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Sweet, Paul oral history interview

Chris L'Hommedieu

Interview with Paul Sweet by Chris L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
Sweet, Paul

Interviewer
L'Hommedieu, Chris

Date
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Place
East Lansing, Michigan

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Biographical Note

Paul R. Sweet was born in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania on March 14, 1907 and grew up in Depauw. His parents were William and Louise Sweet. He was educated at DePauw, Goettingen, the University of Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin, specializing in German History. During World War II, he went to Europe and worked with the OSS in understanding and developing interrogation techniques. He taught at Bates and Colby colleges, and spent much of his profession al time expanding his published work on late seventeenth and early eighteenth century German history.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family history and early education; Goettingen; University of Chicago; Bates College; OSS work; teaching; Colby College; Frank Coffin; Ed Muskie; Coffin in the Senate; Stuttgart; Muskie at dinner; Washington, DC; family politics; Methodists; KKK; Socialism; politics at DePauw; the Wall Street Journal; a letter from Coffin; a Muskie Speech; and Madeleine Albright.

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Transcript

(*Left out personal chat re Chris' background.*)

Chris L'Hommedieu: I guess they, I've been given a set of questions they asked me to ask, and I guess they gave you a set, too.

Paul Sweet: Well, like I say, most of the stuff, if you look at that thing, maybe you want to look at that a bit.

CL: I think I, if it's in, it may be in here. I think they'd like to have on tape just because it's an oral project. Would that be okay, or would you prefer me to . . .?

PS: No, that's all right.

CL: Okay, and if you could just say your full name.

PS: Paul R. Sweet.

CL: And could you spell that for us?

PS: S-W-E-E-T.

CL: And your date of birth is when?

PS: March 14, 1907.

CL: Nineteen-oh-seven. And where were you born?

PS: Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

CL: And is that where you grew up?

PS: No, I, my father was a was an ordained Methodist minister, but decided to become a historian, so he had a church in Willow grove while he was going to the University of Pennsylvania, graduate school and so then when I was four years old my, by that time he had his Ph.D. and he began to harp on. Well, how it was for him was sort of, our, my father's families, both my grandfather and grandmother had gone there, and my father and his brother and his sister. So we went out for two years to Ohio (*unintelligible word*). And by that time, just when I was ready to start school, we went to Depauw. And I had, eventually I went all through Green Castle grade school, high school, and Depauw. And during attending my sophomore year my father went to University of Chicago as a professor of American Church History, which was really his specialty. And then I stayed on at Depauw and graduated there.

CL: Graduated from high school.

PS: No, college.

CL: Oh, college.

PS: And, that was 1929, and of course it was sort of an ominous year, I mean, what happened in the fall. But when I graduated, Depauw had a, a man named of Rector had established a big scholarship fund for high school students in Indiana, and they paid you. So I had one of these Rector scholarships which paid my tuition all during college. And just when I was a senior, which of course the economy had been roaring along actually, and they had more money in this fund than they needed, so they set up six fellowships for graduating seniors. And I was given one of those and, which, I don't know, about two thousand dollars, which was enough for a year in those days. And a friend of mine, of course whether I, where I should go . . .

CL: This must have been around 1935 or so?

PS: No, this was 1929.

CL: Twenty-nine, excuse me.

PS: And in nineteen, we had, one of my father's colleagues was a German professor of theology, who had a, had his degree from Goettingen. So anyway, I sort of decided that I should go to Germany, and I went to Germany for a year. I had one, the first term at Goettingen and the

second in Munich. And I really never had much, [not] particularly interested in European history, I always thought it was American history that would be my field.

CL: What was your field while you were at Depauw?

PS: Well, I had actually, I was, had a double major in English, they had three different English departments: English composition, literature and journalism. And I took to the teacher in, for English composition, (*unintelligible phrase*). I think he was the best professor I ever had anywhere. I had three years with him and . . . .

CL: And which one were you in, which English?

PS: I had him with, just, what do you call it, we had a course in writing, we wrote all the time.

CL: So you had the composition?

PS: Composition, composition, yes.

CL: And you said you were a double major?

PS: Yeah, I had a major in history. But, the professor that, as I say, Professor Pens I think is the best professor I ever had anywhere. Anyway, so I was, one year I was in Germany doing my, when I went to Germany I'd never heard the name of Hitler. And by the time I stepped foot there about three days I never heard anything else.

CL: And that was in 1929?

