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Interview with Larry Raymond by Mike Richard

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Raymond, Larry

Interviewer

Richard, Mike

Date

June 30, 1999

Place

Lewiston, Maine

ID Number

MOH 114

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Biographical Note

Laurier T. "Larry" Raymond, Jr. was born in Lewiston, Maine on May 7, 1932. He grew up in Lewiston where his father was involved in Lewiston politics as city controller. Larry attended Wallace, Jordan and then Lewiston High School. Per advice from Frank Coffin, Raymond attended Washington and Lee University for undergraduate as well as law school. He finished both after six years and was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in the artillery. He spent six months at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then six months as trust officer for the First National Trust and Savings Bank, Lynchburg, Virginia. Larry took the Maine Bar exam in 1958 and served as reserve officer in JAG for eight and a half years. He served on the planning board and was the assistant County Attorney from 1960-1962 and the County Attorney in 1962. Laurier was on the Androscoggin River Pollution Commission in 1963, was the president of the Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce in 1968, and held the position of Judge of Probate Court from 1965-1998. Since this interview he has served as Mayor of Lewiston, Maine.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family background; Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office in Portland; Patrick Tremblay; Lewiston ethnic make up; urban renewal; Bill Hathaway's congressional campaign; campaigning strategies; his father's political career; legal atmosphere

of Lewiston; Lewiston politics; Ernest Malenfant; Lewiston mayoralty; and Louis Jalbert.

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Transcript

Mike Richard: It's June 30th, 1999 and we're at the law offices of Laurier T. Raymond, Jr. in Lewiston, Maine. And the time is 2:40 PM. Now, Mr. Raymond, could you please state your full name and spell it, please?

Laurier Raymond, Jr.: My name is Laurier T. Raymond, Jr.: L-A-U-R-I-E-R, T for Thomas, Raymond R-A-Y-M-O-N-D, Jr.

MR: And what was your date of birth?

LR: May 7th, 1932.

MR: And where were you born?

LR: Lewiston.

MR: Okay, could you tell me a little bit about your family life and background? For example, did you have any siblings?

LR: Yeah. I was born at St. Mary's. My folks were both from the Lewiston-Auburn area. I have one sister, Jeanine, who is four years younger than I am, presently resides in Fort Lauderdale full-time. That's all there were, two of us. And my grandparents were here. My great grandparents died here; I knew one of them. My grandparents on both sides were alive and here and part of my family life.

MR: And what were your parents' names and occupations?

LR: My mother was a housewife. Her name was Florence Champoux, C-H-A-M-P-O-U-X, her maiden name. She came from New Auburn, lived in Boston some but grew up in New Auburn. My father was Laurier T. Raymond, well, Sr., obviously. He, he was born in 1914. My mother was born I think in 1916; somewhere there, about that time. He was named after Sir Wilfrid Laurier¹ who was prime minister of Quebec back in the late 1800s who was responsible for saving the family farm up there around the turn of the century. And because the family was so grateful, they named my father Laurier, and I was named Laurier, Jr., my son is Laurier Thomas, the third. He just had a son five years ago and named him Laurier Thomas Raymond, the fourth, so that's what, that work.

MR: So your parents were the first ones to have lived in the States, or to have been born in the States?

¹ Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1841-1919, was Canada's first Franco-American Prime Minister who served from 1846-1914. He is often called the "author of Canadian Independence" and did much to unite English and French in Canada with his English leaning "part rouge" or liberal party affiliation.

LR: No, my grandmothers were born in the States. My grandmother Raymond was born in Lewiston, my grandmother Champoux was born in Fort Kent. My grandfather Raymond was born in St. Pasquale, Quebec and came to the States at three, at age three. And my grandmother [*sic grandfather*] Champoux was born in Canada somewhere, and I'm not sure of that. They're all buried here, at St. Peter's cemetery here in Lewiston.

MR: And how do you spell that grandmother Champoux?

LR: C-H-A-M-P-O-U-X.

MR: Thanks. And what were your parents' political views?

LR: Well, my father was involved in politics in that he worked at City Hall as city controller, which today would be equivalent to about the city administrator. So he was involved in local politics that way. Before he went to work at the City Hall, he was on the school board. He's a Democrat. My mother didn't really have any political leanings. My father never ran for public office. He spent some considerable time as, being the city controller and then a member of the Finance Board after he went to work for the federal government in Portland. And then he was transferred to Philadelphia and moved there, and retired after that.

MR: Did he have any contacts with Senator Muskie, or Governor Muskie for that matter?

LR: Yeah, he did. I recall that he knew Senator Muskie because there was always the usual tug of where the office of, I think he worked for the department of, it must have been HUD, I guess, I'm not sure, when he was in Portland. He was the chief finance officer for the Public Works projects in New England, and Senator Muskie was able to keep the office in Portland, so he moved, he didn't move, he stayed in Lewiston. And he was in Portland working for about five or six years. Then I guess they lost the ability to keep it in Portland; that's why he went to Philadelphia. But I think Senator Muskie was responsible for that office being in Portland and remaining there as long as it did. Outside of that I don't know that he had much contact with Senator Muskie.

MR: What about your parents' religious views and beliefs?

LR: Yeah, they were Roman Catholic, went to Mass every Sunday. They were quite religious.

MR: How did their attitudes and beliefs affect you while you were growing up in the household?

LR: I'm not sure how to answer that. They, they I guess influenced me in my, in my desire to become a lawyer, although I don't know that they were that influential. I had an uncle, Patrick Tremblay, Patrick F. Tremblay who was a lawyer on Lisbon Street in Lewiston. He was married to my grandfather Raymond's sister, so he was a great uncle I guess you'd say. And I used to go down to his office on Lisbon Street, which was on the second floor at the corner of Pine and Lisbon Streets, right down here, and his office was on the street. There were a number of

lawyers in that building. But on the Fourth of July, or Armistice Day or whenever there'd be a parade, we'd go down there. And as a, I was a little kid, I always sat on the ledge of his window overlooking Lisbon Street as the parade went by so I could watch the parade, as a little kid. I must have been, oh, I don't know, this would be late '30s I guess; I must have been three, four, five, six years old. And I remember being in there and I was, I've always been a book guy, I guess that's where it started. And I remember smelling the leather of his sofa and the leather books, and I decided I wanted to become a lawyer. I was about seven years old at the time, they tell me.

It's kind of interesting now that you speak of it- my Uncle Pat, Pat Tremblay, who lived right up here on Howe Street with his wife, never had any children. But I found out recently, and I didn't even, I guess I knew this but I didn't remember it, that he was the youngest person elected to the Maine legislature back at the turn of the century. So he, and they noted that just recently when someone else who was very young was elected to the legislature. And he was interestingly a Republican and, from Lewiston, and probably the last Republican elected from Lewiston until this recent election when another Republican was elected. And I think that's what, that was the reason it was commented in the paper just recently.

