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Reed, Carlton "Bud" oral history interview

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Interview with Carlton “Bud” Reed by Marisa Burnham-Bestor

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Reed, Carlton “Bud”

Interviewer

Burnham-Bestor, Marisa

Date

February 7, 2000

Place

Lewiston, Maine

ID Number

MOH 167

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Biographical Note

Carlton Day “Bud” Reed was born in Bath, Maine in 1930 and raised in Woolwich, Maine. He attended Colby College, graduating in the class of 1953, and worked on Muskie’s 1954 gubernatorial campaign. Reed was elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 1958. Losing his bid for reelection in 1960, he ran for the Senate in 1962 defeating Rodney E. Ross, Jr. Reelected in 1964, Reed ran for the Senate President’s post. Barry Goldwater’s landslide defeat in that year helped the Democrats gain control of the Maine Legislature for the first time since 1911. Following his term as Senate President, Reed served two more terms in the Maine Senate, one as minority leader. When he left the Senate, Reed returned to Woolwich as a partner in the firm of Reed & Reed, general contractors. He has been on the boards of Key Bank, University of Maine, Central Maine Power, and the State’s Board of Education.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: 1954 Maine gubernatorial campaign; 1968 vice presidential campaign; 1969-1972 presidential campaign; environmental protection; Maine legislature (late 1960s and early 1970s); history of Woolwich, Maine (extensive) as well as Bath, Maine; Maine taxes; classification of rivers and Prestile Stream; air and water pollution; straight party voting;

and Central Maine Power.

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Transcript

Marisa Burnham-Bestor: The date is February 2, 2000, and Marisa Burnham-Bestor is interviewing Carlton Reed, Bud Reed, and we are at Muskie Archives in Lewiston, Maine at Bates College, and if you could please state your name and spell it for me?

Carlton Reed: It's Carlton Day Reed, C-A-R-L-T-O-N, D-A-Y, R-E-E-D. And I'm actually a junior, but I, you know, my dad's dead, but I've got a grandson that's coming along so, and he's

got the same name.

MB: How did you get the nickname “Bud?”

CR: Well, I guess, of course I was named after my father and the, my mother always said she wanted to name me after him, but dad didn’t really want to and, because my father always claimed he’d never had a nickname, so they called me Bud. And, so I didn’t name my son after me because I, but he named his son, so.

MB: Where and when were you born?

CR: I was born in Bath, Maine the year 1930.

MB: And were you brought up in Bath as well?

CR: No, I come from Woolwich.

MB: Where is that?

CR: Well, it’s across the river.

MB: And why did your family move to Woolwich?

CR: Well, the Reeds had been there for years, the Reeds and the Days and the Carltons have all been in Woolwich. And they’re all seafaring families. And in fact the first Reed came to Woolwich in, around 1740, and the Days came about that time, too. And they ran the ferry, the Days Ferry, which was across the Carlton Bridge. And so that side of the family was always there, always. Actually William Reed was the first one in 183--- 1735, and they (*unintelligible phrase*). But my mother’s side is the Irish side which was, came from Vermont. And dad went to Dartmouth, my father did, and then after that he went to Syracuse, and he was one of the first town managers when he was at Stratford. And my mother was from Rutland, Vermont, and she went to, she was down at Stratford, Connecticut teaching school. She always said she wanted to marry the guy that signed her check, so they got married.

And then, I live in the Day house now, which is, one of the Day houses. And they actually came back and dad started a construction business with his father, Reed & Reed, and they used to come summers. And my father always summered in, he was born and brought up in New York, and, but they came summers, and I said, you know, you kind of think dad always did just the things on the other end; he came back when everyone else was left because Woolwich kind of disappeared, you know, very progressive in the early 1800s. And, okay, I’m getting away with myself. So go ahead.

MB: How did your father come to- how did your father and his father come to start Reed & Reed Construction firm?

CR: Well, my grandfather was a sea captain, and my grandmother spent her first sixteen years,

she always said, aboard a sailing vessel with the O'Day side of it. And when she got married, she said she'd never go to sea again. And he was a sea captain, so he started building houses in New York, in Flushing and the Meadows, Flushing Meadows (*unintelligible phrase*), everything is second hand obviously. I don't remember it. But, and he did go back again in WWI, they needed sea captains. But anyway in around 1926 or '27 they started wanting to get back north and so they built some bridges in New Hampshire and then from there. Obviously the Reeds had been in Woolwich for years, and they were all from there, except my mother of course. And so that's why they came back and started Reed & Reed.

MB: At what point did your parents begin to have children and how many did they have?

CR: Oh, about a year after they got married, I think. And there were four children, and I was the only son. And there was Hopestill and, Mary Lou was the oldest, Hopestill was next, then I was next, and Hepizibah was third, fourth.

MB: What was her name?

CR: Hepizibah.

MB: How do you spell that?

CR: H-E-P-I-Z-I-B-A-H, I think, (*note: usual spelling is H-E-P-H-Z-I-B-A-H*) it's an old name, Hephzibah, and Hopestill. But we still have a lot of Hephzibahs, Hopestills and all this in our family, so we've got a lot of people, but we don't have many names.

MB: What type of community was it, Woolwich?

CR: Well, Woolwich was, as I said, it kind of died because the Carlton Bridge was built and. But at one time, well, like Woolwich was a town before Bath was, so it had an early history, and I tell people the first ship in the United States was built in the town of Woolwich in 1800. And, I kind of forgot your question, what was it?

MB: Just what type of community it was?

CR: Well, originally, it was just like most of them, it borders the Kennebec all the way and then the northern part of it is on Merrymeeting Bay. And it's true that they landed on the coast at the beginning, but I'll tell you, when they went up the Kennebec and, you know, you had all the fish, you had Merrymeeting Bay, they thought they were in heaven. Good fertile land, and they, the Reed, Nathaniel had a land grant from England and, with three or four others, and they came up, and they had bought an area of land and they stayed there. And it was, Kennebec salmon, of course, was for years on the list of, in New York even, and but then, you know, like a lot of towns it declined. There were more people in 1790's, there were more people in the town of Woolwich than there was in 1840, and there was about half as many. But then by, say 1980 it had doubled from what it was. In other words, it came back because the Bath Iron Works, the Carlton Bridge, and everything kind of got shut off, and people were heading to the Industrial Revolution and all this type of thing.

MB: What caused the initial drop in population?

CR: Well that was it. I mean, in other words, when I was a kid there was no one, I mean there was no one. I went to a one-room schoolhouse and there were probably, and that had been closed, in fact my two sisters had to go to get the fire (*unintelligible word*) to open the school. And it was a brick schoolhouse that was built in 1820, and my grandfather went to high school there, and they had three periods. He said he went to high school, I guess there was, someone from Bowdoin would come and teach, and they would have three semesters. And the farmer, you know, depending on what he did, if their family was in the ice business, he went to school in the summer, you know, and this type of thing. And that all became, the Industrial Revolution, and this is true in Maine. I was in the brick business and I traveled Maine, and it's amazing, you'd see some places with a schoolhouse and church, and there's no town any more. It just disappeared, and people moved to Bath. And of course Bath had the shoreline to build the ships. Woolwich is all ledge, you know. And going up vertical and that wasn't, but back in the early days they didn't mass-produce the ships like they did in the early 1800s. I mean, (*unintelligible word*) would have to build them in his back yard and then they'd just (*unintelligible phrase*) and launch them and so on and so forth. So everything moved to Bath and, of course you know the transportation problem.

MB: Was your father's company- was your father and grandfather's company in Bath or in Woolwich?

CR: It was in Woolwich, oh yeah, we lived right in Day's Ferry.

MB: So did the shift over to Bath impact the company?

