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Gosselin, Lucien B. oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

Interview with Lucien B. Gosselin by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
Gosselin, Lucien B.

Interviewer
L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date
March 29, 1999

Place
Lewiston, Maine

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Biographical Note

Lucien B. Gosselin was born on November 13, 1941 to Delia Hamel Gosselin and Arthur J. Gosselin. His mother was a homemaker and his father worked full time at the Pepperill Mill of Lewiston. He was the second youngest of nine children in his family. They lived on Blake Street in Lewiston in a working class, French-speaking neighborhood. His father passed away when he was ten. He attended the parochial schools St. Peter's Elementary and St. Dominic's High School. During high school and after graduation, he worked for the Lewiston newspapers, at first as a delivery boy, and then in the circulation and proofing departments. He then worked at Victor News from 1961 to 1963 before taking a position in the Lewiston city government as an assistant to the City Controller. He eventually worked his way to being the City Administrator under the new Lewiston City Charter of 1980. He served in this capacity until 1989. Gosselin was instrumental in lobbying for the founding of Lewiston-Auburn College. He graduated from Lewiston-Auburn College in 1991. He later received a masters degree from the Muskie School of Public Policy, and is pursuing his Ph.D. He worked for the Maine Development Foundation in the early 1990s, and in 1997 became president of the Lewiston Auburn Economic Growth Council (LAEGC), which is the position he held at the time of the interview.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: growing up in Lewiston; the Roman Catholic Church in Lewiston; the Franco-American community of Lewiston; French language in Catholic schools; his experiences working at Lewiston newspapers; Victor News; civil defense in Lewiston; the Lewiston City Charter of 1939; the Lewiston City Charter of 1980; economic development at the municipal level; Faust Couture; Franco-American media in Lewiston; Bill Rocheleau; Louis Jalbert; block voting for state representative; John Aliberti; Hal Gosselin; Al Cote; John Orestis; Ed Muskie fundraiser for George Mitchell; Estelle Lavoie; being a Democrat in Lewiston; and Muskie in Washington.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: . . . . conducted by Andrea L'Hommedieu with Lucien Gosselin on March 29th, 1999 at the Fleet Bank Building in Lewiston, Maine. Mr. Gosselin, would you please state your full name and spell it?

Lucien Gosselin: My full name is Lucien B. Gosselin. It's L-U-C-I-E-N, B, like Bertrand, Gosselin, G-O-S-S-E-L-I-N.

AL: And when and where were you born?

LG: I was born in Lewiston at 235 Blake Street in 1941, November 13, 1941.

AL: And what were the names of your parents and their occupations?

LG: My dad's name was Arthur J. Gosselin. And in those days he was employed full time at the West Point Pepperill Mill, it was a bleachery, and worked part time at a retail shoe outlet called Boston Shoe on Lisbon Street. And my mom was a homemaker. Her name was Delia Hamel Gosselin.

AL: Now, I understand you had six brothers and two sisters?

LG: Correct, we were a family of eleven with nine kids.

AL: And where was your place in the family, were you younger or older?

LG: I was next to the youngest. My younger brother Maurice was born in 1948.

AL: Now, I understand that your father died when you were ten. How did your mother manage raising the family after he died?

LG: Well, that was a very difficult period in our lives, obviously, not that I was really sensitive to that being just ten years old. But I do know that fundamentally Social Security was the mainstay and, having so many dependents, it was a good sum of money in those days still. But

my older brothers went to work and helped support the family.

AL: And did your sisters take roles within the household as well?

LG: Oh, sure, with a family of nine kids everybody helped, everybody had some chores to do.

AL: What were your responsibilities in the family, being only ten?

LG: Well, mine was to fill the wood box. Believe it or not, back in those days we still had a wood stove, and so my job was to fill the wood box and that kind of stuff.

AL: What were your parents' religious beliefs?

LG: They were both Roman Catholics.

AL: And, were they active in the community, religiously?

LG: Obviously my mom had her hands full with the family, but my dad was very active with St. Peter's Church, as were my older brothers. And at one time at least three of them were in the St. Peter's choir. My dad was a well-known singer, as was my brother Bob, and were very, very active with the choir in St. Peter's parish. My dad was also involved with a group called L'Orphéon, which is a very well-known musical group here in the Lewiston-Auburn area. Certainly in those days they were quite famous.

AL: What were their political and social attitudes?

LG: Ten years old, it's pretty hard to assess. But I suspect that in terms of political they were certainly pro-Democratic. And in terms of social, again, it's hard to tell. It's just a brief reflection on my part.

AL: Were politics ever discussed at the dinner table?

LG: I'd say very rarely. I mean, it wasn't a big issue.

AL: How did your family affect you as you grew up, with your, most of the siblings being older? Did they guide you, or?

LG: Well, certainly being one of the youngest, I was the youngest for the better part of seven years and my very brief recollection of that is I was obviously the favored child. The older brothers and sisters always cared for me and looked after me, so from that point of view I was certainly favored. You know, after my dad died, obviously it was a similar relationship where the older members of the family sort of looked out after you. There was a fundamental belief within the family that all of us would complete at least elementary school, and high school if at all possible, and most of us did.

AL: What were some of the other influences besides your family on you when you were

growing up?

LG: The neighborhood. Clearly we lived in a typical Franco-American neighborhood where, when I grew up, everybody fundamentally spoke French. A lot of large families in my neighborhood; families of six, eight, ten were quite common on Blake Street back in the 1940s and '50s. Fundamentally most of them were of the Roman Catholic faith. Most of us went to parochial schools, particularly St. Peter's School. Our aspiration was to continue and go to St. Dom's. And the neighborhood was relatively a very good neighborhood; people who were hard workers, people who fundamentally were mill workers. People would walk to work every day and they gave a good day's work. If they didn't work in the mill, they worked in a shoe shop in the twin cities. It was just a good, honest neighborhood.

AL: When you were a boy, what did you think your future would be?

LG: Frankly, I think, with my neighborhood friends we, as we walked to either St. Peter's School and subsequently St. Dom's almost on a daily basis. Aspirations were that following high school graduation we'd probably enlist in the military and maybe make a career of the military. If not, go from the military to some federal agency such as, you know, it was either CIA or FBI. I mean, those were my, my fundamental beliefs, and some of my colleagues', where we were headed.

AL: Now, you said you did your elementary education at St. Peter's and you did go on to St. Dom's as well. What were your experiences like in school?