MR: Do you know if your Uncle Pat's service as a lawyer affected your father's choice to become a lawyer also, or was there any connection?

LR: No, no, no. No, my father wasn't a lawyer. Now, he was at the City Hall.

MR: Oh, I'm sorry.

LR: Yeah, no I think Pat, Uncle Pat just influenced me I guess is what it was. And my parents were delighted that I would do it, that I would take that course of study.

MR: Did you ever discuss politics at the dinner table when you were a child?

LR: Oh sure, oh sure, talked about it all the time. Of course being in the City Hall, my dad was involved in it all the time; election of the city council. . . . The Finance Board in those days was the true strong arm of the city in making decisions because they had the purse strings. In recent years, I don't know how long ago, maybe ten years ago. . . .

MR: Nineteen-eighty was the new charter.

LR: Was it '80? Okay, well, then it's longer ago than I remember, they had a new charter which changed the level of power from the Finance Board to the, to the city council. Now the Finance Board is sort of an advisory group, I guess. But my dad served on the Finance Board after he went to work for the federal government. And then when he left for Philadelphia, my partner, John Beliveau, was the mayor. He appointed me to the Finance Board. So I served for five years under John Beliveau as mayor, and mayor, I was reappointed by mayor, by [Robert] Clifford.

MR: What was your time there like?

LR: It was fine, it was just, you know, there'd be a meeting a week and we'd set the budget and all that and so on. I had a busy law practice, so I didn't have a lot of time to spend in politics as far as the, as far as the city was concerned. I was involved in representing clients and so on. At the time, I guess I must have been also an elected official. I was elected as county attorney which is the pre-district attorney days. And that was a part-time position so I was practicing law at the same time. And I was county attorney for two terms until 1965 and I didn't finish my second term. I resigned and was appointed by governor, a Republican governor as a matter of fact, to be judge of probate. And I was judge of probate from 1965 until December 31st, 1998. I just got through being judge of probate.

MR: And that wasn't a full-time position?

LR: No, that, they're both part-time, very much part-time. The thrust of my day was practicing law.

MR: So other than those positions that you named, have you held any other positions?

LR: Now let me see, county attorney, judge of probate, Finance Board. . . . Oh, I was, I was on the Planning Board for the city of Lewiston for five or six years and chairman. I was, I don't know, I've got a CV that's three or four pages long. It's rather boring, but I don't recall many others that, many other positions I held as an elected position.

MR: Okay. Well, I guess, let's go back to the time when you were a child. So what were some influences on your development from outside your family in Lewiston; any groups or individuals?

LR: Yeah, I'd say so. A good friend of my dad was mayor when my dad was on the school board, appointed my dad to the school board before he went to work for the city. His name was Sam [Armand G.] Sansoucy²; he was mayor I would say in the early '50s, perhaps before that, late '40s when I was still in high school. I graduated from Lewiston High School in 1950, so it would be late '40s. He was quite influential in politics, eventually became the city auditor as a matter of fact, or city treasurer, city auditor I guess. And Frank Coffin was a heavy influence in a couple ways. One, he was on the school board with my dad and they got along famously. And then when Frank was practicing law here initially, after the war, around '46, '47, then he went to Portland and practiced law with a firm down there. And then he was elected to Congress. I think he was elected to Congress in 1947 or '48, somewhere along there.

And when it came time for me to pick a college (you know, what did I know? Eighteen years old, Lewiston High School), we went to Washington and saw Frank when he was, he was a congressman then. And my dad thought he'd have some, my dad did not go to college, so he thought Frank would have some good advice. I told Frank I wanted a good small school away from Lewiston, or away from Maine, a good small men's school. Why I said that I don't know at this point, but anyway that's what I. . . . So we asked Frank and I said I wanted a good small

² Armand G. Sansoucy, mayor of Lewiston, 1949-1950

men's school away from Lewiston and not Bowdoin, because all my pals were going to Bowdoin. So he suggested Washington and Lee University, he thought that was a crackerjack school and I'd get what I wanted there as far as my desires. And that's the reason I applied to Washington and Lee and was accepted and graduated from college and law school there. Best thing that ever happened to me.

MR: What was your life there like, academically or socially?

LR: Well, it was terrific. I loved the South; the southern people are genteel and pleasant and just wonderful to be around. The school is quite sophisticated and I guess all forty-eight states in those days were represented. I found it a different climate, a different way of speaking, accent, a different way of eating. And it influenced me very much, so I enjoyed it very much. In fact I stayed there, as I say, I graduated from the law school also. In fact I started working in Virginia when I got out of the hospital, after I went in the service, and worked for a trust department in Lynchburg, Virginia. But for some reason, I can't explain, I had the urge to come back home, and I came back to Lewiston, started practicing law.

MR: Were there any professors or extracurricular activities that you remember that were really important to you?

LR: Well, I don't know; I was involved with so many things down there. I was president of the fraternity and played trumpet, and I was a soloist with a band and all that. And I was involved in all of the usual, my sweetheart-to-be-wife was sweetheart of Sigma Chi. I had a bunch of dance bands on the campus; I had a flower concession on the campus, in those days everybody gave flowers. There were seventeen fraternities, four large dances, football games. I was doing pretty well financially.

MR: Great. So, and you went to you said Lewiston High School?

LR: Yeah.

MR: And before that, so you attended the Lewiston public school system?

LR: Oh yeah, I started at Wallace School on Main Street, then I went to Jordan School on Wood Street, and then I went to Lewiston High School.

MR: And your parents also went to Lewiston public schools?

LR: Yup, my dad graduated from Lewiston High School I think it was 1930, two years before I was born.

MR: And what about the town of Lewiston itself when you were growing up? What was it like ethnically, economically, or even your neighborhood, what was that like?

LR: Well, we lived in a nice neighborhood up on College Street near Bates College. Most of my life my dad, my grandfather Raymond, owned two homes on College Street. And I lived in

one of them, next door they were there, so we had quite a relationship, ongoing. I used to take my skis and climb up Mt. David, or Davis Mountain, whatever you want to call it, and ski down when I was a kid, go off the jump they used to have there. And in general it was a very pleasant, enjoyable time for me. My sister four years younger did the same thing. She went to Wallace School, Jordan, graduated from Lewiston High School. Her name was Jeanine Raymond, that's her name now. And she graduated in 1954, four years after I did; she was four years younger.

So it was a very pleasant, much slower tempo I would say. But the neighborhood doesn't look much different, except all the trees had to be cut down when they had the disease. But they're all growing back. Although, the neighborhood today is much different I think as far as who's living around. In the old days everybody knew the neighbors and it was a much more, much closer relationship with people who lived around and with you. I don't know whether that's true down there right now. I live up behind Bates College on top of Montello Hill, so I go by there every day on my way home.

MR: How would you say the ethnic situation was back then or now?

