

2-23-2004

Kelleher, Ed oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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Interview with Ed Kelleher by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Kelleher, Ed

Interviewer

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date

February 23, 2004

Place

Lewiston, Maine

ID Number

MOH 430

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Biographical Note

Edward Kelleher was born on June 27, 1941 in Bangor, Maine to James H. Kelleher and Florence L. (Soucy) Kelleher. He grew up in Bangor and graduated from John Bapst High School. He served in the Maine House of Representatives from 1968 to 1984.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: World War II; ethnic makeup of Bangor, Maine; family background; Big Box voting; political makeup of Bangor; 1968 Maine campaigns; Maine legislature, 1968 to 1984; Muskie gubernatorial race; going to church with Muskie; Ralph Owen Brewster; the Cohen family; Bill Hathaway; John Martin; and Louis Jalbert.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Ed Kelleher at the Muskie Archives at Bates College on February 23rd, the year 2004, and this is Andrea L'Hommedieu. Could you start just by giving me your full name and spelling it?

Ed Kelleher: Be glad to. Edward, middle initial C for Charles, last name is Kelleher. Do you want me to spell my last name? My last name, okay, it's K-E-L-L-E-H-E-R.

AL: And where and when were you born?

EK: I was born in Bangor on the 27th day of June, 1941.

AL: And is that where you grew up, in the Bangor area?

EK: I grew up in Bangor, went to St. Mary's grammar school and John Baptist High School.

AL: So, growing up in Bangor during those years, of course you were too young to remember WWII.

EK: For sure.

AL: But did it have an effect on your family as you were growing up?

EK: Oh yeah, I think the Second World War had an effect on my family, and obviously my parents lived through the Depression which had a dramatic effect on them, and the war, and the shortages and the scarcity of a lot of materials and actually good jobs after the war. And my dad was a policeman in Bangor. My mother went to work, went back to work, when my sister and I went into high school. And she was a sales lady in a children's wear department store in Bangor, and very much thought of, both my parents were.

Bangor like any other Maine town, even though it was, it is the third largest city, everybody knew everyone pretty well. It was a rather interesting melting pot of a community. There was the, in dealing with immigrants, there was a substantial Irish population there, and there was a

fairly, fair size French population, but nothing to compare to, say, the Valley or obviously here in Androscoggin County or in southern Maine. A fairly good size Jewish community, and the Jewish community was substantially a lot of, their former countries would have been Russia or Poland, maybe a few of the Middle Eastern countries, but most of them were Russian Jewish immigrants. And then there was the standard good old Yankee population as we described it, which really made up at least half the community or a little better. So the ethnics with the, as immigrants coming in, probably made up around forty, forty-five percent of the community. It was an easy community to grow up in, people generally got along well, and I say that with great respect for the very city from which I came from.

AL: And what was Bangor like? Well, let me back up one moment. What were your parents' names?

EK: My father's name was, first name was James H. Kelleher, my mother was Florence L. Soucy; I am half Irish and half French, I get the best of both worlds.

AL: And had they also grown up in Bangor, or had come from other places?

EK: Yes, my father was born in Bangor. His mother, my grandmother was from Ireland. And interesting, I always think this is interesting in terms of date, my grandmother, my father's mother was born in 1867, my father was born in 1903, his father was a first generation Irishman, my grandparents on my father's side were immigrants on both sides.

My mother's parents grew up in Old Town in an area called The Basin which was a, there was a huge mill in The Basin and they were French people. I believe they originally came out of, at least one side of the family came out of Quebec but that had been a long, long time ago, I have no real definite, real recollection of that. My grandfather on that side, my mother's father, was a railroad engineer. My grandmother was a domestic, she just worked at home, raised the family.

On my father's side, my grandfather worked in the Public Works Department for the city of Bangor, and then my grandmother, and they had a farm as well as a home in the city. So my father's childhood was, they would live in Bangor and then go out to what we all called "the farm" in those days and live the summers out there. Out there meaning five miles from the city, it was all within the city of Bangor. In fact my grandmother, I was thinking of this, I was thinking of her, riding over this morning, for some reason something reminded me of her, and my grandmother was the last one in our immediate area who kept cows.

Now, they kept, she was eighty-six when she died in 1952, and she kept a couple of cows, which there was always, you know. I always talk to my fa--, I used to remember talking to my father about the Depression, and food was never a problem. And actually they worked for not a lot of wages, but there was always eggs, bacon, milk, people did everything from scratch in those days. I had a milk route when I was a kid, and I can remember this vividly, because the two cows produced more milk than my grandmother needed, and certainly more milk than we needed at our house, or there was like four families that actually took milk off of them cows most of the time, but she sold milk. And I can remember selling milk for three cents a quart. Now, that was in those days when bottles and, you know, there'd be three inches of cream on the top of the

milk. And she just sold to the neighbors.

There was the Currans girls, they were two old maids, as they were described, who Actually, most of the Irish in Bangor came from the same county in Cox, so everybody knew everybody. And I can remember taking the milk down and saying to Mame Curran, her name was Mary, they called her Mame. I says, "Mame, my grandmother said she's going to increase the cost of the milk." And she was going from three cents to four cents, or three cents to five cents, and Mame said, "Take the milk back, I don't want it." But my grandmother said she's going to say that to me so just leave the milk, take the empty bottles and go on, they'll pay it. And if they don't pay it, that's all right, too. So I had kind of a, it was a, you know, there was a very interesting transition for me as a boy because there was a fair amount of land to the house in the city and, you know, Fifth Street Junior High School was at the end of the street. I mean, the whole area developed. At one time I would say probably ten or twelve people in the immediate area; the Currans would have been within the group, kept a cow themselves.

So, and they were Democrats, they just, the Democratic Party was a party that I think most of them felt was an opportunity. They weren't all registered Democrats. There was an election for a governor in, it was in the early twenties, Owen Brewster was the fellow that later became governor, but got, Brewster got elected as they claim with the help of the Ku Klux Klan. And that was being noted, and a lot of the Irish, I think a lot of the Catholics, whether Irish, French, or Italian or whatever they were, changed over to vote for someone to help another Republican because in those days you couldn't elect a Democrat. And some of them never changed back, but they never changed their loyalties, they stayed and voted for Democrats. It was a wonderful neighborhood for me to grow up as a kid. Mostly Irish, some Jewish, some Yankees as we called them, but a very agreeable area, and I think the city in itself reflected that.

AL: Was it predominantly one party or the other? It must have seemed

EK: Oh well, the Republicans controlled Bangor, I mean they absolutely controlled it. And ethnically there was some Irish that got elected on the Republican ticket in Bangor, but to be, other than the locals, that was a rarity for the Democrats. I look back, and I was thinking about this coming over this morning, and you probably have had other legislators in there that have said this to you, but in 1964 when Goldwater was on the ticket, there was, he bothered a lot of people for a lot of reasons. He was hawkish as can be and was willing to use, I think, the atomic bomb in those days, the hydrogen bomb, and he scared people. And then there was some resentment of Goldwater in this state; people thought he was Jewish and they didn't vote for him because of that. I believe that.