LG: They were very good. I was a good student, certainly always within the ten top in the class. In high school I was always probably the fourth or fifth in terms of grades and scoring. It was, I had good friends, good colleagues. It was a good experience for me. I-, school was not a problem at all; I sort of liked school. But again, we grew in a family where college aspiration was pretty much non-existent; there weren't too many kids on Blake Street that aspired to go to college. It just wasn't part of the ritual, in part because most of the families there did not have the resources to send their kids to college. And the few that did probably did so on their own, either following military service where they used military G.I. assistance or things of that nature, to pursue a college education. Other than that, people were pretty much self-made individuals. They graduated from high school, went to work, and put their heart and soul in it and aspired to make out.

AL: Were you allowed to speak French in school?

LG: Oh, absolutely, St. Dom's and St. Peter's. As a matter of fact, St. Peter's School was the first, my recollection is when you started elementary school, from kindergarten on through the fifth grade were taught by the Dominican nuns. And all the courses were in French, with the exception of an English course, so it was traditional in those days. And when you went to sixth grade, the teaching was done by the Brothers of Sacred Heart, and then there was a significant reversal. Everything was in English except for your French period. And for some of us it was a struggle because your daily language both in the neighborhood at home and in school up through ten, eleven years old was fundamentally French. And, you know, you did your best you could in

English, but that came much later.

AL: What did you do after high school?

LG: Well, during high school to start with in terms of work, I worked from my freshman year on at the *Lewiston Sun-Journal* in the circulation department in the afternoon. And so right after high school was going down to the *Sun-Journal* on Park Street and go to work. And usually right after work around three-thirty or thereabouts, when all the papers were gone for the day, used to walk to the corner of Walnut and Bartlett Street and wait for my *Sun-Journal* route bag to come around. And then I would deliver the newspapers from the Walnut Street - Court Street area down to Birch Street. I had about ninety-four customers. It was pretty much standard. And I did that through, throughout high school. My senior year of high school, the *Sun-Journal* asked if I would also fill in on the *Sun* crew; in those days the paper really had two publications, the *Sun* in the morning and the *Journal* in the afternoon. So I started working in the circulation department in the morning from one to roughly four, four-thirty in the morning and then went to school.

And right after graduation they offered me a full-time position. [I] continued to work in the circulation department and became a proof reader, print tender. In those days we used to get, when I first started it was the original wire photo service where you actually had a machine with a positive and negative film and you actually received it electronically and had to develop the film. Then there was a big innovation to go in to a, I believe they call it a telefax machine. It was a chemical paper that received the message in black and white and it was a print. And it was a big innovation for the paper and they could actually use that to make graphic plates for the newspaper. And I, when I wasn't doing that, I was doing proofreading for the *Sun*. That's what I did immediately after high school.

And then I was asked to go work at the *Sun*, at Victor News, which was in those days right across the street from the post office on Ash Street; it's really right across the street from here. And that was really the hub of activity. That was before the 7-Elevens and the Christys and those twenty-four-hour-a-day operations. The uh, Victor News was, in those days, and I was reminded recently when I went to Victor News on Park Street that it still is the hub of activities. We used to open up around five-thirty in the morning. We had customers waiting at the door to come in and grab their newspaper and their smoke for the day. And I believe we closed around ten o'clock at night and oftentimes had to ask customers to leave. And being right across from the post office was a very convenient stopover. [They would] pick up their mail at the post office, do whatever they had to do there, and then cross the street, come get their smokes and newspapers or the reverse process. But, there was a steady stream of customers all day long and we were very, very busy.

AL: Did you ever consider working in the mills, or were the mill jobs disappearing when you graduated from high school?

LG: No, they were still quite active. But there was a fundamental issue in this community. Being at least part of the second generation in this community it was pretty much a given in the neighborhood, in the family, that the last place you wanted to go work was in the mill or in a

shoe shop. That they had been historically known as sweatshops, and that after a life-long of service, you had little to show for it.

In my particular family, all four grandparents worked in excess of fifty years apiece in the Edwards Division up in Augusta, which was owned by Bates Manufacturing in those days. I think between all the four grandparents they worked something like two hundred and eight, or two hundred and nine years in, at the Edwards Division. And of course my dad worked in the mill. My older brother worked in the mill, in fact retired after forty-seven years.

And the fact of the matter is that in those days they retired fundamentally under Social Security. There was no pension system and no reward system. And if they had been there fifty years they got a gold watch. And that was a lifetime aspiration, as you well know, in those years. And when you go back forty, fifty years ago, those were difficult jobs. I mean, they were not comfortable jobs, it was, uh, always very, very hot, very dusty. It was hard work. And these people were expected to give their all in their eight-hour shift. And the mills in those days still operated three shifts a day, in some cases seven days a week, or at least six days a week.

So, no, within the family circles, within the neighborhood, that was pretty much the last place you'd want to work. I mean, the (*unintelligible word*) was, you know, go to high school, get your high school diploma and go find a good job. And a good job was not defined as the mill or the shoe shops, though many obviously wound up there because back in the sixties and in the seventies, in some cases, they were the only real good jobs left, in a relative sense. Mine was always, my aspiration was always in some fashion to be in a civil service-type environment.

AL: Going back to your work at Victor News, who were some of the people you met while working there?

LG: Everybody. It was the hub of activity. I mean, I, all your city officials, city hall being right around the corner, would drop by, and the postal workers, the medical profession, the lawyers; and your blue collar workers who, particularly those who smoked a lot. I mean, it was a daily trek to Victor News to do that, to go buy their smokes and magazines and newspapers. And obviously we had a significant display of cards in those days. And in those days it was pretty much a franchise operation so if you wanted, I can't remember the name of the line now, but the card line we had was exclusive at Victor News. And likewise with the candy line. My recollection of Russell Stover, in those days once they made a commitment to a store in a given neighborhood, you were the exclusive. I mean, today all that's changed. I mean, you can get Hallmark cards and Russell Stover candy in just about any outlet in the twin cities, including Shaws and the Shop 'n Save, so that the character of those stores have changed significantly.

AL: Phil St. Pierre was the owner of Victor News, is that correct?

LG: When I went to work at Victor News, Phil St. Pierre, Senior, which is, there's a Phil St. Pierre that currently runs the store, he was just knee-high, he was just a toddler in those days. Senior was his grandfather, and he was working in the store along with his son, Phil St. Pierre, Junior, who is Phil St. Pierre's dad, that currently owns the store. So I worked with basically I'm going to say three generations of St. Pierre at Victor News the brief period I was there. The

grandfather, the dad, at least one of his sons worked in the store while I was there.