LR: Well, I don't know that it's much different in the distribution. The Francos- or whatever you want to call the French descent people, of which I'm part of it; all four sides of my family were French descent. The Francos were the, without question the majority group in town. If you search titles as I did when I started practicing law, you'll see the land ownership was primarily Irish and what they call Yankee or Anglo-Saxon. And then after a while you could see the French names coming into the titles as people. . . . And they were mostly downtown. I think that probably they were in the majority and mostly Democrats. In fact, I can remember my grandfather was a solid Democrat. He worked at Cushman Shoe over in, for about fifty years over in Auburn. And no one ever had to tell him how to vote; he knew how to vote, it was Democrat. And that was typical of most of the Francos I think. And it probably still is, for the older group anyway.

MR: How did the Democratic population view your uncle Pat, who you said was a Republican in Lewiston? Were there any . . . ?

LR: Yeah, I'm not sure. Well, you see, he died when I was in high school, so while he had an influence on me for my, well in my desire to become as he was a lawyer. . . . And they were all sole practitioners in those days; you know, everybody practiced in a one-man law office. But you see, I remember the day he died, I was coming back from high school. No, I was coming back. I worked for my father, who at that time owned a bottled gas company. And I'd been out delivering gas in the afternoon after I got out of high school. And I came by Howe Street and they told me he'd walked (never had a car), walked from Pine Street up to Howe, up Pine Street to Howe Street and he just come in and sat down and died. So that, I really didn't know much about his political situation. And he was not young; he must have been in his seventies as I recall it. So any political activity he had would have been long before I was aware of it.

MR: Now you said you met your wife down when you were in Washington Lee, during those times?

LR: No, she was sweetheart of Sigma Chi. But I, she was from Lewiston.

MR: Oh, she was.

LR: See, that was my first wife; I, she, I was married to her for twenty years. She was the daughter of a local exodontist, Dr. Lebel, Edmund Lebel, and we had four children. And she was at the College of New Rochelle when I was at Washington and Lee, and she'd come down and visit and so on, so that's how we happened to have a relationship down there. We were married in 1955, and divorced 1980.

MR: Did she share in your political work or legal work?

LR: No, not really. She didn't want anything to do with politics, and was concerned because I was frequently in those days mentioned as a candidate for political office, both local and eventually, eventually on a state level, national level, and she was very much against it. And I, I was about to take some steps from the local politics to state politics when, I guess it was about 19-, oh, in the nineteen, late 1960s, I guess, when I decided against it, because I didn't see any future for me in politics. I enjoyed being in the background, working as I. . . . Because I was an elected official, I was part of the inner group, so to speak, which in those days was made up of the sheriff, perhaps a deputy sheriff, the register of deeds, register of probate, the county officers in other words, and the local mayor and some of the council-men. And so I was at all those meetings, and was very happy to work with them. And some of the representatives of course, Louis Jalbert that you've probably, have heard that name and will again I'm sure, I always got along with Louis fine, but I got along with all those people. I just declined to make a major move towards the running for state office. I was referred to in those days as "the great French hope."

MR: Let's see here. . . . Okay. Could you tell me about anyone in Lewiston outside your family with whom you developed a close relationship, a lasting relationship, or anybody that influenced you in your political work or legal work in some way?

LR: Well, in my legal work I came to, when I came back here from Virginia in 1957 and took the Bar, John Marshall was practicing law in Auburn, former mayor of Auburn and former deputy attorney general before my time, back probably in the thirties. But when I came back here, he had been a friend of my dad's, and asked me if. . . . Well, I wanted to study for the Bar. I'd taken the Virginia Bar and passed it, but I hadn't taken the Maine Bar, because I had no intention of coming back to Maine in those days. So after I got out of the service and then got this urge to come home, I came back in '57, 1957, and John Marshall, we went over to see John. And John said, "If you want to study for the Bar in my office, I'm happy for you to do so." He had two sons; one was at Yale and one was at Bowdoin, and he thought they'd be coming back to practice. They never did.

In the meantime I did some work for him, and I guess he was impressed because he asked me to become his partner. So we formed a partnership, Marshall and Raymond. He was a marvelous lawyer, and a very good politician, a Republican from Auburn. And, we didn't get into the political situation together, but we were very close. And he certainly influential in my legal

career, as well as some of my politics. He was- we had moved our office from 33 Court Street in Auburn where I'd started with him. About a year later, he thought I should be in Lewiston because of my background and the people I knew there, so we moved into 145 Lisbon Street. Then we moved into the, it was, what is now the Fleet Bank building on Ash Street. And that's when I was appointed judge of probate. And then John Beliveau came to work for us, then he became mayor, he became DA, uh, county attorney also. And then we, well I built the building up on Webster Street, the corner of Webster and East Avenue, and we moved in there. Paul Dionne, who later became mayor, came to work for us; Tom Delahanty, who is now a Superior Court judge, came to work for us. And then that got to be too small, so I built this building here at 75 Park Street. And then we've had a lot of alumni from here.

But legally, I'd say that probably John Marshall was most influential. When we merged our firm, Marshall and Raymond, well then it was changed into many other names, but we merged with the Isaacson firm. Phil Isaacson I think was very influential, who's now my partner, who was an outstanding lawyer. And, well, I knew Armand Dufresne, who was a Superior Court judge, who was around. Of course, I was in the courts all the time in those days, so I saw a lot more of the judges and I was at the courthouse a lot more.

As far as politically, I don't know that there's too much of an influence. I was in the political arena every election. Different mayors were elected; I was always working for somebody towards their election, putting together. . . . In those days we had automobiles on Election Day picking people up at the mill, because the mill was a great influence in those days. They'd get out at three o'clock and we'd go pick them up and I'd have a cadre of automobiles down there. That was all the political scene that we were involved in in those days. And then there were the local elections to the council. And as you, if you know what, if you've talked to others about what was going on in those days, we had some rather influential, if not positive all the time, but we had some influential people on the council.

MR: Okay. So, actually, you mentioned you were in the Army for a few years right after law school?

LR: Yeah, yeah, well I got out of law school, I was commissioned second lieutenant in the artillery. And I was designated to- I graduated in '56; I'd skipped a year of college. What happened was I got most everything done in three years, then I was, I was allowed to enter the law school after three years. I received my AB degree after four years, but my senior year in the academic school was my first year in law school; I doubled up some. So, I ended up in six years graduating. So I graduated in '54 and in '56 from the law school. And I had a number of scholarships and so on, which was helpful because my sister also went in to, four years after I did she went into school. She went to school at University of Virginia, Mary Washington College. So I was in a hurry-up to help out financially, so that's how I happened to get permission to do that.

