

Bates College

SCARAB

Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection

Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library

9-6-2000

Scott, Betty Winston oral history interview

Don Nicoll

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

Recommended Citation

Nicoll, Don, "Scott, Betty Winston oral history interview" (2000). *Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection*. 357.

https://scarab.bates.edu/muskie_oh/357

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

Interview with Betty Winston Scott by Don Nicoll

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Scott, Betty Winston

Interviewer

Nicoll, Don

Date

September 6, 2000

Place

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

ID Number

MOH 230

Use Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Elizabeth “Betty” (Winston) Scott was born July 28, 1915 in Taunton, Massachusetts. Her parents were Edward Joseph Winston and Bernice Elizabeth Capron Winston. She grew up in Atlantic, Massachusetts and went to school in North Quincy until her father’s promotion to postal inspector for northern New England prompted their move to Portland, Maine in 1928. After finishing high school in Portland, she attended Bates College in Lewiston, Maine where she majored in English, class of 1936. After college, she taught high school Latin in South Portland. There, she met her first husband, John Levinson, and they married and moved to Chicago. In 1968, she traveled with the Muskies, particularly Jane Muskie, for the length of Ed Muskie’s vice presidential campaign.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family background and childhood; father’s career in the postal service; Ed Muskie and their friendship at Bates College and his religious beliefs; Ed Muskie’s job as a bellhop at the Narragansett Hotel; John Levinson; Ed Muskie’s aspirations as a college student; pollution in Rumford, Maine; Brooks Quimby and debating; Ed Muskie as a trustee at Bates College; Bates College in the 1930s; Ed Muskie’s temper; Adlai Stevenson; Hugh Will; Chicago and Scott’s involvement in politics; 1968 Muskie campaign; Jane Muskie during the

1968 campaign; relationship between the Muskies and the Humphreys; Dick Dubord; 1972 presidential campaign and Nixon's "dirty tricks"; and Muskie's experience as Secretary of State.

Indexed Names

Agnew, Spiro
Blair, William McCormick, Jr.
Breault, Elizabeth "Betty" (Muskie)
Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
Chaisson, Irene (Muskie)
Clifford, Clark
Coffin, Frank Morey
Daley, Richard J., 1902-1976
Dubord, Dick
Gray, Clifton Daggett
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978
Isaacson, Irving
Lander, Charlie
Lee, Shep
Levinson, John
McCarthy, Abigail
McCarthy, Eugene J., 1916-2005
McMahon, Dick
Minnow, Newton
Muskie, Edmund S., 1914-1996
Muskie, Eugene
Muskie, Jane Gray
Muskie, Josephine
Muskie, Ned
Muskie, Stephen
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994
Paradis, Lucy (Muskie)
Phillips, Charles Franklin, 1910-
Quimby, Brooks
Reagan, Ronald
Reynolds, Thomas Hedley
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
Smith, Al
Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965
Tower, John G.
Will, Hugh

Transcript

Don Nicoll: It is Wednesday, the 6th of September, the year 2000. We are at 30 Wildwood Drive in Cape Elizabeth, Maine interviewing Betty Scott. Betty, would you tell us your full name and your date of birth?

Betty Scott: Bernice Elizabeth Winston Levinson Scott. And I was born on the 28th of July in 1915.

DN: And where were you born?

BS: Taunton, Massachusetts.

DN: And your parents' names?

BS: Edward Joseph Winston was my father, and my mother was Bernice Elizabeth Capron, spelled C-A-P-R-O-N.

DN: And you were named after your mother?

BS: That's correct.

DN: But you haven't been known as Bernice.

BS: No, well, my grandmother who was an absolute doll was very irritated because she didn't want big Bernice and little Bernice. So she started calling me Betty and I always have gone, always went by the name Betty Winston. And finally, after my first marriage I dropped it so that I just became Elizabeth Winston.

DN: Now, uh, did you grow up in Taunton?

BS: No, when I was quite young we moved, oh, I guess maybe under one. We moved to a place called Atlantic, Massachusetts, which is no longer on the map, but it's on the shore. And I went to school in North Quincy, so it's just north of Wollaston Beach is where it was, and lived there for, until we moved to Maine. My father became postal inspector for northern New England and first he was, had his headquarters in Lewiston and then moved to Portland. So we moved to South Portland when I was a freshman in high school in 1928.

DN: Now, did you have any brothers or sisters?

BS: I had two brothers. My older brother, who has died, was three years older than I and two years ahead of me in school. But then he went to Hebron Academy so when we, we both went to Bates and he was a year ahead of me at Bates.

DN: And why did you select Bates?

BS: Because it was during the Depression and they offered me the best scholarship, so I went to Bates. And it was a wise choice.