CR: No, no, we built bridges and, they did. And now we're doing like, you know, we did the third bridge here in Lewiston; we've done a lot of work here in Lewiston, built bridges. Rumford, pretty much in Maine, and actually right now my, I've got a son-in-law and a son that are kind of running it. I'm still title of chairman of the board, which doesn't mean much. But I- for about five years I haven't- I do go into the office every morning. I read the paper, but other than that I don't get into the bidding. And they, you know, the Iron Works expansion, they're on that, they're down to Portsmouth. It's not a huge outfit, but it's doing very well. I think most companies are now.

MB: What's the Iron Works expansion?

CR: Remember they're putting a dry dock in there? We didn't get in there actually because of the, you had to be union and we're not union. Although we did create our Callahan, which we bought Callahan Brothers, and that, Callahan Bros. Inc., and that's a union shop outfit so that we could, you know, involved with the union, and so far it's worked quite well, no problem. And we do have to do a dockyard and some tugs and push boats and scows and so on and so forth. That's a fairly new operation but, you know.

MB: You had mentioned being the only boy in the family. Can you tell me a little bit about

your home life as being the only boy and then, you know, your role in the family, your sisters' roles and so forth?

CR: Well, there isn't much to say. As I said, I spent most of my time on the river. I mean, I had a, built a raft, and I never had a boat. And (*unintelligible phrase*) in the river, and we used to swim in it at that time. It was filthy but we always did, and (*unintelligible phrase*) heated the water. And I didn't really have, I kind of played alone, you know, I'm kind of a loner, and I often say that's maybe the reason why I'd build a little raft and oh all that of thing. And it's funny, all my grandparents were terrible, and they all went to sea all their lives and they always thought I was going to drown, and they were after me all the time. And of course then we had an eight party line, so that was something unique, and so they'd get on that and call my mother and say, "You know where your Buddy is? He's out there, he shouldn't be there, and there's a tide and the eddy and so on and so forth, and he's apt to drown." And other than that, I spent a lot of time in the woods, and I probably read, I got shot when I was kid and that was kind of a traumatic thing, but

MB: How did that happen?

CR: Well, I was hunting when I was ten years old, with a BB gun, and I got shot in the thigh

MB: By a real gun?

CR: Yeah. Yeah, I almost went on that one. In fact that was in, I don't know, they had the presidents of the senate there that, someone got that story in, and I never said anything about it really. The big thing was, were they going to take my leg off, and I can remember that, you know, because they blew all the bone out there and they thought it might be, they were afraid of infection. And, so I was in the hospital about, you know, pretty near five months because they had to keep the leg in traction. The doctor would come in, measure it every morning (*unintelligible phrase*). And that kind of slowed me up, and I think I put on about fifty pounds while I was in there because they said I could have anything I wanted to eat. So, that kind of slowed me up a little bit, and I always thought that kind of hurt me academically because I really kind of missed almost a year. But that's an excuse.

MB: Tell me a little bit about your schooling. You said that you were in a very small. . . . ?

CR: Well, it was, I still talk about it. The schoolhouse is still there. You should some down and see it now; it's a community club, and it hasn't changed any. We didn't have any running water, and we had a wood fire, and we used to have to start the wood fire in the morning, and it was. I used to come home and eat lunch every day, but a lot of kids couldn't. I was at a brick schoolhouse, and there was the eight grades, and I was not very academically inclined. Which my father was, he loved to read and he wrote all the time. I had a great time. But the, I didn't have any kids in a sense, there were some. In fact I had a fairly big grade, I think there were five in our grade, there's only eighteen in the whole school, or fourteen, and that would vary. So we had a fairly big grade, but they lived away, I mean they lived miles away from where I lived.

MB: Was it a good school academically?

CR: Well, you know, I, dad always, he was a champion. He was a guy that went to New York schools, and graduated from Dartmouth, and went to Syracuse, got his masters in public administration. And he always defended that one room schoolhouse. And I used to be embarrassed because he would say that, when they wanted to have the consolidated school, he fought it, and he was the only one. I mean, everyone else said, we've got to have the academic and so on and so forth. And anyway, I went from there, and the problem with a one-room school house was a lot of kids ended their career in the eighth grade. And to go to Bath was a big move. You know, my God, you even have to change rooms to, you know, for classes and stuff, and where you had every one right there.

But we had a great time in that one room schoolhouse and everything depended on the teacher. And we had some good teachers, I thought anyway, and the parents were very, very active in the school. And, you know, we'd have sliding parties and skiing parties and Thanksgiving things and so on and so forth. It was a small group, and it was kind of family. And I don't think it hurt me except when I got to high school, it's a wonder they didn't kick me out. I spent more time polishing, first thing I did was carve my initials in the desk, and that didn't go over too well. And I used to go down to the shop and that all the time, I was in all kinds of trouble. But my sisters had gone, they were ahead of me, so they'd gone there, and I got through high school.

MB: Now, you said that you had to go to Bath for high school?

CR: Yes.

MB: And, I'm a little bit confused about the transportation problem between Woolwich and Bath.

CR: Well, you learned to walk from Woolwich to Bath; it's four miles. But we didn't, see the Iron Works went there, and there was, we'd team up because Day's Ferry had a few people who. One year they kind of hired a taxi to take us back and forth because the taxi driver lived here. And then we would go with the Iron Works and then I'd get off at the Iron Works and then go up to the Y and shoot pool or something for a while and then go to high school, but my sisters would go right to high school and study. And then a lot of times I'd walk home.

But then sometimes, of course I played, you know, football and hockey and baseball all through high school, and that was kind of a problem. But one of the guys had befriended my sister, so he was great to take me home after football practice and baseball practice. And so transportation was a problem, that's why a lot of kids, as I told you, didn't go to high school. They'd drop out. Plus, I used to say, I'll tell you, you can cut me off, but one of those things I always tell people is they could always tell the Woolwich boys because when we had gym, we were the only ones that had our long johns on. Everyone else had just abandoned them. And you're talking about the '40s now, you know, with the war starting and we were there (*unintelligible phrase*) the period I was there was during WWII.

MB: What were your parents' political attitudes and religious attitudes?

CR: My mother was Catholic and dad was Congregationalist. In fact Isaiah Winship was the first preacher in the town, he'd preached fifty-nine years, and he came in 1756. But anyway, that's neither here nor there. And so that was, we went to the Congregational church, and that was always, I don't think it was a problem with my mother, but I never knew my other family. I got to get up there and I still think of Ethan Ward because he was very successful business wise. I guess he had a, but he died when I was six years old, I never saw him. So that, the religious beliefs were basically I grew up in the Congregationalist church, I still belong to it, and I still go. And the other one was what now?

MB: Politically?

CR: Politically, mother was a Vermont Republican and dad was a Democrat and he, of course Maine was a Democratic state. He, I remember politicking and Thomas Jefferson was my hero because he had the embargo of 1812. But anyway, Maine became a Democratic state and, you know, the vice, of course you know all these things the vice president of, Lincoln's first vice president came from Maine, and he had been a Republican governor and, a Democratic governor, he went down there and, the right person, and (*unintelligible phrase*).

And he became active in, dad had been town manager, and he'd been a selectman of the town, he was Democrat, and he ran for the state senate three times. Sumner Sewall beat him twice, and when, the third one was a guy from Bowdoinham, it'll come to me in a minute, beat him. And it was a time Louis Brann was running, and he was a fan of Roosevelt, and so I just, I mean, I don't know, I just. There used to be a lot of squabbles, I remember, and sometimes at Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners on politics. I wasn't interested in them, but I had an uncle who was very much a Republican. So that basically was, that was it. And I think that, as I said, the seafaring people wanted the trade.

MB: What was the reason that your father and grandfather didn't get involved with the unions when they came about?

