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McCloskey, Jay oral history interview

Greg Beam

Interview with Jay McCloskey by Greg Beam

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
McCloskey, Jay

Interviewer
Beam, Greg

Date
September 7, 2000

Place
Bangor, Maine

ID Number
MOH 210

Biographical Note

Jay P. McCloskey was born in Bangor, Maine on March 20, 1947 to Eleanor (McCarthy) and Frank McCloskey. He grew up in Bangor, attending Catholic schools, graduating in 1965. Mr. McCloskey went to the University of Maine at Orono, graduating in 1971. At the same time, he served one term in the Maine State Legislature. He also did extensive work on the Maine Labor Oral History Project, where he interviewed key players in the Maine labor movement. That collection is at the University of Maine in Orono. He worked on George Mitchell's gubernatorial campaign, and then attended the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, Maine. He graduated in 1977. He became active in legislative work, working for Senator Muskie and Senator Hathaway. He returned to Bangor after Senator Hathaway lost his bid for reelection and practiced law. He then served as Assistant United States Attorney for thirteen years before being appointed United States Attorney by Bill Clinton in 1992. At the time of this interview, he had been in that position for eight years.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Maine Labor oral history; Ben Dorsky; Bangor, Maine history; the east and west sides of Bangor; political involvement at UMO during Vietnam; significance of the labor movement; serving in the Maine House from 1971 to 1973; Irish

influence in Bangor; driving Ed Muskie in 1976; Muskie's Washington staff in 1976; Muskie's strength as a speaker; Muskie's relationship with his staff; attending UMO with Steve Muskie; Muskie at the Fryeburg Fair during a rainstorm; Muskie anecdotes; working for Bill Hathaway; comparisons between Hathaway and Muskie; going to work with George Mitchell as Assistant U.S. Attorney; and Urban Renewal mistakes.

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Transcript

Jay McCloskey: . . . through the Maine AFL-CIO to do an oral history of labor in the state of Maine. And for about a year I guess, it's a long time ago, but about a year I went around and did oral interviews with early time labor leaders; people who were there when the labor movement started in Maine, and talked to people. I remember a guy who was sort of there when they began the unions in the paper companies, paper industry, and the carpenter's union and the longshoremen union. And all that material was collected and is now in the northeast archives of Folklore and Oral History at the University of Maine, so I did actually… And I was the senior in, well actually I was older than you because you're going into college, right? See, I was a senior in college when I did that, so.

Greg Beam: You know, I heard about that project. I interviewed Chick O'Leary and he told me about that project.

JM: Yeah, yeah, he was working on that, well he was, he worked for Ben Dorsky who was sort of "Mr. Labor" in Maine. And so Chick worked on getting the grant, and then I essentially, along with a guy who now still is with the labor movement, can't remember Ken's last name for some reason, but he helped me do that. It was very interesting work.

GB: And who did you interview, who did you in particular interview?

JM: You know, I'd have to go back, you know, that was thirty years ago, so -

GB: Oh yeah, so you don't remember any names.

JM: Well, Ben Dorsky obviously. Ben was the longest lived president of the labor union, the AFL-CIO in American history I think. And we interviewed him at length. My family had known him for years, in fact he had worked for my father for a short period of time. And so Ben and… Ben had a vice president, Harold Norton who had been around for forty or fifty years in the labor movement at the time. And both of them are, died some time ago but, so they had been, you know. And they knew all the big names in labor, you know, John L. Lewis and all those people, so it was pretty interesting.

GB: Yeah, and Ben Dorsky was president for, what, forty-two years?

JM: Yeah, forty or fifty years, I know it's been a long time. And he knew all the, you know, knew all the major national figures, you know, going back fifty years so that was pretty interesting, you know.

GB: All right, well -

JM: Okay, what do you need to know?

GB: Well, I'd like to talk a little bit more about that, but we'll start at the beginning.

JM: Okay, sure.

GB: This is Greg Beam in an interview with Jay McCloskey in Bangor, Maine. The date is September 7th, 2000 and it's approximately 11:00 A.M. To begin, could you please state your full name and spell it for the record?

JM: It's Jay, middle initial P., McCloskey, M-C-capital C-L-O-S-K-E-Y.

GB: And when and where were you born?

JM: I was born in Bangor, Maine on March 20th, 1947.

GB: And what are your parents' names?

JM: My father's name, he's now deceased, was Frank McCloskey, and my mother's name is Eleanor McCloskey. Her maiden name was McCarthy, she was Eleanor McCarthy, and they were both from Bangor and grew up in Bangor as I did.

GB: I see. And you mentioned that Ben Dorsky had worked for your father, what was his business?

JM: My father owned a restaurant supply company for many years in Bangor. He supplied the dishes, the plates and other stuff that you see in restaurants. And somewhere along the line, Ben Dorsky worked for him as a salesman and I, quite frankly I don't recall when that was exactly. But Ben had known my family for many years and had worked, like I said, had worked for my dad as a salesman on the road some period of time, probably during the fifties if I had to guess, but it might have been in the forties or early, probably forties or fifties. But, and how long he worked for my dad I guess I can't really tell you but I know Ben told me several times about working for my dad and so forth.

GB: Were your parents involved in the Bangor community outside of your father's business?

JM: No, not really. My parents were not active, activists in the community at all. My dad was a businessman, my mother was a homemaker essentially and- although my mother at some point in time went to work and worked as a child protective worker for about twenty-five years for the state of Maine. But she didn't really begin work until we were in high school. So that's sort of my family background.

GB: I see. And what are your memories of the Bangor community from when you were a child? Was it a nice place to grow up?

JM: Well, Bangor was a good place to grow up. It was friendly, it was safe; safe environment, there were a lot of activities for kids. Mostly my brother and I played sports, as a lot of kids do growing up. There are lakes around, we had a camp on a lake, and so it was a good place to grow up and go to school. I went to grammar school in Bangor, I went to high school in Bangor, ended up going to the University of Maine in Orono, and then ultimately went to law school in Portland.

GB: I see. Now, now I've heard stories of in the past Bangor being divided into sort of distinguishable east and west side, were you aware of that when you were growing up?

JM: Yeah, oh sure, there were the east side boys and the west side boys and never the twain shall meet. It sort of splits down the Kenduskeag. And I actually, up through seventh grade, lived on the east side, and then we moved to the west side through high school. And my mother actually moved back to the house she grew up in on the east side. And I now live in Bangor with my family and we're east-siders. So I don't know where my loyalties lie, but generally I'm very comfortable on the east side of the city.

GB: I see, now did you perceive any qualitative difference in the lifestyle between the two or was it pretty much just geographic?