DN: Was your father still with the postal service then?

BS: Oh yes.

DN: Had he started in the postal service as a young man?

BS: He started as a, I've forgotten what it was called, but he used to do mail on trains and I guess they sorted and so forth. Anyway, he did (*unintelligible word*) well he was very smart. Anyway, he became a postal inspector and quite, oh, I could have been, must have been when I was six or seven, so, and he did that until he retired.

DN: Now, were your parents at all interested in politics?

BS: Not particularly, but they were very unusual living in Maine because they were Democrats. And I could, I couldn't vote until I graduated from college because you had to be twenty-one at that time, and I was still twenty when I graduated. But in North Quincy where I went to school they used to skip you. So anyhow, Roosevelt was, I remember being interested in Al Smith. I thought he didn't have a chance because he was a Catholic. And then, I guess I voted in '32 perhaps, and I haven't always voted for Democrats but normally I do, because usually they agree more with my ideas. Sometimes they haven't.

DN: Now your folks weren't involved in politics -

BS: No, they weren't.

DN: But did they talk much about their interest in -?

BS: Oh, they talked about it, my father talked about everything and he was very interested in politics. He was interested in how everything worked and he was interested in everything that happened in the world. He was a good educator, for me at least.

DN: Did your mother have similar interests?

BS: Not as much as he did, no. She was in the traditional woman's position of the day and thought it was ridiculous for me to go to college, and it cost enough for the boys to go and they should come first. My father said, if she wants to go she's going, so I did. I came across a bill when I was moving out of the apartment in Chicago. And I was living at the home of the Shakespeare professor at Bates as an au pair girl, so my board and room was taken care of. And the bill for the semester, the tuition was a hundred dollars and I had a hundred dollar scholarship which cancelled it so my parents I think had to pay something like seventeen dollars for books and other fees that you have at college; sounds incredible now. My grandchildren's bills are astronomical, because unfortunately they don't qualify for scholarships.

DN: Were you an au pair girl through your college years?

BS: No, no, I just did it for two years, and I was on campus my freshman year and my senior year.

DN: When did you, what was your major at Bates?

BS: English.

DN: Had you planned to teach after?

BS: Yes, I did and I practiced teaching when I, there wasn't much else open and obviously I was going to work. I wasn't going to be able to go anywhere else. And I loved teaching as a matter of fact, I did. I had graduated from South Portland High School, I got, did my practice there. Although when I went there the Latin teacher was sick and they had no substitute so instead of doing the normal practice teaching I spent three months teaching four years of Latin. And I did teach at South Portland until I married John.

DN: How much Latin education had you had?

BS: Well I had seven years.

DN: Seven years.

BS: Mm-hmm.

DN: From high school through Bates.

BS: Four years of Latin in high school and two years at, I did three years of Latin and three years of German.

DN: You were a classics scholar practically.

BS: Well not really, I wasn't bright enough.

DN: When did you first meet Ed Muskie?

BS: Right off. And I was trying to, knowing you were coming, I was trying to think how and I don't remember except I do remember vividly our walking to church every Sunday together. He was very shy and he was particularly shy with women, and I don't know why he found it easy to talk to me. So we went to church every Sunday and he was, it's interesting because he was beset with doubts about Catholicism. Of course he was always beset with doubts about everything. But, and I spent a great deal of time trying to persuade him that he was wrong and actually I think I was trying to persuade myself because I was the one that dropped out and he did not, although Jane is the staunchest Catholic of all which I think sometimes happens to converts. So I remember walking to church with him every Sunday.

And he, I can't remember which one came more often, one of his sisters came quite often. It was

either Lucy or Irene and, would come with his mother. I don't remember his father ever coming. But he always had me talk to them and we just became friends.

DN: When, when you were going to church and discussing Catholicism and matters of Catholic faith, were there particular areas that concerned him as you recall?

BS: That I don't remember. I remember the areas that concerned me terribly, but I don't remember what concerned him.

DN: But he, in spite of those doubts he was actively -?

BS: Yeah, he stayed.

DN: He stayed.

BS: I don't know, I don't think, well I shouldn't say this because I don't know it, I don't know. But it became very important to Jane, and all the ritual involved was important to her. And I think it was so much a part of Ed's wife that he probably never would have given it up because his family was very, very devout.

DN: Did you get evidence of that devotion when you met Lucy and Irene and met the rest of his family?