PS: Yeah.

CL: Must have been an incredible year.

PS: And so there I, for example I had a, I had a great year at Goettingen, and I should have stayed there.

CL: What town was Goettingen in?

PS: Goettingen.

CL: That was the name of the town.

PS: Yeah, it's a famous university. G-O-E-T-T-I-N-G-E-N. And . . .

CL: And what were you studying particularly, is that journalism?

PS: I studied history. And there was a Jewish professor there who had a sort of sem-, like a seminar, but a, a place where you just came in in the evening and discussed really his own, contemporary history. There were about maybe eight or nine of us in this course. And one night, evening, three guys came in with their uniforms, Nazis, and . . .

CL: And you were there?

PS: Yeah, and they just created a big scene about this Jewish professor. And actually (*unintelligible phrase*) Germany, universities have published the history during this period. And I think the best one is the one by Hans Geutigen, but this professor's not mentioned. And he actually, he was, I think he had a pretty good independent income, lived in a big house, and I think he took off for Switzerland and didn't come back. But I'm sort of curious, in this huge volume they published they never mention the guy's name. So he was really driven out.

CL: So you were in Germany for one year then?

PS: I was in Germany for one year. And then from then on I sort of drifted, I specialized in German history.

CL: And then after that year you went back to the U.S.?

PS: Yeah, I went to, my father had just retired. My parents lived in a not very nice apartment right close to the university.

CL: In Depauw?

PS: No, at University of Chicago.

CL: This is, so I guess your parents moved before you finished at Depauw University?

PS: Yeah, they moved again in my sophomore year.

CL: Now what did your father do?

PS: Well, he was a professor of American Church History. That's at the divinity school at the University of Chicago.

CL: And that's, what had he been doing in Depauw? Teaching as well?

PS: Yeah, actually one of his specialities was Latin American history. He published a history of Latin America, which weren't very numerous in those days. And, but his, actually he wrote a lot, but on mostly on early American churches. So anyway, they, my parents had lived in, my parents when I came back from Germany, my father had just retired then. And, now I'm not sure about that. No, I think he hadn't retired yet.

CL: This must be 1930?

PS: This was 1930. And so I went to University of Chi-, I had done, I went to University of Chicago. And I'd written a paper about Germany that, in Germany, that I sent to the professor of German in Depauw. And he liked it very, he was a very influential person in the university circles, (*unintelligible*) one man. And so that Depauw, because this was, sounds funny coming from 1929, but they, they had more money in this scholarship fund for the Rector scholarship, so they created six fellowships for graduates. And when I graduated I got, I already told you this, I got this one that took me to Germany.

Then when I came back this guy liked my paper, and he gave me a fellowship of five hundred dollars which was intended to, but I decided I wanted to go somewhere else. So I applied at Harvard, Penn-, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. And Wisconsin was the only one that would give me a fellowship that supported me, as it were, so I went to Wisconsin. And I got my degree there in 1945 [sic 1935], (*unintelligible phrase*). And my speciality is really late eighteenth and early nineteenth century German history.

CL: When did you go to Wisconsin, was that right after you got back from Germany?

PS: Well I had this one year at Chicago.

CL: One year at Chicago. And what were you studying in Chicago?

PS: History.

CL: With, German again, or . . .?

PS: Well, I didn't have a particularly, that was my . . .

CL: It was broad?

PS: Actually, the main course I had was with B- Schmidt. And at that time, that's during the twenties, the Germans brought out their documents for background of WWI, going back to 1870. And they were brought out with tremendous speed, a huge collection of documents. And so I, in a seminar I had with Schmidt, we'd read these documents which were, basically were what we studied. And so . . .

CL: And that was in Chicago?

PS: Yeah.

CL: And then you went over to, you went to Wisconsin, and I guess that's where you did your Ph.D.? So it must have been like 1931 or so.

PS: Yeah, I went to, in ‘31 and then in ‘34 they, I passed my prelims. And so the last year I was writing my thesis. I wrote it, I have it here, it was published. You want to see it? Would you like to see my book on . . .?

CL: I wouldn’t mind.

(*Pause*)

PS: Gentz was a, was especially associated with Metternicht and that whole business in Austria, and . . .

CL: So this is what you did for your Ph.D. then, this . . .?

PS: Well, I extended my (*unintelligible word*) and they, at one point they, but I wanted, my thesis was on the last part of his life, and I wanted to write a full biography.