After I got out I was commissioned, I got my orders and I was to report a year later to artillery school in Fort, in, in Oklahoma. And of course, who would hire a lawyer for a year knowing he was going to serve two years in the Army. So I pled my case to the appropriate officer and ended up, anyway, the bottom line is they said, "You can go in right now for six months." Then,

had, in those days they were cutting down, cutting down the enrollment, so I spent six months at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Then I went back to Virginia to work for the First National Trust and Savings Bank in Lynchburg as a trust officer, and I was there about another six months.

And then I came back home and took the Bar here in Maine in '58. Then I served as a reserve officer in the JAG, judge advocate general, for eight and a half years, was my promise, so to speak when I got out after six. And I completed that going to summer camp every summer for two weeks in the JAG. But the JAG was an easy shot because it's all law. You know, it's, it was just the study of the uniform code of military justice, so it wasn't a bad duty. And I'd go to, I'd go to camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey and other places around, Fort Devons, and so on. And I, every week I would be at Fort Williams in Portland for a meeting of the units, so to speak. There were only five lawyers in the unit. And so I'd be down there every Tuesday, which was a bit of a pain in the neck, but I was committed to do it and I did.

MR: And upon coming back to Maine and joining up with John Marshall's firm, the first- the first politically related position you had was on the Planning Board, right?

LR: Yup, yup, that was right after I got here. Of course my dad was at City Hall, you know. And they were always looking to appoint people to these different boards, because that was a plum that a lot of people sought; it was much sought after. So I was on the Planning Board. And we, and then we passed the Urban Renewal Authority, which was a real political fight to get it through. And what you see today down here where the parking lot is across from the post office, where the District Court, and where this building is and all the way around, this was really a ratty looking place. And what we did (I say we because I was the attorney for the Urban Renewal Authority), we took sixty-five parcels by urban domain down here. Most of them were friendly. Well, I don't know; I guess I tried about sixteen cases in court, tort damage cases. But basically, it was well-accepted after it was finally passed. And I was part of that loop, so to speak, as far as Urban Renewal Authority was concerned. This is, would be in the early '60s, I guess. And that was the outgrowth of my being on the Planning Board in the late '50s and knowing what was going on as far as that was concerned. And then, yeah, my first, I guess Planning Board and then county attorney I guess would be the next one, 1962. Well, I was assistant county attorney 1960 to '62, then I was elected county attorney in 1962.

MR: And assistant county attorney wasn't appointed, or was it also. . . . ?

LR: It was appointed by the county attorney. Gus [Gustin M.] Dumais, who was a local lawyer here and has since deceased, was a county attorney. Phil Isaacson was his assistant, as a matter of fact, before I came on. And then I was assistant for two years. And then I ran for county attorney; I ran against Bill Rocheleau who is another lawyer here in town, and won. And Gus Dumais ran for judge of probate, and lost. Judge of probate's a four-year term; county attorney was a two-year term.

MR: Okay. And did you remember anything about the social clubs, especially down on Lisbon Street, and their influence?

LR: Oh sure, oh sure.

MR: You want to talk about that?

LR: Well, we used to hit them all during the election time. Everybody thought that that was a great place to get votes. They were all down on, around Lincoln Street, some on Lisbon Street.

(Intercom interruption.)

LR: Okay, I guess we were talking about the social clubs. Yeah, one, I guess one part of my political life I've forgotten to mention, which was quite a large part of it, was that Bill Hathaway and I were good friends. He was on the seventh floor at 145 Lisbon Street; my office was on the fourth floor. And so we got to see a lot of each other. Bill was assistant county attorney and then he ran for Congress, and I was his chairman of his campaign. And he lost the first time I guess, and then he was elected to Congress. And throughout the years he was, as a congressman and then, as you know, he won over Margaret Chase Smith and I was his chair of his campaign all those years that he was running, and then he was finally defeated by Bill Cohen as senator. So Bill Hathaway, I think it was only one six-year term in the Senate, and I think he had three or four two-year terms as a congressman in Washington.

I didn't get involved in much of the national politics. I used to visit Bill when election time was coming just to get things going for his campaign. Al Gamache, who since, just recently died, he was in the Maine legislature just now, was his man in Washington. And what he used to do was call me and talk me into being the MC for all these political people that were coming into town for these cocktail parties and the dinners that we would be having at the Lewiston Armory and so on. So I was, I was his favorite MC. The reason I think I was so popular as an MC is that I wasn't competition for any other politician around, because I'd made my desire noted that I wouldn't be interested in running for major office. Politicians being what they are, they're always a little concerned if somebody's, that the master of ceremonies will get some- get some publicity and they don't. But I was a great compromise, so I did a lot of that with Bill.

And, I guess we're getting back to the social clubs, we used to hit all the social clubs before the election, pass out cards. Then we'd hit all the mills, go through, shake hands all the way through, all the shoe shops, Lewiston and Auburn; do the same thing. I'd follow Bill, hand out his cards, shake hands. Of course I knew an awful lot of people in town, my family being here all those years. And then the social clubs, we'd go down and hit those. I never thought they were much. You couldn't win votes, I suppose, but you could lose some; that's the way I looked at it. Also, I don't how many of those guys really go vote. But you, when you're running for an elective office, you cover every base, whether you think it's going to be worth it or not; can't take a chance. So we hit them all, hit them all. I did most of those on a weekend night, in the social clubs. But during the day we'd get permission to go into the shops and the mills. I ran a lot of time in the mills and shops doing that. But it was effective; Bill got, Bill got elected.

MR: What was the situation with the mills and the shoe factories at this time? Were they in decline or anything like that?

LR: Well they probably were, but I didn't know that at the time. You know, the Bates Mill was

still heavy, I don't know what the total worker population was, but there were a lot of people there. I worked in the mill myself for two summers myself when I was in college and law school. And then I was playing in a dance band at night, working in the mills during the day, and got to know a lot of people there. And the same people were there when I went back as a lawyer with Bill Hathaway. And then of course sometimes I was running myself, so I was passing out my cards as well as Bill Hathaway's card. And we'd have a cadre of others who were running for office tailing us. But Bill was the star, of course, because he was running for the major office.

MR: Do you remember some of the other people that was in that, that were in that cadre at that...?

LR: Oh, sure. There was Bob Bonenfant who's the sheriff. There was, well, there was, let me think; gosh there were so many of them. I haven't thought about this for so long that I've forgotten but I guess, I guess I could think of a few. But right now it escapes me.

MR: That's fine, okay. Oh, in 1963, I believe it was, you were named to the Andros River Pollution Committee, is that right?

LR: Yeah, I guess that's probably true. I don't remember much about that. I couldn't have been very active or I'd remember most of it. I don't know where you're getting some of that research that I don't even remember.

MR: Do you remember though if Senator Muskie was involved in that committee at all?

LR: No, I don't remember him at all in that, I don't even remember that committee to be honest with you. I was on so darn many committees there for a while that I couldn't keep track of them.

MR: What about, I read in one of the newspaper articles, there was an incident with the Playboy magazine in 1963?

