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Interview with Shep Lee by Don Nicoll

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Lee, Shep

Interviewer

Nicoll, Don

Date

March 13, 2001

Place

Westbrook, Maine

ID Number

MOH 263

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Biographical Note

Shepard (Lifshitz) “Shep” Lee was born in Lewiston, Maine on November 13, 1926 to Ethel and Joe Lifshitz. His parents were both Russian immigrants, his mother a housewife, and his father an automobile dealer after the Depression. He attended the Lewiston Public Schools, graduating from Lewiston High School in 1943. He then went on to Bowdoin College, taking a break from college between 1945 and 1946 to enlist in the Navy. He returned to Bowdoin after his service, and graduated in 1947 with a degree in government and economics. At that time, he and his brother also changed their names to Lee to avoid discrimination against Jews in education and in careers. Lee returned to Lewiston after graduation, and went to work at his father’s automobile dealership. Soon after, he became active in Lewiston-Auburn Democratic politics. In 1956, he was campaign manager to Frank Coffin’s Congressional campaign. In 1963, he bought out his father’s partner in the automobile dealership, and eventually took over the entire business. Lee was an active Democrat during and after Ed Muskie’s career. He was a key fundraiser for the Maine Democrats, and loaned many vehicles to campaigning candidates over the course of his career. He retired from his automobile dealership in the late 1990s.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Lewiston, Maine community; discrimination and anti-

Semitism in Lewiston; personal side of Senator Muskie; campaign insights; Muskie anecdotes; Muskie's opinions on abortion and the limits of being liberal; LA Times article concerning Muskie's relationship with President Johnson about Vietnam; Muskie's relationship with his family; and staff anecdotes.

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Transcript

Don Nicoll: It is Tuesday, the 13th of March, the year 2001. We are at Lee Auto Mall in Westbrook, Maine interviewing Shep Lee. Shep, would you state your full name and date of birth, and your parents' name, and your place of birth.

Shep Lee: Okay, Shepard Lee is my full name. I was born in Lewiston, Maine at the CMG Hospital on November 13th, 1926. My parents were Joseph Lifshitz, and that was my name up until (*unintelligible phrase*), and my mother was Ethel Richardson Lifshitz.

DN: And this I should note is the second individual interview with Shep, the first having been by Chris Beam in 1991, and this one by Don Nicoll. Shep, you grew up in Lewiston, and you had three siblings. You talked in your earlier interview about your brother Harold, but not much about your sisters. Would you tell us something about them?

SL: Sure. My two sisters, who are still alive, they were the oldest. There was Dorothy, Sylvia, Harold, and a four year gap, and I was born. In my family it was important that the boys go to college. It wasn't as important that the girls go to college. So my two sisters went to Lewiston High School and ended up going to the Auburn Maine School of Commerce. Dorothy was the oldest and Sylvia was a year younger. Sylvia ended up going to Germany to work for the United States Army after the war. Dorothy lived at home and moved to New Jersey for a while, actually worked for Geiger Bros. in New Jersey, and then ended up coming back home. Dorothy has had some emotional instability throughout her life, she has had some good periods and some bad periods. Sylvia was the legal secretary to William Lloyd Garrison in the big firm there that has Sorenson and all those people in it.

DN: Is that what got you into the ACLU?

SL: No, no it wasn't. But I met Garrison a couple of times when she worked there. But she worked with him until he died, and he was writing, he was dictating his biography in his nineties and actually she was involved with that. Sylvia now lives in New York, retired, and actually is not in the best of health right now. But neither ever got married, and because my family relationships were probably never, never had a good relationship, I think that the girls, my sisters, suffered certainly more than Harold and I did. Harold and I both went to Bowdoin, and it was just expected that boys would do, would get a better education and do more. So in a lot of ways it makes me sad just to think that in fact my sisters went through life without ever really having boyfriends or marrying. But Sylvia's been a very good worker so never has had a hard time.

DN: Now did, was your father and mother's marriage one of those arranged marriages, or -?

SL: Well, semi-arranged. My father had an older sister, Mrs. Tarr, I think you remember Tarr's Market in Lewiston. It was because Mr. Tarr, who was originally Mr. (name), was married to my father's sister. And Mrs. Tarr played some role in fixing them up and encouraging my father to marry, but it wasn't arranged in the Indian sense of marriages. They knew each other before they got married. But it was never a great relationship, maybe the first couple of years, I'm not really sure.

DN: But, now was there a distinct Jewish community in Lewiston?

SL: There was, and the picture you got from Irving which you alluded to before -

DN: This is Irving Isaacson, yes.

SL: Right, I think, was he a member of the Auburn synagogue?

DN: Yes, in New Auburn.

SL: Okay, well, there were two synagogues. The Auburn synagogue was orthodox, the Lewiston synagogue was conservative. There was a big Jewish community in Lewiston, all of whom belonged to the Lewiston synagogue. And the funny thing is that much later on the Lewiston synagogue, Beth Jacob synagogue, built in Auburn. And people still referred to the new Beth Jacob synagogue as the Lewiston synagogue and Auburn was still there, that, in New Auburn. But they were two district communities.

DN: Were there many relationships between the two communities?

SL: Yeah, there were. Periodically there was even talk of combining, but because they were so different that the, in the Auburn synagogue the men and women didn't sit together, in Lewiston they did. All the traditional marks of the difference between orthodox and the difference of -

DN: So you were brought up in the conservative.

SL: Yes, I was conservative.

DN: Were your father and mother active participants in the synagogue?

SL: My father was active in building initially the Lewiston synagogue. He wasn't religious in typical fashion. They would go on the high holidays, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah. My mother would go more often because there were some social women's activities, Hadasah, Beth Jacob Sisterhood, she was a participant in that. My father didn't participate in, he really was indifferent to religion.

DN: In the earlier interview you talked about your brother's decision to seek a change in name because of prejudice and discrimination in admissions to the medical school. Did you run into many instances of discrimination in Lewiston growing up?

SL: They were there, I'd say my memory of my childhood is it was a happy childhood, and I didn't have early memories. We lived in a neighborhood, we were the only Jewish family in that block. There was one Irish family, and we had French, Frenchmen, and the mixture. All my friends were either French or Irish until I started in Hebrew school and then I had Jewish friends as well.

The first anti-Semitic action I guess you'd call it that I can remember, I had organized a Hi Y Club in the eighth, and then when it came to choosing officers it seemed natural for me to be an officer. But the advisor, I can't remember who it was, a teacher at school, he says, well, he says, Shep doesn't qualify because Hi Y is a Christian organization and it wouldn't be appropriate for a Jewish officer. And I remembered that because I guess I must have wanted to be one, so that's the first instance. In high school, really I didn't suffer much prejudice that I can recall in high school. There were the traditional anti-semitic slurs, and sort of stories and stuff like that, but my type of memories are not filled with, I have to think about instances like that. But I certainly didn't grow up feeling that was the underdog and picked on.

DN: Were there many ethnic clashes in Lewiston during that period?

SL: I don't think so, not that I was aware of. There were, in my time at least, I remember the great CIO strike of 1936, shoe strike. It was really, the division was more between the Yankees and the Franco-Americans, and that was always evident. And sometimes the Irish (*unintelligible phrase*). I think the Irish first controlled city hall for years, and then the French took over the control. But there weren't any real large anti-semitic incidents that I can remember in my childhood, or even later on.