JM: No, I think obviously, as a young kid growing up, you don't really think very much about that, but they're very similar. I mean there's no real differences between the east side of Bangor and the west side of Bangor. As any every community there are different neighborhoods, there are neighborhoods where more affluent people live and then there are neighborhoods that are middle class, and then neighborhoods where people don't have the same economic advantage as others. So that's pretty typical in any city, and Bangor's no different from that.

GB: I see. Were there any ethnic divisions when you were growing up in the city?

JM: Well I don't know that they were ethnic divisions, there were ethnic locations. Bangor was a heavily Irish community, there was a heavy Irish population growing up, which is not so apparent these days. Bangor's always had a very vibrant and good sized Jewish community, and still does. And then, that was certainly what I noticed perhaps more than anything and, you know, it obviously has a strong Protestant population, too. But there was a Jew-, Jewish neighborhoods and there were locations in the city where there was a strong Irish background, and that is not so much true any longer. But back in the fifties and in the early sixties that was the case in Bangor. And obviously, reading history, that was probably even truer back in the early 1900s.

GB: I see. Now what sort of values, political, social, religious or personal values did you develop through grammar school and high school?

JM: Well my family is of Irish ancestry on both my mother and my father's side, and so there was always that sort of strong Irish background growing up. I went to Catholic schools, both for grammar school and high school, and so there was a strong element in that regard, and developed the values that those, that sort of background brings I guess, so to speak, and, but I think that's pretty typical, I guess.

GB: Sure, and so I imagine you went to John Bapst High School?

JM: I went to St. John's and then, initially for grammar school, and then when I was in eighth grade I went over, we moved over to the west side for a short period of time and I went to St. Mary's. And then I went to John Bapst for four years and graduated in 1965. And at the time that

the boys at Bapst were taught by the Severian Brothers and the girls, who were on the other side of the school, were taught by the Sisters of Mercy.

GB: I see. So you went to the University of Maine at Orono after graduating from high school, and was that just a matter of it was the closest school, or?

JM: I think that's, that's true to some extent. It was also the most affordable. My family at that period of time there was- my sister got sick and there were a lot of medical expenses associated with that, and so I really never gave that much thought of going anyplace else. And so I, after high school I went to the University.

GB: I see, and what were your academic interests in college?

JM: Well, I didn't really have too many academic interests to begin with. Having a good time probably was the most important thing. I might say that during my time at the university I did live at home. I was able to commute obviously. Orono's a short distance from Bangor and, again, economically that made it very affordable. As I recall, the tuition when I started the University of Maine was something like either two hundred dollars a year or two hundred dollars a semester, so it was very cheap in the late sixties compared to now. So, but when I started the university I thought I was going to be a doctor, but soon discovered that I had no, no inclination towards the science and quickly changed my mind after a semester of sort of doing science programs and so, and studied international affairs which is a four-year program, and became involved in politics essentially going through Orono.

GB: I see. And so you developed a real interest in politics and in current events, I imagine?

JM: Well, of course during that time, from '65 to '70, '73, the Vietnam War was very active, and so generally it was not unusual for kids in college to be politically active or to be politically interested, because of the times. And there was a strong department at Orono in the political science department, and so I developed an interest in politics and academic political science matters and history and so forth, and that's the route I took.

GB: I see. And I imagine the war must have been a serious concern to you as a young man eligible for the draft.

JM: Yeah, no question about it. Everybody in college was concerned about that at the time, and I was very active, or reasonably active in activities regarding the war because there were teach-ins and courses on Vietnam. And one of the teachers at the university, Bud Schoenberger, was a wonderful teacher and led a lot of students down the road to consider the war effort, and to make up their own mind as to, you know, whether it was a politically good idea for the United States to be in Vietnam. So as a normal college student during the time, I took those things under consideration.

GB: I see. And now, when, did they still have the student deferment, the deferments when you were…?

JM: They had student deferment when I initially went to school but then changed that. I actually got called into the selective service to take a physical. I didn't pass initially, for, unbeknownst to me I had a hernia and, which was congenital because my brother had had it at birth I guess, or shortly after. And so that initially made me ineligible for the draft. And then, evidently it somehow healed itself. And I got called back and was going to be drafted, but then they went to the numbering system and I received a high number. And I don't know whether I would have ever been drafted, but it was obviated by the numbering system, and the luck of the draw.

GB: I see, I see. And so that was while you were in college that you participated in that oral history project (*unintelligible phrase*)?

JM: Well, my last year at the University I had decided to run for the house of representatives, state house of representatives, and I was looking for work. I worked all through college, I had to work to support myself. I essentially paid for my own education. Although it wasn't expensive at the time, the wages were also relatively low. So I essentially paid for all my own education and so I was working all the time during the time I went to the university.

And my last year at the university, and going on after I graduated, I was able to work on a grant from the Maine Endowment on the Arts and Humanities through the AFL-CIO to conduct an oral history of the early days of labor in Maine. And so for approximately about a year I went around the state and interviewed people like Ben Dorsky and others about the early days of the labor movement in Maine. I can remember talking to people in the carpentry union, people in the paper maker union, the paper industry, and the longshoremen; people who were in their eighties and nineties at the time, and who had been instrumental in beginning the labor movement in Maine in those various industries and others. That was thirty years ago, so I don't, I haven't really sort of refreshed my recollection, but it was a very interesting project. And that oral history is presently housed at the University of Maine at the northeast archives of Folklore and Oral History. So those recollections of the, those early days in the labor movement are preserved on tape at the university.

GB: I see. Now did you already have, or did that perhaps stir up in you, an interest in organized labor?

JM: Well, you know, it obviously caused me to read a lot about the labor movement. I had done that in history courses while I was at the university, and it gave me sort of a first hand feeling and understanding of the difficulties of the labor movement in those early days. That things that we sort of take for granted now. Union wages, and union benefits, and union rights, were not easily earned when you talk to those people going back to the early nineteen hundreds in terms of how vacations were fought for, and that when you first started working in the paper industry there were no vacations. And if you were sick don't bother coming back the next day. And bring the boss or your supervisor a jug of whiskey or whatever on Friday so that you'll have your job on Monday. And those sorts of things were pretty much standard fare in some locations and in some industries and, at least according to the recollections of these people who were there sort of when it started. And so it was a very interesting project. I learned a lot and found the information to be very interesting.

GB: Probably gave you the sense that labor movement had accomplished quite a bit.

JM: Well that obviously. And I suppose that's the general direction of society anyway in almost any area, to improve. But some of those things that we take for granted like vacations, in some industries had to be fought for. And certain people paid a price to earn those benefits. And they, and those fights obviously go on today, I mean there's a, as we talk there are strikes being contemplated and people out on strike to make sure that they get the benefits that they believe they deserve as a result of the work they do, and quite frankly, the profits the companies are making. So it's an ongoing battle. But it was very interesting to see how difficult it was and how tough times were for some of those people in the early nineteen hundreds. It just wasn't quite so easy as we have it now.

