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Interview with Patricia “Pat” Eltman by Greg Beam

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Eltman, Patricia “Pat”

Interviewer

Beam, Greg

Date

July 22, 2000

Place

South Portland, Maine

ID Number

MOH 211

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Biographical Note

Patricia “Pat” Eltman was born in Portland, Maine on August 22, 1950 and grew up in South Portland. After graduating high school, she worked for the telephone company doing secretarial work, and then attended the University of Southern Maine. She worked for Peter Curran’s state legislative campaign in 1974 and 1976, and in 1979 began working on presidential campaigns. She was Chief of Staff for Speaker of the Maine House, John Martin. Also in 1979, she worked for Regional Transportation. In 1980, she became deputy state director for the Carter-Mondale campaign and in 1984 worked on the Mondale-Ferraro campaign. In 1986 she ran Jim Tierney’s campaign for governor and in 1988 became Special Assistant to John Martin. She worked for Speaker of the House Libby Mitchell, and on the “Get Out the Vote” campaign. She also worked as a consultant in Public Relations for the Public Affairs Group in Portland and as the Regional Political Director for Al Gore in the Midwest.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Young Democrats; Lyndon Johnson; Peter Curran’s 1974 campaign for legislature; John Martin; working as Deputy State Director of the Carter-Mondale campaign; Mondale’s campaign for president in 1983; running Jim Tierney’s campaign for governor; becoming special assistant to Mondale; Dukakis campaign; “State shutdown” in 1991

due to worker's compensation; Angus King; Dan Gwadosky; Libby Mitchell; Al Gore; Muskie's 80th birthday party at the State House; George Mitchell; comparing Mitchell and Muskie; and fundraising for the Muskie Memorial in Rumford, Maine.

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Transcript

Greg Beam: This is Greg Beam and I'm here on Cottage Street in South Portland -

Pat Eltman: Cottage Road.

GB: Cottage Road in South Portland at the home of Pat Eltman. The date is the 22nd of July, it's a little after 9:00 A.M. and this is an interview for the Muskie Oral History project. To begin could you please state your full name and spell it.

PE: Patricia Eltman, E-L-T-M-A-N.

GB: And when and where were you born?

PE: Was born on August 22nd, 1950 in Portland, Maine at the Portland Eye and Ear Hospital.

GB: And did you grow up in Portland?

PE: I grew up in South Portland. This is the only house I've ever lived in. Went to grammar school up the street, you can see it from here, Holy Cross Grammar School, that's my parish up there. And I went to Cathedral High School in Portland and the University of Southern Maine so I never, I'm a local, local, I'm a native local, stayed here. Went off and did some, had some experiences but basically this is my home.

GB: Wow, so what were your parents' names?

PE: My mother's name was Paula and my father's name was Joseph.

GB: And what were their occupations?

PE: My mother was a, stayed at home. My father worked for a, the IGA warehouse here for many years called Milliken & Tomlinson, for forty-two years or so. It's a, it was a, the IGA's a grocery store line and he was in the receiving department of the warehouse, received the food to be shipped out to the stores.

GB: I see, and how were your parents involved in the Portland and South Portland community when you were growing up?

PE: Other than being involved in the parish there wasn't really much. They worked, you know, worked all the time. We didn't have, you know, we were, I wouldn't say we were dirt poor but we were of moderate means. And they, my father worked the night shift so he worked, I mean he didn't work the night shifts, he worked five o'clock in the morning until one-thirty in the afternoon, so by the time he got home and situated, it was time to go to bed again. So he, they did some work in the parish and of course when I was in school they were involved. But they really weren't involved in politics.

Actually when I became chairman of the South Portland Democratic city committee, I think that my father was a registered Republican. I went home in a rage, came home in a rage, you know. But in this tow-, in this city, they tell me, historically, you needed to be a Republican. (*Unintelligible word*) the big Democratic stronghold that it had become through the work of many of many of us but in the old days it was anti-Catholic, you know, anti-Democratic.

GB: Now, were you Catholic, you mentioned the parish?

PE: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

GB: So was that tough being a Catholic, I mean were -?

PE: Not for me because they had paved the way, but I think before, you know, years before that it was frowned upon here, I think. That's what they tell me. And Democrats also were so, but that was before Ed Muskie, see. When Ed Muskie became governor, the world changed.

GB: From your memories, was Portland or South Portland a lot different than it is today when you were growing up?

PE: Oh yeah, yeah.

GB: How so?

PE: Well, I mean a lot of, you know, physical changes. The dump was over where Waterman Drive is now, the park was always here, I always remember the park being there. But they tell me that was the dump years ago. When I lived, when I was a child (*tape fault - buzzing and voice fade*) there was a house right here outside the driveway that belonged to Charlie Jones and then there was a, there was a house on the, I don't how they would fit all this stuff in on the corner when I think about it, when you're a kid (*voice fade - buzzing*) this whole, this never changed so there were three buildings right in that parking lot.

GB: Wow.

PE: I know, so I don't know, it seems weird to look at it now but there were, it was, so there's been a lot of physical changes. They've done a, you know, a good job of keeping development sort of active but not overgrown so, but it's a lot different down here now, there's only three, four houses and three left because they just sold the house across the street to Shop 'n' Save, it's going to expand. Those high rises for the elderly were never there, so that was, you know, a product of the seventies and eighties, the senior citizen housing. So, I mean things have changed but probably changed for the good, I guess, for the good.

GB: So you said that your dad was a registered Republican (*unintelligible phrase*)?

PE: I think. I remember that I came home, I was outraged the night I got elected because I had checked their registration and they (*unintelligible phrase*) a lot more Democrat at that point. But, you know, so, but I think that that was how sort of it was. And then in fact I don't even know, I mean he never was an active Republican or anything, but I think that they, that's just how it sort of was when you lived here.

GB: Do you recall if they were more conservative or liberal or sort of fairly moderate?

PE: Well, my mother was more liberal I think, she was more into caring for people that didn't have, you know. Like, I grew up in a family where I watched my mother take care of my grandparents and watched my father take care of his mother, you know, so they were always interested in caring, you know, caring for people and trying to make their lives a little better. And then I had the Sisters of Mercy for thirteen years which, which put the frosting on that cake for me. So, you know, it's always been sort of a, I think my, my father was just like any other kid's father, you know, he was always worried about where the next buck was coming from back then and, you know, conservative spender. He paid five thousand dollars for this house that he paid for every week, twenty dollars a week. Yeah, twenty-five dollars a week, which was a lot of money back then. (*Voice fade - approximately 20 seconds.*)

GB: So when you were going through school when you were growing up, what were your interests or activities, academic interests or just things that you did for fun, or?

PE: Oh, we were always out playing, you know, we used to go up to the sand pit up the street. Yeah, we went to Holy Cross so we used to get out of school, I'd come home, change my clothes and we'd be off like by three o'clock. (*Voice fade - app. 14 seconds.*) There was always sort of a community feeling here that, you know, if I was at my friend's house her mother (*unintelligible phrase*) my mother was here and everybody had to know where everybody was all the time, and it was very, very Hillary Clintony, you know, it takes a village, that's how I was brought up.

GB: Do you think that still exists today?

PE: No, I don't, no.

GB: Not at all?

PE: No, not at all. Nothing like that.