Anyone ever talk to you about the Big Box? Okay, in Maine up until the seventies you could take the ballot in the fall; let's say there was a presidential candidate on it that was heading the ticket, or a United States senator up for election, or a congressman for election, or a combination of all three. You could go in, instead of going down and voting for president of the United States, United States senator, governor, congressman, and then the local legislative candidates, whatever, you could just have an X at the top, you didn't have to vote the entire column like we're all used to today. And because of the fear of Goldwater with some people, and that was his hawkish side of him, and I think there was, honestly I hate to say this, but for some reason they

thought that he may have been, that he was Jewish. The people hit, they didn't vote for him, they hit the top of the other box.

Example, there was twenty-nine Republican senators in the state senate and I think four Democrats. That election there was twenty-nine Democrats in the state senate and four Republicans. And I'm only using this as a background, because I want to get back to Muskie in the fifties. There was, I don't know whether I'm giving the right analysis, I'm giving the analysis as I believe it to be, and it was a phenomenon, you know, the Democrats woke up one morning and all of a sudden they controlled the house of representatives. They hadn't controlled it since 1912, they hadn't controlled the senate since 1912, and I'm not sure they did control the senate back then but I know they controlled the house simply because of resentment to Goldwater and the fact of the big box. And then you say, well that was phenomenon that that happened, because the next election the Republicans ended up with twenty-five seats in the senate, the Democrats had eight or, you know, they just didn't go back to four. But it kind of brought the party to life, believe it or not. The house went back to fifty-two or fifty-three from ninety-odd.

And then you go back and you say, well now how in the name of heaven did Ed Muskie get elected governor of the state in the mid-fifties, or the late fifties really. And how did he do it is still a pondering question to me, with the exception that he was an exceptional man, a thoroughly honest man. And I forget who he ran against, that was '55, I was fourteen, '56 I was fifteen, but I think it was Burt Cross. He was running against some-

AL: In '54 he ran against Burt Cross, in '56 against Willis Trafton.

EK: Willis Trafton, right, that's right, exactly. You know, I didn't remember, now that you mention it I wouldn't have thought of Willis Trafton from Auburn. But that was a phenomenon. And then he won the United States Senate seat, and elect another Democrat governor at the same time, which was phenomenal.

But, so my city, where I grew up, it was predominantly Republican. And I think, in 1964 I believe they elected four, there was five house seats, and I can't think now, let me see who won, Raymond Curran won, was one, a guy by the name of Paul Searles was two, Frank Glazier was three, Chris Ruby was four, and I can't remember the fifth one. Now, there may have been only four Democrats running; they had to go around and beg people to run. Not because that anyone could forecast what was going to happen in the fall, but people, the Democrats sensed that Goldwater was, had some problems and I think if they had run, they may only have run four candidates out of the five, and I think that's probably what happened. Had they run the five they would have won it. They won the senate seat in Bangor, and of course they didn't win another, the Democrats never won another senate seat, I bet for fifteen years after, which was a long time. Just stop and think, in my day, in my day, I can't remember who was in the state, there might have been one Democratic senator in my sixteen years in the Maine house from Bangor. Not more than one, but right now I can't reach for it. They've had elected Democrats obviously since then.

AL: Now, your parents identified themselves as Democrats?

EK: Yes, my mother was a registered Democrat, my father was a registered Republican; I don't think he ever voted Republican in his life except maybe some local fellows, some local people. On the national ticket, never, he'd of never voted for a Republican and I'm sure he never voted for a Republican for the United States Senate. But I'm not positive of that, but I, in my memory certainly since I was, let's say I was fifteen, no, he would have voted Democratic.

AL: Did they talk about politics at home; was that something that got you interested?

EK: Well, my own family, uncles and cousins, were very active in local politics. On the Bangor city council, I had an uncle that was on there for, let's say, he was there in the teens, twenties, stepped out eight or nine years then went back and served from the late thirties until the forties. And I had two, three cousins, one of them ran for the city council in Bangor I think in 1943 or '42 and was there until he died in the fifties, a young man, he was only forty-three when he died. Then one of his brothers served a term later on, and then we had another cousin that served.

But I always had, I had an interest in it, I wanted to get on the council because my family had been active in the community, and I ran when I was twenty-one years old, there was three seats open, eleven candidates, I finished fourth, which I thought I did pretty well. And I look back now, I was too young to run. If I had been thirty I probably, maybe I could have won the first time.

And then in 1966 all the Democrats ran again for the house and they were all defeated but one, Raymond Curran. And then in 1968, early in '68, I was in a news stand, Frank Glazier ran a tobacco and news shop in the city and it was a very popular shop, and Frank had . . . Oh, I remember who the fifth one was now, his name was Harold Harvey, they did elect five of them. And Harold was a retired man at the time and he used to go in and work with Glazier in the mornings for a few hours.

So I can remember, I remember how I got into politics, really, ran for the legislature. I said to Harold Harvey, "Are you going to run again for the state legislature?" I mean, I knew him when I was a kid and through all my life at that point. And he said, well he didn't think so, and well maybe and perhaps. And while I was talking to him there was a very prominent lawyer standing next to me getting the papers, as I was. Al Winchell was a very active Republican and he looked at me, he says, "Ed, why don't you run for the legislature?" he said. And I said, "Oh," I hadn't given it any thought. He paid for the paper and was paying for mine and Harold Harvey said to me, "If you're going to run," he takes this whole conversation and says, "well, if you're planning to run for the legislature you'd better get permission from the city chairman," the Democratic city chairman. And I said, "Oh really?" And he said, "Yes." Who I knew very well, and I also knew who the county chairman was, a cousin of my father, was my second cousin, Dan Golden.

So I went out and I went up, I was working for my uncle at Kelleher's Funeral Home. And the more I thought about, why the hell would I have to ask anyway permission to run for any public office? It just made me mad, and I sat down and typed out a resume immediately, that day, and took it down to the *Bangor Daily News* and announced that I was going to run for the state legislature. That's how I got into the, actually took out my papers based on that man saying to

me you'd better ask someone if you could run. This is the United States of America, I don't have to ask anybody, particularly, and I knew the fellow that was the city chairman, he was a great guy and couldn't have done enough for me after I announced.

In those days Bangor elected five at-large, I think there was nine or ten of us on the ticket, Curran a two-term incumbent at that time. I beat the whole crowd of them in the primary and went on to, well, and then got on the ticket, and then Muskie of course gets on the ticket with Humphrey. And I campaigned, as I thought campaigning was in those days, I'm not sure, I'd certainly do it differently later on, and got the fifth seat, I won the fifth seat. I was, I can remember I was trailing by six or seven hundred ballots behind in the cumulative total, but there was a huge Democratic area, a lot of Irish, Jewish, Italian ethnics lived in this area, and when the results come in that day in that ward I won by a hundred and fifty-two votes, so I turned the deficit around. And they actually elected, there was three Democrats elected at the time: there was David Cox, who later became the district attorney in Penobscot County and served on the, and Brennan put him in the judiciary as a district court judge; Raymond Curran, who was a very popular man, he was a nice man, was reelected, and myself. The two Republicans was an Irishman named John Jamieson who had served in the legislature for twelve or fourteen years up until then, he was a lovely man; and Bob Soulos, Greek fellow, and there's a small Greek population in Bangor and Bob got elected.

