Bates College

Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection

Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library

8-16-2000

Mayo, Joseph William "Joe" oral history interview

Greg Beam

Follow this and additional works at: https://scarab.bates.edu/muskie_oh

Recommended Citation

Beam, Greg, "Mayo, Joseph William "Joe" oral history interview" (2000). *Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection*. 242. https://scarab.bates.edu/muskie_oh/242

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library at SCARAB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of SCARAB. For more information, please contact bates.edu.

Interview with Joseph William "Joe" Mayo by Greg Beam

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee Mayo, Joseph William "Joe"

Interviewer Beam, Greg

Date August 16, 2000

Place Augusta, Maine

ID Number MOH 218

Use Restrictions

© Bates College. This transcript is provided for individual **Research Purposes Only**; for all other uses, including publication, reproduction and quotation beyond fair use, permission must be obtained in writing from: The Edmund S. Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library, Bates College, 70 Campus Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240-6018.

Biographical Note

Joseph "Joe" Mayo was born September 8, 1959 in Rockland, Maine. His parents were Lucy Jewett (Adams) Mayo and James Henry Mayo. Mayo grew up in Thomaston, Maine where his father was a selectman and his mother was a leading member of the community in terms of community service. In 1982, his father was elected to the House of Representatives. When his father died the following year, Joseph Mayo ran for his seat and served five terms from 1983-1992. When he first entered the legislature, he was only 23 years old, in the process of earning his master's degree in business at the University of Maine in Orono, which he never completed. In 1992 he ran and obtained the position of Clerk of the House, which he still held in August, 2000. He was diagnosed with ALS and passed away May 23, 2002.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family background; Thomaston, Maine; Lucy Mayo's involvement in the Thomaston community; Joe Mayo's political career; Maine politicians with whom Joe Mayo worked; Joe Mayo's encounters with Ed Muskie; environmental issues; Muskie's 1968 campaign; Margaret Chase Smith; John Martin; Maine Health Care Finance Commission; Worker's Compensation; Mayo as Clerk of the Maine House; current members of Maine legislature; Democratic Party in Maine; and Muskie's license plate.

Indexed Names

Andrews, Tom Gwadosky, Dan Hathaway, Bill Martin, John Mayo, James Henry Mayo, Joseph William "Joe" Mayo, Lucy Jewett Adams Mayo, Rita McCormick, Dale McKernan, John Melendy, Rita Mitchell, Libby Muskie, Edmund S., 1914-1996 Pert. Edwin H. Rowe, Steven Smith, Margaret Chase, 1897-1995

Transcript

Greg Beam: We'll start with formalities and then start asking you some questions. This is Greg Beam conducting an interview with Joe Mayo. We're at the State House in Augusta, the date is August 16th, 2000 and it's just after 1:00 P.M. To start, could you state your full name and spell it.

Joe Mayo: Joseph, J-O-S-E-P-H, middle name is William, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, last name Mayo, M-A-Y-O.

- **GB:** And when and where were you born?
- JM: I was born September 8th, 1959 at Knox Hospital in Rockland, Maine.
- **GB:** And did you grow up in Rockland?
- **JM:** I grew up in Thomaston.
- **GB:** Oh, I see. Is that near Rockland?
- **JM:** It's just south of Rockland on Rte. 1.
- **GB:** And what were your parents' names, what are your parents' names?

JM: My father's name was James Henry Mayo, and my mother's name was Lucy Jewett Adams Mayo.

GB: And what did they do there in Thomaston?

JM: My father first came to Knox County from Brewer to work for the First National stores. They don't exist any more, you may not remember First National. I do. Shop 'n' Save bought them out I think. He then went to work for New England Telephone and worked for them for I would say over thirty years, the last twelve of which he was on leave when the union for telephone workers was forming. My mother was a housewife after they got married but did work before then at various things, a waitress and at a canning factory.

GB: Were, how were your parents involved in the community?

JM: Oh, very involved. My father had been a selectman. He moderated the town meeting for years, and in 1982 was elected here to the house as a representative.

GB: Was he a Democrat or a Republican?

JM: Oh yes, a Democrat; and then a Muskie Democrat.

GB: Was that a strongly Democratic area?

JM: No, in fact it has been strongly Republican. My father was the first Democrat in I don't know how long, probably a hundred years (*unintelligible phrase*).

GB: Wow, that's fantastic.

JM: He died a year later and I succeeded him and served five terms and then became clerk.

GB: So that was, your five terms, what were the years for that?