GB: That's too bad.

PE: I mean, I think it does in a certain respect but not like we were, it was when we were kids. There's just too much going on now, too many parents have to work. I mean, you know, none of our, probably any of them worked. A few of the parents worked, they were teachers maybe at Holy Cross, the mothers, but not, most of them were home.

GB: What about like in high school, what were your academic interests?

PE: Oh God, well I took a business course in high school and my father of course was a child, was a Depression, you know, lived through the Depression so, and he always told me that he, his plan was that I work for the telephone company because I wanted to continue high school and all the, see, after they lived through the Depression, their big goal in life was to have their kids have a job that if we ever had another Depression wouldn't hurt, you know. Like he was in the grocery business because he figured people always had to eat, you know. And with me it was he wanted, the Cathedral High School always produced, I hate to say it, sound this way, but we had good teachers and we always were revered as good workers, having a good work ethic because the nuns taught us well, so his big goal for me was to work in the telephone company which was a good job, and still remains to be a good job, you know, so his big thing was to, that I go to work for the telephone company.

So when I graduated from high school in 1968 I took the test and I actually got a job with the telephone company. But, so that was one of the big things, so business skills were what they pushed for me because it was a safer undertaking for a woman, I think, back then for them to, you know, so I took shorthand and, you know, stenography and all that business, accounting and all that sort of business training. So I was trained to run an office by the nuns who were pretty strict about their, the way they did things, so. And I've got the scars to prove it, oh yeah. But I was in the history club, I did a lot of stuff, I was in the history club and the French club and we were always, you know, I used to, I was busy all the time doing something.

And then in 1963 when I was a freshman I joined the Young Democrats and that's when my career began, you know, in, or whatever you want to call it. In 1963 Lyndon Johnson came to Portland and had a, they had a big rally for him in City Hall Plaza and actually we got involved, I wasn't even in school, it was still 1963 so, it was '64 I guess, I was a freshman at Cathedral. The nuns, we had, we were, of course John Kennedy had just been killed, so we were all, you know, "Who's this guy from Texas?" you know, kind of thing. So we all made signs and I remember we were right up front in the front row, they, evidently when I look back on that he must have wanted young people surrounding him so we were all there. City Hall Plaza was mobbed in Portland, I remember that. That was my first real memory of politics actually.

And then, I didn't do much through, I don't remember doing much through school and then I

went to work for the telephone company and then, so I lasted there a while. In 1976, '76? No, '74, I think it was '74, it's awful trying to remember, a friend of mine, Peter Curran who used to walk me to school, his grandmother lived down the street, and he used to come down, he was in like the eighth grade, he's a little older than I am, he's probably, I think he's like six or seven years older than I am, he was in the seventh or eighth grade, his grandmother Mrs. McVane used to live down the street and he'd like, our families knew each other for years, my father and his father grew up on Gorham's Corner in Portland and stuff and they always knew each other, so I ran into him, my mother or someone ran into him and said, "Will you walk me to school?" You know, so every day he used to pick me up and go to school. This was like years, you know, I was a kid, I was like in subprimary, first grade then, but we always remained friends.

So he ran for the legislature out here in South Portland in 1974 and I ran into him one day at Mass, at church, and he said, "Why don't you come over? I'm running for the legislature and help me on my campaign," and that's where it began, 1974. And then he ran again in 1976 and that's when I really got involved, more and more so involved in politics, that's where I met my best friends now, Mary McAleney who lives upstairs who you'll probably interview, Mary. She's not here today but she'll be around.

GB: I've heard that name constantly.

PE: Oh, I'm sure you have (*unintelligible phrase*) yeah, and she was running Cumberland and York counties for Ed Muskie's reelection campaign. A guy name Joe Mackey who you may want to interview, was running Jimmy Carter's campaign here, his name is Joe Mackey, —A-C-K-E-Y, I'll give you his numbers after. But he, he was running Jimmy Carter's campaign, and so that's where it started and that's where I met them, and we continue to be good friends to this day.

GB: So your friend there, Peter Curran was it (*unintelligible phrase*)?

PE: Peter Curran ran for the legislature and that's how it all started. And he ran for the legislature in '74 and won, he ran in '76 and won, and then that's when I started going to Augusta to the State House and getting more involved in politics through Mary, Mary McAleney ended up working in Augusta as an aide to the Democratic majority office when Jim Tierney was majority floor leader. So, you know, one thing leads to another and, but then by that time, in 1979, I sort of branched off a little bit from them and started working on presidential campaigns and I sit here today working on my fifth presidential campaign, on the national staff of five presidential campaigns so, so there's a lot of water under the bridge (*unintelligible word*).

(*Telephone interruption.*)

PE: I don't even remember where I am.

GB: All right, well I was about to ask you, what were you initially doing in Peter Curran's campaign?

PE: I was just doing, like going door to door and dropping leaflets off and stuff like that, you

know, making phone calls and signs, putting signs up, you know, your basic activist 101 stuff.

GB: Now, did you know Mary McAleney from, now did she live -?

PE: I met her in 1976 right over here on Ocean Street next to Uncle Andy's, we had a Democratic headquarters. And Mary worked out of there for Muskie, and Mackey was doing Jimmy Carter's campaign in this area so we all sort of -

GB: Okay, yeah, that's how you -

PE: Yeah, that's how I met all them.

GB: I see, I see.

PE: Do you know Phil Merrill on your list, Philip Merrill?

GB: Yeah, yeah, he was just recently interviewed, just recently.

PE: Okay, because he's one, he was one of the ones back then that we all knew.

GB: So you mentioned that you took trips up to Augusta around that time?

PE: Yeah, around 1976 I was between jobs and I used to go, Mary worked, Mary McAleney worked in the State House and the majority office, Democratic office, and I used to go up and visit her. And then one thing ran into another, Peter Curran was there of course so I used to go up and visit him and then I met John Martin then, speaker of the, Speaker Martin, who was speaker then, he had just become actually speaker from being minority floor leader. I met Jim Tierney who ended up being attorney general, I ended up running his gubernatorial campaign in 1986. So that's kind of when I really first started, you know, hanging out.

GB: I see, and, well tell me, what were your initial impressions of John Martin when you met him?

PE: Oh, everybody feared John Martin back then. I, he, you know, everybody was like in awe of him, he was young, he was smart, you know, he was knowledgeable. He knew, you know, everything. I met him very early on so I've known him for many years. Many, many years, yeah. And I wor-, I was his chief of staff for a long time.

GB: When did that happen, when did you -?

PE: That happened, I went to work for John in 1988.

GB: Okay, so it wasn't until a little bit later.

PE: Oh no, not at all. So I knew him from party stuff and, you know, doing, you know, from party, Democratic, when I say party I mean Democratic Party events and stuff, conventions and,

you know, stuff like that, I got to know him through these. He actually, Peter Curran, when he went to Augusta, lived with John so John Martin, Charlie Jacobs, who you probably will or someone will interview, worked for Muskie for many years, Charlie, John, Peter Curran all lived in the same house sort of and through the years different people had changed but Charlie and John lived together for long (*telephone interruption*) so, lived together for many years and are still friends to this day, Charlie and John are dear friends to this day. And Frank Murray lived there, Father Murray, Frank lived there and John and Charlie and Peter Curran, and they were all young legislators together in Augusta.