AL: I'm probably asking about the grandfather. What was his influence on you and in the city, being the hub of activity?

LG: When I worked there, Phil St. Pierre Senior was, to the best of my knowledge, not very active in the community. At least I don't recall that he was. He was, I believe he may have involved with People's Bank in those days, not People's Heritage, but the original People's Bank. But outside of that I don't know that he was very active in the community. He was working at the store in those days I believe it was part-time, he was along in age. He was just a very nice gentleman, very well-respected and a good businessman.

AL: Was it his son who ran the business?

LG: His son pretty much ran the business, Phil St. Pierre, Jr.

AL: Was he involved in the community affairs?

LG: Not very much. Running a variety store in those days, there were very long hours. It was a seven-day operation, the only day we closed was Christmas day for half a day. Other than that we were open three hundred and, actually three hundred and sixty-five days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, including half day on Christmas. And there were long hours, and the owner was sort of always in the store except for brief breaks. Phil, Jr. was also involved I believe with People's Bank as, on one of their committees. I'm not quite sure if they had a board of directors then, but I know he was very active. His son, not his son, his brother, Gene, at one time was president of the bank as well. He was just a fine, hard-working gentleman, very fair, very honest, forthright, good influence in terms of work ethics. He put in his day's work like everybody else; he expected everybody else to do likewise. Service to customers was always a prime consideration, that you always catered to the customer, the customer was the king in the store, and rightly so. I mean, it was a small retail establishment and you needed to be nice to all your customer base if you wanted to maintain your margins. Very nice gentleman.

AL: How long did you work there?

LG: Surprising enough, not very long. From roughly 1961 to 1963, I'm going to say about two and a half years, maybe max three years. And that's when I left to go work for the City of Lewiston.

AL: How did you become involved with the municipal government?

LG: That again goes back to my high school years. At one time I aspired to be a police officer and, but I was not a very big guy. Still by my standard not very big, overweight but not big. Traditionally in those days, a police officer tended to be five ten, six foot, six-foot-two. They were big guys who could sort of carry their own weight. Small individuals of five-foot-eight were the small guys in the department, and I was five-six, so it's a little below standards. I probably weighed a hundred and forty pounds soaking wet. Things have changed a little bit.

But during high school I got involved with the police reserve program in Lewiston. And while involved with that program, which was really managed by the Civil Defense organization which was still very active, as sort of as the, it was sort of dual purpose. It was really the auxiliary police officer for LPD, but it was also a adjunct to the community civil defense program, that provided some funding to the organization to help promote it. While engaged in that process, I became familiar and quite friendly with the director of the program. And little by little I was asked, well, volunteered and then asked, to assume administrative responsibility within the Civil Defense organization. And with the change of directorship I sort of picked up a little more responsibility. And it eventually got to a point where I was doing a lot of paperwork for Civil Defense. We had a small office in City Hall that was used part-time to support the organization. And Civil Defense was a primary organization to help get federal grants for public safety equipment, particularly communications equipment.

I'm outdating myself today. When you think of communications you think of satellites and it's hard to understand that in those days, the police department was using two-way radios. It was at best a little bit better than CBs, citizen band radios, I mean, and they were not very sophisticated; the wattage output was very small. So every time technology came around with better two-way communications equipment, there was always an emphasis to get on board. And the Civil Defense organization federally, at the federal level, provided grants to public safety organizations to upgrade their equipment, and it had to go through a Civil Defense organization to qualify.

So that I got involved in, with working with our counterparts at the Androscoggin County Civil Defense organization preparing federal applications for two-way communications, both for the, well actually for the police department, fire department, and eventually for the public works operation. And those were pretty complicated grants program, as you would expect, dealing with the federal government. And it just got me in touch with a lot of municipal officials and, uh, particularly the controller's office was always happy to see when I brought in a new check for a payment on the radios and whatever equipment we purchased. So I got quite familiar with the city officials and that led to a new job being created in the controller's office. And it was pointed out to me, and I was encouraged to apply and I did. And in October of 1963 I was retained by the city as assistant, administrative assistant to the controller.

AL: And who was the controller at that time?

LG: In those days the controller was Laurier T. Raymond, Sr.

AL: How did the board of aldermen relate to the controller's office?

LG: Well, under the old charter, the so-called 1939 Charter, it's a very disjointed form of government, probably unique in the country. It's a mayor commission council form of government. And it really was a by-product of an old strong mayor-type form of government that existed prior to 1939 that resulted in a whole bunch of city officials being indicted, and some actually going to jail for misdeeds in government. A citizens' group by the name of Des Vigilantes, V-I-G-I-L-A-N-T-E-S I believe, maybe, Vigilants, no E, -T-S, organized and

prominent local people then went about to craft a new charter. And their mission was to come up with a transitional charter that would provide checks and balances at every level and therefore focused their energy on making sure that no one had absolute control over the affairs of government under a new charter. At least until such time as they came up with a new form.

So that charter was adopted in 1939, again as a by-product of trying to do a governmental cleansing process. And the mayor and council, the mayor was basically a, a ceremonial mayor with no vote on the city council, part-time official, chaired council meetings, only voted to break a tie. By structure, by discipline, was really what we would call a very weak mayor. But that doesn't address the issue, the power issue. Mayors in Lewiston tend to have a fairly strong powerful base and therefore could "wheel and deal" quite effectively. The, and the council was given basically the legislative powers only, it had nothing to do with day-to-day operations of government. It legislated things like ordinances, rules and regulations, adopted the budget upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, but could not deal with any personnel matters whatsoever within the budget context, which was reserved to the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee wound up being the power structure within the government. It was a commission chaired by the mayor, the presiding mayor, and a five-member board in those days, each appointed for a staggered term so that. . . . And they also had a partisan issue that a majority of the party who elected the last governor had the majority seats on the board, so with a five-member board traditionally you had to have at least three Democrats and two Republicans, as a rule. And the Finance Committee really wound up being the power structure because the Finance Committee controlled all the finances across department line. And as you would expect, if you control the purse string, you control the organization. And then the various boards and commissions heading each of the departments, (the police department, the fire department, Board of Health and Welfare, library trustees, Board of Public Works) fundamentally had autonomous responsibility in running the affairs of those departments but did not have any control over personnel or finances, so that they were linked to the Finance Committee. And as you can see from the structure, the Finance Committee was the powerhouse within the government. And as a result, the Finance Committee turned out to be a little bit of a, well, the committee always had difficulty dealing with relationships with the mayor and council, because the council always accused the Finance Committee of not giving the resources to do the work. And the Finance Committee in return never trusted the City Council to have a lot of money because they felt that it would not use it wisely. So there was always this contention, ying-yang, going on between the Finance Committee and the City Council, and in some cases between the boards and commissions as well for the same reason. It was a very unique form of government, so that the relationship between the City Council and the controller was strained to say the least. I know there appeared, my early years in city government, with the city council in executive session to discuss even budgetary issues and matters that today would not be permitted under the Right To Know Law, and the right to go to executive session. The controller and the assistant, even though we were internally involved with the finances and keeping all the numbers on the budget, we were often times told not to participate in the closed-door sessions, it was none of our business. And at times in those days, you had a railing between the public and the city council and even though we were city staff, again keeping the tab on all the numbers, we were told to sit on the other side of the railing with the public, that we were not part of the City Council.