GB: I see. Now, did this have an impact on your political philosophies, or did you have political ideas pretty firmly ingrained in you?

JM: Well, I, you know, I don't know, I mean. I think almost anything you do helps you develop a philosophy of life and it's, you know, I haven't bothered to analyze that sort of why ultimately I believe as I do. But it certainly had an impact on me, and as any life experience might, any job you might have causes you to go down one road versus another, and so it was an interesting experience.

GB: I see, all right, so after graduation of college did you go immediately to law school?

JM: No, I ran for the legislature in my last year in college and served. I was one of five members of the house of representatives, state house of representatives from Bangor from 1971 to '73. And it was interesting at that time that all five members of the Maine legislature from Bangor were Irish. There was myself, there was Frank Murray, a woman by the name of Dottie Doyle, a gentleman by the name of Ray Curan, and another man by the name of Ed Kelleher. And we all represented Bangor in the legislature, and I think we were known as the Irish mafia.

GB: Now, was that just a strange anomaly, or does it imply something about the voting in Bangor?

JM: I think at the time there was a strong Irish influence in Bangor and there were, I mean I think it was, you know, obviously to some extent part chance. But Ray Curan and Ed Kelleher had been in the legislature for some period of time. Frank Murray was also a next-door neighbor. He and I decided to run for the legislature, not together, but we both were relatively young. I was twenty-one I think, and Frank hadn't even turned twenty-one when he was elected. He had to wait some additional time before he could get sworn in because he was so young. And then Dottie Doyle had been in Bangor for a relatively short period of time and she got elected. So it just, it was happenstance to some extent but it showed that there was a strong Irish population in Bangor that obviously supported the Irish. So we were able to send five people of that background to the legislature.

GB: Now I imagine that would have been a somewhat daunting task, as a twenty-one year old

going into the state legislature?

JM: Well, it's more daunting looking back on it than it was looking forward. As a young person you think you know more than you do, obviously, but it was interesting. And it obviously, like anything in life one thing leads to another and it sort of convinced me that going to law school was a good idea and ultimately I did that. It developed relationships and friendships which resulted in other jobs down the road and other friendships that lasted thirty years of time. So it was a formative time in my life, no question about it.

GB: Sure, all right. Now, at law school, did you enjoy your time at law school?

JM: Well, I wasn't, I wasn't the best student in law school and didn't find school itself all that exciting. I've enjoyed the practice of law and, but school, law school itself wasn't a great time for me. I, again, worked all the way through law school and usually held one or two jobs while I was going to school. And so I got through obviously but I was happy to be done when I got done, it wasn't the, it wasn't a great experience. I much more enjoyed going to undergraduate school and the courses in undergraduate school than I did in studying the courses at law school.

GB: I see, and you graduated law school when, 1976?

JM: Nineteen seventy, let's see, nineteen seventy-eight I think.

GB: Eighty.

JM: Yeah, after I finished the legislature I actually ran for the state senate and lost in '72 in a very close race to another Irishman actually, John Cox who was running as a Republican, and who was president of one of Maine's largest corporations. And he ended up beating me by a percentage point or two, a few hundred votes. And I then went off to work in Europe for a year or so and came back in 1974 I think and went to work on George Mitchell's campaign for governor. And after he lost, essentially, I went to law school. So I didn't go to law school until 1975 I think, and graduated in '78, and then went off to Washington to work for Bill Hathaway who was in the United States senate. So I worked down in Washington for a year or so before I came back and started practicing law in Bangor.

GB: All right, I'll ask -

JM: I might mention that in 1976, while I was in law school, I worked for Ed Muskie.

GB: What were you doing for Ed Muskie?

JM: Well I was working in his Washington office during the summer, and did a variety of things down there during that time. And then when, he was running a campaign actually in 1976 against Bob Monks, and in the fall I spent a lot of time working in the campaign, and driving him and Jane Muskie around to various events, campaign events.

GB: Sure, so, okay so you, what did you do in his Washington office during the summer?

JM: Well I was essentially a, more or less, a summer intern. I did correspondence and did other things, either researching a particular piece of legislation to some extent, or whatever I was asked to do. Sometimes I was asked to drive Senator Muskie to the airport, which everybody got a kick out of because I didn't know Washington very well. So I think they thought it a joke to send me off with Muskie to see if I could find the airport. And it didn't please him too much but everybody else thought it was funny. Not me, who was driving him, but. And then that summer, he was being considered for vice president by Jimmy Carter, and so many of the people in the office went to the convention in New York. And I was helping the, Muskie's press secretary Bob Rose sort of handle the press events at the Democratic convention in New York in the summer of '76.

GB: Now I've heard that those conventions are very hectic times, is that a -?

JM: Well that's true. I mean, obviously, you know, as a young person it was exciting, it was interesting to see. It was interesting to work with the national media to some extent, even though it was sort of in a minor role as an assistant to Muskie's press secretary, so to speak. But it was interesting, and obviously the fact that Muskie was being considered made it even more interesting. And so it was an interesting time for me personally.

GB: Now, besides Bob Rose, with whom did you work on Muskie's staff?

JM: Well, I'm trying to recall at the time who was there. I think Charlie Micoleau was Muskie's administrative assistant. I think Leon Billings was working for Muskie as head of the sub committee on the environment if I recall correctly, but Leon Billings worked for Muskie at the time. Bob Rose was the press secretary. I think Peter Kyros was there, Peter Kyros, Jr. was an aide to Muskie at the time, and he was in the office. There was a woman by the name of Anita -

GB: Jensen.

JM: Jensen, who had been a long time Muskie employee and then went to work for Mitchell ultimately, she worked in the office. I'm trying to think of other people.

GB: Perhaps Jane Cabot?

JM: I think Jane was there, yes. And I'm sure if you mentioned other names I might recall but I, again, it was thirty years, almost thirty years ago and I don't, I'm trying to think of who else. Larry Benoit I think was working for Congressman Kyros at the time and went to work for Muskie later on.

GB: I see. Now, was there a strong rapport amongst the staff and also with the senator?

