.

AL: And what were your parents' names?

BC: My mother's name was Florence, Florence Johnson was her maiden name. My father's name was Henry Warwick Chandler.

AL: How do you spell Warwick?

BC: W-A-R-W-I-C-K.

AL: Warwick.

BC: But it's pronounced Warwick.

AL: But it's pronounced Warwick, okay. I'm glad I asked you how to spell that. And what was your father's occupation?

BC: He worked for General Electric Company. He was, he started there when he was seventeen as an office boy emptying wastebaskets and what not. By the time he died he was assistant to the vice president in charge of the jet engine division of General Electric. So he moved up well; had no college education. Probably couldn't do that today, I suspect.

AL: And your mother, did she work outside the home?

BC: Not when, not after she was married. She was a schoolteacher before she was married, or at the time she was married. But then she never, didn't work outside the home, no. That was in the days when most mothers didn't actually.

AL: Was the community you grew up in at all ethnically diverse?

BC: I don't think so, I think it was pretty much straight Anglo-Saxon, white Anglo-Saxon, and probably majority Protestant, I would guess. I really, it was nothing that we ever paid any attention to, but maybe one of the reasons was because it wasn't diverse, so everybody was kind of like us.

AL: And where did you go to school?

BC: I went to high school in Wakefield, which is an adjoining community, and a much larger community, and a much more diverse community; large Italian population, pretty fair Jewish population, pretty large Irish population. So the high school was much more diverse than the grammar school was that I went to. And then from high school I went to Bates.

AL: What made you think of Bates, or decide on it?

BC: I had a cousin who lived in Maine who attended Bates, and she was probably three years ahead of me I guess, or maybe four, so we knew about Bates. But to be perfectly honest, the main reason I came to Bates is that I got rejected by my first three choices. Bates obviously was enlightened and saw the big value that I would bring.

AL: And did you have any connections with Maine personally, had you been here on vacations before?

BC: Yes, yes, my cousin that I mentioned, she also had a brother who is still extremely close, we are very close. And he lives in fact now in the same town in Arizona that we do. We came to visit them in Belfast, Maine probably at least once a year, and went on extended vacations, that is one or two weeks with them, quite a bit. That was my connection, my only connection with Maine actually.

AL: So what year did you start at Bates?

BC: Started in, it would have been the fall of '49. Graduated in '53.

AL: Fifty-three, okay. And what was your study, major?

BC: My major was speech.

AL: And did you, were you on the debate team?

BC: I was not, and I'm not sure why. I can't, it seems like a strange void in my collegiate career, but I wasn't. My, the head of the speech department was Brooks Quimby who coached the debating team forever and, but for some reason I never got into that.

AL: What were your impressions of Brooks Quimby?

BC: Boy, that goes back so much. Well, he was totally awe inspiring. I mean, I can remember being totally intimidated by him. I think most people were. He was a pretty gruff, he was a pretty big man and pretty gruff. I think he made people do their best, and he was a good professor.

AL: Did he motivate, was he a motivator?

BC: He probably was. I don't remember being motivated by much of anything. At that time, when my folks asked me why I was majoring in speech I said I wanted to be a disk jockey. That wasn't exactly what they had in mind when they sent me to college, I don't think, but I don't know. Anyway, I ended up going to law school and therefore using the speech major okay.

AL: And where did you go to law school?

BC: Georgetown University Law Center. I went there mainly because they had a night school. I had meanwhile been in the service and come back, which was really the only reason I could afford to go to law school. And I still needed to work and Georgetown had a really good night school, which many law schools don't have, including the University of Maine I might add. So you can't, if you have to work, you got to go somewhere where they have a night school.

AL: Was it, are there others that have been politically involved in Maine that went to Georgetown with you, at the time you were in law school?

BC: Not with me. Now Severin Beliveau went to Georgetown, George Mitchell I believe went to Wa-, Georgetown. But I'm sure there were probably others, but I'm not sure.

AL: Now, what made you want to go to law school?