So there was always a, again, a certain amount of contention and friction between the mayor/council and the controller's office because they saw the controller's office as an agent of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee was not their favorite committee. And therefore we were sort of excised in the process. Over time, I mean, you'd always work on these relationships to try and get, you know, a better working relationship with mayor and City Council. But at times it, the best efforts produced very little tangible result. Other times it was okay.

AL: How do you think that unique form of government here in Lewiston affected economic development? Or did it?

LG: Well, my sense, (and again, you know, I'm trying to go back now thirty-five years or more), my sense is that city government was sort of involved in economic development, that economic development was not a very strong municipal discipline in those days. There were a lot of other issues that government was involved in and economic development was a very, very small piece of that. It wasn't until, I believe and I could be wrong, maybe the early fifties, or mid-fifties, before the city eventually hired an economic development person on board. And that was really on the onset of some of the shoe shops starting to close and the impact from foreign imports, as well as the mills starting to close.

And this community's prosperity as we'd seen it in the post-World War period, where Lewiston-Auburn was still a fairly booming community during those years, we started to see significant economic change. And so the issue of economic development sort of bubbled up here as a need to address some of the trends. But even economic development as a science in those days was a fairly new science, and it was what we referred to as the first phase of economic development which was "smokestack chasing". So you generally hired an economic development guy to promote the twin cities, but you literally go and see, and hope to find a giant out there who would relocate to the twin cities and create lots of jobs. And that was the trend in those days. And as you well know, you know, at best that was trying to find a needle in a haystack, you know. So it was a dismal science. I mean, the successes were far and few in between. And even small successes became, you know, celebrated a great deal because, you know, they were far and few in between, and anything you could get was great.

It wasn't until the mid-fifties where a non-profit development group was organized called Lewiston Development Corporation, and they started thinking seriously about alternatives to economic development. And they went from the "smokestack chasing" to starting to prepare an infrastructure for economic development. And that brought about, at least the first venture they undertook was I believe buying land after they had successfully attracted Geiger Bros. to the twin cities; that I believe was their first venture back in 1954. And then they used some of their excess money they were able to raise through a debenture fund raising program to buy land in what is now called the Lewiston Industrial Park. But there was a long lull period there with very little activities being done. The Development Corporation didn't have any money. The city government funded an Office of Economic Development but it was basically still a 'smokestack chasing" type program of trying to find this big giant from elsewhere to bring to the community. There were some marginal successes, but it was at best marginal. The science of economic development has changed significantly since those days.

AL: I was hoping you might be able to give me your perspective on people I have names of, and whether they were important business-wise also. The first name I have is Faust Couture. Could you tell me who he was?

LG: Yeah, Faust Couture was, very frankly I met the gentleman in my early years in government when he still owned WCOU, which is a radio station in down town Lewiston. I did not know him very well. My sense was that, on, being purely in a peripheral, what was going on in the political arena, that he was an influential business person, his opinion was well-respected within the business community. But I had no personal dealings with him and he was, as I said, I think he was an important figure but I can't really tell you much more about him. Owning a radio station obviously was a significant issue. I mean, the ability to go on the air every single day is significant itself. He was an important figure.

AL: Do you have the names of some people who were prominent business leaders at the time when you started in municipal government?

LG: Prominent business leaders, oh, yeah, plenty of them. On the tail end, I mean, if you go back historically, people at least in the forties who were very instrumental in change was a munic-, I believe he was a municipal court judge, Despin, D-E-S-P-I-N, [*sic*] [Fernand] was very instrumental in spearheading the change in the new charter and bringing back integrity in government, a Franco-American. Then there was another individual who ran, who had a program on WCOU every Sunday noon called "L'Oeil est son Auteur." You probably understand that quite well in French, but translated would be that, "What I see is what I report." And his name was Jean Louis-Philippe Gagne. He was an individual who was quite in-tune with what was going on in government and had the ability to infiltrate, if you want, various groups within the governmental structure and sort of get a sense of what was going on behind the scenes. And [he] would use the program to literally expose some of these goings-on in terms of why certain officials acted what they did, or if they were proper or improper acts and so on. I remember distinctly sort of a long-standing tradition in my family that we always had the Sunday noon family meal which was, it was around a table. But it, if I'm correct, at twelve or twelve-fifteen my dad would have his radio on on Jean Louis-Philippe Gagne, "L'Œil est son d'Auteur", and it was all in French. And we had to listen to that religiously, I mean that was like The Thing. I mean, this is where you get the scoop, so to speak. So he was quite an influential figure in terms of politics, predates me to some extent, but was still around back in '63 and I don't recall exactly when he retired.

And I don't remember who owned the French newspaper, *Le Messager*. That was still ongoing back in '63, and when I started in government it was being run by a former state senator, Romeo Boisvert, who was then the chief editor I guess of *Le Messager*. But the *Messager* also had a significant influence within the Franco-American community in terms of reporting news, but general political news as well. I believe Jean Louis-Philippe Gagne may have also worked at the paper in his earlier years, and even as late as in the sixties. So Despin, Longchamps, Louis-Philippe Gagne, were people that comes to mind. There were lots of other community people who were active in government. Guys like Roland Marcotte, for example, who is still around, retired; owned a car dealership in those days, was mayor, very active. Old standard guards, like

Bill Jacques was very active in government in those days and still around, were people who were intimate. And in those days you had a very strong Democratic organization in the community with ward groups and ward bosses and it was still a very active political process.