CR: The unions, there was never an issue, there was never an issue in the union, you know, in the construction industry. I don't think it had the stability because it wasn't year round. In other words, you know, January, February and March, well, yeah, usually, maybe even November, December and January you just shut down your construction outfit. The union movement was in Bath, but it was never a big issues. In fact John W. Brown, in fact I'm administrator of his daughter's estate, they named the liberty ship after him, the one that came back. I don't know whether you know, just recently I saw the John W. Brown. And his daughter denied that it was him, and it, I didn't know the liberty ships were named after labor leaders. And they all were, in WWII the ships were. And one of the, them was named after this John W. Brown whose daughter married my father's first cousin, and I'm the administrator of her estate, she's up in Ellsworth, and she denied it, I can't believe it. And I know it was her, and they refurbished one, and he was on that Black, what was it, Black Tuesday or something out in the mid-west, or something, and all the, all the people were killed, and he was very much involved in that. And then he came back and was killed in Woolwich. And -

MB: He was murdered?

CR: No, he wasn't. In fact, I think this is true, that evidently there was a whip-o-will and he got his shotgun out, and he wanted to shoot the whip-o-will, and he accidentally shot himself and killed himself. But there was some, that is it, and I just really recently found this out, and I know that's trivia that you don't want to hear, but it is interesting, (*unintelligible phrase*) because I never knew that. She denied it, and I thought, and I think down at Brown University, because his daughter graduated from Brown University, she was the first female trustee in the university, was the first one to have the faculty whatever it was at the graduation. She was grand marshal, the first one. And I thought there might be a relationship there, but I'm not sure of that.

MB: How did your family, your mother being a Republican, your father being a Democrat, how did those impact you and your siblings?

CR: Well mother hated politics, and she was very upset that dad ran. Dad loved to write. I mean I could give you- I've got books after books after papers. He wrote, he could draw, he could do- he had more talent, and even now with poetry, the town carries it on a little pamphlet, I've got more things on that. And every night, and he wrote all during WW-, I've got the, all during WWII every night he'd sit there at his desk and he'd write, you know, a page about the situation and analyzing WWII, and they're fascinating things. I don't know what to do with them; I've got them all. But all I can remember is that if you want to hear how I got involved in politics, I was always interested in kind of history and so on and so forth. But I was building my house and I had, May and I got married, I was in college, and then we lived up the (*unintelligible word*) apartments. And then, anyway, I was kind of desperate and, but I was on the roof I remember, my father hollered to me, he wanted me to meet someone. And it was Adam Walsh and Paul Hazelton. Did you ever, you've heard of those two?

MB: I don't think so

CR: You never did? Well, Paul Hazelton was a very demo--, he was a professor at Bowdoin [College] for years. He just died a short while ago. Adam Walsh was the captain of the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame and was the Bowdoin football coach for years. And they wanted to ask if, they wanted, came over to get my father to run. And the year must have been 1956. 1956, it's a few years back, '56. And dad said he wouldn't, mother was having a fit.

So they came up and, so dad said, "we'll go up and see the boy." So they came up to see the boy. And I'd played against, I went to Colby and I played against Adam Walsh's teams, you know, out there in football. And he, I was, he was famous, I mean he was one of the four, he was captain of the Four Horsemen at Notre Dame, and that was quite a thing. And he asked if I would run and Eddie was against it. And, I majored in history, I loved history, and I liked, I didn't love it, I mean I, you know, it was easy for me compared to French and that type of thing. And I, anyway, they conned me into it, and I remember going to dad and I said, "You know, I don't want to do that." And he looked at me and he said, he said, "Just remember" he said, "Bud, it's a sad state of affairs when the oldest political party in the country does not have one Democratic candidate's name on the ballot in Sagadahoc County." And there wasn't, there was not one name there.

And so he was kind of saying you should, you know, that was bad, so I became a write-in candidate. I think you only had to have about twelve signatures in, you know, in the ballot and so on and so forth, it was past the time to put your papers and all in. So I became a candidate. And then, I did and then someone from Bath, I can't remember his name even, they got him to put in, so we had two. But all the others, like county attorney and probate and everything else, there was just two of us on that ticket. And we had a kind of a strong nucleus, and a good group, and we worked, and I kind of enjoyed it.

And we had a discussion over at city hall. That's when, one of the things I remember, they still thumped people that remember it. They'd have to be fairly old. They boxed in, and I, dad ran in the, yeah, I said three times in the '30s. And he had basically two clean-, his biggest one was cleaning up the river. And his second one was education. And, I'm not sure that it was education, those were, that was mine, and I don't know but his, one of his big things. Oh, oh, no it wasn't, his was taking the toll off the Carlton Bridge, which was kind of popular. And Will Carlton was a, of course a relative, and he was a Republican, and that's who they named the bridge after. But, so mine was cleaning up the river and education, and that's what I ran on and they boxed me in, I can remember the Republicans tried to say, and they said, "Well, you mean to say, someone challenged me." And the city hall had, it was only two Democrats, and the Republicans had all this line up there, and of course I'd gone to Morse and I knew some, I mean Bath was sort of a city to us and they said, someone challenged me and said, "Do you mean to tell me that if Bath Iron Works had to shut down because they couldn't meet the requirements of cleaning up, that you would allow that to happen?" And I said, "Well," I said, "you know," I said, I mean, I knew it was going to put me right on the spot, and I said, "well," I said, "I guess my answer would be, and I'd do everything I could to help them and so on and so forth, but if they force me into that corner, I'd say they have to close." And I said, "You know, in the long run," and that's where I came up with this thing, which kind of stuck with me all that, for all my career, was that "clean water in the long run is a lot more valuable than dirty water." And anyway, that was how I got involved in it, and I lost in that election by only sixty votes, which everyone thought was great because the guy was from Topsham and he was an incumbent.

Anyway, so two years later I ran, and in the meantime we'd, you know, we were sort of like gypsies; I went to different jobs and I'd pack up all the kids and family. We'd come home weekends but I, God, I mean, we stayed up in Aroostook, and all over the state of Maine, wherever the job was. We got a full slate and we started running, we started to get some action going.

The other thing I might back up on is that that first election, we were in Guilford building a bridge, and two people walked across the, we had a footbridge in the town, we split the town. And I was out lighting the lamps at night, and, we used to have those gas burners, pot burners we called them, and who did I see but Muskie and Paul Fullam. Now Paul Fullam was a teacher at Colby, and he was my faculty advisor, and I loved Paul. And he was the history and government teacher and he was running for the United States senate against Margaret Chase Smith, and he had a heart attack. He'd had one, he was back, and every Saturday he'd, I mean every Monday morning I'd go in the library to study or pick up a class or something, and Paul would call me over and want to (*unintelligible phrase*) how the football game was because he said he didn't go because it was too much stress. I mean, the state series used to have quite a following back then,

it doesn't any more, they don't have one now. And I always, I liked him, and I remember going to his house, he had a group of us over, and he was my faculty advisor, (*unintelligible word*) a half a dozen others.

And that was the first time I saw Ed Muskie, and I actually didn't go up and that's one of the things I always regret, I should have gone up and encouraged him but I just, I was too bashful and kind of shy in my own way, and I didn't. That's the first time I saw Ed Muskie, and I knew he was running. And anyway, he, of course, got elected governor, he ran against Burt Cross, and I campaigned with him in that first campaign, that was the first time I knew Ed Muskie. And that's when I hit him on the pollution and water, because I, we were campaigning, and I can remember saying, I said, "That's one of the things," now I was twenty-five, twenty-six years old. I thought that was young, but I know now they go in when they're even younger. I said I, "That's what I want to do is to clean up the river," I said, "It's a sham." And I also knew that Ed was from Rumford and also Waterville, which was one of the big polluters in the state. And Ed kind of hedged a little bit I remember, although he was very, you know, very, he said, "Yeah," he said, "Well, that's something we've just got to do," he said, and so on and so forth. And that was one of his reasons he wanted to run.