JM: '83 to '92.

GB: '83 to '92.

JM: He served just six months and then died.

GB: So it sounds like your father's political interests and beliefs rubbed off on you?

JM: Oh yes, yeah. My mother was a Democrat at heart but was a registered Republican because when she registered to vote her father told her, even though he was an immigrant all his life, to register as a Republican because the congress back then was in the Republican party. There wasn't any contest in the fall because it was such a Republican area. I think I'm told that when Ed Muskie ran for governor they had a rally in Rockland and only one person showed up.

GB: Do you know who was that person?

JM: No, I don't. That was besides Ed was there with two staff people or campaign people, and one person (*unintelligible phrase*) came. He still won.

GB: Now you mentioned your dad was a real Muskie Democrat. Do you recall your parents supporting Muskie when you were growing up?

JM: Oh yes, we had Muskie pins and stickers at home, I remember that. Ed came to Thomaston to campaign and my father, later on, and my father of course was a strong supporter.

GB: What was the, what was the make up of the Thomaston community, what kind of economic structure is there there?

JM: Well, Thomaston has a cement plant, the only one in New England which had early on probably employed three hundred people but now it's much less because of modernized process. The prison, which is in Thomaston, employs a lot of people. That would be the biggest employer in town. And then there's fishing, fishing interests. Boat building and fishermen. There are five boat building shops still in Thomaston.

GB: Do you recall the ethnic or religious make up of the community?

JM: Mostly European Protestant. I'm Catholic, we were in the minority. My father got elected in spite of being a Democrat and a Catholic, just like Ed.

GB: How did he manage that, did he just try to rally?

JM: My father was well known in the area. He had been a baseball player when he moved down. Back then they had semi pro baseball everywhere in Maine, and he was very good and so everybody knew him. I was amazed the first time I came. Payne, Payne Morton said, oh, I knew your father, I saw him playing baseball. People would go to the baseball games (*unintelligible phrase*).

GB: I see. All right, so let's go ahead and jump to -

JM: You want to know about my mother? She was very involved in the community.

GB: Yes, please, please, tell me please.

JM: My mother belonged to every organization in town: the Garden Club, the (*name*) High Committee, the Historical Society, she was on the planning board, Library board, and everything. She really believed in community and doing volunteer work for the community. Meals on Wheels.

GB: Oh, that's fantastic, that's fantastic. So she probably instilled a lot of those values in you as well.

JM: Oh yes, both of them, yes. It was important to them that we participate in our community and do things for others.

GB: Wow. Now, when you entered the legislature succeeding your father, you were pretty young, what, twenty three, twenty four years old?

JM: Twenty three.

GB: Were you just out of school, or?

JM: I was actually at Orono getting a masters degree.

GB: All right, in what?

JM: Business. I never finished, I came here.

GB: Were you at Orono for, for -?

JM: Five years.

GB: All through college. Yeah.

JM: My undergraduate and then I went directly into graduate.

GB: So what made you decide to come and take your father's spot?

JM: Well, believe it or not the night Daddy had his heart attack he told me he wanted me to run for his seat someday, never knowing that he was going to be dead very shortly.

GB: Wow, so it was almost prophetic.

JM: It was. He told me that he wanted me to settle in once I graduated, and I had been married the prior August. He wanted me to settle in the area and to run for his seat, that's what he told me. And the next morning, I had gone back to Orono that night, and the next morning he had his heart attack and died eight days later. I never spoke to him again. By the time I got to the hospital he was unconscious.

GB: So that probably stayed with you, that last conversation about, yeah.

JM: Oh yes, yeah.

GB: So how does that work, what's the process of choosing a replacement for -?

JM: Each party picks a nominee by caucus and there was a special election six weeks after he died.

GB: Oh, okay. Was, I imagine that would have been pretty tough campaigning for his seat in the wake of your father's death.

JM: It was, it was in large part therapeutic for all of us. It was a way for us as a family to remember my father and for me to carry on what he wanted. My mother was my campaign manager and my brother, my oldest brother, was the campaign organizer and treasurer. They were very involved. They wanted it more than I did, I think.

GB: All right. So tell me, what was it like when you entered the legislature, what were your first impressions coming here to the State House and getting out on the floor?

JM: Well, it was only my second visit to the house chamber. I had been here the previous December to see my father sworn in. I arrived, the election was May 24th, I was seated two days later May 26. I arrived in early afternoon, I was recognized at the back of the house, I was escorted to the nominating office, I took my oath, they brought me back, they sat me down and two minutes later I had to vote. I didn't even know what it was. My seat mates on both sides of me were voting the same way so I voted with them. But I hadn't even been there for all the debate on the bill, because that's the way they did it.