LR: Oh sure, yeah, that's... .

MR: How did that start?

LR: Yeah, I remember that one all right. What happened is that I was running for county attorney. And, you've got to, it's difficult for you to go back and focus, even for me, but you know, today Playboy is very, very mild. But in those days, it was quite an interesting publication, in that it showed a lot of nudity. And as I was running for public office, I'd be going around and seeing people. And of course I was practicing law, and I was in the courthouse, and trying cases. And people were saying to me, "What are you going to do about that pornography?" And I'd say, "Well, I don't know what to tell you because I'm not sure what the law is." They said, "Well, you ought to do something about having those, those magazines," (those magazines including Playboy), "on the shelf at these, you know, at the newsstands." And I said, "Well, I'll see what I can do." So when I was elected I said to myself, "I've got to do something, because I said I would."

So what I did is, I wrote a letter to all of the news carriers in town, and there were more than just the few that they have now. And I simply said to them, "I've been elected county attorney, people are concerned about pornography. I'm not sure what the law is, but the contemporary community standards to me means, what is the standard here in Lewiston-Auburn? So I just wanted to tell you ahead of time," I thought I was doing them a favor, "that on [I think it was] November 1st when the grand jury meets," (and as county attorney of course I had charge of presenting cases to the grand jury), I said, "when the grand jury meets on November 1st. . . ." Or whenever the date was; it was sometime around there. I was elected in September, I guess, and probably took office in November, or the first of the year or whatever. I said, maybe it was in, I guess I was elected in '62, so this must have been the winter of '63. That's what it was, because I took office probably January 1st. Anyway I got, I sent out that letter and I said, "Whatever's on the newsstands on this date," February 1st if that's what it is," I'm going to present it to the grand jury and let them decide if it's pornography. I'm not going to make the decision." I thought that was a pretty square way to do it, you know. I warned them in the first place, and secondly I wasn't going to make the decision, I was going to let the grand jury, and as you know the grand jury's made up of every day people off the street.

Well, I didn't realize what was going to happen because, zip, everything went off the newsstands. Nobody wanted to be indicted. And then, then the next thing I knew I got sued in the federal court in Portland, District Court. And one firm represented Playboy and, which was a well-known firm, and another firm that I didn't know represented all the other magazines. There must have been about twenty of them actually, you know, magazines, even today you probably wouldn't know the name of. But they were all skin magazines is what they were referred to. So went to a, we went down to Portland before Judge [Ed] Gignoux, and we had a pretrial conference. And John Marshall was representing me. And everybody showed up in the judge's chambers, pretrial conference, and Judge Gignoux said "What's this all about?" So they said, "Here's your, here's you, here's your letter, and they've sued you because they say that you're restricting trade, etcetera, etcetera. They want damages of hundreds of thousands of dollars because of the loss of profits and so on. I must have been very young, because it didn't bother me much. I didn't get excited about it. Today I'd probably be more concerned. But I knew that I had a lot on the line because I was a young lawyer, you know, just starting out. I'd only been back here for four years, I guess. But anyway, to make a long story short, it ended up that (*telephone interruption*).

LR: . . . Then it went back to Playboy, judge's chambers in the District Court. So Judge Gignoux read the letter that they'd brought their suit from. And they also had sued my assistant. I had named Bim Clifford, William Clifford, Jr. as my assistant; we were both named as defendants.

And anyway, Judge Gignoux said to me, "Did you write this letter?" And I said "Yes, I did." And he said, "Okay, they want you to take it back, and that's the way they want to settle the case. Will you do that?" I said, "No." So he said, interestingly, he said, "I don't blame you. I wouldn't either." So he said, "What are we going to do about this?" I said, "I don't know." I said, "But I'll tell you," the Supreme Court of the state of Maine had this, the Supreme Court of the United States was just reviewing the latest case before them, and I said, "I'd like to see what

they've got to say." They did come down, shortly, while it, you know, you don't go to trial right away; everything takes it's time to get there. During the time we were waiting to get some kind of a trial going, the Supreme Court came down with a case that sort of took some wind out of my sails as far as my being able to prosecute these people for it. I still thought at the time that if we presented this to a jury, a jury would have to decide whether or not it was pornography. Yet, one jury could decide one thing one day, another jury another thing another day.

It became so muddled that it ended up that the case was dismissed when I wrote them a letter and said to them, "I don't know what the law is, but whatever the Supreme Court decides, that's what I'm going to follow." And they dropped the case, because neither side wanted to pursue this. So the thing just kind of died a natural death, and that was the end of the Playboy episode. It was, it's kind of funny now; it was kind of funny then. As I say, I never took it seriously. But that was, I'd forgotten about that. But that was back, way back in '63, yeah. You've done some research, I can see that.

MR: A little bit. And. . . now, about your terms as probate judge, do you remember any cases or issues that you dealt with that really stood out during those years?

LR: No, I really don't. No, it was the usual. The difficult cases were the cases involving adoptions, termination of parental rights, that sort of thing. But I, I never found any problem finding, you know, writing decisions. There was nothing that was monumental that I can think of, although, as I think back on it, I probably will find something later tonight or tomorrow. But right now I can't think of anything that you would consider to be substantial. If you mentioned one to me I'd probably say, "Oh yeah." But right now, I can't think of one.

MR: And how would you consider your own political beliefs? Would you say you're more on the liberal end, or the conservative end or moderate?

LR: I'd say I'm a moderate conservative. I'm much more moderate and more conservative than many of my Democratic friends. Bill Hathaway, who is such a good friend of mine that I worked so hard for all the years without getting anything for it, I never wanted anything, I never asked for anything. . . . And he, well at one time I was supposed to be appointed federal judge. But that died a natural death. It might be interesting to you. But to go back to that point, I would say that Bill was much, much more liberal than I, yet he was such a straight honest guy that I believe did the country some good by being in Washington. And I was more than happy to support him even though I would have voted differently than he did on many issues. But those, that's what makes politics. Yeah, in fact Bill called me. I was in the other office; this was before John Beliveau left to become a judge. And so I remember it well because it was probably in the early '70s, middle '70s. Bill called me and asked me if I wanted, would be interested in being appointed federal judge. And I said, "Gee, I don't know. I've never really desired to be a judge full-time. I enjoy being part-time probate judge." I remember talking to [Governor] Ken Curtis and, you know, some of the governors about taking the appointment and I always said I wasn't interested, really. In the first place, it didn't make enough money to put my kids through college, I didn't think. But I was, I was Bill's first choice, he told me, to become the federal judge, the appointment of federal judge. He felt it would be an appropriate appointment politically also, because he was running for reelection at the time.