CL: Now are these two separate books?

PS: No, this is just a reprint.

CL: And so it’s the Friedrich von Gentz: Defender of the Old Order, and that was the University of Wisconsin Press. I guess this would be the first one then. This is a long book. So, . . .

PS: Anyway then, after I came back, by that time it was the depths of the Depression, and anyway, I . . .

CL: You mean at the time that you finished your Ph.D.?

PS: Yeah.

CL: So we’re talking . . .

PS: There were not many jobs, and I got one at Birmingham Southern, which was a Methodist college in Alabama.

CL: This must have been around ‘36 or so?

PS: Yeah, ‘3-, and I was there a couple of years, and then I heard about this opening at Bates. And I then went to Bates College and I just loved it at Bates, great school.

CL: So what year was it that you went to Bates?

PS: It was in 1938.

CL: So you spent a couple years at the previous place and then went on to Bates. And what did you do at the first university? That must have been your first teaching position?

PS: Yeah, oh I just taught European history. And at Bates, when the war came, I, the OS-, you're familiar with OSS, I?

CL: I'm afraid not.

PS: Well that's the forerunner of the Secret Service, the, what do you call it now, not the Secret Service . . .

CL: The CIA?

PS: CIA, it's the forerunner of the CIA. After the war Truman, I guess they abolished it. Then about three years later they decided they had to recreate it, the CIA, but the OSS had a research and analysis branch which the CIA doesn't have. And at the end of the war when they discontinued the CIA[sic OSS], I mean, not the CIA but the . . .

CL: The OSS?

PS: . . . the OSS, they moved this part into the State Department, which as far as I know it's still there. And that was the part I was in.

CL: This was after the war?

PS: No, no, this was before the war, that was 194-, I guess it was 1943. I was, a friend of mine from Wisconsin was in charge of that, he was in the OSS and on that particular project, and he invited me to come down that summer. And I worked it and then, the end of that time . . .

CL: What sort of stuff were you working on?

PS: Oh, really at that time we were sort of anticipating what needed to be done to have defeated Germany, that's about the summation of it.

CL: And did they come to you or did you go to them? Did they recruit you to work for the . . .?

PS: Well, this friend of mine did. And then I was going back to Bates and Gordon Craig, I don't know if you're familiar with him, he's one of the very top American historians, (*unintelligible phrase*), he's a little younger than I. Anyway, they had him in the OSS, he decided to go back to Princeton. And they got in touch with me and, (*unintelligible phrase*) heard of me, so I, I understand they, decided to, they had a little, few people in London. And so I was immediately, very quickly then I was sent to London and, toward the end of 1943, and . . .

CL: And were you still a part of Bates at the time, or how did Bates . . .?

PS: No, I was on leave from Bates. And so . . .

CL: And you'd been teaching European history at Bates?

PS: Yeah. Anyway, when they got ready for the invasion from England (*unintelligible phrase*) they decided they needed a couple of guys to sort of determine, evaluate (*unintelligible word*) dangers of interrogation of prisoners. And so a pal of mine I'd known in Chicago, he and I were chosen to do this, and I was assigned to the headquarters with an assimilated rank of major.

CL: In England, or . . .?

PS: Yeah.

CL: Where were you in England?

PS: Well, right in London. And so, I then, I was in the, General Bradley's headquarters, had four different units in different places, and I was at this one. So anyway, we, I went over there and, in the spring. And when, after the invasion, at the time Patton's army was mobilized, and at that point I went to France, too. And then I came back on a break, leave, and by the time I came back the war ended. And I thought the war was going, with Japan was ready to talk with us, but it lasted two more years. So I went back there, I was assigned by the OSS to go back to Austria.

CL: How long did you spend in France? So you went from England where you were doing the . . .?

PS: I was in France from the time that we were, after the fall of Paris the, things just sort of collapsed very suddenly. I remember going towards the German border and the streetcars were running in one of those French towns, you know. I thought the nearer you got to Germany the less, you know, they cleared out in such a hurry. In fact we had a Frenchman with us, a captain or something, a charming guy, I don't know how he got to be with us. But I found out afterwards that in Luxembourg the, the Germans had the most powerful radio-sending station in Europe. And, you know, this Frenchman knew about it, and he was up there with the troops and they didn't, nobody knew about this. And he told them about this radio-sender and they charged in and took it without firing a shot. And the next day they were broadcasting like crazy from Luxembourg.