BS: Well of course I've seen, saw so much of them. It's hard to separate the periods because after they moved back to, after he moved back to Kennebunk Beach and brought his family with him of course I saw a lot more of his family when we came down to visit him than I did in between. We, he worked, as I'm sure you know, as a bellhop at the Narragansett Hotel at Kennebunk Beach for years and years and years. In my sophomore and junior years, summers after my sophomore and junior years, I waited on table at another hotel down there so I saw quite a bit of him. And I think that's when we went up to Rumford, and that's why I was trying to remember how in the world we ever got up there. Because I don't think it was actually from Bates.

He, so we saw each other practically every day down there. And he had, the Narragansett had those big tubs that you have down in the basement where you can do your washing and so forth. My hotel was small enough so that it didn't, so I used to go down once a week and he'd wash my hair in one of these tubs. And when he was elected governor I sent him a telegram saying now I can brag that I've had my hair washed by the governor of Maine. But he said afterwards he didn't release that.

I didn't see much of him after college, although New Year's Eve '38, '38-'39, another couple from Bates and Ed and I spent New Year's Eve at the Ritz Carlton dancing. Where they ever got the money to, Roger and Ed, to pay for it I don't know, although I'm sure it doesn't cost so much now as it did then. So I didn't see him. I met John the next summer and married him shortly.

DN: Where did you meet John?

BS: This friend of mine from Bates, the same one who was with us at New Year's Eve, brought him up one day. They had met at Kennebunk Beach because he was writing that "High Tide" thing with, he and Joy Dow were writing that magazine (*unintelligible word*). And this was two weeks after I announced my engagement to somebody else. Anyway, we were, John and I were married the same summer.

And I think the next time I saw Ed the, it was John's fortieth birthday which, he came to Chicago. It was just after he was elected governor, and he came to Chicago to speak to I think it was the Chicago Athletic Club, which is not an athletic club at all but a very conservative social club. And so he got somebody to drive him. I always meant to ask Charlie Lander if he'd come with him or not and I never got around to doing it. But anyway, whoever it was drove him up to the North Shore to my house and it happened to be John's fortieth birthday, which is why I remember the date. And I think that was the first time I'd seen him since Christmas Eve, I mean since New Year's Day of '39 because I got married and moved to Chicago.

DN: Now that would have been -?

BS: Nineteen -

DN: Thirty-nine, he was just -

BS: He'd just been elected. John's birthday was October 24th I think and he was born in 1914 so it would have been '54.

DN: Yeah, that would have been right after the election.

BS: And I remember a good friend of mine who was a federal judge by the name of Hugh Will called me afterwards and said, "Well I was very disappointed in your friend." And I said, "Why?" And he said, "Well, he's not a, he's reasonably conservative." And I said, "Well for God's sake, you certainly didn't expect a wild eyed radical to get elected governor of Maine for heaven's sake." But anyway, it was a successful speech I was told by my other friends.

DN: Now you, John Levinson was from Chicago.

BS: Right.

DN: And so after you -

BS: But he had a sum-, they had a, his family had a summer home at Kennebunk Beach from through 1940.

DN: That's where you met.

BS: Yeah. Well, I met him in South Portland, that's where Roger brought him up to my house with a couple of other Bates people.

DN: And after you were married you moved to Chicago.

BS: Right.

DN: Now -

BS: John was in his last year of law school and I was doing, I did graduate work at the University of Chicago.

DN: Was that in English also, or edu- ?

BS: Yes, but I, what I did was take things I hadn't had in college. I took a course in philosophy I never had; and I audited (*unintelligible phrase*) course on the Constitution in law school with John; and I took a graduate course in Chaucer and one in English poetry, modern poetry, which was absolutely fascinating. And the professor who was English and I became good friends. But I, before the year was over I had a premature baby so I never really followed through in getting a degree.

DN: Now had you taught between graduation from Bates and getting there?

BS: Yeah, I taught the first year at Kennebunkport High School, which no longer exists. And then I taught at South Portland for two years. And I taught right up until the day before I was married, which was late in September. I had quite a bit of problems with them because they for some reason didn't want me to leave. And I was too embarrassed to say I was going to be married because everybody there knew the guy I was engaged to. And so I said, which was true, that I had a chance to go to the University of Chicago and get a master's degree. Well, they'd give me tenure if I stayed and all this stuff, so I, but they didn't want to advertise it because it still was kind of during the Depression and they didn't want to be deluged with applicants so I agreed to stay until the night before I got married, but anyhow, too much about me.

DN: Oh, no. When you were at Bates and Ed was a student also, did you have classes together as well?

BS: That I can't remember. We, the only course I'm sure that we took together was government, but I can't remember whether we were in the same class or not. And I don't remember how I first met him but I think it must have been because we bumped into each other walking to church or some such thing because I do remember our freshman year walking to church together every Sunday.