GB: Do you remember what bill it was, (*unintelligible phrase*) you have no idea?

JM: No, no, no, I can look it up but, I don't know.

GB: Oh sure. Yeah, yeah. I was just curious if that would be something that would stick out in your mind in hindsight.

JM: It wasn't very important, thank goodness. Or I don't know what I would have done. But I felt overwhelmed by it all. Normally you started early on in getting training, but there was no time for me.

GB: So I imagine you enjoyed your time in the house since you were reelected several times?

JM: Oh, I loved it. I loved it, I would do it all over again. This job is wonderful and I actually like it more than being a member because it's not as hard and it pays a lot better. But I loved that time, it was wonderful.

GB: Tell me, who were some of the people you met in, political bigwigs in the state when, during your time in the house?

JM: Well, of course I met Ed Muskie and Margaret Chase Smith, had a wonderful visit with Senator Muskie on the day we honored him here. I forget when that was, it was about ten years ago I think. I met Margaret Chase Smith on several occasions. Wonderful woman. But Ed of course was always my hero (*unintelligible phrase*). He ran for vice president when I was nine, and so that made a big impression on me.

GB: I see, so when you, when you first met Ed Muskie what were your impressions of him?

JM: I first met him when I was six and we went to Washington, I don't remember much other than being in his office and that he was a very tall man to a six year old. But we went, my entire family, all eight of us, went to Washington and we went to his office.

GB: So that was just, you were on a trip to Washington and decided to s-?

JM: It was our summer trip.

GB: And decided to stop by the senator's office.

JM: We saw all the sights in Washington, and then went to the Capitol and then Muskie's office.

GB: And he welcomed you in and said hello?

JM: Well, yeah. My father was active in the union then, although wasn't full time, and so he would have had interaction with Ed and he went in to see him and we went with him.

GB: So, so did you ever see him again between the time when you were six and when you were in the house?

JM: Yes, when he campaigned for reelection I saw him at a meeting in Thomaston. And at some fund raisers, party events, I would see him.

GB: Did you ever get a chance to talk to him face to face at those types of events?

JM: Only briefly. He knew my father and when I would say who I was.

GB: So had your impressions of him changed by the time you received him in the house?

JM: No, my impression of Ed Muskie has been constant, that he's a wonderful Maine politician, made us all very proud. And he went to work on the issues that I cared about, including importantly the environment. I'm proud of him for that. And of course if he hadn't done what he did in earlier days, the Democratic Party in Maine would never have been in a position to get this (*unintelligible phrase*) in.

GB: So do you think, would you say that the environment will be his legislative legacy?

JM: Without question. When you think about when I was young how dirty our rivers were and how clean they are now, Ed Muskie led the way on that. With help from others, but it was his vision that made that happen.

GB: So you had mentioned seeing him campaigning for vice president in '68 when you were nine years old?

JM: No, it was when he was running for reelection to the senate, later on.

GB: Oh, oh, okay, okay, yeah. And um...

JM: I don't remember anything from the '68 campaign.

GB: Oh really, do you remember -

JM: I remember being excited that he was running, and I remember finding out around noon the next day that they had lost. It took a long time because that was a close election.

GB: I was just thinking that, so you were probably, I was going to say that you were probably excited by that (*unintelligible phrase*) figure in Maine.

JM: Oh yes, I was in third grade, I was very excited. I wanted him to win very badly and I was very disappointed when he didn't.

GB: Oh wow. Okay, so now let me ask you about some other people. First off, Margaret Chase Smith, when did you say you met her?

JM: I met her at some parties a couple of times. She came here as well and was honored, like Ed Muskie, and I would have met her then, and spoke only briefly to her but did hear her make comments to other people. And I was impressed with her grace and her wisdom. She, too, made Maine proud, as well. They don't make them like Ed Muskie and Margaret Chase Smith any more I'm afraid.

GB: Were Margaret Chase Smith and Ed Muskie, I know that they were both highly respected, would you say they were regarded in the same way or did people view them at all differently?

JM: Well, I think they were viewed differently but they both were regarded with the highest respect and admiration. I certainly did. Even though Margaret Chase Smith wasn't a Democrat and she ultimately lost her seat to Bill Hathaway, I still held her in high esteem, certainly. Because of her courage and her hard work, she too came to office because of the death (*unintelligible phrase*).