DN: Now, you and I were talking before we started this interview about some of the other families that you knew, and we were talking particularly about Irving Isaacson and his father Peter, and Irving's description of how his father came to become a lawyer. I gather that your father knew him.

SL: Peter was my father's lawyer, before, I inherited the Brann & Isaacson firm from my father. Irving continued as my father's lawyer as long as he was in business and then Irving

became my lawyer in 1947, and still is. So that there's been a continuum in that relationship. Irving was a good friend as well as the, but when you mentioned it, it recalled to me, or my father would tell me the story of meeting Peter, who was a friend of his, and Peter telling him that he was going for the Bar and my father, not having any education says, "*(unintelligible word)* you going to drink, what are you going to do, Peter?" He says, "no, I'm studying to be a lawyer in Brann's office." And I think my father was quite surprised (*unintelligible phrase*).

I got to tell you one other Peter Isaacson story. Peter was an exceptionally smart guy, and at one point was running two shoe factories from his law office. Always had interest, was the chief, he was the chair of the investment office for Depositor's Trust, I remember, and, anyway, he was very smart and very well regarded. Not an especially warm person and, I called him Mr. Isaacson my entire life, you know, I would say, he would call me up and he'd say, "Shepard, come over to my office, I want to talk to you." And I'd go, it was usually because he wanted to buy a car, I remember he wanted to buy his wife, his second wife, an MG sports car that she wanted.

And so one day, this is much later, I got a call from Peter, he says, "Shepard, I want you to come over to my office, I want to see you." I assumed he wanted to buy a car, so I went over and he said, "Shepard," he says, "have I been a good contributor to the Democratic Party?" And I says, yes you have, Mr. Isaacson. He says, "Have I ever refused you when you'd call me for Frank Coffin, for Ed Muskie, for these people?" No, you haven't. He says, "Well then I want you to do something," he says, "I want you to tell Ken Curtis to appoint Irving, Jr. as a judge."

And I said, "Gee Mr. Isaacson, I can't do that. I've been lobbying Governor Curtis to put Louis Scolnik as a judge, and I've been doing this for a few months now, and I just wouldn't be able to switch." He says, "I want him to be a judge," he says, "then why don't you do this. You tell Governor Curtis to flip a coin and let that decide who will be the judge." And I said, "I really don't think I can do that. First of all, I don't think he'd respond, and secondly, I don't think I could do that." And I remember leaving his office shaking my head, that here's this brilliant guy, this very successful guy, and I think he really wanted to, Irving is his nephew, and he wanted very badly to get Irving a judgeship.

DN: But he wouldn't call Ken himself.

SL: I don't think he felt connected to him. He knew, (*unintelligible phrase*) he contributed, I'm sure he contributed to Curtis' campaign, but he saw me as his connection because I'd always call him for the contribution.

DN: But did he ever talk to you about this again?

SL: Never again. No, that was the only time, only conversation we ever had and I left feeling badly because there was really nothing I could do at this point.

DN: And Louis went on to a very distinguished career.

SL: Well he did, and it was an interesting time because when Marois' group, I don't know if

you've had this come up yet in the -

DN: This is the Marois restaurant group?

SL: Right, they met for lunch every day for fifty odd years. And Louis Scolnik, Irving Friedman, and Jack Clifford were also nominated for judge. And there might have been one more, they were all part of the same group. And so everyone avoided talking of the judgeships at the, it just didn't come up.

DN: And let's see, Jack finally, did Jack finally become a judge? Bob did, but -

SL: Bob did.

DN: And Jack didn't. The, this takes us really to the involvements in politics. When you graduated from Bowdoin, did you go in the service after graduation, or -?

SL: I went in during the college years. I left, I completed three academic years, went into the service, then come back and finished.

DN: And after that you went directly into the business with your father. Was there great family pressure to do that, or was this what you figured you were going to do anyway?

SL: No, there wasn't, there wasn't family pressure, it was clear that my father would have liked me to be in the business. He tried to persuade Harold to go in the business, my brother Harold, who did go to Boston University for the first year, the business school. Didn't like it, transferred to Bowdoin, ultimately became a psychiatrist. And at the time I really agonized between, Prof. Helmwright was kind of my father figure at Bowdoin, he wanted me to take the, what's the course they train diplomatic, it's a diplomatic -

DN: Foreign Service program at Tufts?

SL: Yeah.

DN: The Fletcher School.

SL: Fletcher School, he wanted me to go to the Fletcher School. I had come back from the service so I had the G.I. Bill, so I could have gotten a Ph.D. or whatever, they'd pay for it. And I thought long and hard about going into teaching, into college teaching. And I really was reluctant to go into business because I felt you couldn't do anything, I was then social service oriented. I felt business wouldn't give me that opportunity, and Helmwright, well this is a long story. Helmwright really persuaded me that a business person who was inclined to do community good and do as much or more than a professor or a diplomat, and helped me resolve that conflict.

So there wasn't, it really wasn't family pressure. I knew what my father would do, plus the fact there was nobody else in the family that could, to take over the business. And I had a vision at

that time, I'd go to work and when I was fifty, I'd quit, I'd go get a Ph.D. and then I'd go teach. I remember feeling, I really seriously thought I would do that. But it didn't take long before I realized I liked the business and it gave me the freedom to do things, the other things I liked to do.

DN: And that's what we're going to talk about. All the other things you've been doing. You got involved in politics in the early fifties?

SL: In the early fifties I can, with and through Frank Coffin, I mean we were really involved. I can remember you and Frank going to an auto show at the Lewiston Armory, this may have been when I first met you, because I think Frank introduced me to you at that time. I think maybe you had just gone to work for the Democratic Party. That would have been what?

DN: Fifty-four.

SL: Fifty-four? I had the impression -

DN: June of '54.

SL: I think that's the first time I met you. But in any event, I went to a Democratic convention, it was a state convention, that was held at the DeWitt Hotel, and Frank was the keynote speaker. And I thought it was '52, but he says it was 1950 and I'm sure he's right because he's got every note to substantiate that. And I was very impressed with him. I had met him and known him, I was on a committee with him, we were on a committee actually, to attract a psychiatrist in Lewiston, to decide whether they needed one. There was no psychiatrist in Lewiston-Auburn at that time. But Father (*name*) of the big church, Frank Coffin, and myself were a committee to research whether or not there was a need. And I can't remember how we could prove it, but we decided there was a need.

Anyway, so that was in '49, so I guess I knew Frank a little bit, but I went to this Democratic convention where he was the keynote speaker and I was very, very impressed with what he had to say. And I remember I wrote him a letter saying I would really enjoy doing some work and if you ever get involved in politics I'd love to work on your behalf. And that's really what got me involved, and when Muskie ran, got very much involved. And so I got involved in the periphery through him, and I'm trying to remember when I first met Muskie. I probably shook hands with him when he was OPA, or whatever the -

DN: OPS, yeah.

SL: OPS, yeah, I think I met him then. And I got to know him in '54. I remember going to a meeting, I'm sure he must have been there, at Henry Benoit's house with all the candidates. Benoit was the only one who was wealthy enough to have a house that would accommodate mostly all the Democrats. So I really got involved and got to Muskie in '54 when he first ran. But my real contact with him, in terms of knowing him very well and having stay at the house and stuff like that, really started when he became a senator. Because as a governor, he didn't need a place to stay, but as a senator, and as you know he would have hated to stay in a hotel. I

think for a couple of reasons. First, I'm sure he wouldn't like to spend the money. And secondly, he kind of enjoyed staying in people's houses back then, having that social connections.