DN: And you have told me that you talked about religion quite a bit. Did you also have discussions about politics during that period?

BS: Oh, at the beginning he wasn't as terribly interested as he got to be. But then he started thinking about it more and more, although he didn't talk much about his own aspirations as far as politics were concerned.

DN: What were his aspirations then?

BS: Well, he didn't know. He knew he was, he was pretty sure he was going to go to law school but beyond that he, I think he always had politics in mind but perhaps was a little afraid, being a Democrat in Maine, to voice it. I don't know, that's just a surmise.

DN: What do you remember about his sisters, what were they like?

BS: Well, the one that I saw the most of who was either Lucy or Irene was a very nice gal and devoted to Ed, and they were good friends. And Eugene, I don't think they ever were close at all. And Betty of course was young. And who was the other one?

DN: Irene, Lucy, Betty, Gene, and I'm drawing a blank.

BS: And Ed, maybe that's all.

DN: I think that was it, five, five children.

BS: Yeah, I guess it was. But anyway, we, I don't remember the inside of his house at all but as soon as I got on that street I recognized the outside of the house. We went with Neddy.

DN: This is at the dedication of the memorial.

BS: Dedication, we, Neddy wanted to see if he could find it. And I do remember I think she had lemonade and cookies for us, Mrs. Muskie. And how, why we didn't have to work or, I just, it's a blank. I just remember going up. And it was such a, I thought to myself how can anybody live here, this town stinks. Which of course it did, I guess, and it was very smoky.

DN: Did Ed talk about that at all?

BS: Yeah, it bothered him. And I'm sure that had a profound influence on his Clean Air and also Clean Water, he was as you know dedicated to those two things.

DN: Do you remember talking with his father at all?

BS: No, it's funny I don't even remember his father. And I'm sure I met him, I had to have met him, but I don't remember it. And I didn't see anywhere near as much of him as I did of Lucy and Irene and his mother. Even down at Kennebunk Beach, well I guess his father, what year did his father die?

DN: Well his father died in 1955 or '56, it was after Ed was elected governor. What was his mother like?

BS: She was, well she was a nice lady, I liked her. And she was devoted to her kids. She had a mind of her own, which they all did really which was good.

DN: When, did you get much of a sense from incidents or just general style about Ed having a mind of his own in those days at Bates, and at Kennebunk?

BS: Oh, I don't know, he always had one ever since I met him, and he had no reluctance to, despite the fact that he was so shy it was more in personal relationships than anything else. He was perfectly willing to talk about what bothered him and what he didn't believe in. But it wasn't until I think maybe the end of his sophomore year that he really came into his own, and how much Brooks Quimby had to do with this I don't know but I think he had a profound influence on him.

DN: Ed and Professor Quimby were quite close, do you think?

BS: Yes, I think they were.

DN: Did you attend many of the debates?

BS: Yes. I don't remember those either.

DN: Do you remember the team of Muskie and Isaacson?

BS: Oh yes, indeed. Of course I, having been on the board of trustees at Bates for so long, I knew, saw Irv [Irving Isaacson] again and he came on the board as an overseer fairly late. But, you know, Ed was, the board of trustees at Bates was very conservative, and when I went on I went first as an overseer and then became a fellow. There were, I was fifty-something and I was the kid, you know, this is ridiculous. And they were going on and on and on and getting worse and worse and kept saying, well I'll know when I'm not ready to do this any more. And the set up at Bates was that trustees, the overseers could either be appointed or elected from the alumni association, but their terms were five years and they could be reelected, but the fellows were for life. And these staunch people decided that Ed wasn't coming to enough meetings so they didn't want him on the board of trustees. I think they were afraid he would get to be a fellow, which of course he did eventually, so they wouldn't reappoint him to the board of overseers. He always used to kid me because that was the year I went on and he said I took his place, which of course I didn't. But after Hedley came back on, came, became president he said of course this is so ridiculous and Ed was put back on the board.

DN: Was that, that was a board decision (*unintelligible phrase*)?

BS: Well, no, it was a committee decision. A committee decides who's going to run for the board of overseers, so Hedley had a lot of influence on it. I don't know anything about the president before Hedley, and I'm sure he used his influence with this. And then after that, they finally decided the only way to get rid of all these people was to say that everybody had to retire at the age of seventy. So these old guys were gone. I mean, even the fellows who were appointed for life, and that was a big hassle because as far as they were concerned life was until they died.

DN: Was, you mentioned the board being quite conservative, was Bates a conservative place in the 1930s?