BC: When I was a Boy Scout and I was going to a boarder review for my Eagle Scout badge, somebody asked me that and I said, "Because I like to argue." That's probably as good a reason as any. Actually, I went to law school because I was, in the service I was in the counter intelligence corps in the Army, and most of the people I was with were recent law school graduates and were practicing lawyers. And, talking to them, I just thought that was probably

something that I would really like to do.

AL: You were in the service from, what time, '53?

BC: Fifty-four to '56, I was a draftee.

AL: And then after graduating from law school you came back to Maine?

BC: Right.

AL: Were you married at that point?

BC: Yes. Yes, I was married before, I was married while I was in the service. And my wife was in the five-year nursing program at Bates that they had at that time, and so after I got out of the service we came back here. We had promised her mother that she would finish her education, and so she had a year to go, and we came back here and lived in the old Bardwell Veteran's Housing on campus and she finished up that year. I worked for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Maine, commuted to Farmington each day, and we had a great time. And then from there, went to law school.

AL: And when you came back from law school you settled in the Waterville area?

BC: Yes, right in Waterville for the first three years, then we moved to China.

AL: And you set up a law practice by yourself, or were -?

BC: No, I didn't. No, I was hired by a fellow named Bob Marden, who was one of Ed Muskie's closest friends in Waterville, at that time. And he and I had a practice. I mean I was just a worker, I wasn't a partner or anything, I was just an associate. But then we merged with Dick Dubord's firm, another close friend of Senator Muskie's, and we had a firm of five people I think when we started; gradually expanded to about nine. At the time I went on the bench there was nine people in the law firm.

AL: Now what year was that?

BC: That I started work?

AL: Right.

BC: Sixty-one.

AL: And what was it like working with Bob Marden?

BC: It was fabulous, Bob is one of the greatest people I have ever known or ever will. And he did an awful lot for me.

AL: Did he ever talk about the early days with Senator Muskie, when -?

BC: Yes, the thing I remember him most, well first of all, I was astounded that such a prominent Republican could be such a close friend with Ed Muskie, and with Dick Dubord for that matter. I always thought there would be some separation. Bob's friendship with Dick Dubord was, and the merger eventually, was really, a kind of a historical event in Waterville because the Franco-American people and the WASPS really didn't mingle that much at that time. And the idea of these two people, prominent people, joining was something kind of new. And I think both Bob's father and Dick Dubord's father were not totally happy with the whole idea. But there was nothing they could do about it. So, Bob was great.

And his, the first story I remember him telling me about Ed Muskie was when the senator fell off his camp roof, they had a camp in China, and broke his back. And Bob talked about, that each day he went to the post office and got Ed's mail, and particularly looking for the possibility there might be some checks in it, which were very badly needed at that time, and brought him his mail and he, so forth.

Another story of, if you want another story about Ed Muskie, he and Bob remained very friendly through all the time that Ed was governor. And the governor came up to Bob's house to a party one night. Governor Muskie was known to take an occasional drink. And he came to Bob's house for a party and got pretty much, totally wiped out. And so they sort of poured him into the back of Bob's car to take him back to the Blaine House and on the way down, Bob got stopped by a state trooper who came up and asked, "Where are you going?" Now this is a third hand story, or a second hand story, so I can't vouch for all this. But he said, "Where are you going?" Bob said, "Well I'm taking my passenger to the Blaine House." And the officer put his flashlight on the back seat and said, "Oh, my God." And he said, "Sir, you fall in behind me and we'll proceed to the Blaine House."

AL: I guess I'd like to know your, any interactions you had with Dick Dubord, and what he was like as well.

BC: Well, I had of course, a lot of interaction with him because he became a, he was a partner, a senior partner. But nevertheless, when we merged I became a partner in the firm along with Dick, and Bob, and Al Bernier. Dick was an extremely intelligent person. He was also a great storyteller, and he also had a talent for mimicking people and he used to sing. They had a musical group that Bob was also a part of, and Dick sang and imitated Louis Armstrong so you'd swear that it was Louis and not Dick. He was really good. He was a good speaker, he was wonderful trial lawyer. And of course he was a, in the forefront of the Democratic Party in that area, ran for governor one year, ran for the nomination. Did not get it, which was a shock I think to all of us who knew him well.