GB: I see, I see, so what was the path of your political involvement after -?

PE: The path of my political involvement, well let me see, 1974 was the legislative races, '76 was that, '78 Phil Merrill ran, and I always get this mixed up so someone else will know this better, Phil ran for governor against Joe Brennan and then he additionally ran for congress that next time, but Mary knows all the dates. I, Mary's the date keeper for the world, I forget stuff. She'll know. But Phil ran for governor first, then congress, Phil Merrill, and then in 1979 I met, I went into the, I was working for Regional Transportation which is a local bus company in the, they do transportation for the elderly and the handicapped in Portland and I worked for them, and I was a bus driver in 1979; I went to work for them in, around that time.

And I took a leave of absence to work on the caucuses for the president, that's when Ted Kennedy was running against President Carter, and I worked on the caucuses in 1979 and then subsequently when the campaign got refocused in the general election I became the deputy state director for the Carter-Mondale campaign, in 1980. And then -

GB: What were you doing in the caucuses?

PE: I was just field organizing again, doing phone calls and signs and getting people to the caucuses, you know, doing transportation and plans. And people came in from, you know, Washington and all over the, Georgia and everything to help us and to get enough people to the caucuses to win for the president because he wasn't doing well at that time, as you know. So, you know, we did your basic grass roots organizing effort to get people to the caucuses.

GB: I see, and then you were saying you -?

PE: And then I became deputy state director in the general election in 1980 here, so I stayed here, and then I went back to the bus company for a while. Then in 1983 I got called, I had met a gentleman named Bob Beckel, no, not then, did I meet Beckel then? I'm trying to think of who called me in 1983, but it was probably some of the guys that I had met. I want to say Beckel, but, I think it must have been, Bob Beckel, and there were these guys, Bob Beckel, who you see on CNN now as a commentator, he later became Mondale's campaign manager, but he was a, they were all what they used to call, I don't know what they call them now, congressional liaisons, a guy named Jim Free, Bob Beckel, they were all sort of the guys that worked at the White House for Carter that had, that were the liaisons between Congress and the White House, so they were all, so they all had been up here working on the caucuses so they knew me.

So in 1983, and I kept in touch with them and this is the thing about politics that people forget. Change all the laws you want, you know, and criticize all you want, like with term limits and all this stuff, but you know the one good thing about politics is the relationships that you make and the friends you make for life, and people forget about that, you know, that's what's important about all this crap, you know. Some of the stuff is really bullshit, but what's really important is that, you know, people you meet and the good that you can do to make people's lives better. The rest of it is just, the rest just doesn't really matter.

So in 1983 I got a call to see if I'd go to work for Walter Mondale because he was running for president. So, see, I'm sort of later in life than most of those guys with Muskie, I'm a later, late bloomer with Ed Muskie. Even though I knew him and stuff, I knew him later in his career more than then. But anyway, but you know, I always knew about him and I always knew what he had done, and I mean I always knew the history and then, you know, my friends all worked for him so I always knew probably a little bit more and I was more involved than ever, but my personal, my actual personal relationship with him happened later in his life and in mine, you know, so.

But I always remember these guys when I worked on these presidential campaigns always talking about Muskie. Actually the guy that ran scheduling and advance, Howard Druckman, and Elliot Cutler was still around, I mean you'll probably interview him at some point, somebody will, but they all worked for advance for Muskie. And Marshall Sterns [sic] [Stern], rest his soul, he did, too. I mean, there were all those guys that are probably sixty-ish now that worked for Ed as young people, you know, like we all did, you know, for someone else. But every time I went on a campaign there was always somebody there who had worked for Ed Muskie on it so they always wanted to talk to me because I was from Maine and, you know, that kind of thing.

But in 1984 I was on the Mondale-Ferraro staff, I'd done a lot of caucus work through the country and then I went to run Illinois, I went to Illinois and did the campaign in Chicago, that whole story. And then, I did that and then I went to work for, in the legislature in 1984. And that's sort of when John Martin was speaker, and I was administrative assistant in the house majority office working for John Diamond. And then I left there in '86, June of '86, to go run Jim Tierney's campaign for governor. And then after that McKernan had won so I couldn't go back there, at the State House for a while until they got (*unintelligible word*). And then I went back and became John's, I was a special assistant to the speaker in 1988, then I worked my way up to chief of staff.

GB: I see. Well let me ask you about some of these people you worked with. Did you know Jimmy Carter?

PE: Not very well, not like I know Mondale or Michael Dukakis or Al Gore, you know.

GB: Okay, well then -

PE: I didn't know him, no, not like, I mean I've met him on a number of occasions but not having the personal relationship like I have with the others.

GB: Well who else did you work with on his staff?

PE: On Jimmy Carter's staff?

GB: Yeah.

PE: Jim Free, who was from, I think he's from Georgia, he's very southern, or he's southern, Tennessee maybe he was from. I worked with him. I worked with, well, he was a close one, Bob Beckel was a close one that I worked with a lot. God, I can't remember those guys, isn't that awful, I was so friendly with some of them. I'm trying to think of who, I might remember as we keep talking.

GB: All right. Now, Walter Mondale, you say you knew him better?

PE: Oh yeah, I know him very well.

GB: Could you tell me about him?

PE: Oh yeah, he's a great guy, he's a very great guy, he's a wonderful man. Always kid a lot about the kids, you know, in the field, how they were doing. I used to be in the car with him and he'd see these signs that would say, hot dogs, three for a dollar, you know, he'd say, "Do the kids know about that, did you tell the kids that they can get three hot dogs there for a dollar?" Because back then we were making fifteen dollars a day and that was, that was a normal salary back then for a field organizer, you know. No, he was a really, Walter Mondale is one, probably you have one heart throb campaign in your life when you're in this business and if you're really fortunate you have two. But he was my heartthrob, Walter Mondale, he and his wife Joan, they were just such wonderful, they're such wonderful people. And he really was very sincere and honest and, you know, had integrity and he was just, you know, you just have one, one big one and that was mine. He was mine. And, you know, we had a reunion last year in Washington, last December, of all of us that worked for him.

GB: Really?

PE: Yeah, and it was the fifteen year reunion. And you know what, we're all still dear friends. I'm still working with people on this campaign for Al Gore that I worked with for Walter Mondale.

GB: Really?

PE: Yeah.

GB: Could you give me some of those names?

PE: Sure, Julie Gibson, Theresa Vilmain, trying to think, oh, they'll come to me (*unintelligible phrase*). I'm getting old, you know, getting old.

GB: All right, and do you know Ferraro from that campaign as well?

PE: I didn't know her very well. I knew her a bit but not like I knew [Walter] Fritz [Mondale], not like I know Fritz.

GB: Did it kind of excite the campaign, having it stand out so much with a female running mate (*unintelligible word*)?

PE: Oh God, yes, yeah, it really did, yeah. I remember standing on the convention floor thinking, when she accepted the nomination I was standing there, and I had been in the trailer in the back, you know, in the guts of the whole place there in Atlanta, and I remember coming out and thinking I got to go out there, so I said to Paul Tulley, who's deceased, my good friend Paul Tulley, God rest his soul, I got to go out there, I mean this is like the biggest thing that is going to ever happen. He says, "Go ahead, go out." So we all went out and it was like, it was awesome. We had high, high hopes, you know. But, it wasn't there, it wasn't in the stars as they say, it wasn't in the stars.