Let me tell you a story. I have a twin sister and when we turned twenty-one we went down to register to vote at the city of Bangor. And there was a fellow named Crowley who was the registrar, he was a nice man and I knew him from church. And this is what, and I go in, "What can I do for you two?" I says, "We want to register to vote." And he said sure and he throws down two cards for my sister and I and they're Republican cards, we didn't even ask. But I assumed he'd know I'd want to be a Democrat. Anyways, I said we don't, I said, "You a Republican?" to my sister, and she says, "Absolutely not." And I said, "Give us two Democratic cards," which he did. And he said, "You know, Ed, if you have any interest in politics," he knew my family had and my cousins had all been registered Republicans - I'm sure they voted for as many Democrats as they ever did Republicans, but anyways - he said, "you won't get anywhere around here." And I said, "Well, you know, our name is well known and it's well known respectably." And I said, "I don't think that makes a difference, but if that's the difference then that's the difference then. And I want to register as a Democrat." So I did, and she did. Isn't that funny how, you know, he wasn't insulting about it, he didn't mean to be rude about it and I didn't take him for being rude or insulting. He just thought that, well, you know, you're better off, Ed, if you stay in the Republican ticket.

But the Democratic Party was a party I thought that was open and had ideas and, you know, it supported the working guy, it was helpful in social programs. My house certainly was familiar; you couldn't say a bad word about Franklin Roosevelt in my house, because my father would say he saved the country. And, you know, the social security was such an important issue in those days, as it is today, but the Democratic Party was the, I don't think they had three votes in the house from Republicans for social security. And the G.I. Bill which created Middle America, which was a Democratic idea, which really made America, made these schools; it reinforced education throughout the country. I saw an interesting program on the G.I. Bill and I always thought the statistics were interesting: in 1940 one-third of Americans owned their homes and

two-thirds didn't; in 1950 two-thirds of Americans owned their homes and one third didn't, because of the G.I. Bill, education and the opportunity for the men and women that were in the service to get out and buy a home. You know, those were all progressive policies.

Truman had, although I didn't know it at the time, 1948, '49 or '50 when the second term, his own first complete term rather when he won, he had instituted Medicare. Anyway, the Democratic Party was And I liked the minimum wage bill. In all my years in the legislature I never saw a minimum wage bill I didn't like, and I sponsored one myself in the latter part of my career along with Gerry Conley from Portland and we got it passed. So it was just a natural place for me to go. And I liked Truman, I liked Truman when it wasn't popular to like Truman. I like frank people and directness, and Harry Truman was every bit of that. Plus he had a wonderful face, that man; he had a very good face. Anyways, I'm babbling on here on you.

AL: Some of the people that you knew involved in politics in Bangor, I'm thinking of the Baldaccis, were they active?

EK: Yeah, let me go before them, yeah, they were active. My father's first cousin, my second cousin, Dan Golden, I don't whether you know the name, but Dan Golden worked for Ma Bell. And Dan, along with Joe Mayo's father, and I served with Joe Mayo's father, I'll think of his name, Jim Mayo I think was the father's name, Dan Golden and Mayo were the two people that created the telephone union in this state. They helped, really, were the major players in unionizing the telephone workers. And the company's not stupid, they just moved Dan into management later on in life. But Dan Golden was a very, very active Democrat in the city of Bangor when Democrats were scarce.

John T. Barry, have you ever heard that name? John T. Barry was a very active Democrat in the city of Bangor who served on the Bangor city council I think for twenty-five years. Wonderful guy, he was a wonderful man, but, and ran on the ticket for many offices that a Democrat could win, could win in the city of Bangor on the local elections, council elections, but. And he wasn't a wasteful candidate in the sense of the name, he was a very capable wonderful man who Muskie really made a lot of people angry when there was a postmastership opened up and there was a couple of factions at that time, and I never could understand because Barry was such a lovely man, but Muskie wouldn't put him forward and, you know, he'd asked for three names from the Democratic city committee, this was just a little bit prior to my being active, and they'd send down three names, John T. Barry, John T. Barry and John T. Barry. But for whatever reason the senator didn't move with them, which really made a lot of people mad, it made me mad myself, because he was such a wonderful fellow. And his father-in-law, P.J. Burns, P.J. was an active old Democrat all his life right from County Tipperary Island, successful insurance man and real estate fellow. P.J. ran a number of times, but he's another issue. Barry was a, it really made us angry. But a guy that

Now Dan Golden was an extremely powerful force in Democratic politics and although I know Dan was very disappointed with not John Barry getting that nomination, it didn't affect him with Muskie. It made some of us mad. And the guy that Muskie nominated for the postmastership was a guy by the name of Bill Comeau, Comar, and was a wonderful guy, no animosity because Bill was the one that ended being postmaster. People just thought that fairness to what politics is

to be that Barry was the key. Bob Toole was a very active former city chairman; Jim Moody was a former city chairman and was a municipal mayor, excuse me, a municipal court judge; Robert Murray was a very popular chairman; James McNamara, Jimmy worked for the *Bangor Daily News*, very active Democrat. These are all men that Muskie would have known very, very well.

There was a woman, Katherine Hickson, and I mean to say there was a woman, there was plenty of active women in the Democratic Party up there, but not so much in the office level of, you know, being city chairman or county chairman. But Katherine Hickson ran for Congress once in the fifties, and God, she was a lovely woman. Very, if Katherine Hickson walked into a room people would look at her, there was an elegance about her, a grace about her, and of course she was a very intelligent woman, just a lovely, lovely person who ran. Of course, it didn't work out for her. She'd have made a great congresswomen if she had got there.

The Baldaccis, John's father Bob and his uncle Vasco were active Democrats. A guy named Sam Hill, who was a retired colonel, came to Bangor because of Dow Air Base, was an active Democrat. Charlie O'Leary was an active Democrat; Jay McCloskey, I mean, they're my generation of, Jay's a few years younger than I am. And of course the Murray family were always active.

AL: What about Madelin Kiah?

EK: Madelin Kiah was over in Brewer. Now, there's a distinction when you asked me that because there's a river between us and Brewer but, oh no, Madelin Kiah was a, she was a very, she was institutional. She was like Bell Rush from up in Millinocket, hard working Democrats, you know, that they were laboring in a field where they didn't get much wheat out of it in their early days, but they were, Joe Binnette from Old Town, Harold Kype from Dexter, Joe and Harold both served in the legislature. And obviously the Currans, Raymond Curran was a very, Isabelle McGee, Catherine Flemen, they were just, oh God, Theresa Brennan, Terry Brennan, have you ever heard that name?