AL: Did you know his father Harold at all?

BC: Yes, I mean he was also in, he was on the bench when we formed the firm. He retired and

had an office in our building, in our law firm, and had a secretary there and so on. And so I saw quite a bit of him. He counseled me a lot when I was getting started in politics, or trying to, had a lot of wise things to tell me, some of which were practical and some which were not, I guess. Yeah, he was a great old guy. Harold Marden, who was his, was also on the Supreme Court at the same time Harold Dubord was, retired a little bit after Harold, also had an office in our building. Totally different kind of man, very, very reserved, extremely conservative.

AL: I'm thinking of others in the Waterville community that were well known at that time. Did you know Gene Letourneau?

BC: Yes.

AL: I haven't talked much about him yet, but what was he like? Did you know him personally?

BC: I knew him personally, but he had really nothing to do with the areas in which I was working. He was a newspaper columnist, and he was a very good one. And he was at it, he wrote a daily column for years and years and years, and it was an outdoor column. His sister was the clerk of courts for the Waterville municipal court, before they had district courts.

AL: Do you remember her name?

BC: You know, I don't. Seems terrible because I had a lot to do with her on a daily basis, but all I know is her last name was still Letourneau, I think.

AL: Now, did you yourself get interested and involved in politics?

BC: Yes, I was interested before we ever came to Maine. Nancy and I had volunteered on what would have been the 1960 primary campaign. We were Adlai Stevenson people and there was quite a group in Washington, and so we did do quite a bit of work just stuffing envelopes and getting out mailings before the convention. And of course after that, we worked some for the Kennedy campaign, but not much. We weren't all that enthused about John Kennedy at that time. Things do change. So yeah, both Nancy and I were very interested in politics. Very soon after I arrived in Waterville, John Jabar, who was then the senator's man in Maine, got three or four of us who had recently arrived in the area together for lunch with the senator who was back in Maine doing constituent work. And that's the first time I ever met him, I think. I didn't meet him at all when he was governor. Knew who he was obviously and so on, but never, ever met him. So that lunch I think was the first time we ever met.

AL: What were your first impressions of Ed Muskie?

BC: Well, I think my impressions were more that, here I was actually sitting down having lunch with a United States senator which at that time was, to me was a really big deal. I mean I don't think I'd ever had lunch with a senator before. I'm not sure I'd ever even met a United States senator before. I suspect I hadn't. So I was kind of awestruck the whole time. But I do

remember him as being extremely encouraging to all of us to get into city politics and begin to take a part, do something whether it be run for something or just work for someone, or whatever. But he was a true believer in getting people involved in politics, in Democratic politics.

AL: And so where did you go from there, did you get involved further?

BC: Yes I did. A couple of years, maybe a, in 1963, the year that Kennedy was killed, I ran for mayor of Waterville, beat an old time Democrat in the primary, in the caucus.

AL: Who was that?

BC: Dick McClay was his name. He's now dead I think. He was a big union guy for Scott Paper. Anyway, we organized, my wife is a wonderful organizer, and we really, it was a surprise. And I went on to lose every ward in the city in the election. Cy Joly was the incumbent mayor, and it was no real surprise obviously. He was a local, born and raised in Waterville, French, Catholic, incumbent mayor. I don't know what I was thinking of actually. But I remember, to get back to Muskie, after that campaign he wrote me a great letter and unfortunately I didn't have the brains to save it; I had no idea what, - saying, you know, don't be discouraged, remember I ran for mayor of Waterville and lost. But then he added, of course I didn't lose every ward, but nevertheless, don't be discouraged. So, that was kind of nice.

AL: That's neat. And so after that try, did you continue to help others with campaigns or run again?

