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Hutchinson, Scott oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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Biographical Note

Scott Frederick Hutchinson was born in Gardiner, Maine on April 16, 1929 to Helen Frances and Scott Arthur Hutchinson. His mother was a homemaker, and his father was employed by New England Telephone Company, first as a line worker, and eventually as vice president. For four years during World War II, his father was sent overseas to set up communications lines. Hutchinson’s childhood was spent living in various communities throughout New England. After graduating from high school, he attended Northeastern University. After college he served in the Army during the Korean War. Coming back to Maine, Hutchinson began a career in banking. During Ken Curtis’ campaign for governor, he served as treasurer. He then served as treasurer for Ed Muskie’s Senatorial campaigns, Vice Presidential campaign, and as treasurer for the Maine Campaign in the Presidential race. He also served as George Mitchell’s treasurer.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Hutchinson family history; his involvement with Ken Curtis’ campaign for Governor; changing his party affiliation to Democrat; Muskie’s 1968 Vice Presidential campaign; Muskie’s Cape Elizabeth speech; Muskie’s Presidential campaign from 1969-1972; Manchester Union incident and its aftermath; 1972 Democratic National Convention
problems; Muskie’s reaction to rumors of a McGovern vice presidency in 1972; Jimmy Carter’s vice presidential selection; the impact of defeat on Ed Muskie; Muskie as Secretary of State; Muskie’s aggressiveness in supporting his convictions; banking in Maine as a Democrat; Ken Curtis and his family; comparison of Curtis, Mitchell, and Muskie; Maine Democratic Party; Dick McMahon; Charlie Landers; Gayle Corey; Gayle Corey setting up a meeting with the Pope; Muskie as a great communicator; and Muskie as a golfer.

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Andrea L’Hommedieu: . . . [This is an interview] with Scott Hutchinson on April 13, 1999 at the Key Bank Building in Portland, Maine, One Canal Plaza. Mr. Hutchinson, would you please state your full name and spell it?

Scott Hutchinson: Full name is Scott Frederick Hutchinson, Scott is S-C-O-T-T, Frederick is F-R-E-D-E-R-I-C-K, Hutchinson is H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N.

AL: And where and when were you born?

SH: I was born in Gardiner on April 16, 1929.

AL: And what community did you grow up in?

SH: I grew up in various communities. My father was with the telephone company and he was transferred about every two years, so I lived in Maine and Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and so forth when I was a child.

AL: I understand you have a family home in Litchfield that . . . Tell me a little bit about the family history of that home.

SH: Okay, the family, I own with my mother and father the family farm in Litchfield which has been part of our family history since 1780. It was originally built by a, I don’t know, a great-great something who was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Bunker Hill and was wounded. And, Maine being part of Massachusetts after the war, they didn’t have money enough to pay the troops. So they gave them an option: they could have land instead of hanging around, so he brought his family up there and settled on this farm. And it’s been part of our family ever since.

AL: Now what were your parents’ names?

SH: My father’s name was Scott Arthur Hutchinson and my mother’s name was Helen Frances Hutchinson.

AL: And did you have any siblings?

SH: I have four daughters, the oldest is Joanne and then there’s Lee, one that’s Jodie and the youngest is Laura. They’re all married. And I have thirteen grandchildren, all, eight is the oldest and the rest of them are all under the age of eight. So Christmas is quite an event.

AL: Now, in your family growing up what was your place in the family? Did you have brothers and sisters?
SH: I was the oldest of three brothers.

AL: Has anyone else besides yourself been politically involved?

SH: Probably not to the extent that I was. My father was a good Republican and made contributions I can remember, and attended some meetings once in a while. But I don’t remember him ever being involved as a part of a campaign in any capacity other than as a supporter.

AL: You say your father’s occupation was working for the telephone company?

SH: Yes, yeah.

AL: And your mother, did she stay home?

SH: Yes, she was a housewife.

AL: Now they were Republicans, both of them?

SH: Yes, the whole history of the family was basically Republican. I was the turncoat of the group, so to speak.

AL: And their religious beliefs?

SH: Protestant.

AL: Protestant. And in their community, did Protestantism predominate? Or what was the, what was the religious . . .?

SH: Well, we lived in various communities. I would say that it depended on what section of town you lived in, I think. There were certain sections of some communities that were highly Catholic and some were mostly Protestant.

AL: Were politics ever discussed at the dinner table?

SH: I don’t remember them in my younger days being discussed very much, no. There was, this was, when I was younger this was the beginning of the war in Europe which turned into the Second World War. So there was discussions more related to that, which would have been the lend-lease programs and things like that that I remember. I don’t remember politics as such, but Franklin Roosevelt was the President at that time, so obviously there was discussion about him. And I can remember there was some feeling that he shouldn’t run for a fourth term and things like that, but nothing, nothing very dramatic, no.

AL: What were your parents’ relationships with different groups in the communities you lived
in, such as ethnic and economic groups?

**SH:** I don’t think there was much in the way of ethnic groups. My father was always very active in the community, like he was the general manager for the state of Maine in the telephone company and he was involved in The United Way and the chairman of the YWCA campaign and, capital campaign, and a lot of activities like that, as a businessman would be.

**AL:** How do you feel that your family affected you as you grew up? Economic background, and . . .?

**SH:** Well we were, those were, you know, I was born in 1929. So when I was in the very young years, that was the so-called Depression era. My father started as a pole climber and ended up as the vice-president of the telephone, New England Telephone Company. So he worked his way up the ladder. But we always, he always had a job and so, although I don’t remember that we were particularly rich we certainly weren’t poor. We lived fairly well and things were, went along pretty well.

The, probably the most traumatic thing that happened was just prior to the war. Somebody realized that communications were going to be important if we ever did go to war, and so they went around and asked certain telephone men if they would accept a commission in the Army if the war came. And my father was one of those that said “Yes.” And so on December 7th, in January of the next year he was in the Army and sent down to Texas, Fort Sam Houston, and we moved down there thinking he was going to be there for a while. He wasn’t. He was sent over to the Pacific and was wounded and stayed over there about three years or so and was a lieutenant colonel and fought at places like Hollandia, New Guinea, Finschhafen, but, Biak Island, invasion of the Philippines, Leyte.

And that was quite an effect on the family because my mother was also stuck with three young boys in a foreign state, Texas, which we lived there until he got out of, until he came back from the Pacific. And then we moved back to, actually back to Massachusetts and reinstated in the telephone company. So that was an experience. That was about a four-year period when for all intents and purposes my father wasn’t around, which was during our, my father, was from the time when I was about twelve until I was sixteen. It was typical of a lot of families of that era.