JM: Well, you know, I think there certainly was a rapport among the staff. I don't know that there was a whole lot of rapport, if that's what you'd call it, with Senator Muskie himself. Obviously people admired him, but he wouldn't, at least as I saw it at the time, you wouldn't

consider yourself buddy-buddy with Senator Muskie, you know. You clearly were somebody working for him and he would ask you to do various things, but it wasn't as if you considered him an equal. And obviously rightly so, but the relationship clearly was one of the senator and staff people. And obviously Muskie was close in his own fashion with people like Charlie Micoleau and [Leon] Billings and so forth, but there wasn't sort of a lot of personal warmth exchanged between, as I saw it anyway, between staff people and Muskie. Although I think Muskie had strong feelings about people, I wouldn't suggest that he didn't but. And ultimately had affection for people even though he, I think that people of that generation weren't apt to show it as people today.

But there was a rapport among staff people and the rapport was "What's Muskie going to be like today?" You know, "We've got to all stand together or we're all going to fall together. He's going to come looking for your head or mine so we'd better be here together." So I think that was sort of the attitude. But it was, it wasn't, you know, it wasn't anything that a lot of senatorial staffs didn't feel, so, that's what I perceived when I worked down there for the short time that I did and seeing Muskie and on the campaign trail.

GB: I see, now, what were your impressions of the senator from whatever personal encounters you had with him, perhaps working in the office or driving him?

JM: Well, you know, I mean Senator Muskie was a obviously very talented tremendous speaker, highly intelligent, when you had the occasion, and I didn't have it a lot, an occasion to be in a meeting with him. He obviously was the smartest guy in the room, and usually asked the most incisive and important questions. And not always because he was the one supposed to have the information, because oftentimes it would be, you might be, you were supposed to be providing information to him, but his questions were always the best. And so as a young person at the time, it was just terribly impressive to me to see him in action and to be close enough to see how he did things and how he handled people and things, and how he could give a extemporaneous speech that was so moving on occasion, sometimes very long. But so it was a very exciting opportunity for me to be able to work with him, and could see him campaigning and see him work in the senate and so forth. So it was interesting to me and made a strong impression on me.

And actually prior to going to work for Muskie in Washington that summer I had, when I was running for the state senate in 1972, I had appeared with Muskie on the stage at several campaign events here in the Bangor area. And it was interesting to be on the stage with Muskie, having Muskie speak either before or after you, and then trying to get up and follow him. You really felt very awkward and unsure of yourself, and not very good at what you were trying to do in terms of public speaking when you had Muskie that you had to follow or precede. But it was an interesting, interesting opportunity for me, and he obviously was one of the best at what he was doing.

GB: Now you mentioned his obvious intelligence in dealing with other people. I may be trying, forgive me if I'm trying your memory a little too much here, but do you remember any particular instances in which that was demonstrated?

JM: Well, you know, I can't, it's just an overall impression that I have going back that many years, and sometimes it's hard to if you don't have a specific recollection, to sort of differentiate between seeing him as a staff member, seeing him when I was campaigning either for the house of representatives or the state senate and he was present, or seeing him generally as a citizen when he was on television or in the national media. But I don't think there's any question that, obviously there's no question that Muskie was highly intelligent and. I just recall in staff meetings and so forth the questions he would ask sometimes, many times there were no answers for, or we hadn't gotten the answers for him. And staff people would be worried about that when they were ready to meet with him because they knew Muskie would be asking very difficult questions, and it really kind of was, I guess, good training for being a lawyer, and for answering a judge's questions, to have seen that take place with Muskie.

GB: Sure, and I imagine you were expected by Muskie to find out the answers very quickly.

JM: Oh, obviously. And I wasn't in the position where I was primarily responding to anything that he would ask. Usually there'd be some other senior aide, so I was sort of, was able to enjoy the exchange as opposed to being on the hot seat most of the time. I do recall however, being on the hot seat when I was taking him to the airport for the first time, and I had no clue about where the airport was in Washington. And Charlie Micoleau or whoever sent me on this errand to bring Muskie to the airport knew I had no clue. And I think everybody enjoyed pretty much a chuckle because Muskie clearly didn't enjoy being driven to the airport by somebody who didn't know how to get there. But, you know, I made it through and actually said to him at the time, "Well if you want to drive senator I'd be happy to get out here." He said, "Oh no, no, no, it's not your fault, it's those, my schedulers, they do this, they've done this to me before, they think this is funny." So it wasn't as if Muskie didn't know what was going on. So then he would obviously tell me where to go, what street to take.

GB: In those sorts of one-on-one encounters did he open up or have any more personal conversations with you, or did he still keep it very business-like?

JM: Mostly it was very business-like, I think, with Muskie. Obviously he would ask you a question or two, a personal question or two from time to time. But it was mostly business. Or you, when I was driving him on campaign appearances in '76 we would talk the campaign, or he would ask me about Bob Monks and what I thought, or how he was doing and so forth, or those sorts of conversations. But it wasn't really a lot of personal exchanges. I mean I was a young kid at the time obviously and Muskie was, you know, in his sixties at the time I think, and I was in my twenties. So it wasn't as if we were contemporaries, and so you wouldn't expect that kind of exchange would take place.

GB: Now when he asked you your opinion on, questions about Bob Monks and his campaigns, did you give him very candid answers or were you very judicious about how you answered?

JM: No I was, I think, because I wasn't sort of on his permanent staff and I, at the time I was driving him around the campaign I was going to law school. I wasn't worried about keeping a job or anything, so I'd essentially tell him what I thought, and I think he appreciated that. I think one of the things I noticed about Senator Muskie was that while he might give you hell from

time to time, if you sort of stood up and stood your ground and told him what you thought, he appreciated that and would actually treat you with more respect if he thought you were sort of giving him the business. So I decided that's how I would approach him and respond to him, and that's what I did. Not that he asked me any great difficult questions. But I always gave him what I really thought was the case, and would tell him what I thought about a particular issue or how I thought he ought to respond. Not that he really solicited that information a lot from me but when you're driving, say, from Lewiston to Fryeburg, which is about a two-hour drive and so forth, you obviously have an opportunity to exchange some information with him, and so I always gave him the benefit of what I thought at the time. Obviously he was smart enough to filter that through the knowledge that I was only twenty-five, twenty-seven at the time, or whatever I was. So I'm not sure he gave it a lot of weight anyway, but.

GB: Let's see, hold on one second, let me flip the tape over.

End of Side A
Side B

GB: Yeah, see, I've heard very mixed stories on how Muskie responded to criticism. So you would say it was your general impression that he was appreciative?

JM: Well, I mean you wouldn't, or you wouldn't, he wouldn't thank you at all and would actually sort of, might be gruff in responding to you. But I think if you could sort of read between the lines, and you were, had the temerity to sort of stand up to him in some respects and not necessarily agree with him if you didn't think so, and give him the benefit of your views. I think you could tell the, in terms of how he responded, and how he might respond to you the next time, that he appreciated that in the sense that he respected you more. And that was not only true with me, because it wasn't as if I was having a lot of interaction of that kind with him, but you could see it with regard to other people in the office who were interacting with him. I mean Leon Billings was well known for being able to stand up to Muskie one way or another and I think Muskie appreciated that and respected Leon Billings because of it. But it wasn't always easy because Muskie was a very, very strong personality and obviously had the skills of a debater. And so it wasn't sort of easy to stand your ground with him sometimes. But I think if you did then he respected that.