Of course he was running against Burt Cross, kind of shot himself in his foot but he, I got to know him later. But, and I was impressed with him because in the campaigning, I mean, he was the only one I campaigned with who took about three steps in one, going through the shoe shops and especially going to one of, Richmond had a woolen mill, textile mill, and at the Iron Works gate. And he just had a, just a friendly, you know, I spent a day with him or two days or whatever it was at different times when he came to stay, kind of, I just, you know, kind of trailed along, and that's when I first got to know him. And of course Paul died, I think, shortly after that. He had a heart attack. And he was an expert on western folklore, and he brought his guitar into the class and sang these western ballads and so on and so forth. So, that was I guess my first experience.

The second one, Muskie wasn't running and, God (*unintelligible phrase*), stroke of luck I won, and I went up to the legislature. No, wait a minute, wait a minute- I'm getting screwed up on dates because Ed Muskie was the first time, the second time I went in the house. And that is the time, okay, that was, that Ed Muskie ran for the United States senate. So I, there was a Guildford in so I, okay, so I guess I got that right. But anyway, Ed Muskie went into the United States senate and I went up and Doc Clauson was governor. And there was sixty- there were fifty-nine legislators; we thought that was a lot. And I think that could stop, I think that was the third, a hundred and fifty-one in the house. I don't know, we, yeah, that would be, we had the first time, Doc Clauson.

And Doc Clauson was something else, he was down to earth, but he was great. I remember him giving us, trying to give us a pep talk and he says, "Now we're up, now we're in the last ditch." He didn't say we were up to it, he said we were in a, I said, you know, what a preposition would have meant. But he was a great guy, and he led us but he died, (*unintelligible phrase*) he died. Dropped dead, had a heart attack. And that's when John Reed came in as governor.

And then the next one was the 19-, what was the one, the big landslide with Nixon-Kennedy, and

Maine, everyone in Maine got killed. And I lost by, I think it was twelve votes, and everyone said, well have the recount. But the vote was terrible. That's how I got involved in, if you want me to go, I can, shut me up anyway, that's how I got in the recount. And I knew some kids, I mean they went to the school, from Phippsburg and there were sixty absentee ballots that evidently were not signed at the time or the date that they were in, and those sixty-nine had fifty-nine straight Republican votes, and that's what it was, you know. We had the big X, oh that was the other plank I had, which dad had too, was the elimination of the big X. Did you hear that?

MB: No.

CR: Well, you used to be able to go into your ballot and they'd have a list a dozen names and then they had the Republican or the Democrat, but you could just put an X on the Republican and that would vote for the whole slate, and the same would do with the Democrats. Well, that's how the Republicans, because no one, I mean people would go in and say "I'm a Republican," so they'd vote the big X. And dad spent all his time, a lot of his literature, you should see, it was trying to explain how you could split your ballot.

And it's funny because Muskie was really not a champion of elimination of the big X, and the Democrats weren't, which I couldn't believe my first term in the legislature. What were you, why would you want that thing? Well, you see, that's the way Lewiston, Biddeford, Waterville lived with the big X because they had the same thing. But if you're in the country, in a Republican area, you couldn't. I think Ed Muskie wanted to kind of to do away with it, Ed did, but he didn't really, he wasn't a champion of it because it wasn't politically popular in the Democratic Party which, you know, I told people, that's crazy. And that killed me in this election, at least in Phippsburg. And so anyway, I don't know, what else do you want to know?

MB: I just wanted to ask you, I didn't think I caught your mother's first name.

CR: Louise.

MB: Louise. And the first time that you ran for office, were you still in college at that point?

CR: No, no, I was out, had been out about three, two or three years, about two years, maybe three years.

MB: And what had you planned on doing once graduating from college?

CR: Well, I can remember I had an offer to teach. Back then there weren't- and I had my teacher's certificate in five years and so on and so forth for secondary school. And in fact a guy from Morse came up and, unsolicited by me, I could get a job I guess anywhere, and I could teach. And, but it was twenty-seven hundred. I can remember it was twenty-seven hundred. I got, I don't know, five hundred dollars for, two hundred fifty for being assistant football coach, two hundred and fifty for being assistant baseball coach, and five hundred for hockey coach, but I had to build the rink.

MB: Hold on.

End of Side A, Tape One
Side B, Tape One

CR: And I could have gotten a job at Hebron, where I could have taught and stayed. And my wife taught while I was in school, in, she was a first grade teacher there in Waterville. And she wasn't teaching. We were having too many children. So anyway, and then from there after that I lost that election, and so the next time they didn't know what to do with me, so I ran for the senate. And I went to the senate and I really had a good time there, enjoyed it. There were five of us. Ray Letourneau, Boussier, Emile Levesque, no, not Levesque, in the senate from Sanford, Letourneau, anyway, and myself. And no one trusted me, and, because I was, you know, a Yank with a name of Reed and Paul Couture. Did you ever hear that name? Did you ever interview Paul? You should. He was a Democratic. Romeo was very good.

And anyway, I had a great time in the senate, Bob Marden was president and it was, we didn't have much influence but you know, I just, I really enjoyed the senate. And so, and the next time I ran was the year we had it just reversed; we had twenty-nine Democrats and five Republicans, and that's when I was president of the senate, that term. And then, that's when I had another few clashes with Ed. Not wrong ones but, and that was a tremendous experience, and that was the greatest group. I'll tell you, if you want something, people don't realize, there were people in that senate that had never been to Augusta, say nothing about being in the senate. They had never seen a legislative office, they had never seen anything.

It was just this huge, when Goldwater, everyone thought that he's going to do away with Social Security, so I think everyone went to the polls and voted Democratic. And it was just, and there were two from Calais, and they were both barbers. And we had, oh Paul, we, all from Aroostook County, and every one of them came without, as I said, most of them had no legislative experience, and I'd only had two terms.

And I wish that people would spend more time studying that thing because we did so much for the state of Maine, really, the Democrats did. We passed a lot of things that were, you know, really kind of landmark type things. And that's when, really, we got all, through all those items that Muskie had lined up. We got rid of the governor's council, we got rid of all these damn things, we just zipped them right through. And one of the senators, they called him Taxi Smith, he was from Portland. It was a senator from Cumberland, Senator Smith, but everyone called him Taxi. And that's what he did. He used to run a taxi. And I remember he stood up, and I got criticized some because I ran kind of a loose type thing. And you know, they didn't know how to make motions, and if they wanted to, you know, they wouldn't even be recognized, I mean, they wouldn't wait until I recognized them, they'd just stand up and start talking and I had to kind of cow them down.

And I had three, gee, that was sad, two of them badly, were alcoholics. And one of them would get, you know, get on the phone, that's when we, we were the first ones that put the phone in that year in the, at the rostrum, and God, she'd call up, and she'd get loaded and then come in there and the two of them, I won't tell you their names, but that was a sad situation. And, but I will say that the press kind of kept it quiet, and I said, you know, I, we just do the best we can on that.

They were smart and they were capable, and they've gone on and done pretty well I think in their lives because they beat that booze problem. But that was the, a great session. And then I ran for governor, and I got killed on that one.

MB: Before we go on to that, I wanted to back up and ask, you had said that as president of the senate you experienced some clashes with Muskie? What did you mean?

CR: Oh, just trivial ones. One is, my, I had the, I can't even remember what the argument, there was a big debate, and the Republicans were putting up a, even though we had them outnumbered, and we had the votes on, I can't remember what the circumstances was. There was a surplus, okay, and Peter Hanson, the reporter, there was a Hanson, his last name was Hanson. I liked him all right too but, brother, I would clash with him. And I was trying to use the potential of the, using the surplus for current expenses, figuring that we could get some movement, and it was just a political ploy. Hanson called up and told him what I was trying to do- Ed, down in Washington. And, which on a Sunday morning, Ed got in touch with me and started to ream me out and how you couldn't do that. I mean he, Ed didn't ream anyone out, I mean he was kind of soft and so on and so forth, he was pretty positive. And anyway I had told him and he kind of backed off a little bit, I don't know if he believed me or not. That was the time I got so mad, I got up after I hung the phone up, and I slammed my, one of my, I won't get into that.