DN: Now, was it in the '58 campaign that you first got involved with him, or was it after he was elected?

SL: No, it was in the campaign. In the campaign, I'll tell you something I remember well, I'm not sure if you will or not, he had just gotten elected and was coming back to Maine, one of the early visits. And by then I had gotten to know him pretty well, we were friends. You were, I think, still working for Frank Coffin, and you were staying over at the house, over at my house on Labbe Avenue, which was a small house, and you were staying in the den, I don't know if you remember.

DN: Yes.

SL: And I was doing something with Muskie and he said, "Can I stay at your house tonight?" And I said, "Sure," I says, "but Don Nicoll is with us and he's in the den. We have to get out a cot and put you in the dining room." He says, "That's okay," he says, "I don't care." And I remember so well this big, tall, gangly guy with his feet sticking out over the cot, and you were in the den at the same time. And I thought it was -

DN: That's the last time I ever displaced him.

SL: You were there first.

DN: Now, when you were called on in the fifties to help in the campaigns, was it for your fund raising, or did it include other opportunities to contribute as well?

SL: Well, I felt that I wanted to be involved with the issues, and there was always just a little bit of tension there. Gene Sampson was involved in Frank Coffin's campaign, and you were involved, and I was involved, and I kind of inherited, the title I had was campaign chairman. Tony Karahalios was the treasurer. And, but I kind of inherited the responsibility of the fund raising. Now, I tried to play as big a role as I could on the issues side, but I enjoyed that, that was the fun part. But I didn't find the fund raising hard, and I guess I had a certain organizing instinct. So that I think if you ask Frank today, his memory would be of a good job of raising money. My memory is much more all encompassing.

DN: What were some of the issues that you got involved in in the campaigns?

SL: Well, I can remember, I remember writing something on mental health for Muskie's inaugural in '56.

DN: It would have been '55 or '57.

SL: Fifty-seven.

DN: His second term?

SL: His second term, okay, '57. I can remember writing something, this was all done through Frank (*unintelligible phrase*), and I'm sure he was feeding my ego at the time saying, this is a way I can get him satisfied with some issue involvement. And I think, I think I located two or three sentences in the inaugural address that came from that paper, which made me feel very good. But whatever the issues were, I remember Frank and the three empty chairs speech and the whole thing, whatever was happening, were issues that, you know, I enjoyed voicing an opinion about. Nobody really ever depended on me as the fundamental contributor to issues. Frank as you know, he really was his own campaign chief. Whatever, but I always enjoy, what attracted me to politics was, I think, an interest in issues.

DN: When you were meeting with Frank Coffin and Ed Muskie and others, was there much time spent in your recollection on debating or discussing issues? I'm thinking not so much in the form of preparation of position papers or speeches, but just talking about mental health needs in the state or environmental protection, or other questions.

SL: I guess the honest answer is that that was not how the bulk of the time was spent. My relationship with both of these guys is really that of a friend rather than a political advisor, and as you know Ed Muskie didn't relax easily with many people. And I think somehow we had a very easy relationship with each other. And when he'd stay at the house we would stay up until one, two o'clock, probably having a drink, although I never saw him drunk or anything like that. And we, then we would talk about issues. Usually I would be asking some questions, and then he would take that as the opportunity to launch into whatever it is he wanted to say. But I can't honestly say that the relationship was based around issue discussions and stuff like that; with either Frank or Muskie.

But I always felt as though, well also Muskie as you know was an inveterate punster and I've always enjoyed puns. And I can remember, I'm sure I've told you this before, but I can remember being with him one night and he started to tell a union related story. It had to do with the sea and shore fishery boat, you were on it, you were on it, anyway, it was a story that had a, he had a pun with an ending and he forgot the end, and he was so frustrated the entire evening that he couldn't remember the ending. And next morning about ten o'clock, he turns to me and he says, "I remember it, I remember it!" And he proceeded to tell it all over again with the ending. And I think we had, I call easy going, a comfortable relationship with each other. And it wasn't forced, it wasn't difficult, it was easy for me to call him by his first name and all of that. And I guess I felt we liked each other.

DN: And you mentioned earlier that you thought he enjoyed staying in a friend's home rather than going to hotels.

SL: Yeah, I really think he did. It got to be a regular routine. When he would come to our part of, he was also a Bates trustee, so if he'd go to a trustee's meeting he'd call and say, "You know, can I stay over?" Of course I was always delighted to have him here. I can remember once Nancy and I, Nancy's my wife, we had to go to Hebron because one of my kids was being

honored for something, it was a night Muskie was staying over. And he had said to me earlier, "Do you mind if I bring a couple of the trustees who are friends over to the house?" I said, no, fine, and told him where the key was. And we got back and, gee, he was giving the guy who was the president of General Mills (*unintelligible phrase*), he was a Bates trustee, he was giving him a tour of the house. And I really got a kick pointing this out, you can do this, you can see that. But he felt very, I think he liked being in a home and didn't like hotels.

DN: Did he talk to you much about the experience of going from being governor in Maine to Washington and the Senate?

SL: Spasmodically this would come out, and it was clear to me, nothing obvious (*unintelligible phrase*), remember there that the first year in the Senate he was depressed. He said there was a dramatic difference between being governor and being an administrator rather than just a legislator. Because you do something, you give an order, it gets done. His description of being a governor was one where you could see he really had a good time running the state. When he got to the Senate, of course the famous story of how he got Frank Coffin the judgeship and all that with Lyndon Johnson, but he said he was not happy. There was a dramatic drop off in feelings at satisfaction that first year in the Senate, I remember that very well. But he took what Johnson felt was punishment and made that into a big career for himself, the pollution committee.

DN: Now, in addition to raising money and contributing ideas and serving as a sounding board on issues from time to time, you also played a very important role in transportation for the senator and his family over the years.

SL: My career with the Democratic politicians probably started, because when they'd come to Maine they'd always need transportation so I always loaned Muskie an automobile, and to this day in the summer I still provide Jane Muskie with a rented car if someone should call and ask for it. And so we refer to it as a lease (*unintelligible phrase*). Yeah, I certainly did that. And I would also frequently pick him up when he flew in, he'd drop me off, and so I did, that was in a way my entree into Democratic business. I've loaned cars to Hubert Humphrey, Mondale, you go down the list.

And I remember once there was a CBS reporter that came and did an interview about my experiences lending cars to politicians and, because there were all kinds of problems. Joe Brennan borrowed a truck and then had the roof demolished when he went through (*unintelligible phrase*). I had every kind of experience. But, you know, everybody needs automobiles so for me it was a great way to connect with, especially the national Democratic politicians, and some I can remember calling me from Alaska, anywhere, I would get these, it was a way of connecting with people who wanted to borrow cars at no cost.

DN: All alike?

SL: No, some were really more careful. But I remember one of them, when John Kennedy came he was supposed to show up at six o'clock in the evening. And I'm sure he knew all of his schedules, but they kept postponing the time. And Muskie was on the bandstand in Lewiston

which is now Kennedy Park and leading, singing, leading some cheers, all, trying to keep the audience entertained because Kennedy was late. I can remember him saying, “No school tomorrow!” And a lot of people believed him.