GB: I see. Now I've found personally that sometimes people respond negatively to criticism because they are taking it to heart. And do you think that may have been the case with Muskie, that he actually did respect people's opinions and that's why perhaps he was -?

JM: Well, I don't know, I, it's hard to know, I suppose that's speculation. But, you know, I think anybody who's a politician who says they're not, they don't care whether they're criticized or not, is really inaccurate. Politicians, like anybody else, don't like to be criticized. They like people to agree with their point of view, and they like to be praised in the media as opposed to being criticized and Muskie was no different. So, but on the other hand I think Muskie was obviously intelligent enough, and was mature enough to appreciate opinions on the other side. And I think ultimately he found that it was better to get advice that he might not agree with, or opinions that he might not agree with, and he might not follow that advice but he would have the

benefit of that particular point of view. And in my limited experience with him, as I saw him deal with other people, I would believe that he ultimately appreciated somebody being forthright and standing up to him and not necessarily simply agreeing with him because of Muskie's rough exterior, his tough approach to things. So that was my judgment watching him and watching people interact with Muskie.

And I decided that in the limited capacity that I would interact with him that I would sort of just say my own mind, and, whether he liked it or not. And again it wasn't on any great policy issues because I wasn't in that capacity with him. But I found that at least as I perceived his interaction with me he respected that. I can recall driving him home one night at about twelve-thirty. He was bone tired, this was on the campaign trail. We'd been up and going to different locations, factories and so forth, from about five-thirty in the morning. And I had been driving him for quite a while that fall, and he was running against Bob Monks. And as he got out of the car, you know, almost fell out of the car, he was so tired. It was pitch dark, Jane was waiting for him on the, inside the door. He turned to me and said, "Good night, Bob." And I said, "Good night Jake." Oh no, he said to me, "Good night, Jake," and obviously my name is Jay, and I said, "Good night, Bob." And he, I don't know what he would have done if it had been in the middle of the day, but he was so tired he just kind of looked around back at me and kind of gave me a small smile. So, you know, I had just decided that I, first of all I didn't really depend on him for any employment at the time and so I was just going to respond to him as I would to anybody else to the extent that I could. And I found, at least as I perceived his interaction with me, that that was effective.

GB: Oh, that's funny, that's funny. All right, now did you say that you had also driven Jane Muskie some?

JM: I had driven Jane, not as much as I did Senator Muskie, but I drove her some, too, as I recall that summer. And she was a, is a tremendous person and I liked her a lot, enjoyed taking her places.

GB: Did you get an impression or get to view the dynamic between the Muskies?

JM: Oh well I did a little bit. It's kind of interesting in, from where I sit now. I remember Jane Muskie sort of describ-, her describing to me one time in the car about her relationship with Ed Muskie. And I think, my recollection is she told me that she was about thirteen years younger than Senator Muskie, and described to me about how she met Muskie and a lot about her family at the time. And to me at the time it seemed like it was a tremendous gap in age between Jane Muskie and Ed Muskie.

GB: It was thirteen years, when they met he was thirty-one and she was eighteen.

JM: Well, it's kind of interesting, yeah, she told me that. It turns out as things have a tendency to do, that when I got married not all that long ago, but back about ten years ago, I married a woman who's thirteen years younger than I am. So it is sort of interesting thinking back about those discussions with Jane Muskie and now being married to somebody who is, that has the same age difference as they did. But she did, she was very open with me, not knowing her all

that well or all that long, although, I mean I had met her many times, because I had been a candidate and been active in Democratic politics for several years at that point. And Maine is a small state, and unlike a lot of other places, you actually get to meet people like Muskie and senators and governors and so forth, where that might be not true in a bigger state. So it's not as if I didn't know her at all, but I certainly wasn't close to her. But she was very open and, with me, and obviously was much more of a conversationalist than her husband was. Just generally when you were driving her someplace or were talking to her, she would talk to you as a, sort of as a regular person, discuss regular things with you. And she often, she would describe her family and we would have discussions about, you know, whatever the topic of the day was and about. I went to school with Steve Muskie so he and I knew each other, and we went to Orono together. So it was a very pleasant time driving her around. But she did describe her interaction with Ed from time to time.

GB: How well did you know Steve Muskie, were you friends or were you just kind of acquaintances (*unintelligible phrase*)?

JM: Well, no, we knew each other. I won't say I was close friends with him, but he and I had a mutual friend that we were both very close to, and so I knew Steve reasonably well. Not that we did a lot of things together but I knew, you know, I would describe him as somebody I knew reasonably well.

GB: I see, I see. And what was he like personally when you knew him?

JM: Well obviously he was the son of a famous senator and, you know, he was trying to develop his own persona, so to speak, and, you know, he did walk in his own path. I got to give him credit, he, again, being much more mature and older now, looking back at it, Steve Muskie really was able, and probably because his father let him and his mother let him, but he was able to sort of do what he thought was right. And he didn't necessarily have to go in to politics or law or whatever that his father did. And sometimes that's not always easy as the oldest child, but Steve was a tremendous fellow, really.

GB: So would you say you definitely got the sense that he was his own person?

JM: Oh, no question about it, no question about it. And I think from what I know about their interactions and so forth, I think the senator appreciated that, understood it, and respected Steve for it. Again, it's, I don't want to leave the impression that I was all that close to either Steve, or obviously the Muskie family, but I was around them enough to sort of see some of that interaction and -

GB: To develop impressions about…

JM: Yeah, develop impressions about that relationship. And, you know, I did have discussions with Jane about the family, and I knew Steve enough, and saw him at school enough, and thereafter at various events to see how he developed into his own person. It's not easy for somebody in the sort of motion of somebody of such significance as Ed Muskie, you know. That's why you have appreciation for people like Chelsea Clinton and the difficulties that those

people have because of the parents' life, you know.

GB: I see. All right, now, after you worked for Ed Muskie you came to work for Bill Hathaway?

JM: Yeah, after, I might want to tell you about this one other incident on the campaign trail that was pretty funny.

GB: Oh, please do.