**AL:** Yes. Do you feel that you’re very much like your parents in political attitudes or religious beliefs, social outlook, or very different? Or some of each?

**SH:** Oh, I’d say I’m probably quite similar to my father, other than he was a, belonged to another political party than me. But I don’t think he was a radical in his belief in terms of the Republican Party any more than I’m a radical in terms of my belief in a Democratic Party. The reason I got involved in the Democratic Party was, as you know, I think, my career has been in banking and I started out as a trainee at Canal National Bank in Portland. And after a few years I got promoted and I was sent up to Augusta to a SBA\(^1\) luncheon. And I was seated at a table with

\(^1\) SBA: Small Business Administration.
some other people and one of them introduced themselves, we all introduced ourselves, and one of them was a guy named Ken Curtis who was the Secretary of State at the time. I had never met him and we got to talking and he was from the Richmond area and played on a baseball team, a town baseball team, that used to be a Sunday type thing, pass the hat, and I played on one in Litchfield. So, I’m a year older than he is but we decided we must have played ball against each other many years ago. So we got to talking and I kind of liked him and we got kind of friendly.

And he called one, after that and we had lunch and he told me he was going to run for governor. And he had a couple of sick children and he wanted to know if I would be his treasurer and to make sure he didn’t get into debt because he didn’t want to, with his children being not well at all, (subsequently both of them have died as you may know) he didn’t want to take that risk. So I told him I’d be happy to but I was a Republican. And he said, “Well, that’s no big problem, all you’ve got to do is go down to the town hall and change your registration.” So I came back, thought about it and checked with my superiors at the bank figuring they would say, “No way,” because the Canal Bank was considered a Bowdoin, Republican-type operation. Instead, Mr. Thomas, who was president, said he thought it was probably a good idea for the bank to balance its position a little bit and why didn’t I go ahead and do it.

So I went up, changed my registration in the town of Cumberland, Maine. And I guess I was probably the first Democrat that they ever had up here, I don’t know. But it was a pretty Republican community and I remember that a fellow named Foster, Mr. Foster was the town clerk, had a roll top desk. And I went in and I told him I wanted to register and he said, looked at me, he says, “You’re already registered.” And I said, “Well I want to change my registration.” And he says, “To what?” And I said, “Well, I want to become a Democrat, Mr. Foster.” And he turned around and he went to his desk. And he had two stacks of cards, one was a nice clean white stack and the other was a couple of dog eared, dirty yellow ones. And he kind of picked one up on the corner, laid it down on the counter and went back to his desk and sat down with his back to me. And that was my registration card for being a Democrat. And I don’t think he ever spoke to me again after that.

**AL:** What year was this?

**SH:** Oh, gosh, I don’t know. It would have been in the, 19-, probably ‘70, around there, 1969, ‘70, ‘71, that era. And as you might remember, Ken Curtis did, no, around ‘70 because Ken Curtis, the governor’s term was two years in those days, it wasn’t four years. And he ran in ‘72 again and there had to be a re-count, and that was ’72; so it must have been ’70, ‘71.

**AL:** So you started as Ken Curtis’ treasurer?

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2 Widgery Thomas

3 The date was probably 1965 or 1966. Nineteen sixty-six was the first year Kenneth Curtis ran for Governor. The gubernatorial term had changed to four years in 1958.
SH: Right, and that’s how I ran into the Muskie organization.

AL: Can you go into that a little bit? Tell me how that all happened.

SH: Well, it wasn’t very difficult. We had a fairly successful fund-raising effort for Ken as governor. And I was the, during that time Senator Muskie was, then senator, attended some of the functions. And I met him and he had a woman who worked for him, a great gal named Gayle Cory, who also passed away a few years ago. And she was from Bath, Maine, and my wife is from Bath. And we got to talking and so on and built up a sort of a relationship or, you know, not, political-type relationship. And I didn’t think much of it, I was kind of, I had never been involved in politics before so I was kind of intrigued with the fact of meeting a senator who was, even in those days was quite well-known and highly regarded for his various positions.

And I was honored to be around him a little bit. And before I knew it, I was honored so much I got to be asked if I wanted to be his treasurer, too, so, on his re-election. So I . . . actually that’s not exactly right, it wasn’t his re-election. It was, he was going to run, he was running with Humphrey for, as Vice President with Humphrey for President, and I was asked if I would do that. And, that sounded pretty interesting so, even though that didn’t work out too well for Ed, that Humphrey didn’t make it. But that was very interesting, a guy named, Muskie made a very famous speech during that election, almost turned the election around for Humphrey.

In fact it was a guy named Dick Goodwin who writes for the, for Time Magazine sometimes, still does once in a while, who was an author. And he was a friend of Norman Mailer who was quite famous for writing bad books in those days, and they had a house up in, I think it was Fryeburg, Maine. Anyways, Dick Goodwin was considered to be an excellent speech writer. It was in the early days, he wasn’t quite as famous as he became later on. And I can’t remember who knew him exactly, I think it was the Dunfey family that were quite friendly with Goodwin. And they wanted a speech writer for Muskie to give . . . The national TV was going to come to Portland and he was going to give this speech for he and Humphrey. And so they got a hold of Dick Goodwin. And he came up and, here in the afternoon as I recall, spent that whole night at the Eastern Hotel, which was then owned by the Dunfeyes, writing a speech which Muskie gave the next after-, evening in a private home on Cape Elizabeth. And it was a quite famous speech. It almost, was considered one of the big turning points in the Humphrey-Muskie campaign and almost turned the election around for them.4

AL: Does the speech have a name, or what was it about?

SH: Not to my knowledge, didn’t have a speech, I knew you were going to ask that. I can’t really remember. It was a speech that you would expect Ed Muskie to give. Goodwin wrote it but Muskie had all the input into the subject matter, which was basically the things that Ed believed in very strongly: the economy, the environment and what was good about the country

4 The events described took place in 1970, during Senator Muskie’s campaign for re-election. The television talk was a response to President Nixon on behalf of the Democratic National Committee.
and what was not so good. And basically it was an upbeat speech as I remember it; it was not a negative attack on anybody. It was going forward, what could be done and how he could help accomplish it with Senator Humphrey. That’s about as much as I can remember of it to tell you the truth, that’s a long time ago.

**AL:** No, that’s good. And so where did you go from there?

**SH:** Well then of course I was involved with the senator, so I stayed involved as his treasurer, first when he ran for Senate, and then again when he ran for the nomination for the President of the United States. And it looked like that was going to go a long ways and ended with a kind of a crash in New Hampshire on a snowy morning, or evening.