BC: Oh sure, and I ran for county attorney and lost that, but not, it wasn't a huge defeat particularly, and I was assistant county attorney for a while after that. That's before the district attorney came into being. Each county had its own county attorney and it was a part time job. You continued your practice and you tried criminal cases. That was great, great work, I enjoyed it very much. And about that time, both Nancy and I got involved in both county and then state politics. We were both on the state committee. I was, when Severin Beliveau was chairman of the state committee, I was general counsel for the Democratic state committee and really began to get much more involved on a state-wide basis, knew most of the players. And it was no longer a big deal to have lunch with a United States senator.

AL: And Severin Beliveau, you did work with him on the state committee then?

BC: Yes.

AL: What was it like working with Severin?

BC: It was fabulous. Severin is still a very, very dear friend and one of the most unusual men I think I've ever met. And working with him at that time was a, just a total joy. And of course it was fun having Nancy on the state committee, also, it made the whole thing very enjoyable. We got to know and meet an awful lot of great people. But yeah, Severin was, he was great.

AL: What state was the Democratic Party in Maine in at the time you were working on the state committee?

BC: We were in good shape. We obviously had one senator, the governor, Ken Curtis became governor so we had the governor. And we were moving into, and I believe, yes, we did end up controlling both the house and the senate. And that was the first time, I guess that was the first time in Maine that it happened. So we had the speaker of the house and the president of the senate and so on. So the party was really, because of the senator's work as he ran his various campaigns and all, we became the dominant party and, that was at that time. So it was a, it was different than it had been for several years.

AL: Yeah, and are you still at all involved in Democratic politics at the Maine state level?

BC: No, because we don't live here anymore. We, when we first moved to Arizona, we got right into the local Democratic thing, and then we looked at each other one day and said, "What in the world are we doing this for?" We've been here already and we really don't need this." And Arizona politics is nothing that particularly interested us so we no longer are what I would call active. What we do is vote, that's about it.

AL: So how long were you involved at the state level in Maine politics?

BC: I was involved until I went on the bench which, obviously that was no longer possible after that, so twenty-three, twenty-four years.

AL: Until like '80-?

BC: Eighty-four, yeah.

AL: -Four. And how long were you on the bench?

BC: Ten years.

AL: Ten years, okay.

BC: You have to be on the bench for ten years for your pension to vest. And so at the end of the ten years, I was older than many when I went on, I was fifty-three or four when I went on the bench, so I was older than many anyway and ten years was plenty. I mean, I loved the work but I still, I also wanted to have some retirement, and so did my wife, and we happily retired on the same day.

AL: I'm interested, any recollections you have or stories of your time in Maine politics in general, or areas that I haven't asked about that we should talk about?

BC: Well, I don't, I don't know. It was an extremely exciting time to be in Maine politics because the senator was becoming so prominent nationally. And we went through the '68

election where he ran for vice president. It was very exciting because we had, like on election eve or election night for instance, there were news people from all over the place in Waterville, Maine. And you had to have special little collar things to get into the motel where everybody was staying and so on. It was, I was excited.

And it became obvious that the senator was going to run for president. That obviously was exciting. We all went over to New Hampshire and worked in the primary for varying periods of time. And the whole thing went to hell, and nobody could quite understand it. And not too long ago, before the senator died obviously, I was talking to him about it and he doesn't really know what happened either. I mean, you know, for instance in Massachusetts, he had the endorsement of every single prominent Democrat that there was, office holders and others, and the whole thing just fell apart.

One of the incredible things of American politics I think, how McGovern; of course they made the rules, he was chairman of the rules committee. And they made the rules and then had the sense to follow them and to take advantage of them and build the kind of organization that those rules allowed them to build. Somehow or other we were all lagging behind. Actually, I've always felt if Dick Dubord had still been alive at that time, things might have been different.

AL: In terms of an advisor to Senator Muskie?