GB: I see. So did you have any further contact with either of them after they were honored in the house?

JM: No, I did go to the funeral service for Margaret Chase Smith and it was a very nice event. She would be pleased with it I think. It was held on the grounds of her home in Skowhegan.

GB: I see, all right. So tell me, when you were actually, when- tell me about some of the people you worked with in the house? Who were the big players?

JM: Well, the top of the list would have to be John Martin.

GB: I expected to hear that name.

JM: I was a member of his rank and file when I came. I went into leadership in 1988 as house whip, third in line, and worked with him very closely there. And then in 1992 I became clerk under him.

GB: I see, now what are the responsibilities, what were your responsibilities as house whip?

JM: Anything they told me to do, the two people above me. I spent a lot of time coordinating between John's office and the majority office to make sure we were all on the same wavelength.

GB: I see, and -

JM: Yeah, so I ran back and forth for a while.

GB: Running errands, huh, or that sort of thing?

JM: Yeah, well on missions negotiating for, with members of the house, working with everybody to make sure we got what we wanted. I had an easy time as whip because my first term we had ninety eight Democrats and my second term we had ninety seven, so being the majority is, the largest majority the Democrats have ever had were those two (*unintelligible word*).

GB: Wow. What were some of the big issues, the big bills that were on the floor from your time, any time in those nine or ten years, does anything stand out in your mind?

JM: Hospital cost containment, which we have abandoned unfortunately.

GB: And what did that consist of, what was the -?

JM: The Maine Health Care Finance Commission was established to regulate the hospitals and what they could charge, and try to hold down the cost. We have done away with that pretty much. They have different ways of doing it now that I don't understand and I don't think are as effective. That was the first big bill I remember voting on. Certainly worker's compensation reform, which I supported. It made some people mad but I voted for it because I felt I had to.

GB: What were the particulars of the worker's comp, the Worker's Comp revisions?

JM: Well, it was a difficult time and there hadn't been reform and changes prior to 1991, but Governor McKernan refused to sign the budget until we passed a reform package that he liked. He shut down state government for almost three weeks to get what he wanted. It involved cuts in benefits, cuts in employees right, and it was hard.

GB: Wow.

JM: We also, and people forget this, we also insisted that included would be a competitive state mutual (*unintelligible word*) company because we felt their insurance companies were taking advantage of Maine business and I think we were proven right. It's called MEMIC, Maine Employer's Mutual Insurance Company, and they have brought costs down significantly. And that was in there because the Democrats wanted it.

GB: Huh. Now, so what was the end result of the shut down and the worker's comp reforms?

JM: They finally passed the bill the governor wanted with our changes, and he signed the budget after that.

GB: I see, so it was a real compromise?

JM: Even though we supported the budget, he turned us down to get what he wanted.

GB: On that one issue.

JM: Yeah.

GB: Wow.

JM: He paid the price. He couldn't get elected dog catcher now if he ran.

GB: Do, so -

JM: Nice guy, I want to say that Governor McKernan was a very pleasant fellow, but very hard to work with.

GB: Oh sure. So you think that most of the public supported the Democratic position on that issue?

JM: Most of the public didn't support anybody, they were mad at all of us. I didn't even dare to go out and, on the street of Thomaston because people would yell at me every time I did. Everybody got hurt by that.

GB: Wow, messy situation.

JM: I didn't run again after that.

GB: So did that have a, play a part in that, in you -?

JM: No, no. I was relieved not to have to run. Rita did though, she ran again and it was a tough election for her. In '92, Rita?

RM: Yeah?

JM: Wasn't that a close election for you?

RM: Oh Joe, they were all close for me. My very first one was -

JM: No, your last one.

RM: My last one was quite close, thirty seven to (*unintelligible phrase*).

JM: Yeah, see, so. And that was her sixth term.

GB: Wow. So, so did you notice that there were a lot of newcomers that year that were elected?

JM: There were, there were, and there was a lot of people in public mad at everybody.

GB: Wow, that's an interesting situation. All right, so are there any other issues that stand out in your mind? We covered hospital cost containment and worker's comp, was there any *(unintelligible phrase)*?

JM: Several environmental bills, public land access purchase. Um...

GB: I see, all right, now let's talk about John Martin a little bit. You worked pretty closely would you say with him?

JM: Oh yeah.

GB: What was he like personally, first off?