BS: Yes, I would think so. Clifton Daggett Gray was president when I was there and I can remember his saying once to Ed, well, here's the only Democrat in the college, which of course was not true. So I would say, yes, it was very conservative. And it changed with the times, and it changed, probably Phillips I think was president before I went on the board and I wasn't there very, at Bates much. I went to our thirtieth reunion because Ed and Jane and some other people, we had a house party at Kennebunk Beach and so they came and we all went. But aside from that I think the only other one I'd gone to was our first which was when we were two years out. So I don't know much about Phillips but Reynolds was not conservative, and he did wonderful things for Bates, he really did.

DN: Did you, you as students, spend much time on political issues in the thirties?

BS: No. Sorry to say. I mean, after all there was a war coming and it now seems to me so obvious that it was coming, but -

DN: It didn't seem so then.

BS: It didn't seem so then, or if it did I wasn't aware of it. And the one thing I will say about the early Bates is it really was a completely unprejudiced place. I to this day don't know whether so-and-so was Jewish or wasn't Jewish, and it never occurred to me to think about it. And there were several black students there, and as it turns out they were more or less on a quota but they were there.

DN: Bates had been founded by the Free Will Baptists.

BS: Some Baptists, were they Free, Free Will?

DN: Free Will, yes. And were the Baptists connections still -?

BS: No, there were no religious connections at all. We had to go to chapel at twenty minutes of eight every morning, which was ghastly. But it was very unreligious really.

DN: What are your most vivid memories of those years at Bates?

BS: You mean incidents or over all?

DN: Both, the over all impression and then were there any major events or incidents that stick in your mind as important?

BS: One of them was important only personally. I was going to the senior prom with Ed and he was off on a debating trip and when they got back to Auburn we were having a flood and they couldn't get across the river. So he called a friend who came and picked me up and took me, and he did get there before it was over.

But for me it was a very exciting period because there were all kinds of avenues of learning that were being opened to me that I hadn't really thought much about before, and I think that was true for Ed also. And I think Bates was a good place for Ed.

DN: So it was a stimulating -

BS: Yeah, it was very stimulating.

DN: What courses particularly, or what faculty members were particularly exciting and stimulating?

BS: Well, my Shakespeare professor who was hated by almost everybody was actually the most exciting teacher that I had. I mean, he was the kind of person who when I say he was hated, that's strong. But I can remember bringing my report card home when I was living there and he said, I don't know why we, I've forgotten his name, Wright, is always giving you A's, you're not an A student. But he certainly stimulated a life long interest in Shakespeare for me. And, uh-

DN: Do you remember if Ed took that course?

BS: I think he probably did but he wasn't in my class. And I'm not sure, he might not have done it. I looked, he was a member of the Spofford Club, which was a literary club, but I don't remember his being at the meetings at all.

DN: When, earlier you mentioned that Brooks Quimby and Ed were very close, did that continue after Ed had graduated?

BS: Well I think it probably did because he certainly called him several times when he was running in that '68 campaign, and he had his private home number, so I assume it did. I became much closer to them again after they came back, after he decided to leave China Lake and come to Kennebunk Beach because they lived not very far from us so I saw them all every day. And, now where was I? We were talking about Brooks Quimby.

DN: Brooks Quimby and continuing contacts.

BS: But I don't remember anything about Brooks Quimby when, it's, only time I . . . Ed's reputed temper, I never was a victim of this and was always very reluctant to believe he really had it because I had not seen ever in our relationship any signs of it. But I can remember one day he was at our house at Kennebunk Beach and my husband, John, loved to needle people and whatever they got going on. He was needling Ed about some view that Ed had and Ed got absolutely furious and he got up and he said, "I'm not staying in this house another minute," and he went out and slammed the door and Jane stayed. And the two men had a golf date at seven thirty the next morning and I said to Jane, "Well, what's going to happen?" She said, "Oh he'll be there." So Jane stayed and I guess, although she lived within, I guess he walked home so she drove. And when John got over there at seven-thirty Ed was waiting and the incident was never

mentioned again.

DN: You indicated that when you were in college together he didn't mind expressing his opinion, but I take it that kind of explosive response was not (*unintelligible word*)?

BS: No, I don't remember seeing it in college at all. And I don't know how much expressing of his opinion he did publicly but he-. By the time he was a junior he'd blossomed out considerably and a lot of his shyness was gone, although he was always shy with females.

DN: And you never got a sense of why that was?

BS: No.

DN: Did his sisters act protectively toward him, or?

BS: Yeah, I think so.

DN: After you graduated -

BS: I think they had great admiration for him and were very protective.

DN: And this was true in the college years?

BS: Yeah.

DN: After you graduated from college and you taught and then you were married and went to Chicago, you got involved in politics out there.