BC: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think the senator trusted him absolutely and completely, and knew that Dick had no other agenda other than being of assistance to him, and wasn't looking for anything. And those people are kind of rare to find in politics. Anyway, so it was at that period of time, that eight, ten years was very, very exciting, very exciting time to be a Maine Democrat 'cause not only were we beginning to control the state, but then we had this national figure. It was fun to know somebody that you were reading about and seeing on the news. Just like we know George Mitchell and all and see him and, you know, it's that same kind of thing. Maine has just been incredibly fortunate with the people that they've had in politics. Both parties. I mean, Billy Cohen and Margaret Chase Smith, the senator, and George, you know. It's a great state to be involved in politics.

AL: Yes, because everybody knows everybody.

BC: Yeah, that's true, I think that's what makes it so much, right.

AL: That's one thing that makes it, yeah.

BC: Right, you go to other states and, if you say anything to people, or somehow it comes out that you were talking to the governor or something, they just can't believe that, such a thing that they would just, you know. It's so commonplace here and you do know everybody.

AL: Now you must have observed George Mitchell somewhat during that time period? Wasn't he becoming involved in state politics?

BC: True, yeah.

AL: What are your memories of first seeing George and how he developed over the years?

BC: Well, let's see. I guess we first met George, we rented an apartment from his brother, Swisher, and his wife in Waterville when we first came there, that's where we lived for a couple of years. We met George several times during that period. At that time he had, he was out of law school and he had gone to work for Muskie. Then I don't really remember what happened to him in the immediate years after that.

The next time I really remember much about him is when he ran for governor, and I spent the last three weeks of that campaign driving George around. The family was extremely anxious to have somebody that they all knew be with George all the time. I don't know if they thought he was going to do something crazy or what, but, so I took some time off from work and did that. And that of course, that was a really crushing defeat to me. We thought we had that won. So did George. And this independent came from more or less nowhere and won, that was tough. And then George became the federal judge, and got appointed to the senate when Muskie became secretary of state.

AL: When he lost the governor's race, was there a change in him? Did he really just drop out of politics for a while and take the and sort of?

BC: Well, that's what happened. I don't think mentally he ever dropped out of politics. And I don't think that he really, I mean he enjoyed being a federal judge, there's nothing not to enjoy about that, really. But he felt very lonely and cut off from people because you just, his old friends didn't feel they could call him up to have lunch and everything and whatnot. So I don't think he enjoyed it that much in that sense. And of course, it wasn't too long after they governor's race that he and his wife separated. She never liked politics at all, and so it just wasn't a, it wasn't a good match. But then I think he was delighted when Joe Brennan appointed him to the Senate. Very interesting, that whole thing, because Brennan had run against Mitchell for the nomination for governor.

AL: And Brennan's marriage ended shortly after the race as well.

BC: Oh yeah, that's true, yeah. Politics is not, does not make for great marriages a lot of times, you know, really.

AL: It's tough.

BC: So, anyway, George went to the Senate. At that time, my wife Nancy was one of the people who was under consideration by Brennan's people for that appointment, but never, I don't think it was really close. I mean I, George was such an obvious choice, and the obvious person who had a chance to win in the next couple of years, the election came up just I think two years after he'd been appointed.

AL: Yeah, it was right in the middle.

BC: And it was by no means a sure thing. In fact the polls all showed that George would lose by a lot, and he just made it all up by doing what he always does which is work just terribly hard. And then when he became majority leader, that was a big event. We went down and watched that, although actually there is no real installation, but we watched him his first day as majority leader and all and that was great. We went down with the family. We were always pretty close to his brother and his wife, Swisher.

AL: Johnny?

BC: Yeah.

AL: So my next question, do you still have, are you still close to the family and still in touch with George?

BC: We're still in touch, but close would probably be stretching things a bit at this point. I mean George has a new family and a whole new life and all, and we're just away. So we don't really see Swisher and his wife or any of the others unless we happen to be here for some event that takes place. I have a totally other connection with Senator Muskie that at some we probably, might be good to get into.