GB: You say you knew Michael Dukakis, you worked on his campaign as well?

PE: Oh yeah, yup, yup, I ran the northeast for him and, on Chauncey Street in Boston, yeah, I had the whole, all the northeast. I was the political and field director for the Dukakis campaign for him. He's another guy, he's an awesome guy, such a kind, nice man. Smart, you know, kind, really very personable. People just didn't, you know, I mean I was fortunate to spend time, a lot of time with him subsequent to the campaign. Even after now, we've gone to place where we've been sort of together at parties and stuff, or at weddings and everything and have spent time together. He's really a nice man, nice guy, nice people, he and Kitty. Nice family, you know, they worked hard, he worked hard. He's a hard worker.

GB: So what does that entail exactly being, what were you, regional field director for the campaign?

PE: It's a lot like what I'm doing now except now I'm doing it for the Democratic National Committee. The way the world is structured in the Democratic Party is, they have, well we call it coordinated campaign effort, and which means that we don't, people, we try to combine our resources so that people aren't getting five telephone calls, five pieces of mail, you know, from everybody, you know, so we try to coordinate our efforts. And so what we have is in all the states we have, and laws, so the laws dictate some of this, but in all the states back then we had, as we do now, we have what we call the Democratic Party structure, a state party coordinating campaign director that works for the party, and then we have a state director for the presidential campaign. Then the presidential campaign state director and press people move the candidate around when they come to do trips, and they do actually candidate specific just for Al Gore or just for Michael Dukakis stuff. Like if Mrs. Dukakis came or the governor or any of the kids or any of the surrogates and stuff, anyone that came into the states campaigning for the candidate itself, the presidential staff would, the campaign staff would take care of. Now when you work on a coordinated side like I am now, we work to elect all Democrats.

GB: I see.

PE: See, so, but there's just specific, candidate specific stuff for the presidency. So now, in '88 I did the Dukakis part, so I was doing, I moved the candidate and took care of that politics, and someone else did what I'm doing now for the Democratic Party. So now I'm doing it for the Democratic Party and someone else is doing it for Gore. So it's the other way around. But it's interesting, a lot of work.

GB: I imagine, I was about to say (*unintelligible phrase*).

PE: There's six battleground, there's twenty, we have like, I have six battleground states this time, which is far more than I've had last time, and I'm twelve years older, so.

GB: So in the middle of that there in 1986 you worked for Jim Tierney's -?

PE: Eighty-six, gubernatorial against John McKernan. And John Menario and (*name*), so we had four people in the race.

GB: And did you know Jim Tierney fairly well?

PE: Oh yeah, yeah.

GB: What was he like, or what is he like?

PE: He's an awesome guy. Smart, he's quick, he's brilliant actually, he's very smart. He's a great attorney general, he's probably one of the best attorney generals we ever had, we've ever had, yeah. Good family man, integrity, you know, honesty. He's high in my, high in my book. He's a good guy, character, absolute character.

GB: How so?

PE: Entertaining, you know, goes into a story. They all sort of grew up together, you know, in this business, we all grew up together sort of, you know. So like we, you know, we went to their children's weddings, we, you know, we went to baptisms, we've gone to birthday parties, we've made Christmas cookies together, I mean they're, we're, you know, dear friends.

GB: What did you do on his campaign?

PE: I was campaign manager for his gubernatorial campaign, yeah.

GB: All right, and is that similar to, you know, the work you do now as these field managers for, as field manager, more or less?

PE: Yeah, except it's, you know, I have a lot, this is, I had one state to oversee, now I got six. Well I got actually eleven, but six battleground states plus five others.

GB: Wow, wow. So what, who did you work with in Jim Tierney's campaign?

PE: I worked with Bob Lenna who's the head of the Maine Bond Bank now, I worked with Dick Spencer who is a lawyer in Portland at (*name*), whose son now works at the White House and I talk to her a lot. I worked with Tom Satterly who is, he used to run Ballard Oil for many years, he and his father Howard, and they, I think Tom was doing auctioning, auctioneer now. I worked with a guy name Heime Gulac and I don't know where Heime is, he's probably in Brunswick, I guess.

I worked with Mike Felderman who is, I don't know where Mike is either, I'm sure he's probably around up there somewhere. A woman named Sue Ellen Boardwell, who was my field director, was the AD of the party back then. See, I always sort of had a little more foresight than most people about getting the party structure involved in these statewide campaigns. Democrats are great for throwing away and making something new and not keeping a continuous, you know, organization (*unintelligible phrase*) and I would do that, but anyway, I do. But, so those are the people I worked with for that, yeah.

GB: I see, so you ended up working for John Martin in 1988 was it?

PE: Yeah, started working for John Martin in 1988 and I left there in, well John, John stepped down as speaker and Gwadosky became speaker in '93. I don't even remember this either, '91 or '93, around then. When John left I worked for Dan Gwadosky after that as special assistant, and then I was chief of staff to Libby Mitchell, and then I left, when she was speaker, and then I left in '98.

GB: I see, so when you were working for John Martin the first few years, what was going on?

PE: Oh, a lot of things going on then, we had state shutdown not far, not long after I came on board, we had a shutdown of state government which was an unbelievable thing, and then we had the whole ballot tampering mess with Ken Allen. And, but you know, people will never know, and John will never tell them, people will never know the good that John Martin did in this state. And, you know, and because John never did it to get glory, John did it because it was the right thing to do. And I can remember working for him was like, you went home at night and you knew that you did something to help someone, you know. It's not like that for me any more, it's not like that any more I don't think. If it is, it's far from me to know where it is like that. So, working for John was like, John had been speaker for so long by the time I had gotten there that he didn't just have Eagle Lake and house district 151, he had the whole state as his constituency. And I can remember that we worked our asses off, we worked very hard but, you know, so did he, you know, he worked every minute of the day, you know. And when he went home on the weekends, and I used to travel to northern Aroostook County with him a lot, it never ended there. So he did a lot of good for a lot of people.

GB: So what did you do as his chief of staff?

PE: Oh well, we'd move people in and out of his office, you know, make sure the trains are running on time. We would represent him at meetings, I'd represent him at meetings, I traveled

with him when we went; he was also president of, very involved in the National Congress of State Legislatures which is a service organization for legislators throughout the country. He was like the vice president, president, past president, president of the State Government Affairs Council after that, so we did a lot of national stuff when he was speaker, did a lot of traveling around. He was always involved when, he was always involved with national service organizations, State (*unintelligible word*) Foundation with Billy Bulger, and that's back when speakers were speakers, my kind of politics.

GB: Now the state shutdown, when did that happen?

PE: You've got to check this but I think it was around 1991.

GB: And what were the details (*unintelligible phrase*)?

PE: Well it was comp, they couldn't come to an agreement about the worker's compensation laws. And state workers were looking for a raise, trying to find out what their status was in life. McKernan had been extremely mean to them and so the big, ended up we couldn't balance the budget, couldn't get the budget resolved, and so we ended up having a state shutdown, which was horrible, horrible. I can still, I still remember the noise, a noise of those halls filled with state workers and people that were angry at, so angry at government. I can, it's in my memory, I can still hear the noise, I can still, still remember the noise, I can remember it just like it was yesterday, (*unintelligible phrase*), lined right up in the halls and all the noise they made. They had a tent city over in Capitol Park, they'd set up a tent city and they were staying overnight over there, and people were just everywhere, it just never stopped. It was just an awful time for the state.