But anyway, so I went out to the airport, Kennedy arrived (*unintelligible phrase*), and I had, the Kennedy people had called me a few days before to borrow a car. I says, oh, I got a big black Imperial, it’ll be wonderful. He says, “No, no, no, no, we don’t want to use anything that looks rich, we want a simple.” I thought it was amusing that they were attempting to hide the fact Kennedy was rich. I don’t think they succeeded. But anyway, so I gave them a simple Savoy, 6-cylinder four door Plymouth and they were very happy with this, (*unintelligible phrase*).

So we got to the airport and Kennedy got off the plane, and immediately stood up on the roof of the car. And everybody’s screaming, I think I was yelling get off the car while everybody else was yelling hooray for Kennedy. And he stood on the roof, then on the hood, and then on the trunk. And I could see it going like this (*unintelligible word*). But I thought after he got elected two days later, you know, that this car would sell right off. And I put an ad in, President Kennedy (*unintelligible word*), I think it us four or five months to sell it. But anyway -

DN: You needed to hold on to it for fifty years and then it would -

SL: I think so, really.

DN: Now, in the 1960s when Ed was in the Senate and the Great Society was building up, but also the Vietnam War was building, you got into some discussions with Ed on Vietnam over that period.

SL: Now, I have to say initially, my memory is Frank Coffin, Ed Muskie himself, and everybody else, all the liberal democrats. I think they felt at first we were doing right in Vietnam. There wasn’t, the only guy I remember who from the very beginning took a position against it was (*name*), and I can remember (*unintelligible phrase*). But anyway, as time went on, people became disenchanted, attitudes changed. But I can remember we had a fund raiser for Elmer Violette, this had to have been ‘66, and we had it at Louis Scolnik’s house.

I can remember, Louis as you know is a very good friend of mine, and I got him to have the party, and part of the deal was I was going to bring the liquor. And so, I made a little sign and I attached it to the inside of my suit and when I opened it it said, “I paid for the liquor.” So I was having fun with this, (*unintelligible phrase*).

But there was a guy, Alan Cameron, he was a first year instructor at Bates College who was very into Vietnam, and at this. Muskie was the star who drew the people to come to support Elmer. And Muskie. Got into a shouting match with Alan Cameron, about Vietnam. He had been there, see, (*unintelligible phrase*), I was there, pounding the table, his voice staring to break,, and of course a lot of the people were Bates faculty people. Anyway, right after that, we were, I was going with him to Portland to meet Ken Curtis and Bob Dunfey at the airport. Kenny first ran in ‘66?

DN: Yes.

SL: Yeah, all right. So Muskie was telling me on the way down all the things (*unintelligible phrase*). But, and above Gray all of a sudden he turned and said, "I didn't do too well at Louis Scolnik's house, did I?" And I says, well, I have a picture of this big, tall senator berating this young instructor (*unintelligible phrase*). And he went and pulled out his stationery pad and started writing letters of apology. (*Unintelligible phrase*) and clearly was embarrassed (*unintelligible phrase*). (*Unintelligible phrase*).

But I remember that then, after that, he's telling me that Kenny should be doing this, doing that. And I can remember when we got there, we sat down to have dinner, Muskie says, "Shepard, tell them what you were saying on the way down about the campaign." So I started, I hadn't gotten four words out when he took over, thank God, because I couldn't have recited all the things that, but I thought it was amusing the way he got into it. But that blow up, I remember that, well I particularly remember him saying, his rule was to (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: Did you get a sense from his conversation after the blow up as to why he had lost his temper, why he was so agitated?

SL: I think, I had seen him lose his temper quite a few times, I think it was the idea of this young Bates instructor disagreeing with him. That's really all I can think that it was, (*unintelligible phrase*). He had a temper, he would lose it. I must say he never, ever lost it with me. The only argument we ever had was about abortion. And it's interesting, it's also (*unintelligible phrase*). And it taught me something, it taught me that they were raised Catholic and taught that abortion was wrong. There's a conflict there, there's a conflict between I think rationality and emotion, and it's one I had a better feel for, having that experience. Although I must say both of them always voted the way I voted.

DN: What was the, what position first did Ed Muskie take, and then George Mitchell?

SL: Well I think both of them, I think both of them just felt that morally, abortion was wrong. They always ended up conceding that it shouldn't be illegal I think, as I said it was. I always regarded it as just a reflection of their upbringing and that if you're told all your life that abortion is killing a human being. And it was, I think what it did for me is point, is point out some of the difficulties. I mean, even to this day I don't regard abortion as a willful thing, and I understand the arguments made that your children (*unintelligible phrase*). But I think it really was an exposition of the problems with abortion, and I always associated it with what I felt was their upbringings on abortion.

DN: Did you ever hear Ed talk much about his faith and his involvement in the church?

SL: Not really. Not really. He would talk, well I remember one day, (*unintelligible phrase*), he talked about his family, his father and how his father was a tailor and was a very popular tailor, and that you always, you got a lecture along with the suit you had made, whoever it might be, whether you were the mill owner or whatever it might be in Rumford. And I felt he had a, an important relationship with his father.

I don't think we ever really discussed religion as such very much in that way. I do remember, I got him to speak at the Jewish Community Center. He had been to Poland, and there wasn't a dry eye in that center, and it was packed, because it was the story of how all these Jewish immigrants came over, except in his case he was Russian, he was Polish. And it really was such a similar story. His father left Poland because he didn't want his kids to be in the Russian Army, and his father ended up in London where he apprenticed to a Jewish tailor. And Monday morning we had bagels for breakfast, and I says, Ed, have you had bagels before? He says, "I've had bagels before," he says, "let me tell you a story about bagels." And he told me the story of how, when his father was apprenticed to the Jewish tailor, he learned how to bake bagels. And in Rumford, Maine his father would occasionally bake bagels. He said, "I knew all about bagels long before you did."

(Break in taping.)

SL: . . . center of talking about the two (*unintelligible phrase*), talking about looking for his cousin. And if my memory serves me, he found some cousin in the Ukraine, and just that whole story. Because all of the older generation could identify, you know, with (*unintelligible word*). It was as though he was telling their story. One of the very moving speeches that (*unintelligible phrase*).

The other thing I don't want to forget to say, and this again is kind of a contrast between George and Muskie. I had been on the committee, I'd been on that through Ken Curtis actually, to organize what I think was the first White House conference on small business. This had to be 1980, I think, '79. Was Carter president then?

DN: Yes, through 1980.

SL: Carter made the (*unintelligible phrase*). And the chairman was Arthur Leavitt, who was then chairman of the American Stock Exchange, subsequently became chairman of the FCC. And so when Muskie left office and became secretary of state for, what, six, seven months? Arthur called me up and said, "We're going to offer Ed Muskie a seat on the board of the American Stock Exchange," and he said, "he doesn't know me but," he said, "I would like very much if you could talk with him and you could see if you could persuade him to take it and pave the way."

So I talked to Muskie, and I can remember him saying, "Well I don't know, I've got all of these things and (*unintelligible word*) this offered and that offered. I'm going to take my time and see what's (*unintelligible phrase*)." And because we all knew that he was a postponer, (*unintelligible phrase*). He said, "Why don't you call your friend Arthur Leavitt and tell him I'd be interested in that position on the Stock Exchange Board." So I called Arthur, and he says, "Jesus, you know," he says "we appointed, I think it was either, McHenry was a Black judge."

DN: Yes, McHenry.