It was stuffed up, as I understand it, and this is only from people who probably know what happened, by Senator Muskie. And it kind of laid there. I talked with George Mitchell (George was the DA, U.S. District Attorney), talked with him when I was trying a case in Portland. And we agreed that if I didn't, if I didn't want to take the position, I would support him. He was interested in the position, and he understood that I would be Bill's first choice. We had dinner at the Roma and we talked about that, and I was glad to support George if I didn't, if I didn't- if I wasn't interested. Next thing we knew it was stuffed up and the election came and Bill got defeated by Cohen. So that was the end of my federal judgeship, which was the best thing that ever happened because I was really going back and forth as far as taking it. I really couldn't see myself on an everyday basis being a judge. I enjoy the other side of the bar, or the bench.

MR: I'm going to stop the tape and flip it right here.

LR: Okay.

End of Side A
Side B

MR: This is the second side of tape one of the interview with Laurier Raymond on June 30th, 1999. Okay, and we were talking about, you mentioned that you knew George Mitchell and you supported him for the federal judgeship?

LR: Yup.

MR: When did you meet him and how did your relationship with him develop?

LR: You know, I really don't know. It must have been all of the political gatherings I went to, the Democratic conventions. You know, they'd be in Bangor, or whatever. George- how did I get to know George? I really don't know; I can't remember. I just knew George. And when it came to that point that I just made, where we were talking about the federal judgeship, that was in 19-, probably around '75, '76. I can't remember when the election was that Hathaway lost the election. It must have been like '76 or '77, somewhere in there. I'd known George for a while. We weren't good friends, we played tennis a couple of times, I remember. But, you know, you know so many people that you don't really remember the first time you met them. George is a good guy, very straight honest guy. I'm delighted to see him doing so well. He's become, become a god over there in Ireland. But he's a great guy. He was a good friend of another friend of mine who went to Bowdoin with him, Don Roux, so I know him from there also. They both went to Bowdoin together.

But I can't remember, I can't remember for the life of me how I met George and how I knew him. I don't think I had many cases against him or with him. But he was practicing in Portland, then became U.S. DA. I didn't do any criminal work at all. Once I got through being the county attorney myself, I had been a cop for so long I never took a criminal case after that. I couldn't see myself on the other side, so. And I didn't have anything to do with the U.S. DA's office, so I'm not sure how I knew George.

MR: Did you have any contacts with him while he was on Muskie's campaign staff?

LR: No, no.

MR: At one time you were also president of the Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce, is that correct?

LR: Yes.

MR: Do you remember anything about, or anything. . . .?

LR: Yeah, I was just a young kid; I guess they thought it was a good idea. I think I was the fourth or fifth president. I, a couple years I was there. And matter of fact, last October I was reappointed to the Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce board again, thirty years later. So it must have been about 1968 or so. No, I was, as a young lawyer back in town I was everybody's favorite guy to get involved, how, because it seemed to be a natural for me, and I agreed. So, maybe I ought to give you my CV so you'll know all about those appointments; I'd forgotten about it.

MR: That'll be great. And your father was also active in Lewiston while you were for a time, is that correct?

LR: Uh-huh.

MR: How long did he, how long was he active in Lewiston for? Was this until late '60s, early '70s?

LR: Yeah, I'd say so. He, I think he became the so-called city controller/administrator in about 19-, when I was in college in the early '50s. And I think he was there for something like thirteen, fourteen years. So he would be there until about 1965, or longer I guess. Maybe a little more than that, maybe 1968 or '9. I remember he was, he was city controller when I was in law school. So yeah, it would be late '50s into maybe '70, 1970. And, as I say, after he went to work for the federal government, he was still living here and a member of the Finance Board, even though he was down in Portland working daily. So he left for Philadelphia probably around the early '70s. And of course, he knew all the local politicians just as I do. He died about five, six years ago.

MR: And until then he was pretty active in Philadelphia politics?

LR: No, no, he didn't do anything in Philadelphia despite his living in Philadelphia. He was just a Lewiston guy, as I am, and I think missed living here.

MR: Okay, and moving on to your legal work now, what field of law do you specialize in?

LR: I'm doing mostly probate law; wills, trusts, probate of estates, elder law. That's probably,

the great majority of my time is spent in that field. I don't do litigation much, unless it's something I'm excited about. I have a few pending litigation issues in probate. Obviously, after being probate judge for thirty-three years, I feel comfortable doing it.

MR: And, now how would you say, just a general question here, but how would you say that the political or legal situation of Lewiston has changed over the past thirty or forty years, if it's changed at all?

LR: Well, in the past what? How many years?

MR: Thirty or forty years, since you came back. . . .?

LR: Well, legally it's changed a great deal in that the, when I came back most of the firms were single-person firms. If there was a law office that had more than one or two lawyers in it, it was because it was a family. And they all came back, the kids came back, like the Cliffords and the Skeltons and a few others. But most of the time, most of it, it was single practice. And it was a very chummy crowd, and I don't mean that in a bad way. I mean, you could call another lawyer and settle a case and never have any papers; it was a handshake or a phone call.

Today, I think it's much different. There are a lot of younger lawyers. The practice has changed in that it's become a paper practice, even when it's litigation. You get motions, you get interrogatories, you get this, you get that, you go on and on forever. Also, I don't think civility is what it used to be, although it's still relatively good here. I think when I go to Portland, I sometimes find it's become a big-city practice down there. But in general, it hasn't changed as far as trusting each other and being cordial to each other as much as it has in the large towns. I've tried cases in large cities, and it's just like going into a zoo, to be honest with you. There's no respect for one lawyer to another. Here there's still a lot of respect.

I think the lawyers now are better educated than some of the lawyers I remember when I started. But in general it hasn't changed that much that way. I still get along fine with everybody, and I think they get along fine with me. I see that eroding some, however. Especially when you don't, it's easy not to be civil to someone you don't know. I think there are over a hundred and some odd lawyers in Androscoggin County. When I came here there were probably half of that, or less. So you knew everybody. And the Bar Association meetings were much different, in that they were smaller and a lot more comfortable with each other, I think. That's about the only change I see. Did you ask me, was the second part of the question politically?

MR: Yeah, politically. Maybe the partisan situation, how did that change, or anything else?

LR: Yeah, well, I think as, in general the loyalty to the party has, has declined. I don't see a great gathering of folks going to conventions. There are the, there's a small nucleus of people that are politically active all the time, and we all see them. But I don't see- I was chairman of the Democratic County Committee for a couple of years or so, and there was a great desire in a lot of folks to get on that committee or to be part of it, to be elected chair even. Today, I don't even know who's on that county committee, to be honest with you. The county officers used to have a great deal more influence on the general political arena than the county, Democratic

County Committee. I don't see that as much any more. Although, you see, as a judge I felt that I not only wanted but was required to stay out of that quite a bit because of the general rules that I had to follow as a, as, even as a part-time judge. So I haven't been active that way in the political party arena. But, I don't see the party as being as powerful or as. . . . Of course, you recall they took away the shot ballot, you know, the, by shot I mean one shot at the top. . . .