**AL:** Were you there?

**SH:** No, no I was not there. I’d been over there but I’d come back. And I know that to his dying day Ed Muskie claimed he never was crying, that there were snowflakes melting on his cheeks. He was a very emotional man when it came to certain things. One is that he and Jane were very close in my opinion. And he could get very, very excited and very emotional if anybody attacked any part of his family or anything like that. So, I always suspected that maybe there was a tear or two that might have sneaked out, but maybe it was snowflakes, I don’t know, I don’t really know.

But anyhow, I got a kick, you know that today, well the reason that all happened is that Jane evidently, according to stories of the time, told a joke on the bus and used the word “Canuck” and that Loeb put it in the paper, in the *Manchester Union* or whatever, caused all kinds of problems, insulting minority groups. And it was made much bigger than just French, it was, you know, all minority groups. And the paper didn’t like Ed Muskie anyway so they were always after him. So, the gist of the thing is that the word “Canuck” (I get a kick out of today because there’s a Canadian hockey team called the Canucks and it’s not considered a slang expression or a degrading expression for French minorities at all, it’s an accepted term), but in those days it was considered a negative comment about French-Americans, Franco-Americans.

In that, from there on the election campaign went downhill, a lot of support seemed to dry up, and a lot of enthusiasm went out of it, too. Why? I don’t know. I think he, as I remember from there Ed went to Florida shortly thereafter. And I remember Dick Kline was his national treasurer. I was his treasurer locally in Maine, not nationally in that presidential campaign. And I remember that they were going to, this was a big thing, they were going to make a tour on a train through Florida and Kline called me. And I was really surprised; [he] wanted to know if I could wire him, it was ten thousand dollars or something, because they were running out of money. And that was the first time. I mean, prior to that we had no real problems with that, and after a matter of weeks it seemed like the thing. And if you don’t have the money it’s pretty hard to run a successful campaign. And I did have the money so I did send it down there and the train did go, but I don’t know what good it did do. But that was, that was part of that campaign.

Of course the, the thing that, that was a crazy campaign anyways because that was Watergate as
you might remember. And there was a lot of, a lot of things that went on that I don’t, you know, in retrospect as I look back, you wonder just what was going on in the Nixon era. It was, they certainly pulled a lot of things against Ed Muskie that were, you know, probably not, well not probably were, but were not ethical and very negative political schemes. But I don’t think, well, we just went through another one with Bill Clinton. The American public didn’t really want to believe that kind of thing would happen and so it wasn’t put under the rug at all. It just wasn’t paid a heck of a lot of attention to until later on when it all started to come out and they all knew what happened eventually. But initially it was, you know, okay, a bunch of guys broke in to Democratic headquarters and made news. That was interesting but what else is new? You know, there wasn’t, the depth of what was going on wasn’t really known and wasn’t understood and appreciated.

Although, Ed Muskie always felt that he had been seriously wounded by the whole Watergate thing, even more so than the New Hampshire incident, at least in my conversations with him. They did a lot to undermine his organization; they tried to undermine it. I guess major contributors and so forth, they tried to get, and of course they were, as you well know, they had the investigations of people from the IRS that were supporters of Democrats, particularly Muskie’s, Senator Muskie’s people. And it was a, you don’t know what would have happened if it had gone differently. Who knows if . . . A lot of things happen in this world that we know that start out pretty good but don’t end up the same way you thought they were going to happen. You always wonder, “Well, what if? Well, what if.” I don’t have any idea “what if”.

But it was a rather traumatic moment and one that Ed Muskie never got over, in my opinion. Jane became very, very protective of him after that, and as I say they were very close to each other anyways. And she always tried to make sure that he was not going to be put in a position where he had to defend himself regarding any of those kinds of things. Whether it was New Hampshire, Watergate or the loss of the, why all of a sudden the guy’s on the Time Magazine’s cover that’s considered a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination, ends up with not much of anything. And she did a good job. And he used to let her. I think he appreciated it, even though his personality was such that he felt that he didn’t need anybody to do anything for him, he could do everything himself. But I think that was more, that was a Muskie bluff more than anything else. He was very sensitive to that kind of thing.

And it was, you know, from there, he ran for Senate again and won very handily, no problem. That was against Bob Monks, and that was not a very difficult election for him. I don’t remember what the percentage was, but it was like seventy percent or seventy-two percent or some large amount. And then the next time that . . . Well, to go back, I was in Miami when they had the Democratic convention and I, every committee candidate has his own hotel, I think. The one Muskie had I think is gone now, I think it was the Americana, I think it was called. And I had a room there and went down with some other people and Muskie at that point. There was this California delegation which there was some doubt in terms of the two delegations. And there was a big play trying to, I remember from the Muskie group, trying to, there was one of them that was, leaned towards Muskie, pro-Muskie and the other one was for George McGovern. And to try to get the one seated that was for Muskie, but, the son of the Democratic chairman was from Texas, I don’t remember his name now. But, the National Committee [chairman], he
was supposed to make the decision, there was supposed to be a press conference.

But anyways, the politics of the McGovern campaign was more successful than the Muskie campaign. And the delegation that favored McGovern was the one that was certified in the, and that really kind of put the coffin, the nail in the coffin for Muskie as far as that. And it was a real long shot anyways, but it was a shot. You know, you never give up when you, until it’s over. It’s not over until it’s over, right? So, but Ed still didn’t give up because there was, McGovern, I think there were a lot of people that appeared to be kind of “on the fence”. They’d look, you know, everybody wanted to be part of the right group for the winner and so if McGovern was going, you know, their delegations are going to go with them.

But I can remember having a real battle with the Maine delegation that night of the first roll call. I was in the trailer outside with the, and obviously in touch with the delegation that was down on the floor. And it seemed that several of the Maine delegates, I remember, wanted to vote for McGovern on the first vote. And I says, you know, “I can’t believe that, that’s a hell of a . . . Here’s a favorite son; at least the Maine delegates, they can always change their vote after, but Maine should vote as a block, that’s an insult to Muskie.” Well, some of them said . . . There was a gal from Bath, Kathy Goodwin I think her name was, and a fellow from, John Orestis from Lewiston and, oh, God, a lawyer here from Portland that, he’s the president of the American Baseball League now, Billy Troubh, I think he was another one that I remember, and they were, and there was a couple others, I don’t remember their names; but they were convinced that Muskie had told them that it was okay to vote. So I said, “I just don’t believe it.”

So I called, Muskie was at the hotel, so I called Ed and told him, I said, “The, you know, here I am, I’m saying that they, you know, the delegation should vote and they’re saying that you said it was okay.” Well Jesus, I didn’t have to have the telephone, I could, you could put the telephone down and hear him. He was very, very upset to think that, he said he’d never said anything like that. So anyways, I got back and I talked with them and as I remember the Maine delegation the first time did vote for Muskie, I think. Then they switched, well, after it went by, you know, it was “no”. But that was an interesting part of that evening.