AL: I've just heard it recently.

EK: Well, she was the, she would be an excellent person to talk to. Terry Brennan ended up in the voter registration office in the city of Bangor, and just a lovely, lovely woman, and her husband Bob, were active Democrats. Terry was very active. Theresa Brennan is her name and we all called her Terry. Tish O'Day, Theresa O'Day who lived, who came from Bangor and she had a store out in Holden, or Eddington I think it was, out in Eddington, were active, were very active Democrats. See, you're jogging my memory now, names I haven't thought of for quite a while.

AL: You said there were some factions among Democrats? Who, can you give me an idea of . . . ?

EK: Well there was the, you know, it was all our imaginations of course, or the fear of them. But there was two fractions, there was kind of like the old party Danny Golden, Bob Toole, Jim

McNamara, Eddie Kelleher. Marshall Stern is a name that just comes to mind very well, and he would have been someone you'd have definitely interviewed if he hadn't tragically died an early death as he did. And then there was the University of Maine group.

AL: David C. Smith?

EK: Dave Smith would be one of them, David Smith would be one of them, and Bill Stone and, but they were all, you know, they were all good guys. It's just, and I think the reason there was a tug-of-war, I think the fairness to describe the tug-of-war is that here's a group of Dan Golden and Bob Toole and Jim McNamara and even Eddie Kelleher for that matter because that's who I, they're all my friends and my associates.

AL: Where did the Baldaccis fit in?

EK: They were middle of the road. They were middle of the road, or sometimes they would be with the other camp, often times they would be with the other camp. Marshall Stern was, Marshall and I were kind of like negotiators. I could speak for one side, not on the confrontational side although I'd get in it, and then you'd have the, let's say the university crowd, or the new crowd. But Marshall and I could sit down and negotiate with the two groups. So at the end of the day, even though there might have been a contentious, terrible, difficult meeting, both camps had opportunities to get back into the other camp through, I was one, Marshall was another. But I think the reason of the camps were that, because of the older group, the more difficult years they lived through, and the expansion years was the new group, the new active, new interest in parties. Today you'd say this is nonsense, for God's sake, let's join together. But they never wouldn't support whoever came out on top, we always did. I don't say that arrogantly, it just was, if we had a county vote it would strengthen itself that way. But Muskie never got, you know, each group got behind Muskie; let's say for example, or Clauson, whoever was the major candidate. There might be squabbles amongst ourselves, but not to reflect on someone running for office. The idea would be to help him, help him or her. It was mostly him in those days.

Give you an interesting scenario: when I went to the Maine legislature in 1969, if they had hair on their heads it was white, it was an old house. There was ten of us under thirty out of a hundred and fifty-one member house, ten people under thirty. There was probably fourteen or fifteen women in the house at that time. When I left in '84 the age group was one third from twenty-one to thirty-five, thirty-five to fifty-five, fifty-five thereafter, so those demographics changed dramatically in age. There was forty-two women in the house when I left, out of a hundred and fifty-one. And much better legislation, and certainly much better debate, because if you were debating someone that was sixty years old or sixty-five years old, given their perspective, and someone else giving their perspective at thirty-five, it created a much greater activity of argument and ideas. So those things changed. I don't mean to drabble on, on you.

AL: That's o.k. In 1954 when Muskie was running for governor for the first time and you were a young teenager -

EK: I was thirteen.

AL: Do you recall?

EK: Muskie running?

AL: Yeah.

EK: Of course. And to think a Catholic was running? Oh, my God. And then when he won, it was amazing. Cross, I can remember Cross, I can remember seeing Burt Cross coming to Bangor, the only time I ever remember him, but they were dedicating the Bangor-Brewer bridge. And Patti Page had a song out at that time, "Cross Over the Bridge" - I'll never forget it, it was - and here's the Bangor High [School] band, they had a huge band in those days, coming across the bridge playing that song. And Clauson's there, I don't know whether he cut the ribbon, I can't remember but I can remember he was there. And I don't think Cross was an unpopular guy, but Muskie was very popular. And, I don't know, all of a sudden, Maine was an independent state, I think Maine became a very progressive state, or started to get to be a bit more progressive around that time when Muskie ran.

And, you know, Muskie was, Muskie and Frank Coffin, I always thought Frank Coffin and Muskie were the motivating factor that created the Democratic Party, really made it a legitimate party. And then Goldwater in '64. But here Muskie gets elected, we were just happy, I guess is the way we describe it. I didn't, of course, know Muskie at that time, but oh, and then he gets reelected, and then running for the United States Senate, he beat Payne, didn't he? Fred Payne, I think that's who he, and there was some kind of misconduct. Payne had been governor, and Cross, and there was some kind of a, there was some liquor scandal of some kind. I don't really know the details, I just, that, I don't know whether that was the reason or not, but that gave him the edge. I actually do not remember what the margin was with Muskie winning that United States Senate seat, whether he won by five thousand votes or fifty-five thousand votes, to be honest with you.

AL: I have it in a book, but I don't have it in my head.

EK: I'm sure you do. But anyways, Muskie became a senator, and I was thinking about Muskie, riding over here this morning obviously, and what did I see in Ed Muskie? I saw an honest man, I saw a smart man, an intelligent man, and he had a lot of, he had good interests, he was an all right guy, Muskie, politically. I campaigned with him only once really, when it was his last term. But he was more distanced in that sense than, I think the last term he was in office.

AL: In '76, the '76 campaign?

EK: Yeah, '76 campaign, but even the cam-, I'd say '72, '73, '74, I didn't see him that much in Bangor, very much, I didn't. We had a congressman at that time, Bill Hathaway, and Hathaway was a popular fellow. Not, Ed Muskie was popular, too, don't get me wrong, but Hathaway was around obviously, he had the second district and Muskie had the whole state. So I didn't see him, and he seemed not aloof at all but distanced, you know. I'm sure if you got someone that was older than me they could probably say, oh yes, we saw him in Bangor at the Rotary, or he

came to this function or that function, but I never really saw him up there like that. It wasn't that he took people for granted, don't get me wrong, but we didn't see him that often.

AL: Was there any times where you did meet him one-on-one?

EK: Oh yeah, I can remember in his last campaign for the Senate his campaign office called and said to me, "Muskie's going to be," 'the Senator' as they would say, "the senator is going to be in Bangor Saturday night and he'd like to go to church with you Sunday morning at St. John's church." There was two Catholic churches, they were huge churches, in the city. And I was up for reelection myself at that time and I said, "Look, I go to St. Mary's church and I don't go to the church over there. I go there to funerals, I go there to weddings, but I don't go there, I just go to my own church, as they don't come over here except for funerals or weddings." And I had tremendous support on that side of the city, it wasn't like I viewed them as foreigners or they viewed me as foreigners. I said, "And I feel, I'd be self conscious going over there to Mass with Muskie." In those days we were still running at-large in the whole city, not like you got single number districts now. And I says, "I don't want them to think I'm artificial, that I'm coming over here, because I want my own reelection and I'm coming over there for Muskie." And I said, "You tell Ed Muskie that the Mass is in Bangor, and here they are, St. Mary's" and I rattled them off, "and I'll take him to any one of them."