SL: McHenry? They had appointed him. And he said, (*unintelligible phrase*). And I always

knew that if someone, like George would know how to seize the moment, you know, better than Ed Muskie did. But he was very disappointed (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: Interestingly enough, McHenry was U.S. representative to the U.N. at one point, ambassador to the U.N. The, during this period, the late sixties, your involvements included being an advance man.

SL: Oh boy.

DN: In the 1968 vice presidential campaign.

SL: I was his most famous advance man, not for any good reason. Well, I should tell that story I guess. I would call, George was important for that, in Muskie's campaign. And I would call him every week and say, where are they going next week? So one week I called and he read off this list which included California. I says, George, (*unintelligible phrase*). And the guy I worked for was, Lester Hyman?

DN: Yeah.

SL: Lester Hyman, he was the guy who told me what to do when I got out there. But I think Pachios was then, maybe Hyman was working for Pachios, or, (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: I think Harold was still at the White House, and he may have had an involvement.

SL: I think he may have. But, I got to California, and this was shortly after Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were both assassinated, so that (*unintelligible phrase*), George had told me that Muskie had written to Johnson urging him to stop the bombings. I remember when he told me, (*unintelligible phrase*). Because we had all been after Muskie, by that time we were anti-Vietnam. So I went and did some advance work for a speech at the University of Southern California, it would have been Los Angeles.

DN: Los Angeles, yeah.

SL: So there was this editor of a college newspaper, big college newspaper, who said, "Gee where you're a friend of Muskie's, I'd like to talk to you afterwards." And I said, okay. And so when the whole official part was over he says, "Tell me the truth because I don't like Muskie." So that raised my ire, and I started telling the story about the pollution committee and Frank Coffin and all that stuff, and I ended up, I said, now this is off the record? "Yeah, absolutely off the record." I said, well he also didn't like -

End of Side A
Side B

SL: Okay so this editor of a newspaper was interviewing me, and I was trying to give him all the reasons that proved that Muskie wasn't a patsy for Lyndon Johnson. I ended up by saying, "Now you're sure this is off the record?" "Absolutely," he says. "Well, what you should know

is that Muskie had written a letter to Johnson urging him to stop the bombing. He didn't feel he wanted to attack Johnson publicly, he felt this was the right way to try and influence what Johnson would do." So the whole conversation ended.

The next day I picked up the Los Angeles *Times* and there's this gigantic headline that says, "Muskie's Secret". I still have a copy of the paper. And it tells the story about this friend of his, car dealer friend of his in Auburn, Maine, who revealed today that (*unintelligible phrase*).

And, oh, I was so upset by that. (*Unintelligible phrase*), and when I was going back on the plane with him. Meanwhile, Dick Dubord was on the plane, so at one point Muskie sent word, he was in front of us, sent word that he wanted to see me. So I went in and essentially he was very calm about it, he says, "I called the President and explained," and essentially he says, "enjoy the rest of the trip." I think he was saying he wanted me to go back to work. But that's how I interpreted it, which I think is a correct interpretation. But I can remember coming back, the back of the plane, and Dubord had wrapped something white around his head and put some ketchup on it, (*unintelligible phrase*), he was making fun of me. And anyway, I remember that very well.

I also remember that they said to me, we're trying to get Rosie Greer and Rafer Johnson to support Muskie, Muskie on the ticket, and it would be good if you tried to influence them to do that. So they took me down and introduced me to them and I remember, I wasn't a big athlete. I didn't know what decathlon was and so, and, Lester Hyman says to me, he says, "You know Rafer Johnson's an Olympic decathlon champion. I says, "Well," I said, "Rafer, I'm really not much of an athletic (*unintelligible word*), how do you play decathlon? They all laughed and thought that was a joke. So I says, "No, I'm serious, I really don't know what it is." So Lester he says, "You dumb bastard, you don't play decathlon!" I'll never forget that.

But he was as charming and nice a guy as could be. Rosie Greer came across as a big guy who would grunt. But I understand he was on TV, with Sawyer on TV, a good famous thing to, anyway, that was very interesting.

DN: That was your initiation into national politics.

SL: I think so, I think so.

DN: Did you and Ed have further conversations about Vietnam?

SL: Probably off and on. I can't remember the substance of any conversation. But I think it was clear at the end of it we were all in agreement it was a big mistake and we shouldn't have gone. But I really don't remember the substance.

DN: Now what were your involvements in the 1972 campaign that started really in '69?

SL: I remember going to Milwaukee as an advance man. I remember that John Orestis and I, we persuaded someone from Bangor to fly us out to Milwaukee and did some advance work for a few days. And that's what Jane likes to recall (*unintelligible phrase*) taking everyone to the

wrong place and they're all following me, and I ended up going into somebody's yard with all these cars behind me. I really can't remember the specifics of what I did, I didn't play a big role, but I did do some work (*unintelligible phrase*). I can remember being in Florida, because the Democratic convention was in Florida I think, and he lost the Florida . . .

DN: Yes, he did.

SL: And I can remember how deflated we all were, because it had seemed such a sure thing.

DN: Had you, in the course of that campaign seen much of him to get a sense of how he felt about the campaign?

SL: I don't think that I saw him on a weekly basis. I would periodically see him, I can't remember, it must have been Washington or Chicago or someplace when Muskie and Jane and Steve were going to have dinner together (*unintelligible phrase*), and I can remember (*unintelligible phrase*). (*Unintelligible phrase*). And I don't think he was very disappointed. I think he felt things were not going well (*unintelligible phrase*). But, again, I certainly wasn't a companion (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: After that campaign, did he ever talk to you about the campaign, or -?

SL: Yeah, yeah, he would talk about it. I can remember his saying I don't blame anybody but myself. I think he felt at that time that the strategy of entering all the primaries (*unintelligible phrase*). But I remember most of all his repeating many times that he wasn't angry and he didn't blame anybody but himself for what happened. So it wasn't an exhaustive conversation, but he would make references to it. And he would always say, listen, I've had this much praise and ego gratification in my life than anybody could ever want. And in a way he was kind of consoling himself, I thought. And yet I think he was certainly honest in saying he didn't, I'm sure he had regrets but he didn't blame anybody besides himself.

DN: As he proceeded through the seventies to 1980, did you have a chance to talk to him much about life in the Senate and his post presidential work?

SL: Yeah, we certainly would talk all the time, this kind of conversation (*unintelligible phrase*). I remember his telling me, who was the Republican senator from Maryland, was a good leader, Mack -?

DN: Oh, Mathias.

SL: Mathias, Mack Mathias. He said, "Well, Mack Mathias saw me the other day and he said, Ed," he said, "you sure knew how to make a gracious exit." The senator said, "Yeah." He loved to tell that story. And I can remember his telling the story of how he persuaded Lyndon Johnson to appoint Frank Coffin.

DN: Tell us that story.

SL: Well, we wanted, and I know that you were involved in this, I wrote, and I think you wrote to Frank, Frank was in Paris, and told him that he should write there and tell him. And I can remember Frank writing and saying, "He knows who I am." (*Long unintelligible segment*). But he told the story of how a group assigned to this and a group of senators and the Alsops were standing around, and Joseph and Stewart were standing around, and Lyndon Johnson was there. And when he'd been, he must have been still the majority leader in the Senate when this happened, I'm not sure about that, (*unintelligible phrase*), but -

DN: This was when he was vice president actually.

SL: When he was vice president, okay. So Frank had been testifying that day on the aid bill, and they always called on Frank because he'd been in Congress or the (*unintelligible word*), then he was deputy director of the aid bill. And the issue was back door financing which had to do with not having to get a congressional allocation, but borrowing (*unintelligible word*), something like that.