And, I'd have to go back to my history book, but the other people that were around the table when I started in government back in the sixties, I believe Donat Bouvier, [*sic*] [Donat J. Levesque] not Bouvier, Donat, oh, what was his last name? Hmm, can't remember; he was mayor anyway. Phil Isaacson who is still around, and Isaacson Raymond was on the board at that time. People like Kit Bosse, who is retired now but he owned a dental lab on Lisbon Street, who was still very much active in government in those days. Bob Roy was just coming on the scene, Bob Roy, Sr. who owns Steven's Service Center was just coming on the scene, active in government. And there were lots of other people at various boards and commissions. I mean, it's fairly easy, you just take a municipal book and go through various boards and committees. But those are the names that sort of jump out at me that were very active.

AL: Okay. Let's pause right here for just a moment.

End of Side One, Tape One

Side Two, Tape One

AL: . . .[This is side two] of the interview with Lucien Gosselin on March 29th, 1999. Mr. Gosselin, there were a few other names that, if you could speak about, the first one being Bill Rocheleau?

LG: Well, Bill Rocheleau I did not know very well until he decided to, I believe was appointed on a board in the Lewiston city government and subsequently decided to. . . . No, I'm sorry, it was not a board. He was appointed city attorney by then Robert Couturier, who was then mayor of Lewiston, back in the mid-sixties. It was following his tenure as city attorney under Bob Couturier he decided to run for mayor. Bill was just a dynamic individual, probably who at, one that I attribute in terms of making the greatest degree of progress in Lewiston during his tenure. Bill was the kind of mayor that you'd really have to hold on to the reins and try to get him to slow down a little bit, as opposed to some other mayors you sort of had to push along and stimulate to get things done. Bill was just the reverse. I mean, Bill was always ahead of the pack and contributed so much to the growth and development of these twin cities, and particularly Lewiston-Auburn, I'm sorry, particularly Lewiston, during his tenure as mayor. Very down-to-earth individual and had some very strong colleagues that he brought in government that made him very, very effective.

AL: How about Louis Jalbert?

LG: Well, Louis Jalbert, everybody knows. Louis, from one of the first days I worked in local government, Louis' name popped up. He was a remarkable individual and I think he used to get up at, he had to get up at four o'clock in the morning and get ready. I think he would read the newspaper and then get on the phone and all the good things that are happening in this community, he would call individual and let them know that he contributed to that, including

when I was officially hired by the Finance Committee. I think the first call I got that morning at home, at seven o'clock in the morning or thereabouts, is a call from Louis congratulating me and letting me know that he was instrumental in getting me the job. And I don't think in those days I'd ever met Louis, but neither here nor there; he was that kind of person.

And I've heard stories of that being repeated over and over again. In particular, I know that my former boss, Laurier Raymond, Sr. had a great relationship with Louis in terms of his role in the legislature. We all know Louis is, for a long time served as a dean, dean of the House, I think he served almost forty years. He had a very, very, very strong union following in his community. [There is] no doubt in my mind that the fire fighters and the police union and the public works union would put Louis up on a pedestal. He certainly was very, very supportive of the labor movement and supportive of labor unions. As a result, and I do know that Louis was a great friend of Ed Muskie, and I'm sure Ed could always depend on Louis to deliver Lewiston-Auburn, certainly Lewiston as a Democratic stronghold during his election.

So Louis was a very, very powerful figure in the State House, vis-a-vis activities in Lewiston. If Louis was on your side, you had the upper edge. If he was against you, you knew it was an uphill battle. And so Louis was a very, very significant figure during his years in the state legislature. Surprisingly enough, though, from 1963 when I started in city government, through Louis passing away, he really never had a, at least from my sense, never really had a stronghold in local government. I mean, he knew a lot of local people and he obviously communicated with lots of them. But in terms of holding, he never held a local position in local government, never served, to the best of my knowledge, never served on a board or commission, never ran for local elected office. I mean, he was always a figure outside governmental structure but very much political, very much a state perspective, had a very strong following.

AL: Was there a sense that at some point when he was very strong politically and still active, that there was factions within the community, the Democratic Party, regarding, some people strongly supporting Mr. Jalbert and then there being another faction? Was there a split in the party?

LG: I know that's hard to believe, but I never really actively got involved in the political element during my tenure in city government. I was quite neutral on those issues. But clearly there were people in this community who loved Louis, and there were people in this community who, I won't say hated him but certainly had a different opinion of Louis. But you also have to remember, under the old elective process, you used to elect a state representative based on a block, and if Lewiston had six state representatives going to Augusta, the top six vote-getters in the community held the elective office. It wasn't done on a one man-one vote process, and for many, many, many years Louis was always at the, leading the pack in terms of vote-getter, on a statewide basis. So it was a very, it's very difficult to figure out whether or not there was any faction because he always got a very strong vote. So, in those days it was a different process; when they changed the process of one man-one vote, Louis still did well, but surprisingly enough at that point oftentimes was not the top vote-getter in the community, but still got elected in his district. And of course the biggest defeat of all was when John Aliberti ran against him and won, and, I mean, that was like, you know, a big upset.

AL: I've never heard about that. Could you tell me?

LG: Well, it's very simple. I mean, I mean, when it was a one man-one vote, you see, before under the, the block vote everybody ran for the seat and the six top vote-getters would get elected. So it wasn't really one person running against another, it was everybody running for the seat. So you didn't have the dichotomy you have in one man-one vote concept. When that system changed, Louis I believe had a number of people run against him but he would really, you know, win by an overwhelming margin. But over time his margin kept shrinking. And eventually John Aliberti, who's a retired school official, a school principal and been in the school system for a good thirty-five years at least, after he retired decided that he would run against Louis in his district and surprisingly enough beat Louis. And it was a major upset. And John Aliberti then served several years in the House and then Louis' health started failing and, you know, Louis eventually passed away. But, yeah, for John Aliberti to win against Louis is quite significant. And you might note that, not that it's a big issue, but it wasn't a Franco-American, it was, John was a, I believe a, clearly an Italian.

AL: About what year was that?

LG: I am going to say probably '84. I'm guessing because I know Louis was still there when we were working on establishing Lewiston-Auburn College and that was around '81, '82. So I'm going to guess Louis probably lost either in '84 or in '86 to John Aliberti.

AL: Tell me about Hal Gosselin.