So, you know, they called back and they said, "No, he said fine, nine o'clock Mass would be fine with him." And I said, "Good, where do I pick him up?" And I picked him up and, we didn't know each other really. He knew me, I mean, and I was an active guy up there, certainly by that time very active. And we went in got to Mass maybe seven or eight minutes before it began, and we walked down the center aisle of the church and sat down, which was where I generally had sat anyway, only a little further down for me at the time. And I can remember the head usher coming over and spoke to me. And Muskie said, "What did he want?" And I said that he wanted to know if we'd take up the offerings and I told him we would. (*Aside to Andrea: Are you Catholic?*) Well, you know how they take the offerings up, the wine and the host. And so I says, he said, "I don't want to do it." I says, "Well, you don't have to but you're going to look a little strange there, Ed, me getting up and you not." I said, "I can take them both up but, you can do whatever you want to," I said. And that's just what I said to him, do whatever the hell you want to. So of course when it came time, and let me, I'm ahead of myself.

The people that sat around us were just, you know, "there's Ed Muskie," you could see people pointing all over the church to him. So went up and made the offering and then we came back. And then after Mass, the priest in those days would come off the altar and go up to the front door. When we got up there was applause, the immediate people around us, there was quite a bit of applause. And then when you went outside the church, as you did in any church in those days, the paper boys would be out there with their bags of paper, selling the Portland paper and, it wasn't getting home delivered like it does now, and the Boston paper. And, of course, we were going out and there'd always be a crowd there, but there was an enormous crowd, I'd say two thirds of that church came out and he met them. And I was really happy, pleased, to see how very popular this man was, and how generous and kind and considerate he was to each and every one of them. And I said to him, you know, "You got a better reception here than the priest did," and he laughed.

And that, day two we went from there down to, it was a huge fireman muster from all over the state down at the county fair at the city fairgrounds. And I can remember taking him down, honest to God, it was, it was the church repeated only a little difference: "Hi Ed, Governor, Senator," you know, there was all these calls, all these people hollering to him. And there was, he knew a few people. It wasn't like, you know, he just, you know, he certainly knew the Rumford firemen, he knew some of the Waterville firemen where he lived, and it was just I said to him when we got done that day, I said, "There's no question." He wasn't running against much on the Republican side at that time, I mean, not to dilute the man, but he just didn't have the wherewithal that Muskie had. And I says to him, "You must feel good to see the reception that you got not only from the church, from the local people in Bangor, a segment of them, but the broad support, that recognition that you got from these firemen, volunteer firemen from all over the state."

AL: I'm going to stop and flip the tape.

End of Side A
Side B

AL: We're now on Side B.

EK: In that campaign, now here's a fellow that was really good, he could have stayed in Washington and got reelected, which he didn't. He campaigned very hard. Reflected also on him, he didn't take the Maine people for granted and he didn't want them to take him for granted either.

AL: You mentioned Ralph Owen Brewster earlier. Was he somebody that you knew in the community?

EK: No, Owen Brewster came from Dexter, Maine, and I knew Owen Brewster only because of his tenure in the UB, as governor and then he was a United States senator for a long time. And I'm a bit of a history buff, I like to read. The famous Truman Committee in the Second World War that inspected air bases in France, Harry Truman actually was, that committee made Truman as a conscientious, hard working United States senator, knew what the hell he was doing every minute of the day, and with a limited education Truman was a reader and he read. So when, you know, if he went out in Texas and there was fourteen thousand men on the payroll and they could only account for nine, why are we paying for the other five? Well, you're building bombers, you're building planes that are killing people over here testing, you want to avoid I mean, he was cutting out waste in people, cutting sharp corners on the war production. And Brewster was a member of the committee. And Truman, although was chairman, said, "There's no stars here. There'll be one voice and we'll speak as a group." So, you know, I knew a little bit about Brewster. And then Brewster went after Howard Hughes. You heard of Howard Hughes, right? And in the United States Senate, I don't know if it was the Un-American Activities Committee, or -

AL: Let me stop just a second.

(Pause)

EK: So Brewster was actually beat in the primary. He was a United States senator, and I think Fred Payne beat him. I think Fred Payne beat Owen Brewster who was an incumbent two or three, probably a three term senator at that time. And Brewster's name was always cloudy with people, you know. I'll never forget there was a Republican state senator from Bangor, John T. Quinn, and Quinn was a Republican and a wonderful man. I was talking to him one day about Brewster, because it used to be R. Owen Brewster, or Ralph O. Brewster. And I said to Quinn, I don't know how we got into the subject, I says, "Well, you know, John, what do you think, how should people, should have called Brewster?" At that time he was dead. "Should they have called him Ralph Owen Brewster, or R. Owen Brewster?" He says, "No matter how you do it, Ed, it's R.O.B., rob." And now, of course he was reflecting back, John Quinn was a contemporary of my father's, maybe John was, my father was born in 1903, John was probably born in 1900. But relating back to the 1925-26 gubernatorial race with him accepting the Ku Klux Klan. That never set well I'm sure with John Quinn.

AL: Do you recall the Bangor *Commercial* newspaper and their efforts to defeat Ralph Owen Brewster?

EK: Well the *Commercial* was always viewed as a Democratic paper. Now, I was just a young man when the *Commercial* went out, but I was probably fourteen, fifteen when it did, you know, it could have been when I was thirteen or when I was sixteen, but it was when I was a young man. So no, I don't recall it. But I'm not surprised you're asking the question. If you'd asked me which, where would the *Commercial*, *Bangor Daily Commercial* have been in the race between Brewster and some Democrat, I'd say they'd be supporting the Democrats. Bangor paper's always viewed as a Republican paper, you know, if you got an endorsement from the *Bangor Daily News* you were pleased. If you didn't get it, you'd say, oh, that's a Republican paper; they wouldn't give it to you anyways.

AL: Do you recall Charlie Butera?

EK: Oh, very well. Charlie Butera, God, absolutely. Charlie was of the Dan Golden era and certainly would have been in that camp. Charles Butera, I don't know what Charlie had for an education, I'd say high school. Maybe he went to college, maybe he didn't, but Charlie Butera was an extremely articulate man and a very good public speaker, with force and convictions and wit. Now, you, I haven't thought of Charlie Butera in years and I, you can see me smiling, I always respected the man. He was a Democrat; he was a Madelin Kiah activist in Brewer and also in the county. I would say Madelin and him had more tiffs than tats over the years. A very dapper guy. I can see Charlie now. He was a nice man.