But other than that, Ed never- Ed never bothered me. And Ed did, and both he and Coffin wanted me to run against Margaret Chase Smith because, see, the thing that I always had about Ken was he had prom-, he became secretary of state, and Ken told me, he says, "I want to be secretary of state, because," he said, "I want to run again for congress." And he'd run for congress and he'd lost. And he spent two years campaigning for governor, which is nothing wrong with that. He had it sewed it up, they all told me he had it sewed up before but I said, well, I didn't want to go run against Margaret Chase Smith, and I know we'd lose. And I didn't mind losing, but I didn't, you know, I just never wanted to take my family down there anyway so I didn't do it, so I ran-

MB: They wanted you to run against Margaret for what position?

CR: United States Senate.

MB: And instead you ran against Ken Curtis for governor?

CR: Well, it had to go to the primaries. See, but there would have been no real primary contest to run against, and they knew Ken had it sewed up. Because Ken had been for Jim Oliver, see he'd, for four years he was his main aide here in Maine, and he had done a lot of political work. Ken is very capable, and Ken is always good to me. I don't see him much now, but, I mean I, he's done well. And I had no problem with him other than, you know, he had the thing sewed up, and he knew it, and everyone else knew it, but I figured that would be a good way to get out, and so that's when I retired. And then of course I went back, like a fool, and I served one more term in the senate. And the one smart thing I did is, right at the end, I said, "I'm not running again." And rather than to wait, you know, during the session. And that, that was it.

MB: So when you were president in the senate, you were saying that you were able to pass a lot of the things that Muskie had set up. When you say that, what made it so easy to pass them?

CR: My God, we had all the power. Why do you need the votes? See, we, as I told you, there were twenty-nine Republicans and five Democrats. When we were in the next year, when I was president, it was just reversed. We had all these Dem-, and they didn't know, they did, they were excellent. But if it were in the party platform, Taxi Smith, and we had some terrible things in the platform, we always do, I remember Taxi Smith stood up and he said, "Isn't this thing in the party platform?" this bill that we were going to vote for. And I said, "You know, you're not supposed to talk about that, necessarily, in the senate." And I was saying, he said, "well," he says, "if it's in the platform, we should, I think we should vote for everything in the party platform." Well, God help any political party that ever took that philosophy. So I was always there, and I called him up and I told him what the situation was and what I was going to do and we just couldn't have it. And so Taxi, so he went back, picked up the mike, and he says, "Mr. President, I, let's forget it," and he sat down. I mean, you know, there wasn't the right motion, there wasn't anything, but he was just sincere. He, you know, but that was him, and sometimes, and generally speaking the press would let it go. But their heart was in it. They didn't have the finesse, they weren't the attorneys, they weren't the, you know. And they were just, they were just great people that wanted to do the best they could, never dreamed they'd be there, and I just, I thought we just had a great session.

And then in my last session, which I think was the greatest move from my standpoint, now I'm bragging maybe, but we passed the income tax. Ken had the income tax, and that was his proposal in the thing, and that was the last major tax that was passed here. Father, every morning, would tell me, he said, "Don't you take," because I, although I was in the legislature, daddy said I could stay any night in Augusta as long as I never came home again. So I came home every night. And I'll tell you, it's about, well it's not an hour but it's close to it, and some of those storms and so on and so forth, but it was the best thing that ever happened. Staying in Augusta was horrendous because, you know, those guys get a distorted sense of their being. And so I got home every night. And, God, I forgot where I am.

MB: You were talking about your last year as president of the senate.

CR: Oh, oh, oh, anyway, I came home and, every night, and that's why I would see dad because I'd stop at the office at six o'clock in the morning, get, you know, see what's going on with Reed & Reed before I went up to Augusta, and I did that every morning. And I'd stop in sometimes if I could in the evening. And Ken proposed the income tax, and it was, and there was still, a lot of Ken's people were kind of leery of me. And there were thirteen, fourteen Democrats, which was a fairly strong thing in the senate, and I was minority leader of that group. And, but they were kind of leery of me and everyone said that income tax was dead on arrival, and I talked with Ken. And I, I felt as if my communication was, with him, was good, but I didn't see him that much. And, you know, I like to scheme and try to move strategy, and I said, I told Ken my theory was that he was upset because, kind of, I got, that I wasn't fighting for the income tax.

And I said, “Ken,” I said, “what we’re going to do is, the way I figure it is, is get the expenditure items out, take care of those, find out what these people want for money, and then we’ll look at the tax thing.” And I said, “Any tax thing that comes up, I’m going to leave it up to everyone to vote,” you know, “within our party and with the others. I’m not going to debate it. They just vote it up or down, and I’m not going to take. You know, I’ll have to vote, but take positions on it.” And so we ran every tax measure through. Income tax, whoosh, didn’t get any votes. Sales tax increase didn’t get any votes. Tax on foods, that didn’t get any votes. I mean we just ran things right through and left, it takes a few tries. And he was getting upset, and I said, “Well,” I said, “look at—“ the appropriations in the meantime was getting all the packages, and the appropriations came out with a package that Ken basically wanted. There was only one way you could pay for it, and that was with the income tax. Otherwise it wouldn’t make any money, you know.

But everyone wanted to get the tax, so then they could find out, it kind, made them forced to get that out. And I- see Ken never served in the legislature, and he was an excellent governor, and he would have been an excellent legislator. And I always kind of felt as if we outmaneuvered them. And the thing was, the amazing thing was, sitting there, now I’m bragging, is I had the president of the senate, Ken MacCleod, who was a conservative, president of the senate, president of the senate. Bennett Katz, chairman of the appropriations committee. Joe Sewall, he was chairman of the appropriations committee, Bennett was education committee. I had speaker of the house, Jim, and, Mills, I had all those people lined up, and they were voted. The thing that really ticked me off was, you know Louis Jalbert? You’ve heard that name, well, Louis, and in fact Louis came in, and I was there early in the morning. Louis got there early, he says, “Bud, why don’t you like me?” And I said, “Louis,” I says, “I don’t dislike you,” but I said, “you know, you got to be honest with me. And I’m not going to take your stuff, and I’ll, you know, you talk to me, and I’ll tell you, and what I say will be it.” But I said, I, you know, “I don’t like what’s going on.” So from there we went out and got, started getting the vote.

But the house I thought was going to be the problem. I had the votes in the senate to do the job, from promises, okay? And they were a lot of Republicans, obviously. And, but I thought that the problem was going to be in the house. And what happened is, and you’re not going to believe this, and I can’t prove it, but the unions, after all their talking to me about the income tax, was against the income tax. And the, so Louis got it passed in the house, and it came to the senate, and Dana Childs, you know, you ever interviewed Dana?

MB: I haven’t, but I know.

CR: Yeah, Dana was a good guy, he was all right. He’d been a Republican; he was a Democrat, and that was kind of a handicap. And he, we ran him for governor against Ken. And, so this bill landed in the senate, and so we had the vote, (*unintelligible phrase*), and I won’t use his name, I’ll tell you, there was two (*unintelligible phrase*) and a Democrat from Lewiston, a senator from Androscoggin, Senator, I can’t remember the name. Anyway, they weren’t there, so I didn’t have the two thirds vote. And, but we did have the majority; we carried it along. I sent the state troopers out to look for them, and they couldn’t find them. Ben was sitting there, right, every morning, and I can’t vouch for this, but anyway, I finally got a switch, and I can’t remember who the deciding vote was. Because the one from Lewiston came back, so all I

needed was the one vote to get that two thirds vote, and there was only fourteen Democrats and I think we needed twenty-two.

So anyway, we had all the Republicans lined up that, all the Republican leadership supported us, the chairman and so on and so forth, and it got, and we passed it, and everyone was amazed and so on and so forth. But then, but (*name*) never came back, I've never seen him since. And I've often thought, he's from Millinocket, that, you know, he didn't want to go on anymore. But that was, that was the year we passed the income tax, we, and basically it was because, you know, no one wanted to give up the package.