And then the other interesting part of that particular convention, I was in the, staying in a room in, it was hard to get rooms so, I had a good size room. And Bob Dunfey of the Dunfey family, hotel family, was with me, he stayed there in that room. And he, Bob, the Dunfeys are quite liberal Democrats, very good people, they’re very generous people with their money and so forth, with charities and so forth, but liberal Democrats. And I think Bob, even though he supported Muskie was really, you know, liked George McGovern anyways. And anyways, he went over, whether he went over to see him or whether they called him I don’t know but, because I wasn’t in the room at the time. But he came back and evidently he’d had a talk with Frank Mankiewicz and Gary Hart who were McGovern’s chief campaign strategists. And Bob told me, “You know, you really ought to talk with Ed because, you see, because they had said . . .” (Dunfey told me they had said, I was not there so I didn’t hear it) that McGovern would be interested in Muskie for a Vice President. So I was asked would I, you know, pass the message on, see if I could find out whether Ed was interested.
This was probably at eleven, twelve o’clock at night. So anyways, I’m not going to do anything at eleven or twelve o’clock at night. So either that night, I called Gayle Cory who was also in the Muskie suite just down the hall from where I was, or the next morning, I don’t remember which it was, early in the morning or late at night. Probably late at night. And she said, “Well why don’t you have breakfast with him?” I told her what it was about. And so I says, “All right”. So, I never forgot that either, we had cornflakes and strawberries. I told Ed what I was there for and I thought he was going to throw his strawberries and cornflakes at me. He was, he, he thought: no way in hell is he going to be McGovern’s Vice President, no, no, no, no; or be associated with George McGovern in that capacity.

So that afternoon we went out to the Durall Country Club and played golf and it was a hot day, as it is in Florida. And I think every time Ed hit the ball he thought it was McGovern’s head, and he didn’t hit it very well. It was a pretty, that’s how upset he was. We, the, there was an, there were four of us that played, a guy named Jim McGough, and the chief counsel for Aetna Life Insurance and I just don’t remember his name. And of course Ed still had Secret Service cover, so there was a golf cart in back of us with two guys in it and a golf cart in front of us with two guys in it. And come noontime, we pulled in to this grove of trees. And, God, the Durall Country Club had set up with chefs with white hats; there was tables with all this kinds of food and shrimp and melons and, you know, Cokes and everything you could think of; very nice looking buffet for just four of us, enough for twenty-five people. So I remember going over, and it was hot as I said, and asking the Secret Service if they’d like to, you know, if I could get them something. I knew they weren’t going to get out of the cart. And they said, “No, we don’t dare because if somebody took a shot of him and we were seen, they took a picture of us holding a can of Coke in our hand, you know, we’d be in big trouble.” So I felt badly because we were eating and they just had to sit there and couldn’t have anything.

But anyways, Ed looked at the table, this is how upset he was, and he said, “I don’t like any of it.” He wanted a hot dog. So they went back into the, (I would have told him to go to hell) but they went back in and they brought him out a couple of hot dogs; he ate hot dogs. And we continued to play. It was a game that I’ll never forget because it was, to say the least, not a very fun game. He was, I happened to be in the cart with him. I didn’t say much, I just, would get my ball and get back in and drive over to his and his was everywhere. I mean, you know, it was under the palm trees, into the water and the bushes and, it was a bad day but we made it through. And he got over it, but, I think that’s how he got it out of his system, I don’t know. But anyways, what am I saying, I mean, you want me to continue talking?

AL: Sure.

SH: So that was pretty much that. I think there were a lot of other little experiences we had. The next time I was at a convention was one in New York when Jimmy Carter was running and that was an experience. Also the, Carter had selected, or leaked, leaked out to the press or something, he had two or three people that he was considering and one of them was Muskie. And I think Ed would have taken that one. I don’t know that; he never told me that. But I, he sure as heck didn’t do anything to discourage it and he didn’t say “no”. So you’ve got to believe that he did. So the, Carter’s going to make his announcement at, I’ll say eleven o’clock in the
morning, maybe at ten-thirty, I don’t know what it was, it was in the morning.

And so I was in Ed’s suite and somebody brought in a bushel of peanuts. And there was peanuts, and it was jammed with reporters and TV cameras and everything because I guess a lot of people, a lot of the press had believed that it was going to be Muskie. So, we’ll say it was at ten-thirty Carter made his speech, it may have been eleven. But at twenty-five after, I found out that it wasn’t going to be Muskie that was going to be, you know . . . I never saw a room empty out. By ten-thirty there wasn’t anybody there except peanut shells and me. And Ed had gone into his room, and Jane and a couple other people. I never saw the press, I mean, talk about the fickleness of that kind of a position. I mean one day, one minute you’re a, you know, you’ve got all the media and the major TV stations, everybody asking questions, want to talk with you, trying to get close to you. Within two minutes they don’t even know you, they’re gone and there you are sitting there with no notoriety at all, just another, just another guy, you know?

AL: Was that hard on him?

SH: Yes, I think very hard, because that was only the second time he’s had that kind of a public beating I guess I’d call it. And Ed Muskie was not used to being beaten in anything, whether it was giving a talk or a speech or running for election or anything. And his history had been, until he got into the presidential or vice president thing, not to lose either. He’d won very handily against, when he ran for governor. Again, I wasn’t involved in that, that was before my time. I was born but I wasn’t involved in any of that kind of thing. He, no, that was against big odds but he won. And I think that kind of set him up to believe that in some ways he was almost invincible in that kind of thing. And he was, up until he got into the national scene and it just, he just, not able to put it all together. Things just worked against him.

And he worked against himself in some ways, too, because he, Ed was very outspoken. He was not, he was a hell of a nice guy but he, he just didn’t come across. You had to really know him to appreciate him because he, he had a interesting sense of humor. It was, it wasn’t sarcasm. It was, oh, but it could be thought of by people who didn’t know him as being sarcasm. It was more to try to get you to react to a statement. He loved to have people react to whatever he said, you know. He didn’t like to argue, he liked to debate, as we all know. And so he didn’t, mundane conversations were not his forte. I mean he definitely wanted to be talking about something that had some significance, whether it was environment or balance of trade deficits or rivers or, anything, religion, it had to have, had to be a fairly heavy subject, not about the Red Sox or things like that. That was not, that was not a big deal to him.

AL: Now, do you have recollections of when President Carter asked Muskie to be his Secretary of State?

SH: Oh yeah, sure.