AL: How did he fit into the Democratic Party in that area?

EK: Well he fitted in, I mean he was one that labored and ran for public office when a Democrat couldn't win. But he would put every effort in to do it. There was an old fellow, and old sheriff, John Browne, have you heard his name? John was right from Ireland, he spelled his name B-R-O-N-W-E, [sic] [B-R-O-W-N-E] which is common over there but not so common

over here any more. And he was an old active, I think John was a Democrat, he was an old man when I was a kid. But Charlie Butera, I should have thought of his name. He was a very, but again, there's that river that separated all of us in more ways than one.

AL: And do you recall Bill Cohen's family at all, and him growing up? 'Cause he

EK: Oh, very well. I remember, well Billy and I would be contemporaries; I remember his father Ruby and his mother very well, his uncle Dick. I think they were Democrats at one time, the family, I think they were. They certainly supported Democrats as well as Republicans. The Cohen family were very much respected in the city of Bangor, and there was like three or four different Cohen families. Just wonderful people. Billy was a great guy, and Billy was active in a law firm with Errol Payne, there's another name I should have mentioned, was a very active Democrat who was an extremely competent attorney. And there was, Errol Payne, Cohen, Goody Lynch. What was his first name? He had a nickname, we called him -

AL: Goody?

EK: No, it wasn't Goody, because there was a Goody Lynch and there was a Candy Lynch, but it wasn't Candy. A lot of people had nicknames, and I cannot think of Lynch's name, and a very capable guy, a Democrat. There was a Republican in the firm, they had a wonderful firm. And Billy Cohen was and is a wonderful man. I think Billy would have been successful as a Democrat as well as a Republican, and he was a very successful Republican (*unintelligible word*). I think Baldacci headed up a group one time, Democrats for Cohen, and I know Baldacci, young John, John Baldacci was a very hard working candidate himself. John ran for the state senate in my last term in the house, and I campaigned with him, and I campaigned with him a lot over in his side of the city. I had a lot of support over there although it wasn't in my legislative district any more. And Cohen got a lot of Democratic support. I know when he ran against Hathaway, I think there were some Democrats in the city might have voted for him. I didn't, I supported Bill Hathaway. But Cohen really was a very capable guy, and is a very capable man today.

AL: It seems from what I've observed that he's, that people perceive him as very middle of the road and, you know, maybe that led to part of the reason for Clinton having him in his administration.

EK: Oh yeah, I mean Billy was the middle of the road, because Billy landed, he went to Congress with his first term was the impeachment against Nixon. And he was one of, and there may have been more Republicans, but he was one of the Republicans on the, in the House that voted to impeach Richard Nixon, which gave him right then and there a tremendous stage as being a moderate to a liberal Republican. And Billy was a moderate Republican even prior to the Nixon issue. And that put him in a position of great popularity across the state. Hathaway was then running for, of course, the following term, Hathaway was running for reelection to the United States Senate. Hathaway had been a big promoter of the Indian lands claim case; has anyone ever talked to you about that?

AL: Little bit.

EK: Quite a bit.

AL: Little bit.

EK: A little bit. Well, the Indian lands claim case was a very controversial issue in the state on what was owed to Maine Indians. And Brennan was attorney general at the time, Longley was governor. There was a settlement plan and politically it was killing Hathaway. And I can remember meeting with Hathaway, there was five of us from across the state met with him and urged him to tone down his support for the Indian lands claim case because it was, and we weren't telling him anything he didn't know, that it was going to cause him a tough road for a reelection, number one. And then with Cohen nailing Nixon's hide to the wall on the Watergate and the impeachment, compounded Hath-, Hathaway was not an unpopular guy but he was viewed as a very liberal guy. And he was viewed then, more so as an extreme liberal guy, person, because of the Indian lands claims case.

And Hathaway, to his credit as he was a great guy, said, right or wrong, reelect him or not, I believe that we should settle this claim with the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians. I didn't vote for ratification in the house myself on the issue, but I respected Hathaway for his position and respected him even more when he told the five of us that night, you know, "No matter what comes down I'm voting for it." And he was a great senator, God, he was a wonderful guy, and yes he was liberal, so what. Liberal meaning he had a public conscience. Well, Billy was viewed as a liberal and a moderate and there was, you know, there was a lot of conservative Democrats, there are still a lot of conservative Democrats, but there was a lot of conservative Democrats and it worked against him.

And Cohen being viewed as a moderate, and certainly was a liberal within the Republican Party, yeah, I always thought Billy Cohen was a lot like an Eisenhower Republican, and popular. You know, I like Billy Cohen myself, I grew up with him, knew the family well. They was very strong supporters of myself running for public office. You could go down, if there was any signs in their business windows in the fall there, you could bet Eddie Kelleher's would be there, and they'd put it prominently there. And I think that also goes back, reflects back on your families.

I can remember when George Mitchell was running for reelection to the United States Senate after Brennan had appointed him when Muskie went into secretary of state. And Marshall Stearns called me up and said, "There's an event Sunday at the Jewish community center, Eddie," and he said, "I was supposed to take Muskie and I, excuse me, Mitchell and I can't. Will you do it?" And I said, "Sure." And at that time there was a state senator from Bangor named Howard Trotsky, Jewish guy, he was a great guy. And we went up to the Jewish community center, God, there must have been three hundred people in that room, it was packed. And I took Mitchell around and then I think whoever, I can't remember who it was, the host for the breakfast that morning, took him and I went over and sat down with Trotsky. But there was a table of mostly older Jewish men at the table, if I remember correctly, although there was, you know, there was as many women as there was men there. But at this table, and I start, because I know them all, they're all contemporaries of my father or my grandfather, and I was kidding them and they were kidding me.

And I can remember Trotsky saying to me, in the nicest way, he said, "Honest to God, Ed, I'm Jewish and they know you better than they know me," and he says, "they're actually treating you better than they are me," and he was saying it kiddingly. And I said, "Well that's not hard to figure out, Howard," I said, "look at their age. They're all immigrants like my grandparents, they grew up, they were, some of them were contemporaries of my father once went to Bangor High with them." And I said, "Look, it's more a reflection on my father and mother than it is on me." And I said, "They would go out of their way to be complimentary to me," and I says, "and that's just the fact that you've lived here ten years and my family has lived here seventy years, or sixty-five years." But that connection was there.

And it was the same way with the Cohen family. Billy's uncle, Greta, Aunt Greta and his uncle Dick, you know, they had a family business, which Dick Cohen and his brother Ruby ran the bakery. I don't think Dick had any boys so there was no, and I don't think any of the girls went into the bakery, but obviously Ruby had two boys, he had Bill and Bob and they both went to work in the bakery. I remember Billy working there, and I can remember when Billy was on the city council. When he was a lawyer, you know, he'd go up, might go in there Saturday morning, the place was busy, he'd put on an apron right behind and wait on people with his father. A wonderful personality. Just a nice family.