LG: Well Hal's a, as you know just passed away, Hal and I go back many years. When I first started in city government back in '63, Hal was a member of the Lewiston Police Commission and served on a number of boards and committees. I also worked, when I was assistant to the controller, we did a major study to justify the economics of building Lewiston High School, and I believe Hal chaired that committee. So we worked with Hal a number of years. In those days Hal was a very powerful individual. He was a CEO at Bates Fabrics, and the mills were still going strong in those days so Hal was a very well-respected business leader. He was also very, very active in the political process. He was a Republican. He was very, very strong in terms of stating his opinion on local issues and if incited enough or excited enough did what he had to do to change the course of event from his point of view.

Hal goes back to 1951 when the then-controller was arrested and sent to jail for embezzlement. Hal at that time had just, I believe, returned from the military where he had, during the Korean War I believe, and was working for the *Sun-Journal* as a newspaper reporter covering the Lewiston beat. After the dismissal of the controller, Hal I guess had developed a very good reputation in the community and was appointed city controller and served in that capacity I believe for maybe six to nine months, which is the same position I held, but starting 1979, I'm sorry, 1969. But Hal served for about six to nine months as city controller. Then he was recruited to go to Bates Fabrics as an assistant to the president and eventually became the chief operating officer, which is the executive office at Bates Fabric.

Hal always very, very, stayed very close to local government. I would not, I don't know his

involvement with Ed Muskie, only because I do know that he was an absolute staunch supporter of Margaret Chase Smith, who was obviously a contemporary of Ed Muskie. I am sure Hal had the greatest respect for Ed, but again as I pointed out, I mean, he was clearly in Margaret Chase Smith's camp, a very loyal supporter of Margaret Chase Smith. Hal has always been a strong influence in local government, not only during the time he worked at Bates Fabric, or Bates Manufacturing, it's had so many names now. And when he left there he went, he was a mediator for a while, or an arbitrator, and subsequently went to work full-time at Central Maine Medical Center. And, until his retirement, Hal was always very, very, very strong in local politics and was one of the chief lieutenants to Jim Longley's race for the governorship of Maine. Hal was certainly on the inner circles along with a few other community people here. His son Paul is the attorney down on Lisbon Street.

AL: How about Al Cote?

LG: Well, Al Cote is a great gentleman, a true American in every respect. I knew Al many, many years ago when he was active in the social clubs, particularly Les Montagnards, which is a snowshoe club. Very, very strong local politician, very strong following. Al served a number of years in the House and of course Al was known for his sheer size, he tipped the scale a little bit. In his early youthful years, Al would run, would get involved in many food-eating contests and would always come out the winner, which supports the fact that he was not a small person. But [he was] a great person, a very lovable kind of gentleman who was always, always a gentleman in terms of his relationship in the House, had many dealings. And you could always go to Al and state your case and Al would always be the kind of person that would think it through and, you know, if your position made sense would support you.

Al ran for City Council while I was city administrator, and was a great gentleman, a very, very dedicated public servant, cared for his ward, cared for the community as a whole. He also worked I believe as a register of deeds, register of probate for Androscoggin county. He was always a public figure and always had a very, very strong following from rank and file blue collar workers, particularly labor unions, always worked very closely with Louis Jalbert, a very, very close friend of Louis and others. And I suspect he was a very, very close friend of Ed Muskie. I mean, he, you know, Al Cote spans two or three, at least three decades in politics, maybe more, and particularly during the years Ed Muskie served as governor and U.S. Senator. I suspect Al was a very close friend, on a first name basis, with Ed Muskie.

AL: How about John Orestis?

LG: Well, John Orestis is unique. He's more of my contemporary, though he's just a shade younger than I am. John Orestis comes from a well-known family here, the Orestis', of course Orestis. And Toni Orestis owned Marois Restaurant, his aunt. And I know his dad was an accountant, public accountant. John Orestis left the community, went to Georgetown, got his degree in law, came back and started a practice with Paul Cote. And, which is now Hammond, Cote and Hammond, but in those days Orestis was part of that. John immediately, he had politics in his blood and I suspect it had to do a little bit with the fact that he was a staff employee on Ed Muskie's staff in Washington while he was going to George Washington Law School. And I know he had a great deal of respect for Ed Muskie. John came back to Lewiston,

began his law practice. We were right in the midst of receiving a federal grant under the Model Cities program in the late '60s. John got involved in that capacity and was very active with the Model Cities program. He eventually became city attorney for the city of Lewiston, and then decided to run for office himself and got elected mayor of Lewiston.

And that's where I really got to know John the best because I was then city controller, and I traveled with John. And of course every time we went to Washington we had to stop in and see Ed Muskie and talk to the staff. So obviously I knew him on a first name basis, and I got to know Ed a little bit more from that perspective, though I can't say I really knew him well. But I obviously had a number of opportunities to be in Ed's presence over the years. And there's a little anecdote, which I'll share with you in a moment. But, you know, John, John was just a great figure, developed to be a very strong political type, still is, very active in fund-raising for the Democratic Party, very much aligned with the likes of Severin Beliveau and others, Pachios and others who are very strong Democratic proponents. And John was a great mayor for Lewiston; he was very, very active. He really moved the city into the grantmanships age, where federal grants, federal programs were plentiful. John immediately got a leadership position with the National League of Cities in Washington, on the board of directors, so it took him there quite a bit. And John was able to leverage folks like Ed Muskie to deliver for us.

A little anecdote dealing with Ed: just before, shortly after he had been appointed, well, while he was serving as Secretary of State and just before the end of his term as Secretary of State, we were in Washington. There were two events, sort of anecdotes. One is that we'd stopped in at Ed Muskie's office and I can't remember if it was at the same meeting or different meetings, but we'd stopped at Ed Muskie's office and John was chatting with Ed. And it turned out that that very night they were holding a reception for George Mitchell, who was then running against Jim Longley for governor. And, so it had to be a different meeting, because he was still a state senator, United States senator. So we got invited to this reception and lo and behold, it was a major fund-raising session for George Mitchell in Washington, friends of Ed Muskie, and so we got to the door and obviously they were taking contributions. And so I, and I, up to that point, in all of my public life as a public official I'd never contributed to any political campaign. So I obviously felt embarrassed, and John made a small contribution and I really didn't feel like I was going to crash the gate, being invited by Ed Muskie. So I decided, I believe, to make a twenty-five or fifty dollar contribu-, maybe it was a twenty-five dollar contribution, it wasn't very much money, for George Mitchell.