So Frank, so anyway, one of the Alsop said to Lyndon Johnson, he must have said, "Mr. Vice President, what do you think about this back door financing bill?" And Johnson, being the realist that he was, he says, "Well, it's not going anywhere, you know, they won't let it get through the Senate, it's just not (*unintelligible phrase*)." A few minutes later, Alsop said to Mr. Coffin, "What do you feel about this?" And Frank, being the good (*unintelligible word*) that he was wants to do his testimony all over again as to why Congress ought to pass it, it's the right thing to do, and gave the answer that the world would have expected him to give.

But Johnson took that as an insult, and told Muskie, he says, "He insulted me in public, he told me I was wrong." And he says, "I wouldn't appoint him to (*unintelligible word*)." And so (*unintelligible phrase*) Johnson would say, "Ed, some other name, give me some other name." He says, "I don't have any other," he says, "Coffin's my candidate and he's the only one that I would propose." And he said, "One day," he said, "Johnson called him to his office" and he said, "If you want Coffin as badly as that, then go ahead, you can have him."

And that was, now I may have screwed up a little bit of the story, but that essentially was the story Muskie would tell about how his persistence. Oh, at one point Johnson said to him well, after about the fourth or fifth time, he said, (*unintelligible phrase*). I remember that phrase. You can probably correct whatever I distorted in that story, but Ed enjoyed telling that story. I think he enjoyed it because (*unintelligible phrase*) Frank wouldn't have gotten the judgeship I don't think. (*Unintelligible phrase*). And the fact that, I don't know who asked Ed to be the pilot, whatever the term is for the model cities bill?

DN: That came from the White House staff at the president's request.

SL: Who was president?

DN: Johnson, and the key people in the request, well there were several including a native of Auburn, Milton Semer who was, Milton was working for the Department of Housing and Urban Development at the time, and in addition Bob Lloyd was undersecretary and the real author of

the proposal originally. But the major White House related people were Larry O'Brien and Joe Califano.

SL: Well I can remember it was a great tribute to Muskie, he came from Maine, a state like Maine where they didn't have a big city and yet he was being asked to do that.

DN: Well, they needed somebody who could persuade the Senate to support it.

SL: He certainly was a, when you look at the votes that Muskie would get the legislation passed by, (*unintelligible phrase*). He certainly was good at selling the legislature to the Senate. And even as a governor when the legislature was so overwhelmingly Republican, the fact that he got, what, seventy percent of his programs passed or whatever. And I really think it's because he was so smart. The combination of intelligence and an obvious sense of fairness.

It was, I remember once some illegal alien, we're talking about some probably Mexican illegally in the United States, and (*unintelligible phrase*), and some people wanted to kick him out right off. And I remember saying, well why didn't they do that. And he told the people, look, he says, this is the United States of America for Christ's sake, and he give me hell for asking a question like that. But he had a great sense of fairness, I feel, combined clearly, (*unintelligible phrase*). I don't know if George really believes this, I think he does, but he'll say (*unintelligible word*) that Muskie's the smartest guy he ever met. He was very smart, no question about that. But I think that he had a way of really seeing both sides of an issue, and of persuading other senators, that it wasn't just a partisan approach, it was fairness (*unintelligible phrase*).

(*Break in taping.*)

DN: Shep, you've talked about Ed Muskie and his sense of fairness, and I want to come back a little later to your assessment of him. But in the later years after he had served in the Senate and went to the State Department, did he talk much about the State Department experience?

SL: Yeah, he did. It was clear that he was enjoying that as much or perhaps more than anything he (*unintelligible phrase*). In the early days in the Senate, he talked about the governorship as something that he really enjoyed. And I think he talked about the secretary of state's job in the same way. I guess I had the impression at the time he never had a job he was as, and I think he was very sorry he had to give it up, you know, after such a short period. I remember I got a call, who was it, I can't remember. Oh, it was (*name*) called and said six of us are going to fly down to have lunch with Secretary Muskie. This is after the election (*unintelligible phrase*), and I had just come back from Washington and I says, Jesus, (*name*), I can't take off time to go do this again. Well, he says, Shep, he says, "You owe it to yourself to do this, you owe it to yourself."

Anyway, he persuaded me, Scott Hutchinson, Charlie Lander, (*unintelligible phrase*) was there, anyway there was six of us went down on a plane that Charlie had gotten from somewhere. And, I think I have a picture with Muskie, he had a big cigar, sitting at the head of the table in the private dining room. And it was just so clear that this was a job that he was enjoying. And I remember saying to him, I says what does a secretary of state do? He says, "We negotiate," he

says, "you sell cars," he says, "I do the same thing you do except we negotiate different things." (*Unintelligible phrase*), and I can remember that, that story. But it was just clear that he was enjoying it so much that he felt badly that it was such a short period in his life. But it was clear he liked it, and he managed, I remember after he was, he was appointed to one commission, it was on, (*unintelligible phrase*) -

DN: Roosevelt, the Campobello commission?

SL: No, the one that -

DN: Oh, the Tower Commission.

SL: The Tower Commission, that, is that the one that Scowcroft was on?

DN: Yes.

SL: Yeah, I remember, he talked some about that. And then he did something in Cambodia, remember that? He was enjoying whatever associations he had, and I don't think he ever really enjoyed the law practice. I can remember him saying to me once, "You know how these lawyers are, Shep?" And I says, Ed, I says you're one of them. He says, "Well I don't." He never thought of himself as a practicing lawyer, at least after, after the fact. And I think he really worried some about pulling his weight with the firm. I think when he started he was getting I think like two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year or something like that, and I think that he felt that, well I mean he would describe how they would, they took a picture of him and they would, how the firm would try trot him out.

I think he felt, he felt used, at least part of the time he felt used, and he felt that he was almost like a statue being brought out to be shown off. And he would say how in Japan, they make a big deal of politicians and ex-politicians. I remember him saying, I have just represented eighty-two percent of the net worth of Japan, (*unintelligible phrase*) all the people of the world they were the ones who owned all the big things. I had the impression he really enjoyed the law firm but felt that that was necessary for him to support his children.

And he would talk really open and really wisely (*unintelligible phrase*), he says, "Jane's going to live a lot longer than I will, she's a lot younger, and I have to (*unintelligible word*)." He took me to Kennebunk and showed me this little lot, both lots, and he was giving me all these, his financial strategy. And it was clear he was concerned about seeing that Jane was going to be okay after he died. And (*unintelligible phrase*), well when we went, I went to Ned's wedding, (*unintelligible phrase*), and there was one guy. And I think that was the one guy that Ed liked a lot.

DN: Was this Ed Harvey?

SL: That sounds -

DN: Older man, Ed's contemporary?

SL: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I remember I had, this was after my divorce, (*unintelligible phrase*), and I did bring, I was going (*unintelligible word*) with some wealthy widow from (*unintelligible word*). And he (*unintelligible phrase*), if it was Ed Harvey, he said to Muskie, he said, he says, "I got to get me something like that." And he pointed to the woman, who was quite attractive. But I thought it was interesting that he was the only one (*unintelligible phrase*) that came to the wedding. But I think clearly, public service was what he enjoyed. Well look at the job he did afterwards with the whole legal, (*unintelligible phrase*), wasn't Ed chairman of this -?