GB: And how did that one turn out?

PE: Well they ended up passing the budget which, just in the nick of time before we really got a rebellion on our hands. It wasn't a pleasant time for anyone. Did a lot of damage to the legislature, and damage to us and it took us a long time to get respect back.

GB: And how much can you tell me about the ballot tampering controversy?

PE: Well, I can tell you what I knew about it, I never, you know, I know that John Martin never knew anything about it, you know, but the, and, well I remember we were in Washington at an NSC meeting when we got a call that it had happened and I never, I could never believe it. I never understood why Ken had done it, but Ken was a bad alcoholic and there was just, I don't know, who knows. I haven't seen him since and we've never have ever talked to him about it or talked to anyone about it.

But see, by the time I had gotten, working for John, I had got, I started working for John, there was nothing I ever could do about, I always used to say this to Severin Beliveau who I'm sure you'll interview, I can't do anything, I can never do anything about John's past behavior, you know, and people used to call him a dictator and, you know, all this, I never could do anything about that because I got there way after that, you know. But the only thing I could do was try to

have people see him for the kind person that he was, you know, and how much he had done for everyone. And, you know, Governor King helped us with that because Angus was the narrator of the, not narrator, what do you call it, host of Maine Watch back then, what is now Maine Watch, it was Maine, what the hell was the name of that show. I don't know, you probably don't remember -

GB: I'm not sure.

PE: You were probably twelve back then. But he, Governor King hosted that, what is now Maine Watch on Channel 10, and I remember Angus, he was always kind to us. And he and I are dear friends and we worked through the years together because he worked with Bill Hathaway, Angus King worked for Bill Hathaway for many years. And his wife Mary and I are dear friends also because he, she was a lobbyist on foreign legislature when John was speaker. And Mary lobbied for human, you know, human service organizations, health care and all that stuff. And so we were always quite friendly. When all this started happening, you know, when it happened with Ken and everything, Angus was very kind to John and would have him on his show, you know, when he could to have John's side of the story, you know, whatever.

But it was a, it was a, I mean a lot of it, a lot of it was that, you know, I always say you have to build your positives up before, I always tell candidates that, you have to build your positives up before, just like this economy, you know. I mean, how long is this going to last you figure? You know. I mean, hopefully it'll last forever, believe me, but you had to build your positives up, you have to tell people your case, you know, before something negative starts happening and starts unraveling everything. Because then, if you build your positives up the people, they start attacking you, people aren't going to listen. They're going to say, oh, that's not true, that can't be true, that's not true.

But, see John had had a personality where, you know, he was gruff, he was, people used to call him a dictator, people feared him, you know, but knowledge is power and John always was very smart and took a lot of time to learn and people feared, that's what they feared, that he had been smarter than they were. And he is. And he still remains that way because he takes time to learn which a lot of people don't take time to do any more. But he actually took time to learn parliamentary procedure and he was a master at it and continues to be, you know. But he learned, I mean he took the time and learned that, so. It was a lot of work but he did it, and he did, so. But knowledge is power. People didn't perceive that to be the case, they just thought he was a mean old crusty rump, and that wasn't the case at all, wasn't the case at all. But, you know, I felt bad, so bad for him, I just couldn't, you know, couldn't, I did what I could, did what I could. That's okay, I mean I still feel really sad about the way it ended and how it all happened, and I feel sad about the people that tried to destroy him, I feel bad about them. And I feel bad that, you know, they have to live with what they did (*unintelligible word*). So, it's so sad, but, sorry, I mean it's over, you know, I'm healing.

We've all, we've all sort of healed to a degree anyway, but it's a tough thing to have happen to you. It's quite a, negative energy is just so, it eats you up. Negativity eats you up. It's a sad thing, sucks all the energy right out of you. Too bad. Not good to be negative, it's better to be positive, it's better to be positive.

GB: Build up the positive side.

PE: That's right, that's right, you get energy from that.

GB: All right, so after, so when Dan Gwadosky succeeded John Martin you switched over to work with him?

PE: Yeah, yeah, I stayed with Dan, yeah.

GB: And could you tell me a little bit about him? How, was he a lot different as speaker than John Martin?

PE: I'm not going to say anything about him.

GB: All right. So it was a different experience working for him than for Martin.

PE: Oh yeah, totally.

GB: All right. And how long was he in there?

PE: He's had three years I think, hasn't he? Because he finished John's one-year term while he ran, and he ran for one term of his own, then he ran for secretary of state. He was termed out. Term limits is a wonderful thing. It sucks, term limits suck, yeah. So he left, and he's secretary of state now, and Libby Mitchell became speaker. She asked me to be her chief of staff so I stayed with her for two years, and then she was term limited out. And then I left after she, I left after that.

GB: Now, what was it like working for Libby Mitchell?

PE: Oh, she was, she's another one, she's a great one. It was fun, it was very high energy, Libby's a very high energy woman; it was really fun working for her. She had a lot of good ideas and, Libby's very much like John in that respect, in the way that it's never about, it's not about them, it's about what they can do to help others, you know. And so Libby was very high energy, very involved in education. She had been, you know, previously had been house majority floor leader so she was a veteran of the legislature so she knew how the place worked so it was, she was the first woman speaker, that was very exciting.

I remember going down, because the male speakers always wore morning suits, you know, and we thought, we said like, "What will the first woman speaker wear?" You know? So I remember we went shopping, we went shopping, we tried fashion designers, we tried everybody thinking what the hell's she going to wear, you know. And then we went to Boston and we went into, down on Boylston Street and we walked into Talbot's down there and actually the woman that owns Tal-, owned Talbot's is from Maine, I mean has a place in Maine. So we went down there and we looked and there it was, we knew that was it when we saw it. And we actually invited the woman that owns Talbot's to Libby's inaugural, Libby's swearing in. So it was kind

of neat, it was very neat.

So Libby was good and we did a little, tried to do a lot of innovative education hits, and tried to do a good job, she did a good, I mean she was fun. And we continue to be good friends. I'm the godchild of her granddaughter, godmother to her granddaughter.

GB: One second, let me flip the tape over.

End of Side A
Side B

GB: We are now on side B of the tape of the interview with Pat Eltman. Now, I've heard about something and I'm not sure what it was, your get-out-the-vote efforts?

PE: Yeah.

GB: What was that?

PE: Well, we, the campaign is broken up into several segments. One is educating a voter, and, one is educating a voter about a candidate, second part is contacting the voter to see who, if they're supporting your candidate after you've done some education, like a mailing, some mailings or TV ads or something, and then what you do is you identify the voter to see if they're for you or not, for your candidates or not. And if they are, you put them in a file so that when it's nearer to election time you can remind them about voting. Then there's a whole segment of the population that is undecided, can't decide, and then that, then you go into your what we call persuasion portion of the campaign, like to try to persuade, a little more education, did you know that this candidate believes in this, this and this, a little stronger pitch. And then we may re-ID them again, re-identify them again to see if they're for us now, you know. And then at the last like forty eight hours, the whole last phase of the campaign is get-out-the-vote, actually getting your supporters out to vote. So, that's one of my things, I guess, that's where my strengths are, is actually getting, mobilizing the electorate to go and vote.