BS: Well, only because Adlai Stevenson was a friend of ours, and the only campaigns I've ever worked in were Adlai Stevenson's and Ed's. Of course I wasn't here when he was running for anything. But when he was going to be nominated for vice president Jane and he, which I'm sure you probably remember, I went, when they came back I went back. My husband had gone back to work and I was still at Kennebunk Beach. So I went with them to help Jane get the kids outfitted for school because she knew she was going to be very busy and I was, when we got to New York, on the way, when they were starting on the campaign I was, had a reservation to leave from there.

And you may remember Jane was just overwhelmed with all the reporters, there was nobody really to do anything. It wasn't quite Mary's job, so that's why you and Ed came and asked if I would stay on, being the only person available. And it turned out to be a good arrangement because of some personal problems, which I'm sure you know about that I don't want to go into on the-. And also because it gave them somebody they trusted to talk to and knew that I, I mean nobody ever said to me don't ever repeat anything, but they knew that I would never talk about anything that transpired during that period. And even then I didn't think I was going to stay very long. But that campaign and some for Adlai Stevenson are the only campaigns I've ever been involved in.

DN: Now how did you get to know Governor Stevenson?

BS: Well he, my husband was a lawyer and he was a lawyer and they were good friends, and they were both active in the foreign relations group in Chicago, so, and we used to go to parties with them.

DN: So your husband and Adlai Stevenson were not in the same firm but they knew each other through the practice of law.

BS: That's right, that's right. Well, they knew each other through the legal profession, but also through the foreign relations.

DN: Well you were living in and active in Chicago in a very yeasty time. You mentioned Hubert Will and Adlai Stevenson, and there were -

BS: Did you know Hugh Will?

DN: Knew of him.

BS: He was an awful nice guy.

DN: And had met Mr. Stevenson during the '56 campaign when he came to Maine. And Newton Minnow was in that law firm. It -

BS: I didn't like him.

DN: You didn't like him.

BS: I don't remember why now, and I shouldn't have said that at your, you better erase that.

DN: Oh no. The, William McCormick Blair is the other one that I recall (*unintelligible phrase*).

BS: Yeah, I've met him but I didn't know him.

DN: And I guess some of the other folks that we encountered came from other arenas and joined the Stevenson staff. But other than Stevenson's appeal, what brought you into the Democratic campaigns in Chicago, or was that it?

BS: Well, that was just because I liked him and wanted to do whatever I could, which obviously was not successful except for governor.

DN: Were you at all involved in the Chicago city elections? Mayor Daly?

BS: No, I did serve on the, as a representative from the North Shore on the Chicago Better

Government Commission. But it was more sound and fury than action.

DN: Did you get to know Mayor Daly at all?

BS: No, I met him several times but I wouldn't say I really knew him. I mean, if I saw him he'd recognize me, as he would a million other people but no, I didn't know him really.

DN: In the 1968 campaign you traveled a great deal with Jane and Ed -

BS: I was on the whole campaign. The only place I didn't go was when Jane went to Denver from wherever we were, and I stayed with Ed.

DN: What, what was your reaction to that campaign? Were you -?

BS: Oh, I thought he was magnificent. And I really had the feeling that if it had just lasted two or three weeks longer they probably would have won. It was particularly impressive to me when he invited that young chap who was heckling him to come up and speak from the platform. Was that in Pennsylvania somewhere?

DN: Washington, Pennsylvania.

BS: Yeah. And he was a good campaigner because he could, he was much better really at ad libbing than he was at, with prepared speeches I always thought.

DN: Was that true when he was a debating student at Bates?

BS: Probably, probably, but as I told you beforehand the things I don't remember are astonishing.

DN: Well you're remembering a great deal. Now, when Ed was governor you didn't see much of him. You saw him in Chicago at the time of John's fortieth birthday.

BS: Yeah, when he got elected and before he started serving because it was, he got elected in September I guess and you didn't start until January. But, I don't know why I didn't come. You know, there must have been something else going on that I couldn't get out of because both John and I had a lot of commitments in Chicago and on the North Shore and, because I certainly should have come to the inauguration. But I didn't.

DN: That's a tough time of the year to travel of course.

BS: Yeah, well.

DN: The, in the '68 campaign you were with Jane. Were you at the event in Washington, Pennsylvania when he invited the student up?

BS: Yeah.

DN: So you saw it as part of the audience, not just on television.

BS: No, I was, I never left the campaign, ever, from the time it started until it ended. I didn't go to Denver with J- . . .

End of Side A
Side B

DN: This is the second side of the first tape interview with Betty Scott on the 6th of September, the year 2000. Betty, we were just talking about your involvement in the 1968 campaign and the fact that you were with that campaign from beginning to end.