AL: And was there, do you have any impressions of how he felt about that after the incident where he wasn’t asked to be his Vice President?
SH: Well I wasn’t there when he got the phone call from President Carter. But I, after, shortly thereafter, the next day I guess it was, he was, he was very pleased. He, it was a challenge; we had the prisoners over there, you know. Ed liked a challenge and he was absolutely convinced he was going to get those people out, and of course he did. But he didn’t get any credit for it because they waited until the day after the election before they let them out.

But yeah, he, he liked that job very much. I remember one time he invited some of us down in the state dining room, to take a tour. This was after he just became Secretary of State. So, we went down, and it’s a very, very impressive place and a lot going on. Of course in those days there was a hell of a lot going on. And he was, he was, I will say not born again, but he was rejuvenated. Yeah, he was, he was quite excited about it and he, I think he enjoyed that job very much. In fact, I know he did because it gave him a chance, that he probably would have had if he was president, to do some traveling overseas.

As you know, then subsequently he went to work with a law firm in Washington and appeared before the, what do they call it, the court, the court, the one that’s the court for, Hague, not the international court but just, that’s what it is, yes, and to do those kinds of things. And then he got involved with the Nestle’s case, and your, and those are the kind, those, see those are very intellectual type of things. And that’s the kind of stuff that Ed Muskie really enjoyed and could get his teeth into and do a lot of pontificating and thinking and use his excellent judgment, he had great judgment.

I remember, going back, he was at the house one time, my house for dinner. He loved Chinese food and there was a little restaurant here in Portland called the Pagoda. And I used to get Chinese food, and he’d come out sometimes and we had a few people there. He was getting ready to run again and this was to introduce him to, maybe to get them to support him because they were Republicans. But, Maine, a lot of Republicans support Democrats, not like a lot of states. I guess a Democrat in Maine is like a liberal Republican in most states, and, so there isn’t a heck of a lot of difference in many. There are extremes on both sides but there’s a big middle ground that you can hardly see the difference.

But anyways, this is back before I think the word was even, balance of trade deficit; I don’t think we even used that. But I can remember Ed saying at that meal, that one of the, the two biggest threats that we had in this country were the Russians and the atomic bomb or the Chinese, and so forth. In terms of our future and our culture, the threat was the fact that we were buying so much more than we were selling, that it was going to create economic havoc in this country eventually. And that we were, our immigration laws were so lax that we were going to have some problems down the road in terms of minorities causing some problems. And you’re not, now you have the Hispanics and all these things that you wonder about, well, whether we have, teach English or whether we have Spanish in schools. And so he knew, he was predicting that kind of thing happening.

And I think back and the guy was smart, I mean, he knew more than most people. And he wasn’t just rivers and streams and the environment either. It was a very broad range of subjects that he was very well-versed in. And he obviously thought about these things a great deal and
formed opinions, and in many instances he was right. Too bad he didn’t write a book about, you know, forecasting things. It would have been interesting because I think, I’m just naming a couple; I’m sure there are a lot of others that he mentioned but it didn’t stick with me.

**AL:** I’m going to stop the tape here so I can turn it over.

*End of Side One*

*Side Two*

**AL:** We are now on side B of the interview with Scott Hutchinson on April 13, 1999.

**SH:** I could give you some idea of how aggressive Ed could be in his convictions that he was right, after the election of the McGovern period. One of Ed’s big supporters was a guy named Ed Pizek from Philadelphia. Ed Pizek owned Mrs. Paul’s Frozen Foods, and he had a camp up in East Grand Lake in Maine. And Ed, Muskie called me one afternoon from Washington and said Ed Pizek had invited him up for a weekend fishing and would I like to go with him. So I said “Sure.” So he picked me up in the plane, I guess it was Pizek’s plane, and we flew up to East Grand Lake and landed. One of the things that’s, it had nothing to do with Muskie but, yeah, it has to do with Muskie but in a different way. When we got, it was a beautiful moonlit night and East Grand Lake is above Bangor, the other side of Katahdin.

And the, we had two pilots, it was this twin engine I don’t know what kind of an airplane but a small, you know, six- or eight-, ten-passenger plane. And they were supposed to land at this little, what was it called, Indian Town or something like that, and, there’s an airport. So the pilots are circling around, they says, “Jeez, you know, we can’t see any airport down there, we’re right where we said, where we’re supposed to be but there’s no lights, there’s no airport.” So the senator said, “Well call the, Bangor, and see if they can, if they’ve got you on radar, see if we’re in the right position, where are we.” So the pilot called Bangor and told him what the situation was. Well the guy laughed. He says, “Well, you’ve got to, you didn’t notify them, you’ve got to notify them that you’re coming because that’s an Indian village down there and they run on a generator. And if they turn the landing lights on, then their TVs and refrigerators don’t, go off. So they don’t turn the landing lights on unless somebody tells them somebody’s coming.” So anyways, Bangor called the airport, the Indian, the airport, and they turned the lights on and we landed.

But, we got picked up by Mr. Pizek and we went, the next day we went fishing. And we had a bet, anyway a pool like: everybody put in a buck or two, whatever it was, for the first fish, the most fish and the biggest fish. So we got back that evening and had a couple of drinks and *(unintelligible phrase)* and counting up our catch to see who’s going to win the pool. Well, Ed Muskie had caught an eel and that damned eel was probably three feet long, it was the biggest eel I ever saw. So he claimed he had the biggest fish. So we got into an argument as to whether an eel is a fish or not. And we claimed that an eel is not a fish, and Ed said it is a fish. So it was only a matter of like two bucks, you know, so we didn’t, you know, it was a joke. But we kept at it all evening long, kidding him about it.
And evidently it really got him under the collar after a while, he really got upset about it. So lo
and behold the next day, come to find out he’d gotten up. He had called the Library of Congress
to get an official interpretation of whether an eel was a fish or not. And it turned out that an eel
is a, an eel is a fish-like something. So the fact that the word fish was in there, it meant that he
had won the two dollars or four dollars and so he took his money; he was happy. But he
wouldn’t let it go; he had to, you know, he was, when he was right, he was going to prove that he
was right no matter what, and he was going to stick to it. He was very tenacious in his beliefs in
himself in terms of his own ability to see that, what was right and what wasn’t right. And so he
made his two or three dollars that day. And I’m still not sure that an eel is a fish, but he claimed
the Library of Congress said it was, so we gave him the money.

**AL:** Let me go back a little bit, starting with your career in banking. When you graduated from
high school, did you immediately go into work, or did you go to college?

**SH:** I went to college. I went to Northeastern University in Boston. And then I went in the
Army for a couple years, it was during the Korean situation. And then I got out and went to
work.

**AL:** And how did you meet your wife?

**SH:** How did I meet my wife? Well, at Northeastern University I worked in summers and she
was a buyer at Porteous, a major department store here in Portland at the time. And I got a
summer job at Porteous and I met her there.