MR: The big box.

LR: the box, the big box. And once that got knocked off, I think that things went downhill for the party in general. I can't tell you right now who the chair of the party is.

MR: Do you know some of the other people who are the big movers in Democratic politics right now, like, part of that small group that you mentioned?

LR: Today?

MR: Yeah.

LR: No, I don't. I'd say the legislative candidates and legislative elected officials to the legislature, primarily. But, again, I haven't been involved as much. Kind of missed it.

MR: There's one person I was think of asking you about. Do you remember anything about Mayor Ernest Malenfant?

LR: Oh sure, I knew Ernest pretty well. No, my fath---, as a matter of fact, he was mayor while my father was at the City Hall. Yeah, Ernest was quite a guy. He was a railroad tender as you probably already know. Rather interesting guy; couldn't speak English, couldn't speak French when you come right down to it. He's been described by others as a man without a language. But he was effectively elected, beat Al Lessard who was a lawyer in town, was the former probate judge as a matter of fact, which was a big wow. I don't know that that was as much a vote for Ernest as it was a vote against Al Lessard.

Ernest was a very interesting person. He wasn't very educated, took positions that were obscene at times, because I don't think he understood them. Yet, he had a following. He had a following of hard-working activists who saw themselves being placed in power through him, and also to those coveted appointments to these different boards. There was the Fire Commission, there was the Police Commission, there was a Finance Board, there was the Board of Education, the Public Works Board, all of those. Every election there would always be a hush in the audience at the inaugural saying who's he going to appoint to this board. So, I don't see that happening today anymore at all. But a lot of people got on those boards and did very well politically, they thought (if you think that's doing well), through Ernest, you see, because he always had his group that would be pushing him along. That was typical of the mayor---, mayoralty. The mayor's power actually diminished substantially as soon as he announced his appointments to the different boards on election night, on inaugural night.

MR: You mentioned you worked with William Clifford for a while.

LR: Yup, yeah, yeah.

MR: Do you remember Ernest ever using the term, the “Clifford clique”?

LR: Well, not specifically. There were so many alleged cliques around, you see. I think father Bill Clifford was politically influential just about the time I came back here in the middle of the late ‘50s. Of course, he was an older man at the time. And I think that the Clifford sons, Jere and Bim and the nephew Jack were politically active. As I say, Bim, William, Jr. was my assistant; I appointed him assistant when I was county attorney. He then ran for county attorney and was elected. But I, this clique thing, you know, is obscene. Really, it, there wasn’t much to it, just a bunch of people that hung around together to get elected, get somebody elected. There was Roland Marcotte, and I guess I probably was considered part of that clique with him and we tried to get him elected. He was an excellent mayor. Then I was on a number of other mayoralty campaigns, and I’m sure we were referred to as cliques here and cliques there. But there’s always that shadow, there’s a clique. And that’s a great way to get elected in this town back in those days because you could always claim, “I’m against the clique.” We never knew who the heck the “clique” was, but it was a great motto or a great sounding board for people who wanted to vote against something. And a lot of people did vote against; I think that was typical of a lot of voters in town- they voted against more than they voted for.

MR: Okay. Well, I guess, I’ll start asking about some of those people that I mentioned before that Don is interested in. And I’ll be asking you about just your general impressions of these people- their personalities, what their roles were in politics, and also if they had a relationship with Ed Muskie that you knew of. And the first one is Lucien Lebel.

LR: Lucien Lebel, I know Lucien very well. He was my first wife’s uncle. His brother was my father-in-law. Lucien was a terrific guy; he was city clerk for the city of Lewiston for a number of years. I don’t think he had any influence politically. He was really a neuter guy. He came in, he ran the election as city clerk, but he kept the heck out of being on one side or the other. He sort of just went down the middle. Lucien Lebel, that’s who you’re talking. Yeah, I thought of another Lucien just now. Yeah, Lucien, I don’t think Lucien Lebel was politically active. He was a sort of a bureaucrat guy that stepped down the middle of the street.

MR: How about Paul Couture?

LR: Oh well, everybody knows Paul Couture. Paul was an influential guy because he was bombastic and he ran out of the 20N (?) club out of, on Lincoln Street. You wanted Paul usually on your, on your side when you were going in for the city council to get something passed, because he would, he would forcibly attack people and get, and get his way often. He intimidated a lot of people. He was a good guy, I always got along fine with Paul. I found that if you gave him a pretty good argument why he should come down your way on a vote, he usually understood it. But sometimes he would be blind in some other ways. But I thought, he was very influential in the city council. He was away for a while, then he came back and he was back on the city council again I think in the ‘80s. I think he’s, yeah, he passed away. I guess he was ill those last few years, he wasn’t quite as bombastic as he was back in the ‘60s, ‘70s.

MR: What about Robert Bonenfant?

LR: Bob Bonenfant was the sheriff for a number of years. Nice guy, very laid back kind of guy, politically active behind the scenes, didn't take a front view of things at all, represented the family. I would say a real nice guy, honest, came up the tough way. I don't know if he had a great big education, but he, I think he, he did a good job as sheriff. But of course in those days the sheriff's department was very politically inclined. On Election Day those deputies were out there hustling votes. Got readily elected, and was part of the inner loop of the elected officials that sort of got together as county officials and the group of legislators and so on. I know you're going to give me another name. Go ahead, how would you do it? You're probably going to give me Louis Jalbert, so. . . .

MR: Oh, actually, he's not on the list, but if you want to talk about Louis, that would be great.

LR: Well, I'm amazed you haven't got Louis on the list because he probably is the most influential guy in Lewiston and Auburn politics, well, Lewiston politics, throughout the years that I was active. I got along fine with Louis. Not many people did. People got along with Louis because they, they, they were frightened of him, afraid what he might do politically to them. Louis was a control guy, wanted to control everything. Also was a love guy, he wanted everybody to love him. He wanted to do something for everybody and he wanted you to remember that he did it for you. The typical old pol---, typical old poli---, "I'll get you this, I'll take care of this for you and you just remember it." Louis liked to count his IOUs. I don't know what the heck he used them for, you know, when you come right down to it, but it was an emotional thing for him.

I think Louis liked people to think that he was a guy that could do things for them. He did a lot of things for a lot of people, not all bad. You talk to, probably half the people you talk to about him will tell you that they thought he was a bad influence and that he was a bad guy. He was not a bad guy. He was well-intentioned, but he was self, excuse me, how can I put it? He was self-involved; his ego got in his way most of the time. If it wasn't for that he would have been a very, very positive influence. He, but Louis always made enemies, made a lot of enemies, because if you didn't agree with him he figured you were his enemy. I didn't always agree with him; I just ignored him.

MR: Did you ever kind of get on his bad side?