AL: Okay, go right ahead.

BC: It's not political.

AL: I don't know what it is, so you tell me.

BC: Okay, I'll tell you. For ten years, a company called the Pittston Company attempted to get the necessary permits to build an oil refinery in Eastport, Maine. And I represented the Pittston Company, I and a lawyer from Verrill, Dana in Portland, and also we had a lawyer from Washington, D.C. And from the very beginning of that project, one of the questions was, "What will Senator Muskie have to say about this?" And as the designated Republican in this group, I mean Democrat in this group, I was of course the person who was to talk with him and convince him that this was the greatest thing and so forth and so on.

So I had a lot of meetings with him in Washington and in Maine during that period of time, which would have been from about '72 to '82, or somewhere in there. And from the very beginning, I told my client that there was no way this guy is going to support this thing, I just know he isn't. I've known him long enough to know he isn't going to do that. Well, they said, "Then maybe you could at least convince him that he shouldn't oppose it." And I thought, 'that's fair enough'. And the senator, during all that time, never said that he was for it or that he was opposed to it. In all that ten year time, I could never get him to actually say. And I used to tell him, "You know, senator, if you are against this, that if you tell me that, I'll tell the company and that may well be the end of it." Well, he obviously didn't want to be the person responsible for

that project going down because it had some support in Maine.

Finally, I got him to agree to a meeting with the fellow who was carrying the ball for the Pittston Company, a guy named A. F. Kaulakis. In fact, I just saw him a couple weeks ago, an old man now but -

AL: Do you know how to spell his last name?

BC: K-A-U-L-A-K-I-S, Kaulakis. So we went to Washington for this big meeting, this was going to be when Kaulakis was going to really make his pitch to Ed Muskie and everything. So we got there and Muskie said, "I want to take you somewhere other than my, than this office." And he took us to his Capitol hideaway office. And there for the next three hours or so, we watched a slide show of the beauties of Campobello Island and the beauties of that whole area of ocean there, and Muskie would say, "Now see how beautiful that is, how pristine it is and all." And that was it. And he said, "I thank you very much for coming," and that. And Corky looked at me, he said, "Well, what was that all about?" I said, "Well, if you didn't understand it, I know that's pretty obvious to me that he's saying, I don't want no oil tankers up in that area." That was the last big pitch that we tried to make.

But the senator and I had some very explosive, you've probably heard that the senator did have a temper, during the time particularly when he was somewhat younger. Nancy will tell you about his mellowness when she started working with him. But one time in particular, I remember, the Campobello Commission, of which he was the vice chair along with somebody from Canada, was meeting, and we thought this would be a great time to make some kind of a presentation and see if we could convince them that maybe this whole thing was a great idea. And this was a mammoth project, you know, forty five hundred people were going to be working in, constructing this thing and so forth. And we were bringing in these huge tankers, I mean really big super tankers. So we wanted to get some kind of a hearing before the commission, and the answer was no, there isn't going to be any hearing. And we figured the answer came from Muskie actually.

So we put out of course a press release saying that here we are trying to build this great thing for Maine, and we can't even get a hearing before this Campobello Commission. The phone rang in my office, and it was Senator Muskie. In fact, he didn't even have anybody place the call for him, so I immediately knew this was a little unusual. And for quite a while I sat with the phone somewhere out here while he went up one side of me and down the other. And basically his message was, "You want a hearing? We'll give you a hearing."

The other time that the senator and I had a big run-in, and this was with Nancy also really, he, when he was in the Senate he sent out to various people a huge coffee table book on the beauties of Washington, D.C., all the monuments and everything, it was a fabulous book. And I don't remember what was going on right at that time, but there was something going on that various people who didn't have anything were trying to get something, and Nancy and I sent the book back with a letter saying that it seemed strange to us that the United States government can spend this kind of money on this kind of a thing and send it out to God knows how many

thousands of people for nothing, when there's all this work that needs to be done, that that money could better be used for. Kind of a juvenile thing, but nevertheless we did.