CL: So, and you were in on this, or he told you about this?

PS: Well, yeah, I was with him. Not at this particular time, no, but I mean he was sort of a friend of mine. No, I was, after the fall of Paris there was this, sort of reverse, what panned out I don't know...?

CL: Well actually, if I could, what were doing up until the fall?

PS: Oh, examining, evaluating intelli-, I mean interrogation.

CL: So you witnessed interrogations, then?

PS: What?

CL: You actually witnessed the interrogations?

PS: No, no, we would get the interrogations.

CL: Oh, and you'd read . . .

PS: And sort of making tips and things about various odds and ends; it didn't amount to much. But then when we, after the fall of Paris we went up toward (*unintelligible word*), which was still in German hands. Then, I don't know, I never did figure out just how it happened, but (*name*) and I were sort of freed from their, we sort of made our own, did our own thing, and we had a little squad car and a driver and anyway. I don't know exactly how it happened, except that we sort of made a specialty of interrogation of German civilians and getting some clue on that whole aspect of things. And . . .

CL: Was there a particular focus to your, to what you were looking into?

PS: Well, . . .

CL: What aspects of the interrogation?

PS: You mean of our, well, when went up to (*unintelligible word*) then we were doing our own, when we went up there we weren't doing these. We weren't involved with that interrogation, evaluating interrogations any more, we were finding our own stuff.

CL: You mean you were doing the interrogations yourself?

PS: Well, we talked to, we were talking to German civilians, not . . .

CL: So just speaking to people on the street and in their homes?

PS: Well (*unintelligible phrase*), actually, it's right on the border, but the army attacked it from behind and, so that worked out. It was sort of the first bunch of Germans that we had, and so I wrote quite a big report on (*unintelligible phrase*) and what was going on, and we sent it in.

CL: So were you just documenting their reports of what had happened in the towns?

PS: Documenting, we were documenting what was going on. And then we had, at that time the only substantial amount of German territory that we had was north of Aachon, where we had quite a hold, which was, oh I think it had about six, seven coal mines and that sort of stuff. And that's the last big report I did, was what was going on in that whole area. Meanwhile south of Aachon, of course, the Battle of the Bulge took place, we were just to the north of there, and (*unintelligible phrase*). And as I say, then toward the spring I came home and . . .

CL: Home to Bates?

PS: Home to Maine, and then, you know, just on a leave really, I . . .

CL: All right, so what year are we talking now, 194-?

PS: Nineteen forty-five.

CL: So you'd been in and out of Maine at that point for about seven years then. Actually a good portion of it spent in Europe.

PS: I couldn't remember about my own chronology. Last night I sat down and I got this thing trying to figure out just when I did what. Anyway, I couldn't remember whether I'd taught a semester at Bates or a year (*unintelligible phrase*) semester. Because I got a (*unintelligible phrase*), and then right to Chicago, and I thought I was going to be offered an associate professorship. I had an interview with them, and they said, "You know, if you've written," I mean I'd already published this book and stuff, and they said, "you know, if you've done this, that, and the other, then you'll be promoted to associate professor." But after this interview I thought I was going to offered an associate professorship at Bates, I mean at Chicago, and instead they offered me just another assistantship. And I stalled on it, and they said, "Well, if you come and teach summer school (*unintelligible phrase*) like an idiot." (*Unintelligible phrase*), my life for the next couple of years was a series of mistakes.

And so I went to, I never worked so hard as a teacher as, you'd think at Chicago it would be just the opposite. But in this, in the college, with a whole bunch of people teaching this stuff, like you had a big lecture for a hundred two people, you know, and then they'd break up once a week and sort of quiz sections. And we used to, that's what we did, you had to do the lectures, and then you had to have this (*unintelligible word*) section. And after I got there they said, "Well, Bill Hallinday," Bill was (*unintelligible phrase*) taught modern European history in the history department, "he's going on leave and he'd like you to take his course in 19th century European history." So I had these two things, and then in the spring I had a graduate course on 16th century stuff. I never worked so damn hard in my life. And I was really (*unintelligible phrase*), my father had, as I said, had retired. And I, we were just living in their apartment, didn't have any place to live, and I was out of my head (*unintelligible phrase*).