DN: Yes, of the Equal Access to Justice Project.

SL: Yeah, and I admired the way, the fact that here was a guy with that kind of a past who was very serious about doing what he could for legal services for the poor (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: Did he talk much about that project when you saw him?

SL: No, I wouldn't say he talked a lot. We would, there would be references to what he was doing, but I don't think we ever had any extended conversation (*unintelligible phrase*). But it was clearly meaningful to him, (*unintelligible phrase*). Were you involved in that?

DN: Not in that project. I was involved in another one dealing with the courts with Frank.

SL: Anyway, my impression is that he was lonely and bored a lot, and I can remember he was sick and George and I went to see him in Kennebunk, Kennebunk Beach. And I can remember Jane saying, "Boy, it's a good thing you guys came, he's been depressed and dragging around and (*unintelligible phrase*)." But I think he never, ever felt as good after he got to be secretary of state as he had during (*unintelligible word*). And I think serving on the Tower Commission, and the Cambodian thing, I think those were important things for him to keep up, and even the legal aid thing. Or, I can remember on the board of the, remember the early days when he was appointing board members. Not, and I'm not sure I ever told you this, but do you remember (*unintelligible phrase*) the superintendent of schools, (*name*), Macher?

DN: Yes.

SL: You remember Macher? He was the first guy who ever talked to me about a Muskie Institute, and he didn't last long (*unintelligible phrase*) he died.

DN: He, Bob Woodbury, who was then president of USM brought him to head up the Public Policy and Management program that became the Muskie Institute, and now the school. And Mark was probably ill when he came and rapidly got more and more -

SL: Yeah, yeah, he had been an Auburn superintendent of schools, which is where I first met him. Didn't know him well, but I remember doing that. What year, when would that have been?

DN: That was 1981.

SL: Was it? And when did the Muskie School actually start?

DN: Well it started, Ed, that would have been '79-'80, and it started I think in, the Public Policy and Management program started in '81.

SL: Well, so it's twenty years old now. Anyways, but my, I can remember the last time I saw Ed Muskie was Bill Cohen's (*unintelligible phrase*). And Jane called a day or so before and said, "You're going down to Bill Cohen's?" I says, yeah, (*unintelligible phrase*). So the four of us (*unintelligible phrase*). He invited a lot of people to the ceremony and to the reception, and invited a lot of other people just to the reception. The Muskie's were invited just to the reception, we got invited, I don't think he had any idea who he was inviting, or whether it was his staff who was inviting or what. But we went off to dinner in that same place (*unintelligible phrase*). But it really was, he was relaxed, it was the best conversation he ever had with Candace.

At my wedding (*unintelligible phrase*), Muskie was there and (*unintelligible phrase*). And as (*unintelligible phrase*) somebody said to me, show me Ed Muskie, he says. So I went with him and I said, how about telling the group the two stories you told, that we've all heard eight million times about the guy with the car from Maine, and I can't remember what the other story we'd all heard eight million times.

DN: The one I think of most of all is his opener for, I think he had two openers for speeches, one was the cow said to the farmer on a cold morning, thank you for the warm hand, or, I feel like a mosquito at a nudist colony, I don't know where to begin.

SL: It was neither of those -

DN: Neither of those.

SL: But anyway, so I said, would you do that? He says, "Oh sure, I'd be glad to." So he got up, he really forgot that this was a wedding celebration, and got into talking, into philosophizing a little bit. It ended up, it was almost a political speech. Meanwhile, he also made some reference, he says, "I don't know about young Shep and Candace, I don't know if she's a fortune hunter or---" But I think clearly he thought he was being funny. But, oh, she was mad as hell. (*Unintelligible phrase*), but I thought that wasn't a very smart thing for Muskie to say. But I think Jane finally caught his eye and said, "You know, it's time for you to sit down."

But I think in many ways, the times I saw him after he got out of office, later on, were relaxed and where he was reminiscing a lot about, and really, he would really say, he wouldn't say that he wasn't sorry he didn't get to be president, but he would go out of his way to say what a good life he'd had and how he didn't blame anybody but himself, whatever he didn't achieve. And I can remember once, he says, the reason I was a failure, (*unintelligible phrase*) in a conversation, and I'm thinking to myself (*unintelligible phrase*), it was clear he was thinking in terms of, you know, Iran and that. But I think clearly he missed tremendously (*unintelligible phrase*). And I really do get the impression that most politicians, once they're in it, they want to hang on to it

for, I guess it's so satisfying. But listen, he certainly enriched my life in terms of what he taught me.

DN: What did he teach you?

SL: Well, I'm not sure. I think it was just in terms of what he taught me, although he taught me you got to consider both sides of every question, whatever it is. And as emotional as he could be, he was calm and rational when it came to analyzing political (*unintelligible phrase*), and I was always impressed with that. To me, because he opened so many doors that, because I was always interested in government, and having him as a good friend opened, gave me a perspective I wouldn't have had, and then I got involved with George through Muskie. And so a significant part of my life has been having the ability to enjoy seeing government in a way I wouldn't have seen it if I hadn't known him well. Now, what other things he taught me, you know, I've never thought about that. But I certainly would find, well on a day-to-day basis first of all, I learned about whatever issues were going on in a way that I wouldn't have done just by (*unintelligible phrase*). But it was, his acquaintanceship and friendship was really meaningful and enriching in my life (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: You've mentioned his concerns in his later years for providing for Jane Muskie. How did he interact with his family through that whole period that you knew him?

SL: With his family, going back over the -

DN: Yeah, over the years, as you watched him with his kids growing up, with his wife.

SL: Well, first with his own family, I remember going with him once to visit his sister, the one who worked with Doctor Stuart Cohen in Lewiston. I didn't even know she existed until he said, I want to stop in and see my sister. And I met his brother, Gene? Eugene? Somewhere, I can't remember where. I never had the impression of a close relationship with the siblings. But the mother and father I think were different, but the siblings I never had the impression of a closeness. With his own kids, well, we all live through the periods, I always had the feeling the kids felt deprived of parental attention. (*Unintelligible phrase*) as much as the Muskies did. I guess I had the feeling that (*unintelligible phrase*), none of them ever got quite the attention, this is my feeling, that they felt they never got attention.

There were times in his relationship, I don't know, I don't know what (*unintelligible phrase*). I can't really say I had (*unintelligible phrase*). And he and Jane (*unintelligible phrase*). I tried to (*unintelligible phrase*), and we were going to Hathaway's, there was some, it must have been a political event, they were going to Hathaway's house. It was Ed and Jane, (*unintelligible phrase*) Gene Wyman was there somehow. And I went with Muskie in his car and I sat next to him, and Jane and Gene Wyman were in the back. And Jane started to (*unintelligible word*), watch the road, watch the red light, and oh, he blew his stack. And she said, instead of talking to Shep and looking at him, look at the, "I'll talk to Shep any goddamn time I want." It was just one of these typical hollering at you (*unintelligible phrase*). And yet, you had the feeling that with all said and done, there was a lot of love between them. This was just the way he was. She knew how to get his goat, and she knew how to get out of it.

But the other thing, he was a stickler for accuracy, while Jane's personality was one where she would yield a little bit and he would take her to task for that. Well (*unintelligible word*) say that, he never said that. You know, that kind of a thing. And the other thing, she would bail him out. I can remember being with him once, he had been (*unintelligible phrase*) at my invitation, and somehow Jane was there. So the three of us went to visit some, I can't remember just who it was, and some guy came up and he says, "I bet you don't remember who I am." And he blew his stack, he says, he was running for president I think, or vice president, and he says, "I meet thousand people every day, how am I expected to remember every---" He really blew it. Jane put her arm around the guy and says, "Of course Ed remembers who you are," and, but she pacified the guy.