GB: And how do you achieve that?

PE: Oh, you do a lot of things, you do it with visibility, do it with phone calls, mail, door knocking.

GB: I see.

PE: Yeah, a lot of work. Because voter participation, you know, it just isn't what it used to be. Actually they're trying to do a lot of things now with early vote, and vote by mail, and they're trying to get more reacquainted with voting. People have like, you know, fallen away, they've fallen away.

GB: And what have you done since working for Libby Mitchell?

PE: I worked for a company called Public Affairs Group which is a governmental affairs wing of Curtis, Thaxter, of Governor Curtis' law firm, Curtis, Thaxter, Stevens, Broder & Micoleau, it's in Portland, we have an office in Augusta called the Public Affairs Group, Public Affairs Group, no 'the', Public Affairs Group, they're very sticky about that.

GB: And what do you do there?

PE: Consultant.

GB: What does that entail?

PE: I do public relations for our clients, community relations sort of, I help them, I help them establish relationships with the legislature, how to approach the legislature, I help them, we call it crisis communications, they have a problem and we try to help them solve it, you know. We do community relations, sort of establishing, connecting them with the community, you know, kind of, kind of stuff like that. I do a lot of PR, and we also do lobbying. I just started the first chapter of Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence this year, I'm the executive director of that.

GB: Oh, wow.

PE: Yeah, that's been quite a, if you can imagine in this state. That's, actually we've done pretty well actually, we've done better than I Can I offer you anything to drink? We, I, pathetically enough I don't have much -

GB: No, thank you, I'm -

PE: - because I haven't been here, see, so I haven't had time to go to the store yet.

GB: Well I'm fine. I'm just fine.

PE: Okay, so we did that this year and I do, I have, you know, a bunch a of clients that I do work for.

GB: And right now you're working on the Gore campaign.

PE: Took a leave of absence July 1st, and I'm working on, working for, actually for the Democratic National Committee.

GB: Oh, okay.

PE: I know, but it's (*unintelligible word*), a lot of people say that, the Democratic National Committee, and I'm the regional political director for the Midwest.

GB: Okay, what states do you cover?

PE: I have Illinois, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and North Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. It's a lot, that's a lot.

GB: So what's going on right now in the campaign, I mean we're kind of at a lull in the media (*unintelligible phrase*).

PE: Well now what will happen, that lull is because of the conventions, the conventions take up about three, three weeks of time, you know. They'll do a lot of hype this week about the Republican convention and then he'll pick his, he, Bush, will pick his running mate and then that'll be a flurry until they get to, he's going to do that in Austin I guess. Then he's going to go to Philadelphia, have his convention, then he'll take off and then we'll start out stuff. So there's like a, summer time, you know, especially in Maine, people don't want to be bothered with politics. It's, you know, we, you know, it's just the summer time in Maine, like duh, you know, we want to like go to the beach, okay, leave us alone. So it's always this way, it's always sort of a lull before the, it starts.

GB: Before everything hits it really?

PE: Yeah, so.

GB: And so are you just trying to ready yourself for that?

PE: Yeah, we're readying ourselves, we're doing, you know, some convention work, we're staffing up in the states, you know, hiring staff and stuff. And we're, you know, moving the candi-, they're moving the candidate around, the candidate, the vice president's spending, I swear to God, one of my states every day for two weeks and if it's true, he's going to be there again Monday so he's, because they're a battleground, I mean the center of the country is where it's at so, not that I should be worried about that, but. But we went to Nashville this week, we had a meeting out to Chicago with chairman Daley, Secretary [Richard] Daley for a meeting, with chairman, John Andrew, chairman of the party. I was there for two days with them. I went to Nashville for some strategy meetings, then I came back here for a few days. Then I'll go back Monday morning on that six o'clock plane and I'll be right there like, like I never left, so.

GB: Do you know Al Gore?

PE: Very well, yeah.

GB: What's he like?

PE: Oh, he's a great guy, too. He's very, you know, I just wish everybody could know him on a personal level because he's really such a nice guy. He's very funny, he has a great sense of humor, he's very smart, you know. But he's just, he's stiff and there's nothing, I mean that's just who he is, you know, there's nothing you can - like I swear a lot, okay? He's, you know, I'm just who I am, too, I mean I'm overweight and I swear a lot. And he's, you know, he's just who he is. I mean he's a really nice guy, he's a good family man, he loves his kids. You can just see him, when he talks about his wife he just beams, you know. He's just such a nice man. He's

done a lot of good, too, I mean he did a lot of good as a United States senator, they love him in Tennessee, I mean, it's just, you know, he's just a nice man. I mean he's a good guy, you know, he's a real good guy.

GB: Do you think it would help his campaign if people knew him more personally?

PE: Yeah, and I think that that, I was just telling, I was just saying, I think that they're going to make an attempt to do that. I don't think people really know him, you know. I mean they know him because he was vice president and stood next to Bill Clinton, but you know, he doesn't, and you know, so, you know, it's unfortunate that he has, that people think he's so boring because he really isn't. But, you know, it's, it's, I don't know how you, but they're going to start, try to work on that I think, you know, try to work on that. I mean he was brought up in Washington, what was he supposed to be, you know? I mean, his father was a senator. The father was a stitch, father was a riot. I love the father, I met him a few times.

GB: Really.

PE: Yeah, he was a card, yeah, father, he was funny, father was very funny, had a great sense of humor. But you know, I mean what do you suppose it was like being Democrat in the south? A lot of fun? You know, they had a tough time, segregation, and you can imagine, I mean you go down there now it's like, yoh, get me out of here. Imagine back then, you know, so it's tough. Couldn't have been easy doing that, being a senator from that state all those years. But I don't know, you know, it just is sad that things, that people rely on how someone looks, you know, or how they stand or what they have on, or, you know.

GB: Now let's change gears here. How did you know Ed Muskie?

PE: Well, I knew Ed Muskie from my other, my friends Mary McAleney. There were a group of them that worked on his campaigns through the years, and I can throw out some names to you, Charlie Jacobs was one of them, Mary McAleney, Ginger Jordan Hillier, Susie Vogel Crouch, I mean there's a bunch of people that have worked on his campaigns. So I knew of Ed Muskie for many years, and I knew from John Martin who had worked for him, and Don Nicoll and George Mitchell talking about him a lot, and you know, I knew more of him, you know, and about him than I knew him, you know. And I was trying to remember when I used to start, it must have been the late seventies. Now he was secretary of state, it was after, it must have been the middle eighties that I, I also went to work for him in 1980 but he ended up then being Secretary of State instead, after that presidential campaign I was going to work for him and, but I ended up

So it was after he was Secretary of State really that I got to know him more because he would come home here and we'd have, we had fundraisers down at Deer Trees, down at his house, and it got so that Jane would only let me and Mary do anything down there. And I remember I used to ride, I used to drive him around when he came to Maine, so I knew him really later in his life. And it was really a special time for me, I mean I got to hear all the stories as you can well imagine. I used to take him, well like I brought him to his eightieth birthday party in Augusta, to the State House, we had an eightieth birthday party for him at the State House.