BS: That's right.

DN: And you -?

BS: I spent, and then they would go home weekends and I went with them to Bethesda and stayed with them. The only time I saw my husband was when we came to Chicago.

DN: How -?

BS: Which we did a couple of times.

DN: What's your memory of how Ed and Jane responded to that campaign and all the pressures on them at that time?

BS: Well, I must say Jane amazed me because she really hadn't had, I don't know, I don't quite know how to say this, but I don't think anybody could have done a better job than Jane did. She seemed to have herself under control and have what she said and what she did under control. And it's very easy when you're not experienced with this kind of thing not to do the kind of job Jane did. I thought she was great. And Ed, I wasn't surprised that Ed was as impressive as he was because I had always really kind of expected that of him. Her *(unintelligible phrase)* had no terminal facilities but *(unintelligible phrase)*. Anyway, I'm sorry they didn't win.

DN: Do you recall any encounters between, this is sort of off stage, encounters between Ed Muskie and Hubert Humphrey?

BS: They were good friends and they had great rapport, as far as I could see. You would know more than I would. But they seemed to me to be a team, and they discussed things. I mean Ed didn't, he didn't just say to Ed you do this and you do that, I mean they talked over what was going to happen. But you know more about the campaign than I do. You ran it for heaven's sake.

DN: Well, but your impressions are very important because you had a vantage point being with

the family and Ed and Jane and seeing how they were interacting with other people in ways that a staff member wouldn't.

BS: They were very fond of both of the Humphreys and they were all good friends, they really were, and got along beautifully. But as I said, they discussed things, and I think Hubert was that kind of guy, I mean he was not. He picked somebody that he knew he could work with and somebody who agreed with him generally in most important areas, but he also knew that Ed was going to have input, which he did. It's too bad. We got stuck with Nixon and Agnew.

DN: Ah, yes. After that, oh, before we leave that campaign, you were with then election night when the entourage went back to Waterville. What was that event like?

BS: Well, of course it gradually was borne in on everybody what was going to happen and so it was very disappointing, but I think expected. I wish I could remember better.

DN: Do you remember Dick Dubord that night?

BS: Yeah.

DN: And the small jazz group?

BS: No, I don't remember that.

DN: Tell us a bit about your impressions of folks like Dick Dubord and Dick McMahon who were close to Ed and Jane.

BS: Dick who?

DN: Dick McMahon. Or was it, you don't remember Dick very much.

BS: I don't remember him at all.

DN: All right, Dick was his campaign manager in '54 and '56.

BS: Yeah, well I don't, I wasn't involved in those.

DN: But you didn't, and he was less involved by '68. Dick Dubord however was -

BS: Was involved.

DN: On the campaign.

BS: And they were friends.

DN: What sort of a fellow was Dick?

BS: He was a nice guy and pretty bright. I shouldn't sound, I sound very condescending when I say somebody was pretty bright, which I have no right to be. But he was intelligent and he had good ideas. I also remember Shep Lee when he inadvertently gave something away in a conversation to the press. Do you remember what it was?

DN: It was on the, the war issue.

BS: Something, and -

DN: And it was out in California.

BS: Yeah. Anyway, he called, so I got, I did all the talking on the telephone, everybody who called. And the poor guy was so upset, and he went on and on and on and I kept trying to reassure him but he, anyway. I finally got him off the phone, but he was terribly upset by that. And of course he's been a very good friend to Ed always, and now to Jane, and the whole family for that matter.

DN: Speaking of good friends. Frank Coffin was a few years behind you at Bates, but did you know him at Bates?

BS: No, because he graduated four years after I did, he graduated in '40 so I hadn't met him. I corresponded with him during the campaign for governor. He sent me a, in his Christmas card, I guess it was either this year or last year, he sent me a copy of one of the letters I'd written him. And I think I'd sent seventy-five dollars for something. But I didn't, I didn't meet him until, well I guess until I went on the board of trustees, but we became very good friends.

DN: Just a footnote, a seventy-five dollar contribution in 1954 was a major contribution.

BS: Well. I had more money then than I do now.

DN: And contributions were much smaller on average.

BS: Well I think, it seems to me I read somewhere that they were short of money so I sent him the money after the election was over which was not purposeful at all, except that I had been told that they were paying, trying to pay off some bills. I sent seventy- five dollars.

DN: After the '68 campaign Ed was thinking off and on about the presidential nomination in '72 before he got actively involved. Were you much in touch with the family during that period?

BS: I was in touch with the family completely, but I didn't have anything to do with that campaign. But I saw them often.

DN: Did you get a, any sense of the differences between '68 and the '72 campaign?