Well, that was okay, except that the next day we had a, one of our many Pittston hearings, and I was telling somebody about it, about the fact that Nancy and I had received this book and we had sent it back because we didn't think it. Unbeknownst to me, a young woman by the name of Phyllis Austin, who was a, the chief reporter for the *Maine Times* was overhearing what I was saying. She went and called up Muskie's office for, to get a comment on the fact that Bruce Chandler and his wife had sent back this book. Gee whiz. This time it wasn't a phone call, it was only a letter, but oh, that letter was terrible, terrible. And anybody, nobody in that office would speak to me for quite a while. I couldn't get anybody to understand that I hadn't really fed this story to the newspaper, I was, it was just a way that we felt anyway, so that was personal, but.

We were in Philadelphia for some American Bar Association affair, but this was really after, this was after that and it was after I had had any contact with the senator at all for quite a while and I felt that things were really pretty bad between us. And a fellow in Maine who was active in the ABA decided that Philadelphia would be a good place to make peace between the Chandlers and Senator Muskie, so he arranged for a dinner of just us, Nancy and I, and Muskie and him. This guy is now the president of ABA, Bob Hirshon.

And so we went to a restaurant and it was like nothing had ever happened. In fact, Muskie pretended that he didn't even know who Arnold F. Kaulakis was, and basically had never heard of the Pittston Company. And that's I guess what he thought of the whole thing. But during the course of the meal in some nice Philadelphia restaurant, we got onto the subject of Jack Kennedy having appointed his brother as Attorney General, which I didn't realize was a real sore spot for Muskie. He just thought it was terrible, just awful.

AL: Because of nepotism?

BC: Yeah, exactly, exactly, and it was setting a precedent that could be followed and so on. Now, Nancy and I are both big admirers of Bobby Kennedy and, but Nancy really got into it with him, and the more they got into it, the higher the pitch came until it was just like the old Muskie. He was roaring at the top of his voice. I don't think anybody in the restaurant knew what we were talking about, but they sure knew there was some big guy over there who was very, very angry.

AL: So who won?

BC: Hey, listen, he always won as far as I know.

AL: When you moved, you moved from Waterville out to China?

BC: Yes, we did.

AL: On the lake, or in town?

BC: Well, we were across the street from the lake, and we had an old farm on sixty-five acres of land. It was exactly the kind of thing we wanted to own when we decided to come to Maine.

AL: And what year was that that you moved there?

BC: That was in 1964, June of 1964.

AL: And -

BC: The story was, of course, that I had lost the mayoral race in '63 so I immediately left town, moved to China.

AL: Now, were the Muskies still spending their summers on China Lake at that time?

BC: I don't think so.

AL: I was just wondering if you got, you interacted socially.

BC: No, no we didn't, we didn't, no, I think his camp, I think they had sold their camp at that time for elsewhere.

AL: Is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think we should add to this record today?

BC: I don't really think so. I really think that Nancy will have more interesting things to talk about.

AL: All right.

BC: Because, other than politics actually, a whole different phase of Senator. Oh, I do remember that that same night in Philadelphia this fellow had arranged for a limousine to pick us all up. And I was riding in the limousine to pick up the senator at his hotel and went in and called his room, and got this extremely, obviously just out of a dead sleep voice. And I said, "Mr. Secretary, your car is awaiting." He says, "Well, you're awful early, aren't you?" And I said, "Well, no actually, we're right on time." "Gr-r-r-r, grumble, grumble, grumble, grumble." And he finally came downstairs and showed up, but that led me to ask him what, which title did he prefer to have people use with him, secretary or senator? And he went into a long explanation that of course secretary of state really was a cut above United States senator, but he said, "The proudest thing I've ever done is being elected by the people of Maine to be a senator, so anybody who wants to call me senator, that's fine with me." So that's what I always called him after.

AL: Great, well thank you very much.

BC: You're certainly welcome.

End of Interview