GB: And you kind of hung out with him at that?

PE: Took him up, oh yeah, I staffed him sort of, and I took care, you know, pick him up at the airport or whatever, pick him up wherever I picked him up down in Kennebunkport or, and Jane, I used to pick her up and take her places, too. So I knew him, I worked with him, John, they had started, he started what was called Legal Needs, which is now worked into the Volunteer Lawyer's Project, VLP. But he started it and we, there was a huge commission on legal needs for the poor that he started and John was on the committee and I used to go, when the speaker couldn't go to meetings I would go. So that was after he was sec-, that was after he was retired that he used to do a lot of, he was doing a lot of legal needs for the poor stuff. So that's really when I started to, I had my own personal relationship with him.

GB: What were your personal impressions of him?

PE: Oh, God, I mean, how do you ever, you know, I don't know how you even explain all that. He was just a man among men, I mean he was just huge, huge to us, especially when we were younger. But he just was so knowledgeable and, you know, when I knew him, like I know that they all, they used to tell me what a bear he was and how he used to yell and, you know, do all that. And I tell you, he never was, I never saw that side of him, see, because by the time I saw him he was calmer and older and, you know, sort of the, you know, an elder statesman. So I would get the stories and, you know, like I'd walk in the State House with him and he'd say to me, "Pat, what happened to that picture of Andrew Jackson they used to have up right there?" And I'd say, "I don't know, Senator." "Well, I don't understand why they, why do you think that they would have moved that picture?" I mean, it was those kind of things, you know, that he would say to me. I'd say, "I don't know, Senator, I'll find out," you know. And then he'd ask me (*unintelligible phrase*), "Where'd that picture go?" Because he was there, you know, I mean he'd been governor and in and out of that State House so many times, and he couldn't figure out why they would change things, you know. "What was the matter with that picture being right there?" "I don't know, Senator, I'll find out." And he'd ask me, he'd ask me to go find out, why'd you move that picture and then there'd be some stupid answer. "Well, that's not a very good answer is it," you know, I mean like that, so he was a character. But he, but see I knew him differently than, I mean they all worked for him, they knew, you know, he was bellowy or he used to, John always tells stories about how he used to, you know, he'd fall, he'd like nod off and then they'd be lost and he'd be, you know, all upset about it driving. Charlie Micoleau's another one, you guys going to talk to Charlie? Charlie drove him around for a long time.

GB: Yeah, he's been interviewed, yeah.

PE: Yeah, Charlie drove him for a long time. But I knew him more from, we used to go down to Deer Trees, we'd be doing a fundraiser down there and I'd bring the caterer down, and Jane would only let me do it, you know, because she knew that I'd take care of it. And I'd go down and then we'd stay and have tea with him afterwards, so he'd take us in the den, you know, with all his stuff, you know, he'd have all his stuff around from Humphrey days and all that, it was neat. But we knew him sort of more personally than professionally, I knew him more. I was fortunate to be able to, you know, I knew all the professional stuff from Don and John and George and everybody talking about him, Charlie and everybody telling stories about his

younger days, you know, Charlie Jacobs and stuff, and then I knew him myself by just riding around with him, you know, taking him places and talking to Carole Parmelee, she's the best, did you talk to her yet?

GB: Who's that?

PE: Carole Parmelee, you know Carole, you don't know her? She was his secretary for many years. She runs the Muskie [Foundation] Institute in Washington, the foundation.

GB: I don't know her personally. It's possible that she's been interviewed, I'm just not aware of it.

PE: Oh yeah, she knows everything, yeah, Carole, and got to know her. And then of course all the Mitchell people always sort of took care of him anyway because of George, his relationship with him, so. They used to, you know, they used to all be together with him and stuff. It was neat, it was nice, it was a good experience.

GB: Did you know George Mitchell?

PE: Oh yeah, yeah, very well. He used to live right up the street here. I had (*unintelligible word*) his daughter in confraternity classes at Holy Cross, I'm on the board of the George Mitchell Institute. Yeah, he's a good guy. I gave him his first fundraiser he ever had as a senator and his last. We had the first one at the Boys Club right up the street here, and we had the last one at the Snow Squall when he, then when he, after that he, that was his last campaign.

And I was chairman of the South Portland Democratic City Committee. We used to go to, we used to go the South Portland city committee meetings with George back in the old days when he was just a regular guy. He's a hometown boy here, we claim him, too, with Waterville, we claim him too with Waterville. (*Unintelligible phrase*), I mean he was just, like, you know, I'd see him at CVS, I mean it was just like, just a neighborhood guy, he was a neighborhood guy for a long time. He used to come at Christmas time and I'd see him over here and he'd say, so what's going on, you know, and I'd tell him all the gossip, you know. He's a regular guy, George. I mean he was always, he's a nice man, you know. That's his nephew that I just hung up from. Jim is, his nephew is my, was my boss at Public Affairs Group.

GB: Oh really, wow, wow.

PE: Nice family, nice people.

GB: Now we all have been asking people to compare and contrast George Mitchell and Ed Muskie personally and politically. I suppose, would you know much about, you know, about how they compare politically or -?

PE: Issue wise, you mean?

GB: Yeah, or just -

PE: Well I'd say similar.

GB: Or how they approached politics, how they functioned professionally, or, you wouldn't anything about that (*unintelligible phrase*).

PE: I they'd be similar, I would say that they were similar, from my observations. There's no, there'll never be anyone as big as Ed Muskie. And even George will tell you that I think, I mean it's just a different world. But I think that George in his own way had impact on the modern world of politics, as Ed did. I mean I think Ed, Ed had, I mean, Ed was the master of the change of the Democratic Party, I mean he was the master of the birth of the Democratic Party, and I think that George in his way was an architect of the modern, you know, the, how you say, future of the Democratic Party. I mean I, of the persistence of it anyway. I mean I think that they, I mean he had a good teacher, I mean Ed Muskie was his mentor, so I mean they, George did Clean Air stuff, you know, I mean it was just a continua-, you know, a continuation of all of that. George had a, I think they were similar. I mean I think he, they thought alike, you know, about things.

GB: How did they compare personally? Did they have similar or very different personalities?

PE: Well, I can only tell you about the end of Muskie's life, so, and I think, I think that, I think there's stories about George being just as gruff as Ed, so, and I think that, you know, the ones that worked for him would know better. I, I would, I knew the kind end of Ed, I didn't know the, you know, I didn't know the rambunctious side. And I knew the kind, and I have the end, I had the kinder, gentler, kinder Ed Muskie, you know. I never worked with George professionally, I just worked on his campaigns and stuff, but I think that, I don't know how to answer that because I don't feel safe doing the George thing because I really never worked for him. Personally he's always been very, he's always kind to me, George, and I (*unintelligible phrase*) feel like he's a close friend and I, you know, I'm on his board for his scholarship fund so I see him, you know, not quite often because he's so busy but often enough that I, and who knows, he might be the vice president so maybe I'll have a different job next week.

GB: Has he been mentioned?

PE: Oh yeah, he's in the mix. Be neat, wouldn't it?

GB: That would be amazing, that would be fantastic.

PE: That would be, you never know, he's on the list they tell me.

GB: Well I think they could do worse, they could certainly do worse.

PE: I know, I'm sure they could. And they may. You never know, you never know.