**AL:** Did she go to Colby College?

**SH:** Yes. How’d you know that?

**AL:** Don Nicoll, he’s also a graduate of Colby, and he asked me to ask, just to clarify.

**SH:** Yeah, yeah, Audrey King; she’s from Bath, Maine.

**AL:** And she was from Bath? Could you give me your impressions of Ken Curtis and his wife,
Polly? Was she politically involved at all?

**SH:** Polly, she was very supportive of Ken, but I don’t think Polly ever cared much for politics
as per se. As you know, they had two daughters. Both were born with an incurable disease and
Susan died at the end of his first term, and Angela, Angel, who died just recently was sick with
it. And so Polly was very protective and very much involved with taking care of those children,
which any mother I think would be in that circumstance. But she was very supportive of Ken in
terms of, you know, the Blaine House opening up, having functions and ladies’ teas or whatever
the, you know, different organizations that, non-profits that would use the, liked to use the
Blaine House for whatever. And she always was with him when he was, you know, any
functions that they ever had when he was running for governor. And when it was necessary,
which wasn’t very often, she would campaign, but usually Ken campaigned throughout the state
by himself or with some friends.

But I say she was very supportive, but I don’t, Polly, I know her quite well, they’re friends of ours today, I recently got back from spending some time with them in Florida. I don’t think, given her druthers, politics was necessarily her first choice of fun things to do. It was, you know, like, it was a job. I think she enjoyed very much the time when he was ambassador in Canada, that was a whole different, different environment and different kind-, not the same kinds of pressures, you know.

I’ve often thought I admire being associated with people who run for public office in effect because of Muskie, then I was George Mitchell’s treasurer, too. I ran the gamut of this thing. And I’ve always admired people who do it because they take an awful lot of abuse, you know. I always thought, I was the president of the bank, and I always thought if I had on my board of directors fifty-two percent that were for me and forty-eight percent that were trying to get me all the time, it would be a heck of way to try to run a company; you couldn’t do it. But basically that’s what a politician is doing. If he can get fifty-two percent of the vote, that’s a pretty good margin, you know, fifty-point-oh-one [50.01] is enough to get him elected. But you always get these other radical groups that are always picking at you or making slanderous remarks about you or your family or, a tough way to make a living. I admire people who learn to do it. I don’t mind supporting them, but I never would want to, I’d never want to run, I never want to try to do it.

AL: Be behind the scenes.

SH: I’d rather be, much better, much better, yeah.

AL: My question, I guess, is impressions of Ken Curtis. And I know you just said you’re still close friends with him. Impressions of him and George Mitchell and Muskie, the different ways that they organized their campaigns, can you describe that to me a little bit?

SH: Okay, Ken is very, very people-oriented. I mean, you know, he communicates exceptionally well with all levels and he’s got the kind of personality, the smile and so forth that is genuine and people like. And so, you know, he can go in to about anywhere and make friends, very easy for him to do, or I think it is anyways. At least my impression of being with him many times that it was, much, compared to most people. And he has this, well I think the same thing that they all have, a drive to try to make whatever he’s done better when he leaves than what it was when he started.

But the big difference between Ed Muskie and Ken Curtis in my opinion was the ability to enjoy people. Ed liked people, because he was fascinated with what they thought, what their opinions were, what they didn’t like and what they did like and so on and so forth. And it was more of a clinical type of, of approach to how you viewed people. And he was not an easy guy to get to know. I mean, he was a, I used to call him Lincolnesque; I guess he was. He was not somebody you’d run up and grab his hand, slap him on the back and say, “Hi, old buddy.” He’d kind of look at you if you did and say, “What the hell are you talking about?” He was not, not that kind
of a person.

Which I, you know, one of the things that I often believe about Muskie, and I don’t know this but I, (poor man is dead now so he can’t get me for saying it, right, I wouldn’t say it to his face probably) but I think Ed was very shy. And he covered up his shyness with, he was very smart, he was probably one of the smartest people I ever met by far. And it, he, and he knew that and he was always trying to find a way to make himself like one of the boys a little bit. But he couldn’t quite pull it off because intellectually he just was above the average person’s ability to think the way he thought. And so he exert-, the more he tried, probably the less effective he was in some ways because it, his personality would dominate the room or the conversation. And, of course when he was running for, that’s what people wanted so, you know, there was nothing wrong with it. But I’m talking about in his personal life, or his ability to relax and have a good time and enjoy. It would be hard for him to find that, that kind of relationship.

George Mitchell, well George is, I guess George is somewhere in between the two, actually. George is a good personality, easy to talk to. He communicates very well, and George genuinely likes people also like, but probably not as much as Ken. I think, as I say, George would be somewhere in the middle between the two. He’s very bright obviously as his record has shown, and his career has shown. And he, good quick thinker, fast on his feet, firm in his opinions but not as rigid as Ed Muskie, more flexible. Ken would be the most flexible, George would be the next and then Muskie would be the third, that’s my opinion on the three guys.

**AL:** I’d like to ask you a question about, and you mentioned it a little bit earlier, being a Democrat in the banking business. Probably the majority of your business partners and acquaintances in the business world were Republican; how did you interact with them, did your political differences affect your business relationships in any way?

**SH:** Oh, I’m sure it did with some. You know, if you’re, banking is a “public life” type of thing, not as bad as politics, but it’s very much in the public eye. And so no matter who you are or what you are, there are always going to be some people that don’t like you. Why? You don’t really know but it’s clear they don’t like you. You know, maybe the bank turned down a loan to their grandfather or something and they hate all bankers ever since, you know? You never, you don’t really know. And then there are people who are jealous and will take pot-shots at people. We all, I think whether, and I don’t think that’s true of just banking, I think it’s true of life in general, if you’re, you know, a little bit successful. So you just have to learn to live with that and kind of ignore it, you know, say, “Well I feel sorry for them.” I’m, you know, they’re, I’m not going to waste my time thinking about it or trying to argue it or debate it, that’s the way it is, let it be that way. And then there are people who are your friends and those people accept you for what you are. And then the vast majority of people I don’t think really care as long, they see you as, in a moment’s time, what you did now or today as a, not as a person over a period of time, or who you are, what you are, and that’s by far the majority. So I don’t, I don’t think, I think probably if anything, and this has been asked to me before, that being a Democrat enhanced my career for several reasons. And one is because it was different, which meant that maybe I was a little different, maybe strange or odd or whatever . . .
**AL:** But you stood out.