LR: No, never did. No, well he knew my grandfather and knew my dad and always, he always would bring that up. You know, he was always, like, "You're a young kid." If I didn't agree with him and refused to do what he would say we ought to do this or we ought to do that and I refused to do it, he'd always say, "Well, you know, you're just a kid so that explains why you're not smart enough to do what I tell you to do." But I found that the best way to do it was to just ignore him at times. He'd call you at 6:30 in the morning all the time, 5:30, 6:30 in the morning; loved to get people out of bed. Called my dad all the time when my dad was at the City Hall. But Louis wasn't as influential as a lot of people thought, but a lot of people thought he really was. And in many ways he was. But the fear of Louis' wrath was what dominated many of

those relationships. But Louis wasn't all bad.

MR: And what can you tell me about Romeo Boisvert?

LR: Romeo was a very laid back nice guy, became mayor, appointed me to the Planning Board when I got back here. He was mayor when I got back here in Lewiston, kind of a quiet guy. I don't think he was influential in a lot of ways, he sort of, I think he went to, I think he became a senator, too, in the Maine Senate, as I recall; I think he was. And, but I don't see him as having a large influence politically. He was there, but sort of a quiet guy, compared to a guy like Louis who was always bombastic.

MR: Right and Faust Couture?

LR: Faust Couture I don't know much of. He was around before I came back. He owned a radio station, no, he owned two radio stations; WCOU which is for Couture, and WFAU in Augusta for Faust. And I don't know that he had a lot of influence at least in my time, he may have had before I came back. I didn't know him, hardly at all.

MR: Okay, how about Roland Landry?

LR: Yeah, Roland was a fellow I knew very well. Roland had some political influence because he worked like hell at it. He had a family as big as there ever could conceive. They all voted. And he was an alderman for a while, city council. I don't know that he would be considered significant.

MR: And John Orestis, Mayor Orestis?

LR: Yeah, John, John was mayor of course, and, bright guy. I think he was influential, still is some. And I think John is probably one of the more positive guys that have been mayor of the city of Lewiston. Nice, easy-going guy. I consider him a good friend. I don't see him very often, but I think he was a positive influence as a mayor.

MR: Do you remember some examples of his influence?

LR: No, I think he came in just about when I got out, I can't remember. Bobby Clifford, who's now a Superior Court judge, I think succeeded him as mayor, or, was before him as mayor I guess. That's when I was on the Finance Board. Judge Clifford was practicing law as part of the Clifford family at the time. He appointed me to the Finance- reappointed me to the Finance Board. And I think John Orestis came right after that. I can't remember the administra-, one administration from the other, to be honest with you. As you can tell, politics, in spite of what people may think, sort of bored me at times, so I was happy practicing law. That's why I've never taken any big step that way. I think you need a special personality to be a candidate for a state office or national office, and I don't have that. If I don't like you, you'll know it, and you can't do that when you're a politician. Politicians have to have everybody they need think they like them. And I'm a little too candid at times, perhaps even today.

MR: How about Hal Gosselin?

LR: Hal was city controller. He was city cont-, he worked for the *Sun Journal* and then he became city controller at a very young age for a very short time. Then he went to work for Bates, became assistant to the president, which is a local, the local person I guess for Bates Manufacturing, when Bates was a big-time employer in town. Hal was active politically. Hal was very good in campaigns; could write very well. His son practiced law with me for a while and is now, has a firm on Lisbon Street. No, Hal was a very nice guy, but very interested in politics. You see, you have to be really interested in this to keep it up day in and day out, because it can get to be a bore. So he was the type of fellow that enjoyed politics, and would be part of campaigns that I was part of, for mayoralty, you know, supporting a candidate and so on. Wrote very well, too, because all these candidates didn't write all their own stuff, as you well know. They never do. So, I'd say Hal was a positive guy, yeah.

MR: And, well we talked about your father. Last person is Georges Rancourt.

LR: George, George was a councilman and then he was on the county, I guess he was county commissioner. George was a real nice fellow. I don't think he was heavy in any way of influencing politics a great deal, but he was always on the scene locally in Lewiston, the city council, and county-wise. Maybe he went to the legislature. I don't even remember to be honest with you. But I don't think he had a great deal of influence politically.

MR: Okay. Well, is there anyone else you can think of in the area that might be useful for us to interview?

LR: Well, you talked, I don't know, have you talked to John Beliveau?

MR: He's on our list. I'm not sure if he got-

LR: Yeah, he's a judge. I don't know how much he's going to give you because of that. But he came to work for this firm back in 19-, probably '62 or '3, and was mayor, he was DA, county attorney and mayor. Paul Dionne also worked for this firm and he is, he was mayor. I was the MC at their inaugurals. There you are again. Hated the job but everybody seemed to think I had to do it. I can't think of anybody else. You've hit most of them.

MR: Okay. Well, is there anything else that you want to talk about, about your experience, or something about Maine politics or the legal situation that we haven't covered yet?

LR: I don't think so; I can't think of anything. We've covered quite a bit. Some of these things I haven't even thought about until you mentioned them. Yeah, I think you've covered it pretty well. As I say, Bill Hathaway was the means by which I kept active. If it hadn't been for Bill I probably wouldn't have been as active. But I admired his ability to do what he did and I thought he was a real positive in the Congress. And that kept me active, introducing all the guest stars we'd bring in to raise money at these functions we had. Senator Kennedy, Senator Byrd, all those leading lights in Congress. They would do Bill a favor and come up and be the draw for these fund-raising dinners we would have and so on. And that kept me quite active. But I never

was, I was somewhat reluctant.

MR: Even though you never had any direct contacts with Senator Muskie, what are your overall impressions of how he changed Maine politics or just your impressions of him in general I guess?

LR: Well, you see, I thought, I think that Ed Muskie was a very nice guy in a lot of ways, and a, and perhaps a great influence in Washington, but I never saw him as such. A lot of people described him as being a windbag, to be honest with you, and I don't like to be quoted in saying that, but it's true. You couldn't shut him up. Every time I introduced him at a rally or something, we couldn't keep him quiet. I remember I was MC for one of the mayors at Stekino's restaurant we used to have here. And it was 11:30 at night by the time we got to him, because we had Joe Brennan I had to introduce, or Kenny Curtis as governors, and then we'd have Peter Kyros and they'd all speak, and then we'd introduce Ed Muskie. And at 11:30 I'd say, "Senator, we'd love to hear from you but you know it's 11:30, tomorrow's a workday. I'm sure you've given us words of wisdom." Well, my God, he wouldn't stop, you know. So those are my impressions of Ed Muskie in spite of what, the God-like view of him that many people have. And he had his own cronies. We didn't see much of him when he was in town; he stayed with a couple folks. And, I just didn't have a relationship with him, so I can't tell you much about him.

MR: Okay. Well, if there's nothing else you want to add, I think we've pretty much covered it.

LR: Okay. Well you did pretty well.

MR: Great. Thanks a lot.

LR: Okay. My pleasure.

End of Interview