GB: All right. Now you mentioned that Ed Muskie would tell you some stories and that people who worked for him would tell you stories about him. Do you, does anything come to

mind either -?

PE: The story that I remember the most is when Joe Brennan appointed George Mitchell to the, to succeed him. And we had a fundraiser around this theme that when Joe called, no, when Ed, was it Ed that called Joe to tell him the green light is blinking, that he was going to be secretary of state? And that, that's one, one story, I remember he told me that he, Jimmy Carter had called him and talked to him, and those guys will remember more of the facts, but I'm trying to remember, it's hard to remember all those little stories, see, because you're so worried about taking a wrong turn and getting yelled at or, you know, doing something stupid.

But he'd just like tell you little things, like you'd go by somewhere and he'd say, well I remember I went there one time during a campaign and this one was there and that one was there, you know, those kind of things, like little anecdotal things more than, you know, big stuff. By the time I had him we were worried about what bill we were going to take next, you know. So he'd tell little stories about Rumford, and you know, growing up and what, you know, how different the world was then and how hard it was. And I used to walk around the State House with him and he'd, you know, that's where my office was and, you know, this is, why is that picture missing and, you know. Down there now they have, in the second floor of the State House they have a huge picture of him and a huge picture of Margaret Chase Smith. I remember him looking at that thinking, you know.

He was a, he was, he was proud of what he had done, you know, he was proud. And he was very, he liked the, I like, think he liked the honor and the greatness of it all, you know, he enjoyed that. And he liked being respected and if he, I think if he weren't, you know, he would, if he didn't think he had gotten treated, he wouldn't be like, I'm grateful about it, but he'd, you know, say, you know, (*unintelligible phrase*). He was a proud man, you know, he wouldn't get too, he liked it, he liked people thanking him and he liked all the attention and he liked people coming up to him and, you know, stuff like that. And I remember when he was, at his eightieth birthday we set up a chair for him and everybody came by and had their picture taken with him, he liked that, you know. And we did a big thing at the legislature, a big cake and we had a big, he spoke and we had a big program and he loved that, he loved that birthday party. So glad we did it, you know, who would think to.

Then I guess George came to the legislature this year, I missed it because I was away somewhere, but Mitchell came and it was that same sort of feeling about, you know, the state, this is our finest, you know. And we haven't had anybody since then, either, so, you know, it just isn't the same.

GB: So you think both of them had a clear sense of their profound legacies in the state?

PE: George and Ed?

GB: Yeah.

PE: Yeah, I do think that. George might say he doesn't, but he does. Now it's sad to say it, but he does.

GB: Now it sounds like Muskie was fairly loquacious, you know, like to talk a lot, he would tell a lot of stories -

PE: He did, yeah, he talked, yeah, from, with me, I mean I can only go by my own personal stuff with him. Yeah, he'd talk a lot, he would talk, yeah.

GB: Now could you tell me about some of the people who you knew who were close to Ed Muskie? You mentioned Severin Beliveau?

PE: Severin, yeah. Severin, I think it was Severin, yeah, Severin Beliveau, he's from Rumford, he lives, he works in Augusta, he's a lobbyist and lawyer.

GB: How did you know him?

PE: I've known him forever, Severin. I don't know, I don't even know how I first met Severin. He's Frank Murray's brother-in-law, he's married to Cynthia Murray Beliveau, yeah. And I've always known him. His son is, I'm one of, a mentor to his son Emmet, (*unintelligible phrase*). Yeah, we've always been good friends. I don't even know how it all first started. I can only remember we've always sort of been friends, close friends. The people that I know around Ed Muskie are Leon Billings, these are people that you all would know, Leon Billings, Elliot Cutler, Don Nicoll, Gayle Cory, who's now deceased, Carole Parmelee, Mary, Jim Case, Charlie Jacobs, there's a whole bunch of people that worked for him on the committees like Bob Sneed and those guys, they worked on the environmental committees with him. Mary will know, Mary will know every friggin person that ever lived, she's good at that. Janey O'Connor worked for him, hmm, oh, there's such a tribe of them, God in heaven.

GB: Let me ask you about Ginger Hillier because -

PE: Yeah, she worked on his field staff. She was a campaign person.

GB: Oh, really?

PE: Yeah, she lives in Monmouth.

GB: Do you know her fairly well?

PE: Oh yeah, Mary will know that whole crowd much better than I. Mary remembers every rock that was moved and who was under it.

GB: I was just curious about Ginger Hillier because she's on -

PE: Oh Ginger Hillier, she's a good woman, yeah, she's, she lives in Monmouth, she has two children now. But she worked on his campaign a few times.

GB: I see, because I'll be interviewing her next week, so.

PE: Oh good, good, yeah, she's good. She's a ball of fire, that one, she's got a lot of stories about the campaign. See, I never worked on a campaign of his. I've worked on George's but not his.

GB: Now, you mentioned you knew someone from Bill Ha-, I think you mentioned -

PE: Angus King worked for Bill Hathaway.

GB: Oh, Angus King worked for Bill Hathaway.

PE: Yeah, did you interview the governor about Ed Muskie?

GB: I don't believe so, no, no, no. I haven't had a chance to.

PE: He loved, I know he's got a big portrait of him in his office.

GB: Oh really, really. I wasn't aware of that.

PE: Yeah, you might want to talk to Angus about Ed Muskie.

GB: So he had a (*unintelligible phrase*)?

PE: There's a portrait that they gave to him that someone had done, and when was it? Oh, something happened up there, we had some dedication after he died. What did we do? Jane came up and there was something in the legislature and they gave a picture of Ed to the state, the governor's office and it's in there. Angus might be interesting to speak to about Ed; his perspective of it. Because Hathaway and Muskie were the senators, weren't they? Hathaway beat Margaret Chase Smith, right?

GB: Yes.

PE: Yeah, so it would be interesting to talk to him maybe.

GB: So have you been involved with, have there been a lot of those ceremonies, dedications and so forth?

PE: There's been a few, there was that one, and then there was the birthday party. Then there's one August 18th or 19th in Rumford that, is it the 19th or the 18th? The nineteenth in Rumford for the memorial, he had friends out there

GB: I see, yeah.

PE: The memorial, Muskie memorial in Rumford. I help out at the Muskie School, you know. Libby's (*unintelligible word*), well Libby Mitchell's a fellow there so I've been helping on the capital campaign, I'm on their, the capital campaign committee for the new building, and stuff.

GB: What does that entail?

PE: Well, they want to build a new Muskie School building, building at just the Muskie School so I, we haven't had a meeting for a while because Bart Wexler's leaving, the new dean, the dean's leaving so they're waiting for a new dean to resume. But we're on the capital campaign committee, planning committee for the new building.

GB: Oh, okay, I see, I see, I see, so you're trying to raise the funds and get everything going.

PE: Well we're trying to plan, the plan, do the plan to raise the funds.

GB: All right.

PE: Not quite come up with it yet.

GB: I see, I see. Well I'm done with my questions, so do you have any final remarks you'd like to make, anything you'd like to add or emphasize?

PE: Not really.

GB: All right.

PE: We've been talking for an hour and seventeen minutes (*unintelligible phrase*).

GB: All right, great then, well thank you very much.

PE: You're welcome.

End of Interview