JM: I, Muskie and, we had stayed in Lewiston and we were supposed to go to the Fryeburg Fair the next day. And we got up and it was pouring rain and Muskie had me call, I think Larry Benoit was working for him at the time, but I can't remember who was doing the scheduling and that I was discussing this with. But they insisted that despite the fact that there was going to be, it was going to clearly rain all day that there'd be twenty thousand people at the Fryeburg Fair. Muskie had me call at least three or four times saying, "Do I need to go to this event? It's raining out, how can there be that many people at a fair, outdoor fair, when it's raining?" But the people running the campaign said, "Yeah, you got to go there." And I got to give Muskie credit. Even though he had obviously been through many campaigns at the time, he went along. And we went to the Fryeburg Fair. And there were twenty thousand people there but it was pouring rain and it was all mud, and he was not happy. And we had gone to several different stops, so when we got to the Fryeburg Fair we were supposed to go to various locations in the fair and do various things, and this had all obviously been laid out on a piece of paper. And Muskie was complaining bitterly to me during this whole time that the "bastards" who did his scheduling hadn't left any time for lunch. And he was right, I was pretty hungry myself, and ultimately we got something to eat. But we tromped through the pouring rain for several hours up in Fryeburg.

And then, as I recall now that I think about it, I think it was Mike Aube who's now the mayor of Bangor, who was working for him, doing scheduling on the campaign. And he kept saying "Where's Aube? I want to talk to him." And I said, "Well Senator, I think he's going to be at this dance in Biddeford," that we were, it was sort of the last event of the day and it was like, by the time we got to this dance it was ten o'clock at night, nine- thirty at night. And he was tired, and he was not happy about the schedule that day, even though we'd seen a lot of people. He was absolutely bone tired, but he was looking for Mike Aube who was supposed to be at this dance, to give Mike a piece of his mind. And as we came into the auditorium I saw Mike across the auditorium floor, Muskie saw him too, and of course people would come up to see Muskie, but Muskie was looking for Aube and would go down one end of the auditorium sort of heading towards Michael. Michael would go down the next corridor. And so Muskie was chasing Michael as quick as he could around the auditorium, never did get to him that night. But, and it's probably a good thing for Michael. Michael knew he was looking for him and was, as Muskie would go down one side of the auditorium Michael would go down the other so he always stayed kitty corner to Muskie and Muskie could never get to him. And so it was a pretty funny incident looking back on it. But if he could have gotten Michael that night I think he would have strangled him.

GB: Oh, that's funny, that's funny.

JM: Yeah, so. And I think those are the sort of things that happen on a campaign generally speaking, but -

GB: If you can think of any other stories at any point I'd love to hear about them- these little vignettes are great.

JM: Yeah, right, there's a couple of them.

GB: All right, okay, so Bill Hathaway, how did you come to work for him?

JM: Well after I finished law school in '78 I think it was, maybe it was the end of '77 now that I think about it. But in any event I went to work in Washington as a staff aide on foreign affairs for Bill Hathaway, and worked in Washington for him for a little over a year. The next election cycle he lost to Bill Cohen and I after that came back to Bangor to practice law.

GB: I see. So that sounds like it was a more I guess significant post that you had with Bill Hathaway?

JM: Oh yeah, no question about it. Yeah, I was sort of a traditional legislative aide doing mostly foreign affairs and defense matters for Bill Hathaway for about a year. And that was enjoyable, and I spent a year down in Washington doing that. Came back at the end of the campaign to sort of do some advance work for a trip that Hathaway was doing in Bangor here with Jimmy Carter coming in to raise some money for Hathaway's campaign and develop some support, or try to give him some help on the campaign that ultimately didn't succeed. But I came, I was in Washington for about a year and then towards the middle or the end of, about the middle of October of 1978 I guess it would be, I came back and did some advance work on the, for Jimmy Carter coming to Bangor. And then when Hathaway lost the election, I went back to Washington for a month or so, but then came back to Maine to practice law.

GB: I see. Now, besides the difference in your position, was it different working for Bill Hathaway than for Ed Muskie, was he a different sort of employer?

JM: Oh, Bill Hathaway is in some respects was easier to work for in that he was just a very friendly guy, wasn't really all that demanding. And I had a much more sort of informal relationship with him than you would with Senator Muskie. And that was generally true. I mean the Muskie staff and the Hathaway staff worked very well together and worked on a lot of issues together obviously for Maine. But the relationship between staff people on the Hathaway staff and the Muskie staff clearly were different in terms of their interaction with the two senators.

GB: I see, I see.

JM: Bill Hathaway, very smart guy, I don't think at the same level as Muskie based upon what I saw. But a lot of people in Washington, a lot of other senators and staff people would do things for Bill Hathaway simply because he was a very funny guy. They liked him, they liked his personality. He was voted I think several times as the most well- liked senator. And so you

would get things done on the Hathaway staff because other senators liked Bill Hathaway.

GB: Most well-liked senator in the country?

JM: In the senate -

GB: In the entire senate?

JM: In the United States Senate, yeah.

GB: Wow.

JM: And Muskie just was, I think, as I perceived it, again, as a young person at the time, that other senators on the Hill had tremendous respect for Senator Muskie. And he would get things done by virtue of the fact that he had the best idea that his negotiation and articulation of policy reasons to do something was the best, and would sort of win people over by the dint of his intelligence and his argument. Where Bill Hathaway certainly was a smart, a very smart guy, but he got things done a lot of times because people liked him so well. And that he was easy going and he was always telling a joke, always telling a joke. He had more jokes. In fact, we would sit around, the staff people, on Friday and make up jokes, try to make up jokes for him to tell either in speeches or whatever. And he always would improve on them tremendously. But we'd sort of give him some foundation to work with. But Bill Hathaway a lot of times would get things done based on the fact that people liked Bill Hathaway and would want to do a favor for him. And Muskie I think certainly had close friends in the senate, but really often got things done by virtue of the fact that he had the best idea.

GB: Do you recall any of the jokes that Bill Hathaway told? Can't think?

JM: No, I -

GB: Not off the top of your head?

JM: That's twenty-five years ago, you know. And I don't tell jokes very well anyway. But Hathaway was always a very good jokester, very, very good. He could really tell a joke, and he was one of those people who could remember a thousand jokes. He always had a joke for some occasion. And he was also very witty, quick on puns and stuff like that.

GB: That's interesting. Now, did you have the occasion to work on any major foreign affairs when you were working for Bill Hathaway?

JM: I think the event that I remember most vividly is that when I was working for him they took the vote on returning the Panama Canal. And that, which passed the senate as I recall by one vote, and that was a very interesting issue. We would brief Hathaway on it, wrote papers on it on both sides, we went to the White House and met with the president, so that was an issue that I remember occurred when I was there. The other one was the sale of F-15 airplanes to Saudi Arabia which was a very hot political issue obviously, it was strongly opposed by the Jewish

lobby at the time. Hathaway was running for election, as I recall and so that was an issue that I had a lot of interaction with the senator on. I remember meeting with him one morning, one Sunday morning at his house to give him some background on it. And ultimately he voted to, for the airplane sale, as I recall. I think, actually I may be wrong, I can't remember what his vote was, I think he voted for it but I'm not sure, I guess you would have to check. But those are the two issues that stand out in my mind during the time I worked for him.