**SH:** . . . but I stood out, yeah. And the other was that the Democratic Party in the state of Maine is not a radical Democratic Party. It’s a, it’s a kind of a middle-of-the-road, uh. As I say, there are fringes on both sides, whether Democrats or Republicans that are . . . But for the most part I was surprised when I first got involved at the numbers of financial contributors that are registered Republicans that gave to Democrats. I mean, the Democrats would never raise the money that they raised to elect a candidate in the state of Maine from the Democrats because the Democrats as a whole are not as affluent as the Republicans as a whole. And so most of, a good share of the money for Democrats comes from Republicans. So those were mainly the customers the bank, that was our group . . ..

And then there’s your other group which, you know your name would get in the paper because of your association periodically with politics, although I tried to minimize that as much as possible because I wasn’t trying to prove anything or shove it down anybody’s throat or that kind of thing. I was doing it because I thought there was, that I was making a contribution. The guy who worked with the telephone company who was the installer or the guy that delivered the milk in those days, or as a plumber, or, you know, good honest solid American people, they, maybe that helped me in this bank. Because they figured, well, you know, they, “It’s got to be okay, the bank can’t be too bad because he’s a Democrat,” you know, Abecause he’s one of us.”

So I never, I think on balance it probably helped me. I’m sure there are instances where it didn’t do me any good but I think they were minimal compared to the positives. I know as far as I’m concerned personally, I think I’d do it all over again because I enjoyed the people. I met more people, more interesting, went to more interesting places that, had more opportunity to see things and meet Presidents and well-known business types at functions and so forth than I ever would have had if I hadn’t done, gotten involved. I never realized it until I got involved that that was out there, but it was an experience.

**AL:** I’d like to talk a little bit about some of the people you might remember from back in the early years, Dick McMahon . . .

**SH:** Back in the old days?

**AL:** Dick McMahon was one of the people I was thinking of, and anyone else?

**SH:** Dick McMahon was, you know, I met him when he was a FHA, Farmer’s Home Administration director for the state of Maine; I think he was appointed by Ed Muskie. But as the story goes, as I heard it, Dick McMahon was, early on, was Muskie’s driver and they toured the state of Maine. That was back in the days when, again the stories that I used to hear about, that if they had a dollar between them to buy a hot dog it was a lot of, and gas, that was a lot of money. They were living literally off the land and off people and friends they knew and going from place to place when he was running for governor for the first time, or running for election for the first time. And he stuck with Muskie all during Muskie’s career as a supporter and as those things happen, he was rewarded with this job. I think that was the biggest job Dick ever
had. And he was a good FHA director.

He was, well the Farmer’s Home Administration is for, it’s not for the Rockefellers and so forth, it’s for farmers and middle income and lower income. And Dick was one of, was part of that group and he administered it I think to most people’s satisfaction. And yeah, he was an Irishman as you can see from the name, a big jolly guy. He liked to have a drink and he liked to eat. He liked to smoke cigars; he liked to play a little poker. He was a man’s man type of thing. He liked girls but, I didn’t say he was that kind of a man. But he was a jolly fellow well-met, I guess is what I’m saying with his personal life.

AL: Any other people that you can remember?

SH: Well Charlie Landers was Ed’s driver in later years when McMahon was FHA, and Charlie worked for the telephone company. Back in those days, and I don’t know when it started and I don’t know when it stopped but it has stopped, the telephone company used to provide major candidates, the governor candidates and senatorial, congressional, with a car and a driver and a telephone. And Charlie Lander, his wife’s name is Alice, Charlie died a couple of years ago, was Ed Muskie’s driver for all the time that I knew Ed. Whenever he was running for the the telephone company would give him a leave of absence and he’d drive. And it was legal in those days, it was a contribution in kind and I guess it just was part of the way things were in those days. And now they don’t do that.

But he was a, he was probably a, Charlie was a very strong supporter of Ed. I mean, you know, Charlie thought the sun set and rose on Ed Muskie, I mean, you know, he was just a fanatic. But he was a very, very close friend. He used to, he spent quite a bit of time with the Muskies at their place in Kennebunk. Used to go down there, I used to go down with Charlie, we used to play golf with Ed once in a while. And he was just a good guy. I can’t tell you a lot about him other than that he was a very loyal friend and highly regarded by the Muskie family. And the other thing that was kind of interesting -- there was a guy who would work for the telephone company, oh, he might have gotten to be the supervisory level, okay. So, Charlie was no dummy but he certainly wasn’t intellectually, not college-educated or anything like that, kind of thing. But there’s a guy that Muskie could talk to. But see, it was a one-on-one personal thing with Charlie Landers. And Charlie didn’t talk much, he used to listen a lot, I think that’s why they got along. But Charlie wasn’t a stupid man, by any stretch of the imagination; he was a real nice man. But he, there would be, they just, almost opposites in terms of intellectual thought processes and so forth. Charlie accepted things, Ed discovered, developed, etcetera.

AL: You mentioned Gayle Cory earlier? Could you describe her for me a little bit?

SH: Gayle Cory is from Bath, Maine. Her family name is Fitzgerald, and her brother is Buzz Fitzgerald who was this, retired as head of the Bath Iron Works and is a lawyer down there in Bath. And Gayle worked for Ed Muskie all the time I knew her. She was their --re what they called administrative --, Gayle ran the whole thing. I mean, Gayle, when the kids were little she used to babysit when they were campaigning. She was a part of their family and she ran his office. And you didn’t have to call, I didn’t, hardly (unintelligible word) would call Muskie if I
wanted something. I called Gayle because that would be.

I remember one time, I’ll tell you a story, okay. This, now that these people are all deceased I guess this is, it’s not a bad story anyway. But LePage Bakery in Lewiston, Regis LePage was the owner at that time, his son now runs it. And Regis was a big fan of Muskie’s and a big supporter of Muskie’s. And one day I got a call from Regis and he told me that he was going to Italy and that (unintelligible word). Regis was raised as a French Catholic, a very strong devout Catholic as it turned out, and Regis told me that his ambition before he died was to have an audience with the Pope. And he wanted to know if I’d call Ed Muskie to see if he could get him an audience with the Pope when he went to Italy. So I said, “Sure Regis,” so I thought about it, and I, “How the hell, I’m not going to call Muskie, Muskie didn’t know the Pope.” So I called Gayle. I said, “Gayle, you’re not going to believe this but I was just talking on the phone with Regis. He’s going to Italy and he wants to have an audience with the Pope.” She says, “What?” I says, “He wants an audience with the Pope.” She says, “You know, you’re not going to believe this but so-and-so who was Senator so-and-so’s secretary down the hall,” (best friends with Gayle),” just got posted as a secretary to the ambassador to Italy.” To make a long story short, she called over there, that girl got Regis an appointment with the Pope. I called Regis back within an hour and a half and I said, “Regis, you’re all set, you pick up your thing at the embassy in Rome (unintelligible phrase) on such and such a day.” So that’s what Gayle Cory could do for me. Now Ed Muskie couldn’t have gotten me an audience with the Pope in a million years, but Gayle Cory did in half an hour.