AL: Do you remember the Schoenbergers? They would have been in the University of Maine . . . [group]

EK: Sure, Marilyn and Bud Schoenberger. On the county ticket they would have been in the other camp most of the time. But conscientious, hard working people, good Democrats. But the university, just the association with it, put a lot of people off who didn't go to the university, wasn't part of it. But no, they were, I can remember some -

AL: I have a question about that. I mean, did people who were sort of put off by that faction, were they put off because they felt these people weren't, they were from away -

EK: That would be part of it.

AL: - or that they maybe elitist?

EK: No, they were from away, they, some of them viewed them as elitist I'm sure. I never did, honestly, myself because if you stopped and listened to them they weren't saying much different from what you and I would be saying. But yeah, they were outsiders. That's a terrible Maine fault. I've lived in Maine all my life, but if I went down to Hancock County and lived in Ellsworth for five years or ten years I'd still be an outsider. But particularly back at that time, in Muskie's period of time, when he was in public office. But you look at Muskie and you'd say, well, people on both sides of the fractions liked him and respected him. Bill Hathaway the same way, George Mitchell lesser degree, it evaporated, pretty much so when George became a United States senator because Mitchell worked for Muskie forever and a day.

AL: Did you know the Cutlers, Eliot Cutler, Kay Cutler?

EK: Knew of them, yeah, knew of them. That makes me, when you said Kay, that makes me think of, there was the Barretts in Bangor, Dr. Robert Barrett and his wife Kay, very active Democrats, very, very active, middle of the road as they, they could have fitted into either camp. People liked the both of them. Kay was a Rogan, lovely, lovely woman, and Bob Barrett was a nice man. They were very active Democrats. You didn't get many doctors that were. There wasn't many doctors that were Democrats to begin with.

AL: She wouldn't by any chance still be living, would she?

EK: Kay Barrett, I believe, is still living. Actually somebody told me the other day She's got a boy Robert, and Robert lives in Bar Harbor. He was a little active, Robert Barrett; he would be an interesting source. They would have had, the real prominent players in Bangor in Muskie's days would have certainly been Dan Golden, Bob Toole, very much the Baldaccis, Vasco and Bob, the Barretts, the Schoenbergers.

AL: Are there recollections or anecdotes or anything about Senator Muskie or about Maine politics that I haven't asked you about, that you'd like to add?

EK: No, I think you've kind of covered it. I believe when Muskie, here's the picture on your screen, you know, Muskie and Clinton Clauson. I think Muskie supported, not Clauson, in the Democratic primary, there was a primary race so there was Clauson and, isn't that awful, I can't think of the fellow's name, he ran for governor, he ran for governor after Curtis. Actually, in Curtis' administration he was the commissioner of agriculture. Isn't that awful, I can't think of this guy's name. But Clauson won it in a primary over, and I believe Muskie was supporting the other guy. I don't know how visible that was; undercurrent everyone thought he was not supporting Clint Clauson at all. And although Clauson came from Waterville. Isn't it awful, I can see the other fellow in my mind, I just can't remember his name. But he wasn't Muskie's first choice, as I understand it. Don Nicolls [*sic* Nicoll] could tell you in a heartbeat. But I think my recollection is somewhat correct.

AL: I'll have to ask him in my next interview with him.

EK: Is he doing the interview with you, is he part of the team?

AL: Yes.

EK: Yeah, yeah. You've done John Martin, I'm sure.

AL: Don has. He needs to go back and do more I think.

EK: Well Muskie, Martin had a long relationship with Muskie, and John was in the legislature when he was twenty-one in 1964, and he was a very active fellow. And I can remember Muskie coming and speaking to the legislature in my day. Of course, Muskie had a great presence, he was another fellow if he walked into the room you'd notice him, without him ever saying anything. Muskie could talk long, though, in later life, and I'm sure you've heard this before.

You know, he, there was no ten minute speech with Ed Muskie at all, and he would reflect back over. And, of course, there was always a point to it but those of us who had heard him speak and then reinvent the wheel as he talked about political life, and how it had changed in his lifetime. Sure was fasc-, I was fascinated when I heard it the first two or three times, and I'm sure anyone else was fascinated when they heard it, but he could, he could go a while. He could get a lot of mileage out of a single breath.

AL: Did you say that you served at the same time as John Martin in the legislature?

EK: Well, I did, I served sixteen years in the house, Martin, and I went in '68, Martin went in '64 so John had preceded me.

AL: But what were your experiences with -?

EK: John Martin made the Democratic Party in the house. I was, we were in the minority, I was there in the minority. John was in the majority his first term, from '64 to '66, and then from '68 to '75 we were in the minority. And when John became, when I went there the Democratic leader in the house was Emilien Levesque from Madawaska, and Joe Brennan was the second, was the junior of the two in the house. And then when Emilien, Brennan left and went to be county attorney, Emilien didn't run for reelection. Martin beat Louis Jalbert here in Lewiston by two votes to be the Democratic minority leader. And I supported Jalbert over Martin; today I wouldn't hesitate, I would have voted for Martin over Jalbert. But, that's another story.

And John, through his energies, canvassed and found people to run for seats, and we went from like fifty-eight to sixty-four, sixty-six, and he really created the two party system in the Maine house. And the Democrats took over in '75 and they've been there ever since. Capable man, John was a very good floor leader and he was a very good speaker. I served ten years when John was speaker, and we both served under a fellow by the name of David J. Kennedy. He was a Republican from Milbridge, and Kennedy was a superb speaker, great decorum in the house. David Kennedy, who liked John and respected him, and John modeled his operations of the house, the day-to-day operations of the house, very similar to Kennedy.

I was under Kennedy for four years, and then a Republican from Cape Elizabeth, Dick Hughes who was a wonderful fellow, took over the house and the house was more lax, it didn't have the control. For example, if someone was standing in front of me speaking, I couldn't get up and walk out, nobody could walk in front of him, or her in front of him. And, you know, those kind of respective rules is what I grew up under, and certainly John did. And when John, he would, you know, if someone absently walked out he would send a page out and say to you, the speaker wants to see you after the session. You'd come into his office and you would go in and John would say, "Look, you did something you shouldn't have done. You do it again and I will bring the gavel down and say the rules of the house are being broke." You just don't walk away in front of someone when they're speaking. If you were over to the left, and I mean maybe four or five people over, you could get up and go out. So Martin, and he changed it.

When the Republicans controlled the house if they had a caucus they would actually draw the curtains down, everybody would have to leave the house. If you wanted your keys to your car

you had to rap on the door, they would open it up, you know, of course the sergeant at arms or whoever was there, you saying I want my keys, they're on my desk or drawer, but you couldn't go in. And they would empty the balcony. Well, you know, it's pretty imposing if you're outside and here's the curtains drawn. And when Martin took over he stopped all that. In fact, we used to go downstairs and caucus in the appropriations room, and a lot of us that had been there and witnessed it said, well, you know, "Why are we going downstairs?" And he was right, the house should have remained open for either party to go in; very capable fellow.