JM: He was sometimes difficult but I learned the way to get what you wanted from him was to go in and sit down and look sad and say, John, I need your help. That would get more out of him than you would believe because he always had the need to help people, that's the way he is. If you ask him directly for help, he'll help you. He does that for everybody. The public doesn't know that about him because he has a bad public reputation, which he created by himself, he'll admit that. He never cared what anybody else thought about him. I talked to him about it a couple of times and he said to me, 'don't worry about me, take care of yourself'. Otherwise, (*unintelligible phrase*), and not stand up for him.

GB: So, now some of the public perception of him is that he kind of rules with an iron fist and was very dogmatic in the house. Do you think that's true to some extent?

JM: That is the perception. John always did what he was able to do by the members of the house. He went as far as he could every time to get what he thought was right. There's some people don't like that, but you know, it worked for him for a long time.

GB: So you think he was an effective leader?

JM: Oh, absolutely, yeah. Even the people that disagreed with him would say that.

GB: Hum. Now, um-

JM: (*Unintelligible phrase*) is another way to say that. Not illegal, not immoral, not outside the rules, (*unintelligible phrase*). But that was all for a cause that he believed in, not for himself. He's not a wealthy man, and he's given his life in service to us. And I say that as someone who he did not support when I ran (*unintelligible word*), he did not support me when I ran for clerk, but I respect him. He'd admit that too, we're friends. We didn't agree a lot and so he didn't support me when I ran for these offices. It's all right, he was horrible and I was, too, so I don't have the slightest hard feeling about any of that.

GB: Now, do you recall any issues that he was very passionate about, I mean you say that he always fought for what he thought was right, do you remember anything in particular?

JM: Worker's rights, minimum wage, more money for education, the university expansion.

GB: Wow. Now, working closely with him and being associated with him, did you ever suffer any fallout from any bad press he got?

JM: Yes.

GB: Really.

JM: But it was minimal, I didn't care all that much. There were people back home that probably wouldn't vote for me because of him but only a few.

GB: So -

JM: I didn't need them. I had enough votes to spare.

GB: So who else did you work closely with in the house, anyone else come to mind?

JM: Well, a lot of people. Tom Andrews when I was in congress, and Dan Gwadosky who is the secretary of state. Dale McCormick, when she was in the senate I was down here. Libby Mitchell, of course.

GB: And Libby Mitchell who, well Dan Gwadosky and Libby Mitchell both went on to be speaker after, after John Martin, right?

JM: Dan first.

GB: Yeah, yeah, so, well you saw them, you were working as a clerk when Dan Gwadosky and Libby Mitchell were speakers. How do you think they handled that position relative to John Martin?

JM: They did, both did very well, mostly because they both were trained by him I think in some ways. But they were both very good leaders. Different style than John, certainly, but they were good leaders.

GB: What were their styles, how did their styles from John Martin.

JM: They were more consensus builders. Times had changed and you couldn't get what you wanted by charging straight ahead any more, you had to work with people, (*unintelligible phrase*).

GB: I see, so what about Tom Andrews? How, did you know him pretty well?

JM: We served in the house one term together and then he went to the senate. I really like Tom as a person and we were friends.

GB: What about Dale McCormick?

JM: Dale and I had worked in the party before she got elected to the senate. I was party treasurer for four years.

GB: Oh really? When was that?

JM: For the state committee, from '87 to '90; 1990.

GB: I see. And you were elected to that position as well?

JM: By the state committee. And Dale and I worked on things at the party. Dale is a grass roots person, which I am. I believe in that and so does she.

GB: Now, let's talk about how you got the clerkship, how'd you end up in this office?

JM: Oh, it wasn't easy. Ed Pert resigned in May of 1992. I immediately went to the speaker and said, I'm running, I want to talk to you about it before you do anything. This is John Martin. I went back to my office and started calling members of the house to line up support. He immediately appointed (*name*) as acting clerk and left the building before I could talk to him about it; went back to Eagle Lake. I was so mad at him, but I got over it quickly. I then called from noon until about ten o'clock that night and lined up about thirty five votes, thirty five, and that wasn't enough. So I spent all the time between May and October 1st getting the other ten votes that I needed. It was hard work. I traveled all over Maine and got the votes I needed to win.

GB: And why did you want this job so badly?

JM: I needed to leave as a member, it was too hard on my family. I had three children by then, I couldn't live on the salary and I needed time off. You don't get any rest when you're a member. (*Unintelligible phrase*) getting the clerk position, and I know this line of work, it's

quieter, I'm home at night, people weren't calling me at all hours of the day and night wanting help. It was a major load off my personal life.