We had a lot for the university, we, and Ken did this, I didn't do that. But he had a good program of things, things would change.

But I had a football coach once, and I'm probably foaming at the mouth, he used to drive me crazy when he'd get all excited, and I didn't know whether I was foaming at the mouth. But he, so that, and I was done, and, but the amazing thing is, I would go in, Gerry Conley, did you interview Gerry? He, yeah, Jerry was a card. He sat next to me in the session. And then I sat next to Chuck (*name*) one time in the senate. He was another card, I had a great time. It just, it, I kind of lost my train of thought, so I'd better get going. But that was probably the highlight. And I, I guess I was going to say that I did get kind of emotional there at one time and I felt like a fool, but I, you know, I was really upset. And I laid it a little heavier on the line than I thought.

And, oh, but after that, you know, I don't know if you know how the legislature works. You have the appropriations table, which has about a hundred bills on it, and then you have all the money, and we had all the money. And, but you know, there's still picking and choosing to do. But the point is that the Republicans were so mad at their leadership, they wouldn't vote with them. So the leadership, Ken MacCleod didn't have control of the senate because more than half of his troops wouldn't even speak to him. So the only one he had to go to was the Democrats, and so we went in and very cordially, and I never really rubbed that into him or talked that. But I got anything I wanted because we had the votes, even though we only the fourteen senators. And we had to have the three quarters vote to do it, a lot of them, all the emergency measures. So Jerry got his mayors' bill through, and, I don't know, it was just a fun session, rather dramatic. But I still, you know, I think we passed a two percent, and now what it is, up fifteen? Something like that?

MB: I wanted to ask you, you mentioned that after you ran for governor, then you decided to get out of politics?

CR: Yes.

MB: What did you decide to do at that point?

CR: Just work. I mean, I've got six kids. And they were in, I mean, you know, they all went to college. But let's see, four of them went to Colby, and one, let's see, geez, four at Colby, one went to the University of Maine, and, oh my youngest one went to Simmons.

MB: Now, when did you meet your wife?

CR: At high school, yeah. And I was a country boy. She was a city girl, in Bath. And right now, you know, it's, no problem there, it's just, the luckiest guy in the world and she's, as I said, she was a teacher, and, when she was a Bath girl, and all the kids basically pretty much live around us. I've got seventeen grandchildren, so that number's fairly high. Three, two of them are at Colby, I mean, they're getting old now. And I, you know, I've had a lucky, I have a lot of lucky things happen to me I guess, and I'm not saying it's been an easy ride, but it's been an interesting one.

MB: How did you get involved with the Central Maine Power Company?

CR: Well, you know, that's something that was funny. I got out of politics, okay? And I, I always tried, and they were very interested in (*unintelligible phrase*). And I can remember, who was the guy, who was that lobbyist they had there for Central Maine? He'd come in, and he was friendly, and he'd, oh, he used to be a cement salesman, I remember that. Father always referred to him as a cement salesman. He hated the power company. And I said, I told him, I said, "Look," I said, I, "the only time you're going to get an honest vote from me is in enactment because," I said, "I, I'm going to help people out, I'm going to do things, and people are going to call me hypocrite and so on and so forth, but I just want to be honest with you when it comes to enactment." And they wanted eminent domain, and I, you know, I didn't vote for eminent domain, but I, I told every lobbyist the same thing. I can help some guy out if he says, if you could give me a vote so we can go somewhere and get it a little further to committee, I'd do that, you know. But when enactment comes, I may vote against what you're doing after having voted for it, and I want you to understand right off the bat. And I don't know if anyone else did that or not, but I did that, and that's the way I operated. And I think that, I like to think that, you know, I was fairly honest. I mean I would stand up to Louis Jalbert, I mean, I, Muskie or anyone else. I mean, you know, I was stupid enough to speak my piece and believe in what I believed.

And I had a call from Bill Dunham and Dr. Phillips, who was president of Bates here. And they wanted me to come down, and they still laugh about it, my lawn, I mean I had the house, it's a nice house and all that, but I built it and I didn't know what I was doing. But it came out okay, and the lawn, I, he said the lawn was so burned and, anyway, the two of them came down and I told Betty, she says, "Well, what do they want?" And I said, "Well, I know what they want. But they didn't tell me, they said they wanted to see me, they wanted me to lobby for Central Maine Power Company. And I'll be damned if I, I would never be a lobbyist, it was the last thing in the world, I just never would do that. And they came down, and then they asked if I'd go on the board at CMP, so I did.

And I stayed twenty-five years. And Bill Dunham was president, I didn't even know a thing about it, I didn't even know I had to own a share of stock to be on the committee, to be a chair, before I could go on the board. And Bill Dunham bought me a stock for I think it was fifteen dollars he gave me, he says, "You got to have this to be on." And that was, it was, I was the only Democrat on the whole board, and I think that's what they wanted, you know, because they were getting fired at. And then I ended up, by the time I got done, we had all the Democrats in there, we had more Democrats than Republicans.

They had, I, that was another one, I can remember, everything was unanimous, and something came up and, oh, it was eminent domain came up, and I voted no. And I was the only one that voted no. And they all looked at me as if, you know, we don't do things that way, Bud. This was early on. But no one said anything, and I did. And the other thing I really worked hard at, I got really kind of interested and fascinated. And then I went on the bank board, too.

MB: Which bank?

CR: Well, it started out at Canal Bank. And then it went, from Canal it went to, Canal was gobbled up by Depositor's, we joined, and then we met in Augusta. And then Depositor's got gobbled up by Key Bank. So it went through three transitions, and I was there twenty-two years on those boards. And Victor Reilly was a great guy. He was the head of it, and he wasn't that active here, but he used to come to the meetings, and he was, he made Key Bank, and now it's in all kinds of trouble because he's gone. So I was on that board. And it did, and then I, you know, spent seven years as a trustee of the University of Maine and ten years as a, on the State Board of Education. That was kind of a good experience; it kept you kind of involved. Now, where was I before that? You'll have to get me on the -

MB: You had a, you had been the only one to vote no.

CR: Oh, on the Senate, yeah. And then, and the other thing that I became very active in with them is, you know, being more open to our meetings. And, we had Russell, John Russell. We got some good people on there. And of course Chuck Phillips was chairman of that, and he was very capable, but when he went, there was some, you had the president of the company, and that's where they got in trouble with Ken Curtis I guess, or something, on rate cases. It had been kind of a closed door, you know, in the PUC.

MB: On what cases?

CR: The rate. See, CMP has to have a, I mean, they're a regulated utility, and the Public Utilities Commission rates it, and there was a good rela-, it was almost a cozy relationship between the two, and it wasn't as open as it should be. And then, I remember while I was there the president caught in, well, Skip (*name*) said he never told a lie. And I don't, I kind of believe him, but anyway he had to resign. And that's when, that's when things are exciting is when, you know, that came about.

And I became quite active at that time in trying to open it up, the trustee, the board of directors of corporations, and I became a champion of having the outside director, which we did have, but it was sort of a chosen one by the president of the company rather than the board itself. And then I, and of course I kind of would work Russell because he wanted to be chairman of the board, he was very capable, but he became sick for two years, and so I ran it pretty nearly, like I was opposed to having a vice chairman. And finally they did have the vice chairmanship, and I ended up with that. Because John said he couldn't, he needed someone to, because he couldn't be there a lot, and he was head of Hannaford, and very capable guy, I thought the world of him. And then we went through the Skip fiasco.