GB: Now you just missed the crisis in Iran by about a year.

JM: Yeah, I guess I did, yeah, yeah.

GB: All right. Okay, now you, and you had also worked for George Mitchell at one point?

JM: Yeah, I worked, in 1974, Mitchell hired me as his press secretary in his campaign for governor, which obviously didn't succeed. And so I worked as a press secretary for him for about a year, a little less than a year I guess, from January of '74 approximately I think. No, because the election was in November so it must have been sometime in '73 to the election in '74. I think the election was in November of '74. But I worked for George Mitchell for about a year, and after he lost I went to law school.

GB: Now how did he compare to Muskie and Hathaway as an employer and as a person?

JM: Well, my, I had a close relationship with Mitchell for several years after working for him, and it was much more, much closer relationship than I had with either Muskie or Hathaway. And knew, know Mitchell much better than I do either Muskie or Hathaway personally. And Mitchell was just a tremendous intellect, tremendous personality, and you know, in some ways he's like Muskie in terms of how smart he is and his ability to argue and debate and articulate policy. But his was a much easier personality sort of to interact with and, although Mitchell was about twelve or thirteen years older than I was, I was clearly closer in age to him than I was to either Hathaway or Muskie. And ended up having a reasonably close relationship with Mitchell during the time I was in law school, playing tennis with him, and having dinner with him and so I know him much better. And actually, he was United States attorney in 1979 when, and hired me as an assistant U.S. attorney. So I've known George Mitchell for a much longer time, really, and much more intimately than I knew either Hathaway or Muskie.

GB: And so assistant U.S. attorney, was that job for Mitchell the one you took right after working for Hathaway, or did you (*unintelligible phrase*)?

JM: No, I came back and practiced law in Bangor for about a year, a year and a half. And I was actually thinking of taking a job with the Dupont Corporation. They had offered me a job. And George was United States attorney at the time, and I came over to the office to speak to him about it, to see what he thought about my going to work for the Dupont Corporation. He said, "Well you can have a job in this office if you want, for about a third of the money." And I ended up taking that job as an assistant U.S. attorney and shortly thereafter, a few months thereafter, he became United States District Court judge, and I stayed on as an assistant U.S. attorney for thirteen years. And ultimately he became a senator when Muskie went to the secretary of state's

job and he then selected me to be United States attorney. So it sort of all comes around so to speak.

GB: George Mitchell selected you?

JM: Yeah, he was a United States senator and generally the senator, senior senator of the party in power selects the person to be the United States attorney, recommends to the president that the president choose this particular person. And he was obviously majority leader when he chose me as the United States attorney, sent my name over to President Clinton who accepted it and sent my name to the senate for confirmation, so.

GB: I see. Now, what had, what had, I guess, tempted you about the position as assistant U.S. attorney, as opposed to taking the much more lucrative position at Dupont?

JM: Well, first of all working for Senator Mitchell, George Mitchell, it's something that interested me. I had worked with him in the campaign for governor, had known him quite well and considered him a friend. And just working for George Mitchell was a great opportunity to work with somebody who was as good a lawyer as he is, he's just a tremendous trial lawyer, and a tremendous lawyer. And a job as an assistant U.S. attorney generally speaking, assistant U.S. attorneys are perceived as excellent litigators, sort of the peak of the trial profession in some respects because you get to try so many cases of significance in federal court. And so I thought it was an opportunity to become a trial lawyer that wouldn't obviously come again perhaps if I didn't take it, so I decided to take that job. And didn't think I'd be in there for thirteen years. I thought I'd have it two or three or four years, try a number of cases and go back to private practice, but as it turned out I loved the job and decided to stay.

GB: And so now you've been the U.S. attorney for eight years?

JM: Eight years, yeah.

GB: Wow, wow. Now that's one of the very few presidential appointments in the state, isn't it?

JM: It's one of the, you know, premier appointments I would say. It's the chief federal law enforcement officer of the state of Maine, it's a presidential appointment, senate confirmation and so forth. So there are not a whole lot of those to be handed out here in a state the size of Maine. And so I consider myself very fortunate to have been chosen and to have been here for eight years.

GB: I see. Have you litigated any particularly noteworthy cases that kind of stand out in your mind over the years?

JM: Well, you know, I've done everything from dog off leash at Acadia National Park, to international drug smuggling cases, to white collar crime and violent crime and so forth. So I've done, I've now been in the office twenty years so I've done just about every kind of federal criminal case and civil case that you can think of, so.

GB: Now how many prosecutors are there actually in the office now?

JM: Well, it's interesting, when I started, was hired by George Mitchell there were four assistant U.S. attorneys. We now have twenty-two, twenty-one or twenty-two assistant U.S. attorneys so the office has grown substantially in the twenty years that I've been in the office.

GB: Well, what's prompted that growth? Is there more crime?

JM: Well, I think the nature of crime has changed. We're doing the type of cases that we didn't necessarily do when I first came in, and essentially doing more of them so we're doing… When I started there wasn't much, not many cases involving large scale drug importations, or drug smuggling, or drug distributions, and now that is a very significant portion of the office's work. The, if we had a case involving about a hundred thousand dollars in 1980 that would have been a significant case, a very significant case in this office. Last year we did a case involving a fraud of fifteen million dollars. So the whole nature of federal prosecution, I think, across the country has changed and has grown, so. In 1980 there were about, I think, approximately two thousand assistant U.S. attorneys, there are now about six thousand in the country. So, the responsibility of the U.S. attorney's office have grown substantially over the last twenty years.

GB: I see. Now does the fact that Maine has a national border with Canada cause there to be more federal cases?

JM: Well, that's a component of our case load, cases involving illegal immigrants or illegal people trying to get into our borders, or into our state that are not supposed to be here. Whether it's Canadians or Mexicans who come up, down through Canada or whatever. But, and there are some international smuggling issues, drugs and guns across the border that we do. But I don't know, that's not a major portion of our case load. It may, we may do about, that maybe constitutes ten percent of our cases or something, so.

I mean there are some big cases that occur as a result of the border. I recall one now that you'd sort of asked me about it, where, I'm trying to think of the individual's name. But he was one of the major drug figures out of Colombia who was intending to smuggle a large amount of cocaine from Canada into Maine, and was sending his personal pilot up to Canada, up in to New Brunswick. They got arrested and he was planning to break them out of jail by force, and then developed a conspiracy of people who flew in from Colombia. Were using Maine as a staging ground, had all kinds of false documents and passports and guns and so forth. And eventually that got broken up and I prosecuted as, I think I was an assistant U.S. attorney at the time as opposed to U.S. attorney. But in any event, those are the sort of cases that can result as a result of the international border with Canada.