And we went to the reception. It was just a fund-raiser, cocktails and the whole get-. And there were a few local people here who were there for the occasion, Roland Landry in particular who was then a member of the county commission. And Roland's another person you ought to really interview; he's still around. Roland obviously was a, obviously a good friend and good supporter of Ed Muskie, and a few other people. And it just tangentially happened to be the annual meeting of the National County Commissioner's Association in Washington, D.C., so there were county commissioners there, Roland being one of them. So there was a few folks we saw from Maine, obviously George Mitchell included, and Bill Hathaway and others. So that, we did our thing, and as you know, history tells us that Jim Longley got elected governor.

Well, tangentially I was at that time chairman of Maine Municipal Bond Bank and my term was

coming up. So to some extent I probably viewed it as a shoo-in, coming from Lewiston and serving in the Bond Bank, that the governor would certainly renominate me for another term on the Bond Bank. And I had lots of support from all the professionals in the industry, particularly from Wall Street and others, and the governor simply would not renominate me. And I stayed on the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for almost nine months as unappointed, or if you want, just continuing until a replacement is appointed. That's the way the statute reads, you continue in office until a replacement is appointed. Well, the bond council were getting a little bit edgy about this stuff because one of the disclosures they have to make in the offering statement is to clearly indicate that all commissioners of the Bond Bank have been duly appointed and qualified for the office. And, you know, how do you deal with an issue of a chairman of the board who's been on, you know, an extended term without reappointment, even though the statutes were correct?

So they kept pressing that, "Jeez, why don't you get the governor to formally nominate you so you can clear this hurdle?" So we started putting a little pressure on the governor's office to do something. Well, the feedback I got was very simple, from, as a matter of fact it came from Hal Gosselin, who was a close friend. And Hal called me up and he says, "Look, you know, you keep calling the governor's office to see what he's going to do about your appointment." He says, "It's very simple, the governor's not going to reappointment you. You can serve as long as you want, but he's not going to reappoint you, but, you know, if you're uncomfortable with that, you know, let us know and we'll appoint someone else, but the governor won't reappoint you." And I said, "Well why? What'd I do to the governor?" I mean I, I realized, you know, I mean, I didn't do anything to the governor. "Oh," he says, "oh yeah, you did," he says, "you know we've got your name as a contributor for George Mitchell, and you went to Washington such and such a date, and you contributed to George Mitchell, his campaign. He was running against Jim Longley. So, you know, you're either with us or you're not, and obviously you're not, and therefore the governor will not confirm, will not simply nominate you to another term. It's as simple as that." So that's one anecdote about how Ed Muskie got me in deep doo-doo from that point of view.

But so be it, that's the world of politics. I've reminded George Mitchell several times about what that twenty-five dollars cost me. Not that it was a big issue; it was a prestigious issue. It was just the idea of, you know, liking the work I was doing at the Bond Bank. I was chair of the bank and they certainly wanted me to stay and I wanted to stay. But the opportunity didn't present itself for a twenty-five dollar contribution to George Mitchell.

Now, in event, the other anecdote really has to do, is a very positive one. Just as Ed Muskie was stepping down as Jimmy Carter's term was ending, and during the Iran-Contra affair, we were in Washington again with John Orestis on another occasion. And John called Ed's secretary or AA, Gayle [Cory], and I can't remember her last name, for a tour of the State Department because we'd never been to the State Department and we wanted to stop in to see Ed. Well, unfortunately we were not able to see Ed. He was, he was there but he was involved in negotiation with this Iran-Contra affair. And, but Gayle gave us a complete tour of the State Department, which I found to be very exciting, I mean, compared to the White House it's superb. And we had a chance to literally walk through Ed's office as Secretary of State, and she explained all the doodads that were there and etcetera. And it was quite an experience, one that

I'll always remember. But unfortunately, we saw Ed that morning very, very briefly as he stepped out of the room and we said, "Hi," but he just moved along to some other engagement; obviously he had a lot on his mind. But that was another very positive engagement with Ed Muskie as Secretary of State, so, kind of fun stuff.

AL: Tell me a little about Estelle Lavoie.

LG: Well, Estelle is, again, much younger; Estelle is a local individual who went to local schools. I know the family quite well. Her mother for years worked at the Fleet Bank here downstairs, and now married to Dom Tardiff, her second marriage. Estelle was also a cousin of a good friend of mine who was personnel director at city of Lewiston. Whenever we went to Washington, after, well, after Estelle went to Washington for Ed Muskie, whenever we went to Washington we always called in on Muskie. And whenever the occasion presented itself we'd take Estelle out and she'd brief us on things. And whenever we needed support, particularly endorsement for federal grants and aid, always best to call Ed Muskie, well, call Estelle and with Estelle we'd obviously have a direct input with Ed. Great individual, worked briefly for Ed Muskie and then subsequently George Mitchell, then decided to go to law school while she was in Washington, D.C. and now works for Preti, Flaherty and Beliveau at the Portland office. Estelle has always been a close friend, particularly when she was in Washington. We could always count on her support. She would always make sure that through the auspices of Ed Muskie or George Mitchell that we'd get to the right people for the right buttons to push and get things done, and was very, very instrumental in particularly some of the big grants we got here in Lewiston. And I'm thinking Model Cities, I'm thinking of UDAG and things of that nature. Franco-American.

AL: Can you tell me what it meant to be a Democrat in the twin cities when you were growing up, and what does it mean today?

LG: That's an interesting question, never thought of it. In those days, very frankly, when I first enrolled as a voter, it was just a given: you enrolled as a Democrat. I mean, you lived in Lewiston. I still am; I've never changed my group. It was a, not only a philosophical issue, I mean you certainly endorsed the philosophy of the Democratic Party, but fundamentally being in Lewiston and being a Franco-American and being in, where virtually everyone around you is a Democrat. I don't know how many Republicans are around, I just knew a handful of them, because they had to pop up in boards and commissions on city government. In those days they had to have at least one or two on every board, so you knew a few of them. But they were the minority by any stretch; I mean, everybody around you was enrolled as a Democrat.

And so, being a Democrat was just the way of life. Today I'm not sure that's true. Today I'm not sure that, you know, the way you enroll necessarily reflects your political philosophy. And I think people today, and Maine has certainly demonstrated that over and over again, vote their conscience. Even though you may be labeled as a Democrat or as a Republican, or an unenrolled voter, people vote their conscience in Maine. And it's clear given the nature of the election results that if only unenrolled elected, they'd probably never get an Angus King or never get a Jim Longley in office. I think it's very different today. I don't think being a, labeled a Democrat or a Republican or an independent means as much as it did in those days. And I don't think

there's any adverse reaction that there might have been in those days if you're not "one of us". I think things are, times have changed significantly in that regard. I would not, and I don't think the community as a whole would look differently at a person who would choose to be unenrolled or choose to enroll as a Republican or a Democrat. I think people in Maine simply accept the fact that regardless what label you have, when you go to the polls you vote your conscience.