Then, who the devil was the guy that I fired? That was terrible, and then he died, do you remember that? He came, well they had a search committee, and they put me on the search committee. But I didn't have anything to do with that, I was on one, the second one. I wasn't, and I didn't really care. But I, and it wasn't anything he did that was wrong, it's just that he did nothing in the company, it was just had no leadership. And I spotted that and I just called it in; it was the worst thing I ever did in my life because I never fire people. I fired one person, the first one for Reed & Reed, and he went out and committed suicide the next day. I'll never forget it. I was just out of college, it was up in Fryeburg. I was probably twenty-two years old. And I didn't know he had a mental condition, and he did have. And I told him, I told him to do things and he wouldn't do them. And so I didn't, and I'll tell you, then I laid him off. He went back to Florida, he was with Florida Light and Power, went back to work for them, and he died about a year later, he had cancer. And, I just, so I didn't have any luck that way.

But I thought the fact we had one, *Wall Street Journal* carried quite a piece on CMP's board of directors. And it kind of highlighted we had, in fact I had my picture, in fact my brother-in-law called up, and he's in the investment business down there, I mean my son-in-law. And Paul says, "Geez," he says, "people down in New York spend their life trying to get their picture in the *Wall Street Journal*, and you got yours." But the theme of it was, it was Matt Hunter, and Matt was saying he knew who was boss. And I said, "Well," I said, "you know," and the two of us were interviewed on the phone. I was amazed that they put it down there. And I said, "You know, the board runs the company, and that's all I'm saying is it's your board of directors. And it's not the president that's running the company, it's the board. He may be chief executive officer, and he may carry a lot of weight and all that, and we listen to him, and there's no problem there. But ultimately committee decisions, items on the agenda, all those things, I wanted to see. You just didn't go in, and they passed it to you, you know. And they got used to it, and I think they liked it, and I think it works out well. So those are the boards.

The other one was the bank board had gotten into trouble and that was interesting, too, and we had to fire the president, Woodry Thomas, who owned the bank. And Woodry just didn't have it, I don't think he even wanted to president of the company, but his father did. And, and, it's a terrible thing but, again, I enjoyed, you know, playing a role there and making the decisions and setting things up. Now I'm bragging. Okay.

MB: Do you have to go?

CR: No.

MB: Okay, what was your involvement with Reed & Reed? You mentioned that you were certainly involved once you got involved with business.

CR: Oh, that was how I earned my living.

MB: So you, did you take it over?

CR: Well, I had a son-in-law that came, because I was getting busy, and that's when we

decided to take our son-in-law, Ed. And Ed came, and dad was getting older, and in fact we changed offices and stuff. He wasn't going in, but, yeah, and Ed came on and kind of took care of the book work. I like the field part; I like the crews, and there's nothing any more interesting to sit down and eat lunch with a construction gang. I used to say I learned more there than I did in the legislature. You saw, I can remember when Barry Goldwater was running; they'd sit down, they would hate him. They thought, I can remember, it was just, and they would get talking. You just learn so much. And back then- now everyone goes to a lunch counter, you know, all this stuff. But we all used to bring our lunch buckets and I always had my lunch. And we'd all sit down and chew the fat for a half hour and eat and talk and tell stories.

And as I said, it was just, and then I had the opportunity at the same time to go and sit and talk with the governor and the council and put your suit on and all that crap. And, as I said, I really learned just as much of what was going on in the real world down there, as I did in there. And I always thought that that helped me tremendously, and I never gave that up until probably, you know, well, it was a long time ago when I got out of the legislature and even then whenever I could. As I said, now our gang doesn't do that, I mean everyone, lunch counters and eating out and so on and so forth, but. . . .

MB: From your experiences with business and politics and the board of the Central Maine Power, how would you describe Maine's economic development?

CR: In the context of what we have now, or in the past?

MB: Kind of how it transitioned, and what you had in the past and how it's become what you have today.

CR: Oh, I just think that that is a result of, you know, if you stay still long enough things happen? And, you know, our economy originally was sea and forest, farming, ship building. Obviously during the 1840s, '50s, '60s, and so on and so forth, you have the textile mills coming in, you had a lot of political changes, you had towns disappearing. As I said, it's, we just built a dam up at. . . . Geez, what is it, that, it'll come to me, that big lake way up there in, that turns the Allagash River, Chamberlain Lake, the dam up there. And we just rebuilt that, and there was a town there. They're gone. I mean, some of the buildings are still standing. And that changes.

If you look at, look at us now. I mean, it's just, technology has taken over. And you can, I think economic development, sure, you can manipulate it. In other words, if you want to give tax credits and if you want to give all this money and so on and so forth to get an industry in for a period of years, then you can do it, you can buy a company to come in and employ and so on and so forth.

I think that as far as Maine, and the other thing that was a big boost, one of the great things, and of course we learned that from Hitler in WWII, was the interstate system. I mean, Hitler had a transportation system this country doesn't. I think one of the big challenges in my opinion right now is to bring a railroad system into this country. I think it is terrible because, I just went down to Pennsylvania in the car, I couldn't believe the trucks. You've got to get the big trucks off the road. You've got to have a railroad system that is comparable to our interstate system, which is

all of a sudden in a sense kind of being outdated, but it's been a godsend to the country. You've got to have east-west trains, maybe at least two I'd say, going from the west coast to the east coast. You're going to have some going north and south from Canada to Mexico and up that way. I think that the main reason is you're going to have containers. But even the trailers that you're towing behind trucks now, you're just going to put them on the trains, and they're going to go, and they're going to stop. I think you should have, be able to go to Portland, put your car on the train, you get on a sleeper train, go to Florida, and get off the train, get on your car, and go where you're going. And I think that this country really needs something like that.

Now I'm preaching, but to me, you know, this is, it's stupid to spend a fortune like we're doing down at the Big Dig in Boston. I mean, that is a construction nightmare, it's, I realize he's a Democrat, Ted Kennedy, I mean they got the power, they got the money. But it's, you're not spending money wisely, and that's what you've got to do. And you've got to have transportation to connect this country from east and west coast; especially with the Panama Canal with-in, I think it's sort of in harm's way with the new takeover. I mean, right now in, but it's outdated anyway, and there's no reason why you just can't get, but it's going to take money. I think that it's going to have to be publicly funded so you have to. I didn't mean to talk about the railroads, but I guess that these are the things that dictate economic development and service to the country.

And, I don't know, the trouble is you elect people to office without vision, we really do. It's amazing that, attorneys for instance, I'm not saying anything for Ed because I think Ed had vision- but so many of them don't, you know, everything's nuts and bolts and the law book and, you know, so on and so forth. And engineers are terrible, too. My father couldn't stand them. Of course he said the only problem with engineers, they couldn't read or write. But he loved to do that stuff, he was always challenging, they write a specification, and they put the biggest garbage in it that, it makes no sense.

So, I know I'm not really answering your question, but that is the key, it's, you can't go back and bring in industry that is outdated and is changing. And I think the world is, you know, I tell Betty, I said, "You know, Betty, we've lived in the best of times." I mean I can't, I don't think it's ever going to be, and hopefully it will be. Hopefully it will be. But we are in a world economy, look what you've got, I mean here we are paying fuel, how much are we paying for fuel? It's sky high. And we got a country down there that's putting one on Russia, and they're taking it off, and we stop it. I understand it, I don't want to take and recognize it, but at the same time, why should a cartel have that kind of a grip on the world? And that's what it has.

And so, you know, we're the United States, true, but it's a world, and I don't know how you mesh all these things together because it is so different. And we've done, Betty and I have done quite a bit of traveling, you know, I'm not saying, I haven't been to China because I don't really want to go. I don't like their food, I'm sure, but I don't know that, but, you know, we've been there. And you go to Africa and Europe, and we did the Danube and Australia, and a lot of places, (*unintelligible phrase*). You just see the world, and yet people are so much alike and yet they are in some ways so different. And how you get that together, you know, I'd like to talk with someone like Muskie, he must have had such a, you know, so much more vision than what I, you know, probably have.

But I still think that Washington is, I just don't know, I just don't think that they're that creative. I just, everything is run by polls, and I really have a terrible fear that the press has such influence on the American public that it scares me. It does, and, for good or for bad. So, I shouldn't ask you how old you are. But are you from here?