GB: So what does the clerk of the house, what does the clerk do?

JM: I'm the chief administrative officer of the house. The speaker's my boss but I run all the details for him.

GB: I see, so you work for the for the speaker?

JM: No, I work for the house, but he's in charge.

GB: Okay, I see.

JM: I don't know anything he doesn't like.

GB: So what do you do on a daily basis, do you handle bills, or?

JM: (*Unintelligible phrase*) and I'm the custodian of all bills in the possession of the house. I act as parliamentarian and work with the speaker on that.

GB: And what goes on when you're out of session like now?

JM: We do administrative work, publishing the record of the session and (*unintelligible phrase*) to the members because they're now at home.

GB: I see, I see, all right.

JM: I hope this comes out okay.

GB: Oh, oh yeah, absolutely. Just checking to make sure I don't have to flip the tape over yet. All right, so tell me, who is the current speaker of the house?

JM: (*Name*) [G. Steven] Rowe out of Portland. Wonderful man. He's the kindest person I've ever met, he really is, he is a remarkable man.

GB: And who have, since your time, you mentioned, you know, Libby Mitchell and Dan Gwadosky, as clerk is there anyone else you can think of in the house who you've worked with? Do you work closely with members of the house besides the speaker?

JM: Oh yes, oh yes. My office is full of members every day when we're in session, help on the rules, help on needs they have, anything and everything. I counsel them, too, when they're upset. I've done that quite a bit. Members of the house have personal problems like everybody else and they need someone to talk to. So they come and see me.

GB: All right, I'm going to ask you a couple more questions and then I can flip the tape over

for - . . .

End of Side A Side B

GB: We're now on the second side of the tape of the interview with Joe Mayo. All right, let me ask you a couple of general questions. You've observed I guess the Democratic Party since you were a kid and been involved for your entire adult life. Over the past few decades, have you seen the Democratic Party change in Maine in its structure or in its philosophies?

JM: No, I don't think we have changed here as much as the national party has. We're still pretty close to our core ideals, worker's rights, clean environment, and educational improvement.

GB: I see, but do you think it's changed on the national level?

JM: Well I think the national party has moved to the center more. I think we may have already been that far anyways. That's just my perspective. We're more common sense here in Maine, you know. If it makes common sense, we're for it.

GB: All right, and how have things in the house changed, have there been any -?

JM: Oh, dramatically. We're now, I'm very proud of the technological advancements that we have made to make the process go more smoothly.

GB: I see, such as what?

JM: Well we're now, our front desk is now completely computerized. When I first came the only thing that was was the voting board. Now all our operations are integrated and computer based.

GB: I see. Now, this, this Ed Muskie, excuse me, I'm a blank here, license plate that you showed me and gave me a copy of when I came in, where did you say you got that?

JM: It was in my desk when I took over. Ed was clerk when those plates were passed by, into law, and he evidently ordered them, and so he kept the extras here.

GB: Now, do you remember when that happened?

JM: I think it was before I came on so it would have been, well let's see, Ed left in '81, (*unintelligible phrase*), for the U.S. so shortly after that I think.

GB: I'm just wondering if those are still available for people who are looking for some Muskie memorabilia.

JM: No, I wouldn't think so.

GB: (Unintelligible phrase).

JM: Because they were probably only two or three copies. Well, they gave this to Ed and there's a, they're (*unintelligible word*), and those were just extras in case they got lost.

GB: Wow, so it was just, it was just very, very limited.

JM: I would say that's the only one available besides the (*unintelligible word*).

GB: Oh wow, that's; just for the record to let people know who are listening to this, we're talking about an Edmund S. Muskie commemorative plate, license plate, which -

JM: It wasn't commemorative, it was a (*unintelligible phrase*), he could put it on his car and use that for life.

GB: Oh wow, wow, and Margaret Chase Smith had one as well.

JM: Yes.

GB: Oh wow, wow, that's fantastic.

JM: It was his official license plate.

GB: That's quite an honor. All right, well I am done with my questions so do you have any final remarks you'd like to make about Ed Muskie or about anything else we've covered or anything you'd like to add that we haven't?

JM: I'll just say I'm honored to be a part of it and I appreciate the work of the Muskie Archives to make his life available to Maine people.

GB: All right, well thank you for your time, and you're now part of Ed Muskie and Maine oral history.

JM: Very good.

GB: All right.

End of Interview