I'm not sure what that says in terms of primaries. I know that's an issue with the primaries in Maine because only those who are enrolled in a party can vote in the primaries. The, and I don't know, I haven't given it much thought in terms of, you know, the need to change that. Though my sense would be that it probably ought to change because more and more people today choose to be unenrolled because they really are simply saying, "I'm going to go vote and I'll vote my conscience and I'll vote for the person I really believe can do the best job for the community, the state or the country." And maybe the primary issues are a little bit outdated.

AL: How much did you focus on politics at the state and national level in the '60s and '70s?

LG: If you're looking at politics with a big "P," none. I was never, as I said, in all of my career in public administration, at least twenty-seven years with the city of Lewiston, never actively got involved in any of the political affiliations, even though I was enrolled as a Democrat. I never got involved in local politics, never took positions on city council seats with mayor seats, members running for the House and Senate at the state or national level. I was always basically trying to keep neutral ground. Since I've left local government, I've gotten a little bit more actively involved. You develop life-long friends, so I certainly got involved tangentially supporting John Menario when he made his bid for governor. John and I are contemporaries in public administration. He was former finance director in Portland, I was controller in Lewiston; he was city manager in Portland when I was chief executive officer in Lewiston. We've known each other for a long time. When he started to run for governor I felt that I wanted to support him, and did so in a very low-keyed way. When I worked for Maine Development Foundation, I was approached by Bob Woodbury on the same reason, Bob, good friend when he was president of the University of Southern Maine and chancellor. And when he decided to run for governor we chatted, he solicited my support, and I certainly said I would. And I also worked for Joe Brennan's election as well, because Joe was instrumental in helping us establish Lewiston-Auburn College here. And I sort of felt the obligation that he supported us when we needed him the most as governor, I certainly could do a little bit for him to. . . .

AL: Which election was that?

LG: The last election when he ran against Angus [*sic* Susan Collins].

AL: Ninety-six?

LG: Yeah. So after I left city government, I sort of tangentially got involved. That was, I made small contributions, which I never made while I was in office except for one. And to, you know, to the extent that I was able to participate in various meetings and forums on their behalf I did.

AL: You talked a little bit about some of the issues that brought you to Washington where you

had some contact with Ed Muskie and his office. What were your impressions of Senator Muskie and his influence on the state?

LG: Well, a little bit difficult for the state because that was not my focus in those days. I mean I, he, during my tenure as controller and chief executive officer, which spans a period of almost twenty-two years, we had at least one meeting a year hosted by the National League of Cities called the Congressional City Conference. And that meeting generally always included a meeting with the congressional delegation on Capitol Hill or their office, which was generally organized through Maine Municipal Association as an adjunct to the National League of Cities. So that every year we, obviously we'd go to Washington at least for that occasion. We'd get a briefing on what's before the new Congress, types of legislation coming forth, sort of get a sense of how much of that would help local government and state government. And in some cases they were clearly in sync. And then we'd always have an opportunity to meet either individually with our congressional people if we could set up a meeting, or we had a collective meeting organized by Maine Municipal Association where the four congressional people were invited to make a presentation.

My reflection on the plenary session with Maine Municipal was that whenever Ed Muskie came in, the rest of them just sat quietly and Ed took over the forum. If we had a half-hour or forty-five minutes or an hour with the congressional delegation, it would not be unusual that Ed would come in and once he was given the floor would virtually take the floor and few minutes were left for the rest of the delegation to add on. How do you follow Ed Muskie? I mean it's always, he was such a powerful, influential member of Congress in those days. That, you know, the Bill Hathaways would sit there and agree with Ed, and, I can't remember who the representatives were but, besides Bill. But he was such an outspoken individual even in the days of, the other side, Margaret Chase Smith.

So for years, I mean, for a number of years going to Washington, whenever Ed showed up, Ed pretty much monopolized the opportunity. And with Ed it was pretty much, hate to say it, but a one-way conversation. Ed would come in, he had so much knowledge, he'd just share the stuff, and by the time he was done there was no time for questioning anyway. So it turned out to be a one-way dialogue. But my experience in all my years I was in public administration, Ed was always, always supportive. I mean, if you needed his office, you needed his support, Ed would always be there for you.

AL: He was accessible?

LG: He was very accessible. And, you know, if there's any way, shape or manner that he could give you the time of day, he would be there. I don't recall too many occasions where we planned it to be with Ed, and I'm not saying just a drop-in now. But if you were going to Washington, you made an appointment ahead of time to see him, he was there. He was generally available and he may only give you fifteen minutes but he'd give you the time. There's one particular event about Ed that rings, that strikes a bell, and you might want to talk to a guy by the name of Paul Dionne who is, I believe Paul was the mayor in 1980, when he was elected mayor under the new city charter. I believe we had a tradition in those days that following the inaugural ceremony for mayor, we had a mayor's inaugural banquet which was held at Stekino's, which no

longer exists.

And my recollection is that the first year that Paul got elected, 1980, Ed Muskie was the keynote speaker. And right, wrong or indifferent, it was just about the time there were many issues, global issues in the Middle East going on. And, and of course these things, by the time you sat down at, dinner was like eight o'clock. And the place was jam-packed, and Ed was the keynote speaker following dinner. I think he spoke for two hours straight without stopping on international affairs and, with very little dealing with politics, and it went on and on and on and on. I think we left there at like quarter of eleven or something like that. It just never ended. Now, it may not have been two hours, may just seemed that way.

But all I do know is that he just got up there and just spoke on these international affairs; I guess he'd just come back from a foreign trip. It never ended. It never, never ended. And usually these affairs are jubilant kind of affairs. You have a keynote speaker, he goes up there and congratulates the city government and the new mayor and members of the city council that got recently elected, and new appointees to boards and commissions, and how great it is to be here. It was at least, it was well over an hour of international affairs that, you know, like, went right over everybody's head, including mine. But it was one recollection of Ed Muskie that comes to mind.

AL: I'm going to stop the tape here.

LG: Yeah.

End of Interview #1