MB: I actually live in Connecticut.

CR: Connecticut, oh. Where do you come from in Connecticut?

MB: A town called Newtown. It's near Danbury, down south.

CR: Oh yeah. My daughter lives in, (*unintelligible phrase*), well, it isn't there, but she is in Connecticut. I know the address is really quite a drive, and it begins with D.

MB: Darien?

*End of Side B, Tape One
Side A, Tape Two*

MB: This is tape two of the interview with Carlton Reed. You had mentioned that you had been involved with being a Muskie delegate during the time that he was running for vice president, correct?

CR: No, no, I was there in Chicago, okay, and Ed Muskie after that, Hubert Humphrey, most people said if Muskie had been running for president instead of Hubert Humphrey, there was a lot of feeling at least in Maine that Muskie would have gotten elected. But Hubert Humphrey just didn't make it. And then Ed Muskie became a candidate for president of the United States.

And so, and it became kind of shifty. I can't remember how the rules were changed so that the delegates had to be chosen in caucus. And I think- I'm not sure you had to declare it, but you had to, and were held to it. But anyway you, anyway, they called up and wanted to know if I would go to the convention and be a Muskie delegate. And I can't remember, but, because there was quite a strong movement for, I don't know who the other candidate was; I don't even know who ended up with it, do you? The year Muskie, well anyway, so I went to that, and I went to the caucus, and of course that wasn't that hard because I knew the people there, and I went to the one in Miami, Betty and I did. And, God it was hot. And I just, at that time I just felt sorry for Ed, and, I mean, his, I guess he knew that he wouldn't get it, and I guess I was upset in that I wished he was still fighting for it.

You know, I fight until I die, and I think Ed would have. But you know, he's more practical than I am I guess, and he knew that it wasn't, he was in the United States senate of course, and I wouldn't be. But, you know, this is what I like in people. I vote for people that I don't even like if I think they fight for what they believe in, you know. And damn it, that's what I was getting around to, I didn't mean to swear, but that is something, you know. And, but Ed, I didn't blame him for that, but I just felt sorry for him, and I couldn't wait to get home.

And that was a tough time for him. I remember coming back. I think we all came back on a plane, and the only two of us that were wearing the Muskie pin was Muskie's wife and me. And I never took it off. You know, and it's, and I'm quite sure she came, I think that was the Florida one she came back with us on the plane. And, you know, it was just a, kind of a poor arrival because of course there still was the election to take place, but it was, you know, it didn't matter. And I remember that, we landed in Portland airport, and Betty said I should take it off, she said, the only one's that's got it is Ed's wife. And I don't know why, how she happened to come back, I don't know.

MB: You had mentioned that during your early career, you had campaigned for Muskie as well.

CR: I did.

MB: How did you get involved with that, and what did that entail?

CR: Well, I was running for office myself I guess, and, you know, we always worked as a team. We were kind of unique in Sagadahoc after we didn't have anyone we'd, all of us would go out. There'd be a dozen people. We'd hit a town, we'd go around and talk with people and so on and so forth, and always had the Muskie literature, whenever he was (*unintelligible word*), I mean he was the, he was our leader. And also it was good politics from our point because he always got more votes than we did, so you know, this is just the way you do it.

MB: You had mentioned that you were very involved in cleaning up the rivers and so forth, and I know that was something that Muskie was very supportive of as well. Were there any things that you and Muskie disagreed on, or any -?

CR: Yeah, one of them I haven't forgiven him yet. It was Prestile Stream, you know, the potato plant up there? I was the only voter in the senate that voted against the Prestile Stream. And he was all hooked up with Freddy Vahlsing, and Freddy was, he had a lot of money with his Phi Beta Kappa. I can remember, Ken Curtis was governor, and Freddy Vahlsing is swinging his Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton and telling him that, "It's time, the ship is leaving," or some such saying, "the ship is leaving; we got to make up our minds." And Ed was, supported that, and it was funny. I was president of the senate, and we had the Democrats, and I had told you I promised I'd never vote against lowering the classification of a river.

And of course another one was Rayburn McDonald, who I liked, and he was head of that too, and he was a Muskie appointee I think. I used to get mad at him. The other one was Blue Hill, and they had a mining company that came in, and it upset me because I was on the natural resource committee meeting. And the guy came in and said what he was for and so on and so forth. And I can remember one senator, I won't talk, but he said, "Boy," he says, "I bet that stock's going to go up; I'll buy it." So he came down, and they built the Blue Hill thing.

And just before that, in that same session, there was this lake. There was guy with a saw mill, and he was a loner; I think he ran it and sawed, but he put his sawdust in the water. And the DEP was there to shut him down. The guy came, I can remember him just now, he said,

“Where,” I says, “I can’t, what am I going to do with my sawdust?” He says, “I’ve dumped it there for years in the river” and so on and so forth, and he says, I just have to close it up and go.” So he did, okay. Then, this big mining company came down from Canada that wanted to go into Blue Hill and open up the mine. They didn’t want to lower the classification; they eliminated the classification altogether. And the legislature zipped it right through. And that time was the time after the Vahlsing thing. I opposed it, and I did get Ed to, Berry, Ed Berry out of, senator from Portland, he, I guess he was in the house, representative, we did get a few votes but not many.

And, because they realized, see, anyway, of course it makes it easy for me to second guess now because the sugar beet company was a disaster, and he didn’t pay the farmers, and there was a big fiasco. But he was a blowhard. I mean, you know, knowing people, being able to sense, and I’m not bragging, I think that I can spot that. You know, I guess maybe that’s construction and crews, you know, some people can produce, and others talk about producing. And I don’t know what happened, and of course I never made much money or anything like that but, and some people have, and I guess they’re often times guys that are good talkers.

But he was in Washington, and I was here, and I voted against Freddy. And it was kind of embarrassing because at the convention we, (*unintelligible word*) was there, but Freddy Vahlsing was, drove us all around. Betty said, “He loves you.” But he got it. He didn’t care because he won his case. But, you know, I’d made the promise that I told you, my first term, I’d never vote for lowering the classification of a river. And it made it easy for me. It made it easy for me. And that was stupid in a sense, but you know. They could have done something else. They could have put in a treatment plant. They could have done some such thing as to solve the problem from the beginning. I think that the paper company there (*unintelligible word*) more justification, they had to have some time. I was willing to give them time as long as the goals were set, and I was willing to help them financially if that, of course they didn’t really didn’t want that because they were a private industry and so on and so forth.

But yeah, Ed- and Ed and I never came to a clash. I don’t think we ever talked about it, but I was upset. And then Ed got more involved in air pollution when he was in Washington. And I was always supportive of that, but I thought air pollution was a lot different issue than water pollution, and I think they were trying to treat it the same way. And I think in a sense that I had some justification for that looking back because it’s proven, it’s just like air quality here, and, what is it they kept calling about? They claimed it’s a nat--, a lot of it is a natural phenomena, and they were claiming it was due to the smoke stacks and so on and so forth. And I do think that’s a problem, I do think we should clean it, but now they claim that it’s, as I said, it was out in the mid-west where they had all the coal. We all burn oil here, but the coal plants that are making electricity, I mean, they’re the ones that are bringing all the pollution up here.

And I don’t think they knew all those things because they didn’t go at them, or if they did know them they weren’t honest about coming forward with them, which I think was maybe part of the thing too. I mean, you’ve got to be honest, and that’s number one. I don’t care if I disagree with them, I don’t care if I don’t like them, if I believe that they’re honest, and maybe they were, maybe they didn’t know about some of the things that they do, but that is what you need, that’s what you need.

Okay, I'm going to get out of here. If anyone ought to get the Congressional Medal of Honor for listening to me for an hour and a half, an hour and twenty minutes accurate, an hour and, more than that.

MB: It was very helpful, thank you.

End of Interview