John and I had our differences over the years. I used to say, and I don't think he disagreed with me, if I had a peer in the house that knew the rules better than I it was Martin. But if he had someone on the floor that knew the rules better than him, it was I. And we were competitive and combatant and bruised ourselves without mercy in caucuses, or I would take them on on the floor, take the whole leadership on on the floor, and they would be hotly contested arguments, and very hotly contested in caucuses.

But the flip side of it was we both respected each other, and even as powerful as he was in those days and even after those days, John Martin's not a vindictive fellow, and not a small fellow in holding a grudge or anything like that. I mean, people were often amazed, people used to say Martin rewarded his enemies better than he did his friends. And I wouldn't say I was an enemy, but I was, and not in that kind of tone, but I'm only using that as a level, because if I spoke to him and said, John, you know, I'd like to do this or I want to do that. Not a problem, Eddie.

And we probably entertained too many people at our own expense for about ten years. Not that we didn't enjoy each other's company, I mean we could go out and have dinner at night or have a coffee, or But Martin made the Democratic Party. A lot of people don't like to admit that today because he became such a controversial fellow. And he'd served a long time, and speaker for a long time, but they wouldn't have had the majority in my day, or the continued majority after that if it hadn't been for Martin. And of course he was a very close friend of Muskie's, he really knew Muskie well. You never interviewed him yourself?

AL: No.

EK: Oh, Don ought to, you ought to take him, because he's a teacher, a college teacher, an extremely capable good guy, he's a good guy. Do I always agree with him? No. Does he always agree with me? Certainly not.

AL: And you mentioned you voted for Louis Jalbert at that one point.

EK: I did.

AL: How did you, what did you know about Louis Jalbert and what did he stand for within the Democratic Party?

EK: Well, Louis Jalbert was an interesting fellow. Of course he was an old sea dog by the time I got to the house. I think Jalbert's first term was in '44 and my first term was 1968. And I had him as a seat mate. [I'll] Tell you a story. They used to have a, and they still do but not the

way they did it when I first went there, they had what they called a pre legislative conference so they'd bring down all the legislators but particularly new ones and give them an idea about government, and they had the state controller in, and they would have the secretary of state in and, you know, the head of the highway department, etcetera. And you used to, to get your seat assignments you went down and put your hand in a box and you pulled out a number and whatever the number was that was available, that's what you got. Now, the older members had a right to keep their seats, and then the older members had a right to trade seats prior to the new members coming in.

So my first catch, I'm setting over on the left hand side of the house, and I'm setting around Albert McPhale from Owl's Head, he was an old time Republican, Ed Harriman from down in Hollis, another old time Republican, Frank Rand from Yarmouth who originally came from Bangor and knew my family well, and he was a great guy, but Republican. And after a morning session the first day we're there, I get up and I'm walking out and I ran into another freshman legislator, who was a Republican from over Freeport, Louis Marstellio. "How are you doing?" And he said, "Oh God," he said, "you know, I'm setting next to that Democrat from Lewiston," he said, "that Frenchman, Louis Jalbert." And I said, "Oh?" And he said, "Yeah." And I said, "You don't like the seat?" And he said, "No, I don't want to sit next to him." And I says, "Well I'm sitting over with Albert McPhale and Ed Harriman and Frank Rand," and of course he knew of them, they were prominent guys, they'd been in the house a while. I said, "Do you want to swap seats?" And he said, "Sure, do you mind?" And I said, "No."

So here I'm going over to set next to the most controversial well-known, and certainly the most, he was *cumma sum laude* [sic] when it came to knowing the house rules, he knew them. And I said, I can learn something from Louis Jalbert, so I swapped seats, setting right next to him. Louis had an end seat, I was the next seat, the seat to my left was a fellow named Frank (*name sounds like: Quimby*), he was a Republican from over in Cambridge. Behind me was the chairman of the taxation committee, Roosevelt Soucy from Pittsfield; next to him was John Lund that was on the appropriations committee with Jalbert and also would later become attorney general. Setting in front of Louis was Raymond Rideout, he was a, he was from Manchester and he was chairman of the state government committee, and next to him, set directly in front of me, was a woman by the name of Mildred Wheeler, have you ever heard her name? From Portland, and her husband was Milt Wheeler.

AL: Milt Wheeler.

EK: Yeah, his wife. So here I'm setting around a hell of a lot of people that had a great deal of experience and I'm a listener and I can learn. Now that's how I got the seat. Three weeks later I'm riding home from Augusta and a radio program, some political person was interviewing Louis Jalbert and said, you know, "What do you think of this crop of legislators coming in this year?" "Well," he said, "there's some very talented people," he said. He says, you know, "I have the right, because of seniority, to select who sits next to me." And he said, this is, and he said, you know, "Four years ago my seat mate was Severin Beliveau, he is now a state senator from Oxford County. Two years ago my seat mate was Joe Brennan, he is now the assistant Democratic floor leader." And he says, "I got my old friend from Bangor, Eddie Kelleher, as my seat mate," and he said, "I think he's a man with some talent and I'm delighted to have him

there.” There's the story of Louis Jalbert. So I sat next to Louis that term and I always got a kick out of him. And I was quite conservative at that time, in the house, and Louis was conservative to moderate, so we voted often a lot of times together, much to the chagrin of the Democratic leadership, I'm sure.

And then the following term I moved up the aisle across from him but back two rows and I ended up with an aisle seat which I kept for fifteen years. It was a great speaking seat. If you learned anything about the house, you didn't sit up front because you couldn't turn around to talk to the house. The further back you are, or certain positions in the house, you could talk to them and wondering, if they weren't listening to you, you could see it, but if you were up front you couldn't.

And I had the, I liked Louis and we were on obviously sometimes with the short end of the stick within our own party on some issues. And I knew he was a *(tape fades out briefly)* since, and although there was always the question you could never trust him, I must say in the sixteen years I served with him he never told me anything that he didn't live up to always, so I never bought that as an example of, a mis---, example of Louis Jalbert. And, of course, he was feared because he knew the rules, and he was a very good speaker. And he was good on round one or round three. And no canned speeches with Louis, and there were no canned speeches with me either. And I was pretty good on round one, but I could kill you on round two and three. And he feared no one. And I liked that.

And Martin was different, and obviously I don't say that in the wrong way. But I had sat next to Jalbert, we had more of a relationship. John and I knew each other; we didn't have much to do with each other. So that was the normal reason I went there. But in hindsight, he would have been a terrible leader. And, you know, if I had had, not two terms because I didn't the second term, but going into the third term I didn't, but later on I would have, wouldn't have hesitated, I would have voted for Martin. One of my errors, but providence prevented it from being a major one.

AL: Is there anything else that I haven't asked you that you think we should add?

EK: No, I think we've pretty well covered it. I hope my, I think my memory's pretty accurate.

AL: Great, thank you.

EK: Well thank you, it was fun to do it.

End of Interview