AL: She did a little bit of everything?

SH: She did everything, yeah. She, as I say, she was a family member for all intents and purposes with the Muskies. And she was with him, oh gosh, it must have been twenty-five years, I think all the time he was in Washington. And she helped organize all of his campaigns in Maine. She used to come up and she had a lot of contacts and she was just a great gal. Unfortunately, like most of us, I used to, she smoked and died of lung cancer a few years ago, six, seven, eight, ten years ago. But she was very active not only in his office, Gayle Cory.

Well, you know, as I said I was president of the bank, I’m not trying to compare it to the United States Senator but in some ways it’s similar. If you had a good assistant, you’d get so, you can go crazy having people call you. And I was fortunate that I always had a, and Ed I think was fortunate that he had a Gayle Cory. Many of my customers would, didn’t, they wouldn’t bother calling me, they’d call my, (name) who was my assistant. Because she could do it, she’d do it quicker and faster and know better how to do it than I did, and that was Gayle Cory personified in that way, see, Gayle on a much broader and bigger scale. She could make all kinds of things, she knew Washington inside and out. She knew the senators, she knew their secretaries, she knew the, yeah, she knew who the President’s advisors were and she could just, she could make a lot of things happen; was very influential, but not powerful. She never used it unless she, well like getting somebody to see the Pope, right? That’s Gayle Cory. She was native, was a native from Maine. Obviously her name was Cory so she was married. Her husband was not well; she supported him as well as the, they had no children.
AL: What do you think Ed Muskie’s major qualities were?

SH: What were his major qualities? Well Ed’s major qualities, tremendously high degree of integrity, very honest, straightforward. A believer in, a very strong believer in his positions. He, Ed never took a position in my opinion that he didn’t firmly believe, had researched it, knew a heck of a lot more about it than most people did, and was prepared to defend it. And it was not a frivolous thing for him to take a stand or believe in something, he had done some homework. And he also was very proud to be an American and very proud of his heritage that he’d come from, immigrant background and that he had, that this country had provided these opportunities and that he had achieved what he had been able to achieve that he couldn’t do anywhere else. And he was very proud of that, very proud of his mother and father. I went to his mother’s funeral and I was very impressed with some of the eulogies that they had up there in Rumford.

AL: Did you know his mom, had you met her?

SH: I had met her but I didn’t really know her, no. I didn’t know . . . . Mrs. Muskie. (Unintelligible phrase.) And I guess probably he was also a very religious man. He didn’t wear it on his sleeve but he was religious. Obviously he was a, obviously he still, in his own way, was a very devoted husband and father. He was very, very defensive of his wife and his kids, very. You didn’t want to get, try to get between him or say something about . . .

AL: What do you think his biggest influence on Maine was?

SH: Biggest influence on Maine. I think his biggest influence on Maine was that he proved for probably the first time that there were two political parties in the state and that they were equal and you could belong to one or the other and you still could achieve success in the political arena. Now, there are a lot of things that he stood for in terms of what he did, but I think prior to Ed Muskie you didn’t run for governor if you were a Democrat unless you wanted to lose. There wasn’t, there wasn’t two parties, there was just one. And he changed that, which brought a lot of people into office, to run for office, and made the state a much better state because it was then diversified and had a more balanced viewpoint of whatever subject you might want to pick, whether it was economics or quality of life or whatever. Prior to that I think it was a pretty, pretty one way street in terms of the mentality of the state, and he broadened it tremendously.

AL: As a last question, is there anything that I haven’t asked you or talked to you about that you’d like to talk about in relation to Senator Muskie? It can either be a story, a circumstance or a particular issue?

SH: No, I think I’ve said more than enough, given you my opinions of him. I think that it’s too bad for the country that he didn’t get a chance to either be the vice president or the president. I think that he would have made a significant contribution. I think some of the things that we now are still struggling with, because of his personality and because of his ability to communicate. . . .

They talk about Ronald Reagan as a great communicator, Ed Muskie was a great communicator,
too. He had a knack of being able to get his points across that, we would, you know, solve some of our problems. I think he’d have gotten the people to believe and to do what we now are still trying to do. And I’m talking particularly about the environment, although he’s noted for that a lot, but he also, you know, was pretty knowledgeable about foreign policy and had some very definite opinions on how this country should handle itself in foreign affairs. So overall he was a good man, a man I really enjoyed knowing and was honored to be associated with.

AL: And you say you played golf with him quite a lot?

SH: Yeah, quite a few times, yeah.

AL: How was his golf game?

SH: Lousy.

AL: How did he handle it?

SH: Oh, well, as I said Ed didn’t like to lose, and he, I don’t think he, you know. . I think that golf to him was something that, he wasn’t brought up with, okay? It was a new kind of thing, it was something that you were supposed to do. And he really did like being outdoors and he liked playing, but he was not well-coordinated, to say the least. I don’t think he’d ever be a professional ball player. His son Ned on the other hand was a heck of a golfer. I used to play with Ned every once in a while. And, good lord, Ned was just a kid, and when he was just a kid he could beat his father all to heck and back. He could drive a golf ball two hundred and fifty yards straight down the middle.

But Ed loved the game and he liked being outdoors and he liked the challenge of it, and he couldn’t understand why the hell he couldn’t put that little ball, white ball, in that great big hole in the ground there. He had a hard time doing it. And he was never going to give up, he was going to . . . . Just before he died, about oh maybe a month before he, two months before he died, I was talking with him and it was, it had to be about this, some of this stuff that went, I sent up to Bates. I had some more boxes and I felt, well they were really his, even though I had done the work, and I wasn’t about to just give them to, unless I talked to him about it. And, so I told him I had some more, that I had stuff I found and going to give it to Bates unless he wanted to look at it. And he said, “I don’t want to look at it.” I said, “Fine, I just thought I’d check with you (unintelligible phrase).”

So he switched the subject and he didn’t realize, he didn’t. He told me about his leg and he had a little embolism down there and glad he was going to (unintelligible word) have it operated on in a couple weeks. And he was having it done then because he was coming up to play golf. And we set some times, you know, we’re going to have to do this and do that. Then he went into the hospital and never made it out. It was a, kind of a, from my conversation with him, it wasn’t anything that he expected, that was for sure. It was considered to be, you know, potentially kind of a minor type of an operation, something that was going to take longer than he wanted to to heal so he could play golf again. That’s the way life is, right?
AL: Thank you very much for your time.

SH: You’re welcome.

End of Interview