GB: Wow, wow.

JM: Yeah, I'm trying to think of, he was eventually put in jail in Colombia and shot in jail. But he was probably the best known drug smuggler at the time. I'm sure you'd recognize the name but I can't recall it off the top of my head.

GB: Sure, oh wow, that's fascinating, so it must be fascinating work.

JM: Yeah, it's interesting work.

GB: These high profile crimes.

JM: Very high profile cases.

GB: All right, I just have a couple more questions to wrap up. There was someone I forgot to ask you about, I'm not sure how you might have known him, but do you know George Limberis at all?

JM: I know George, in fact just saw him on the street yesterday. He was a well known lawyer when I first started practicing law. And he used to do a lot of workers comp cases, and when I first started practicing here in Bangor, in private practice, I would call him from time to time to, just to sort of pick his brain as to how to approach a particular sort of case. And he practiced many, many years here in Bangor and I think he's retired now, but I happened to see him on the street. And I knew he knew Muskie going back many, many years.

GB: Sure, so you knew him through the legal community?

JM: I knew him, and I, of course I grew up in Bangor so I knew him socially. My family knew him, they were friends essentially, not close friends but, you know, Bangor's a small community so. You know, I would know almost anybody that Muskie interacted with in Bangor. Because I essentially grew up in Bangor, my parents grew up in Bangor, but you know, Ed Stern and George Limberis and those sort of people I would know personally.

GB: I see. Oh, also I found it interesting that the U.S. attorney's office is stationed in Bangor.

JM: Well, we have, there are two offices, U.S. attorney's. The major office is in Portland. So there are federal, there's a federal court in Bangor and there's one in Portland. And the headquarters of the U.S. attorney's office is actually in Portland. And I have I think six United States attorneys here and about fourteen or fifteen in Portland, and I go back and forth. I chose to stay in Bangor and work out of this U.S. attorney's office because I grew up here, but I go down to Portland every week. And having been in the office for twenty years I'm able to do that in terms of knowing what's going on, being able to manage the office from Bangor as opposed to being in Portland.

GB: Sure, and I suppose those two stations make sense for the geographic distribution in Maine.

JM: Right, right.

GB: I see. All right, and having lived in Bangor for so long, over the decades have you observed any changes in the community economically or socially?

JM: Well, you know, there are obviously been changes. One of the good things about Bangor is that it doesn't change too quickly I guess, or maybe it's a bad thing, but it hasn't changed a great deal. Obviously the composition of the downtown has changed fairly dramatically in the early sixties because of urban renewal. They tore down some of the major landmarks unfortunately that I grew up with as a kid; city hall, the opera house over in Exchange Street. There are many buildings, the great loss of the train station that was in perfectly good condition they tore down, and now there's a small strip mall there that has no significance. So that probably is the primary sort of change in terms of the composition, architectural composition of the city as I knew it as a kid. And unfortunately many of those buildings have been torn down. Some of them still remain, but that's really the major change. Other than that you've got the mall, sort of the standard large scale mall that's in Bangor, but for the most part everything else is the same.

GB: I see, I see.

JM: So, it's not like Portland, you know, which has changed so much over the last thirty years.

GB: Become sort of the commercial hub.

JM: Right, it's more like a sort of a mini Boston with all the upscale people and (*unintelligible word*).

GB: Even the names of the streets are taken from Boston.

JM: Right, right, I mean I, that's one of the reasons I decided to stay in Bangor, I mean, there's some great things about Portland, but I just decided that I sort of like the small town approach, the more traditional Maine approach than. Portland is really a suburb of Boston in a lot of respects. And with the train now connecting, or shortly connecting, it will be more so, you know. You won't see much difference. Like some people say there are better, more and better restaurants in Portland than there are in Boston, so. All right. Thank you very much.

GB: All right, well thank you very much for your time, I appreciate it.

JM: And good luck at the University of Chicago, it's a great school and - . . .

(*Taping stopped and then resumed.*)

JM: . . . President Ford, and he wanted to get a pair of slack-cleaned, grey slacks to wear late that afternoon so we stopped at the cleaners on the circle in Augusta and he said to me something like, "Well I guess I'd better take them in if I want to get these done in the afternoon." And so he went in. I can't remember whether he told me this or exactly how I knew this, maybe I went in after him, but the woman, he asked the woman, say, "Can I get these slacks done because I've got to be with President Ford, who's coming this afternoon." And she said, "Well I think we can accomplish that now, and what's the name on that?" So, she had no idea who Ed Muskie was, you know, and of course he's an imposing figure that you wouldn't think anybody would ever

forget or that everybody would know him, but she had no idea who he was.

But it's also interesting to note at the time that, and again I don't really recall how I knew this, he might have said it, or maybe Jane said something to me at some point in time, but he had two pairs of grey slacks and a blue blazer. I'm not saying he didn't have a couple of suits but, you know, for many, many years Ed Muskie didn't make a lot of money. I mean the life of a public official was not highly compensated. And he had a large family, a family of five kids as I recall. And so he didn't have a lot of extra money. And, I mean you sort of think about a guy as talented as Muskie was and how much money he could have made if he wanted to, and he spent all those years in public service in some respects to the economic detriment of his family and of himself.

Obviously at the end of his life he made a significant amount of money. But it sort of dawned on me when I went into the cleaners with him. And I think I must have gone back to pick up the pants that he was going to wear that afternoon, you know, that he wasn't making a lot of money, you know. And it's an interesting aspect of that whole public service life of his that today we see a lot of politicians, people in public office who essentially went out and made their millions, and then become, want the fame of a public official. And want to gratify their ego, essentially, as public officers.

But somebody like Muskie had worked for so many years at essentially very little money, and that had an impact on him and it had an impact on his family. He didn't, he, you know, he obviously, Muskie had a very nice house in Kennebunk that he was able to purchase, and he had a nice house in Washington. But he didn't have much else in between. There were a lot of things that people in his position, that people assume that somebody is United States senator, who is as impressive and well thought of as somebody like Muskie would have no problem with money, would have a significant amount of money. People just assume that somehow it happens.

GB: They imagine he's a Kennedy heir or something.

JM: Yeah, right, and that was not the case and, you know. It really says, I think, volumes about Muskie and his dedication to public service, and his wanting to essentially move the ball forward in terms of public policy, that he made those financial sacrifices for so many years, so.

GB: Well, that's very interesting.

End of Interview