He was much more honest in terms of telling you things whether they were good or bad, while Jane was much more discreet in saying what she meant. I think he cared a lot about his kids. I remember his calling them, he was running for (*lengthy unintelligible phrase*). I think Ed was always helping his kids. I'm sure you remember his helping, who owned the bank, Joe Albright, Alberton?

DN: Alberton.

SL: Alberton, I can remember his helping (*unintelligible word*), he had a job (*unintelligible phrase*). And I think he always put himself out to help his kids in that way. But I think that being a child in a family with someone as important as Muskie is hard. For the kids. (*Unintelligible phrase*).

DN: You mentioned Dick McMahon and you had talked earlier about Dick Dubord and mentioned Charlie Lander. What was Ed's relationship with Charlie Lander, for example?

SL: I think he liked Charlie a lot. He got involved with him because Charlie worked for the telephone company, and the telephone company would provide transportation. And at some point Muskie decided this wasn't a good idea because I remember Charlie Lander, Muskie and I went to Brunswick. And we stopped in to see (*name*), who was then teaching at Bowdoin, then we went across the street and we ate at the Stowe House. So Charlie had the car, the telephone company car, and he picked up the check. And I said to him, I says, "Ed, who really paid for that meal?" He says, "I don't know, (*unintelligible phrase*), I don't know and I don't want to know." And I'm sure at that point the telephone company was picking up the bill. But soon after that, I think he stopped using them, he stopped letting Charlie, he stopped letting the telephone company.

But Charlie was always ready to be at his beck and call, and they played golf together. And I think Charlie was a friend as well as a person who would do things for him. You know, in some ways I was probably in the same category, I would always lend him a car, let him stay at the house all the time. But I think in both those cases, I think (*unintelligible phrase*), that if Ed didn't like you and feel comfortable with you, it didn't matter what you did, he wouldn't endure this. And I think he needed someone who to him was non-threatening. I think Charlie fit that role. But I think there was genuine love, you know, I was talking to him when Charlie died, he

couldn't go, Ed couldn't go to his funeral, he was having an operation -

DN: That was just before he died.

SL: And I remember how badly he felt, he was calling Alice and saying that (*unintelligible phrase*). So I think that clearly there was the, the employer-employee aspect, however you want to phrase it, but I think there was also genuine love (*unintelligible phrase*). Charlie was a friend as well as a person that did things for him.

DN: Did you know Dick McMahon?

SL: Oh yeah, knew him well, knew him well. (*Unintelligible phrase*) all the time. But he was, McMahon was the funniest (*unintelligible phrase*). Well first of all he was, he looked like the stereotypical Irish pol, short, fat, with a cigar coming out of his mouth. But he was very smart and very shrewd, and again I felt that Muskie liked him a tremendous amount. I can remember being in Muskie's office in Washington, somebody else was there, I can't remember, and the says there's a phone call from Dick McMahon. So Muskie says, he says, "We got to take this call and see what Dick is." It was clear he was anxious to talk to him.

I think that Muskie missed having a lot of close friends that he felt he could talk freely with. I can remember him saying to me one day, you know, do you talk to Tom, and stuff like that. And there was (*unintelligible phrase*) and Delahanty always missed the personal side of politics when he became a judge because he probably couldn't talk to anybody, he couldn't talk to the lawyers about that. So if I was in the Androscoggin county building and he saw me, he'd close the door, what's going on. He missed all of that in his career. And I think the way, Muskie probably felt most people were after him because they wanted something, and that he probably didn't have a lot of people that he could just let his hair down with, that's the impression I had. But clearly McMahon and Dubord, I think they were the two other friends of his (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: How did Dick McMahon and Dick Dubord differ in -?

SL: Well, Dubord was much slicker, came across as better educated as a lawyer, but wonderful sense of humor, absolutely, both of these guys had a good sense, Dubord was cleverer I think, at least as far as (*unintelligible word*) goes. I can remember meeting Dubord at Sugarloaf, I was going up the lift and he was walking like that, and starts to yell, "Chicago, remember Chicago," or something that harked back to (*unintelligible phrase*). And I can remember, you probably remember this, that there was a donkey story, there was a story that Frank would tell on the podium.

DN: Oh yes.

SL: And I can't remember the animal, it seems it was a donkey, but that kept us going for two years (*unintelligible phrase*). But those were the friends that, well the other friend, Larry Butler. But Butler was, but really, the relationship I felt with McMahon and Dubord were as close as any that I was aware of, (*unintelligible phrase*). But anyway, these were clearly relationships that he valued and felt very comfortable with. And they both were very talented (*unintelligible*

word). (*Unintelligible phrase*).

DN: Dick McMahon and Tom Delahanty, and Sumner Pike.

SL: (*Unintelligible phrase*). But these are all on the -

DN: The (*unintelligible word*) together, that's a powerful combination. Any other things that you'd like to -?

SL: No, I think you've done a pretty good job of eliciting to some memories. I think the period after being secretary of state was probably a down period for him, in terms of, how he felt about (*unintelligible phrase*).

DN: But you've also observed that during that period he seemed more relaxed in some ways.

SL: He did, he did, yeah. There was much less tension, and I can remember once, somehow we got talking about Lewiston and Auburn and (*unintelligible phrase*) to Portland. I said, you know, Ed, there's not much to do in Lewiston on a Wednesday night, and he said, or any other night for that matter. I says, you wouldn't have said that when you were there, he says, you're right, I wouldn't. So in that sense, he wasn't running any more, he didn't have to be quite as careful about what he said. And he loved to tell Milton Wheeler stories. You remember Milt Wheeler.

DN: Yes, tell us about Milt.

SL: Well, Milt was a big, heavy guy, who was apparently a good athlete. And he, he and my friends from (*unintelligible phrase*) were both big athletes there. But Muskie was (*unintelligible phrase*). And Milt was his deputy I think when Muskie was OPS, and I can remember he tried to appoint Milton, as governor, tried to appoint Milt for a municipal court judge (*unintelligible word*). And they couldn't get it by the council because Milt was, he was a gambler and he did a bunch of things like that that a politician wouldn't want to associate with himself. But Muskie had a sense of loyalty, and he would defend him, he'd say, well tell me what Milt has done wrong, just tell me what, because we all thought he was crazy to do that. (*Unintelligible phrase*). But Milt was a jovial, fun guy.

I can remember the Patriots, (*unintelligible phrase*), the marathon when, Frankie Tarr who's my cousin and Al Lessard and Milt were there together. And about seven o'clock in the evening, because the marathon ended by about four, seven o'clock in the evening the, some hotel. The bar is crowded, Milt wraps a towel around himself, takes his pants off, he's got his underwear on and his t-shirt, and he comes running in saying, which way did they go, which way did they go. This was a typical Milt (*unintelligible word*), he was fun, he was a joker and he was funny. But Muskie liked him very much and, really went out on a limb trying to get him that judgeship. I'm sure Milt really wanted it, but he couldn't get it done. There were people like that, I guess we've covered all the ones I can -

DN: Thank you very much, Shep.

SL: Don, it was a good talk.

End of Interview