BS: Well, I was very disappointed in Gene McCarthy. Ed used to bring him to see us in Chicago. Every time Ed came to Chicago for some reason he would call and we'd meet

somewhere after his speech and have a drink or something to eat. And I can remember his bringing Gene McCarthy because he considered him a very good friend, and of course Abigail has been, and Jane have been friends, still are. But I was very disappointed in McCarthy. I can remember at one point when Ed was running for vice president he came out and made the statement that he supported Muskie for vice president but he didn't support Humphrey for president. I mean, how stupid can you be?

But otherwise I really don't remember much. I remember Clark Clifford's having a lot of input because once when we were staying with the Muskies in Washington, John went with Ed to a meeting that he was having, a discussion with Clark Clifford. And of course they came to Chicago several times during the campaign, too. John had a fundraiser for him there. I wasn't there, I was out in California. I can't remember what my daughter's problem was at the moment, but I was in California with her. She was probably moving.

DN: The 1972 campaign was a very tough one for the Muskies. How did they come through it from your perspective?

BS: Well they had great stamina or courage or whatever. They, it was just accepted as a fact of life, and it was a disappointment. It was particularly a disappointment when Jane supposedly took the blame for the tears or the non-tears. And personally I believe the story that one of the Nixon people put some LSD in his orange juice when he left Florida, but who knows? I would believe anything of that campaign; tricky.

DN: You saw Ed and Jane over the years after, after '72, and Ed's continued service in the senate and then as secretary of state. Did you have much chance to talk policy issues with him, or?

BS: No, as I think I told you once before, Ed didn't like really basically to have the people he considered his close friends be involved in politics. And that line got blurred a bit because a lot of the politicians like you became good friends, but basically he didn't discuss politics with his friends and he wanted his friends not to be involved. It was just by accident really that I got as involved as I did in that campaign.

DN: What did he enjoy talking about when he was with you or (*unintelligible word*)?

BS: I knew somebody was going to ask me this and I, I just want to be careful not to say something I shouldn't. But comments to make on everybody we'd run into and everybody we talked to, and what dumb thing was done here and what good thing was done there, and what we should have done or, everything was talked about. We didn't get much sleep. But that was fascinating.

DN: In the years after '72 when you were talking socially as good friends, were his interests focused on family, on the home in Kennebunk, or golf or?

BS: Oh, golf. Which was amusing because he used to say to me when he first knew John, "I don't understand how an intelligent guy like John can spend all his time when he's not working

going after that little white ball, it's just ridiculous." But he also talked about politics, and John had a very lively mind and they had great discussions and disagreements. John basically, I think, was perhaps more liberal than Ed, but we talked about everything. But that is different from being involved in campaigns.

DN: So he would, from your point of view he really didn't want to spend his time talking campaign strategies, etcetera, with you but he was interested in discussing public policies issues with you?

BS: Yeah, unh-hunh.

DN: And did you get a sense of his concerns coming out of the Carter administration and looking at the Reagan years?

BS: Well, we were all concerned about the Reagan years and did a lot of discussion about that because none of us ever really understood the hold that man had on, on the American public. And no matter what transpired during his tenure, he never was blamed for anything, or took any responsibility for it either. That never happened in my opinion to any other president that I know anything about. That was frustrating. He never talked much about the commission that he and Brent -

DN: (*Unintelligible word*) and Tower, Senator Tower.

BS: Yeah, or the Tower Commission, he never talked very much about that so I don't really know how he felt about it.

DN: Did he reflect on his experience as secretary of state?

BS: He enjoyed it, he really liked that. And, I can't think of anything specific except he was very proud to have the job and he enjoyed doing it.

DN: As you look back on the years that knew Ed Muskie, what strikes you about him as a young man in relation to the statesman he became?

BS: Well, I can say only that, first, that it didn't surprise me because I think all the potential was there when he was young. And it was fascinating to see it unfold and come into fruition. And wonderful to know that he had been able to do some of the things he was so much interested in such as clean water and clean air, both of which I think started by liv-, from his living in Rumford, although Maine, all over Maine things were bad. The Androscoggin River where we went to college was not a clean river by any means. And, but it was interesting to watch the development, but not surprising because he had the mind for it and he had the wish for it, and he had the potential for it when he was young. I really was very fond of him, and admired him.

DN: Well you were very good friends from your freshman year.

BS: 1932 we started, early on in '32. In fact I think I met him, I think I met him the first day

we were there and he, his mother was with him, and Lucy and Irene and for some reason we clicked and then became good friends.

DN: Thank you very much, Betty.

BS: Okay. I'm not sure I was at all help-

End of Interview