So then I went to (*name*) and, not the head of the department but he ran the European part, and I

said I wanted to get out of the college, and he said "Okay, you can get out of 16th century next period." *(Unintelligible phrase*) and that summer I stayed most of the time in Chicago (*unintelligible phrase*), I was working on, the library in the north of Chicago (*unintelligible phrase*). Anyway, had a whole set of documents that were very rare, and so I was going out there every day and (*unintelligible phrase*). I should say that the years I was in Maine we had annual meetings with the other three colleges, and we made very good friends with all those. Does that still go on, I wonder?

CL: I have no idea.

PS: You know, I knew these people very, very well. Then when I went out to this, there was a guy there from Colby, (*unintelligible phrase*), was a friend of mine and, just accepted a chair at the University of Pennsylvania. And he said, "Why don't you apply for Colby, take my job." Which I say at that point I'd sort of had it with Chicago, and I said, "Okay," and so I did. Which was another big mistake, because (*unintelligible phrase*) teaching English history for one thing.

So then, to make a long story short, while I was there this big German documents project which had been in Berlin. It was just at the time of the big blockade, you know, that they would, I don't know how much you remember or know about that, but they, the Germans had blockaded their whole, and they would have these huge air supply of Berlin, and the planes were coming back empty. And they had in Berlin all these German documents, and so they decided, the British decided to load them all on their planes when they came back and took them to England. And they put them in a, north of London, northern Buckinghamshire, had a big place where there was a house and then various, and it was used during the war, and they had these sort of outbuildings where they stored documents. So they moved this whole project to England, and to make a long story short, I was asked to join this project, and went to England. And, so we lived in . . .

CL: This is part of Colby?

PS: No, it had nothing to do with Colby. No, I just said goodbye to Colby.

CL: Now, you were at Colby for a year or something and said, "See you later"?

PS: I had bought a house from Colby and then, that's my only contact with Ed Muskie because he was a lawyer for Colby . . .

CL: So this is the first time you bumped into Muskie?

PS: The only time, really. And so, I knew about him, and I had this deed to my house, and so (*unintelligible phrase*) have Muskie have a look at it, which I did. So that was my, I didn't, I had no, I don't think I had any connection with him after that. I mean, in Colby.

CL: So, what year was it that you went to Colby then, we're talking about '48 or something?

PS: Forty-five.

CL: Because you got back around ‘45 from Germany, a couple years in Chicago . . .

PS: Nineteen forty-eight and forty-nine.

CL: Forty-nine, okay. So you’d heard about, you go to Colby, you’re there for a year...

PS: I knew about Muskie.

CL: How did you know about him?

PS: Well, because as I say Frank Coffin was a good friend of mine and, I don’t know, I just . . .

CL: I guess I’ll back up a little bit, where did you meet Frank?

PS: Well, he, Frank was a freshman at Bates when I went there.

CL: When you went there to teach?

PS: To teach. And Muskie had just left the year before, to get to Cornell. And I don’t know how I knew about him particularly except that later, I mean, when I went to Colby, I knew he was at, I think that’s probably from, I don’t know, anyway.

CL: So did you and Frank become friends then, did you teach him?

PS: Yeah, Frank, what?

CL: Did you teach Frank?

PS: Oh yeah, and he hated my, but he in fact . . .

CL: He hated your co-?

PS: Frank took that, I don’t know, he, his senior class, under his influence they dedicated their yearbook to me, and I was just an instructor.

CL: Frank did that.

PS: Well I think he was largely responsible for it.

CL: Now why did he take such a liking to you?

PS: I don’t know, we just hit it off. He was a, actually he was not a history major, he majored in

economics.

CL: Did the two of you get together outside of class?

PS: Oh, we had at Bates, and there still is, they had a pool hall. I used to play a lot of pool with the kids, and, in any case . . .

CL: You say you played pool with Frank?

PS: I don't know, in fact I played with a lot of people. I don't really remember how it happened that we, I explained he had a couple courses with me, and, uh-.

CL: And you'd heard about Muskie as well, I guess, who graduated . . .

PS: Yeah, I remember Muskie somehow, I don't know why, but apparently he was considered a big . . .

CL: Big boy on campus.

PS: Yeah.

CL: See, I'd be curious to know why, just another student, normally just a face in the crowd would leave a reputation behind after he leaves for Cornell, to the extent that you'd know about it.

PS: I know.

CL: Do you remember what he did that made him stick out?

PS: Not really.

CL: Just become a legend in his own time?

PS: Incidentally, how did he have the money to go to New York, Cornell, do you know?

CL: I don't know.

PS: Well, then after the war when I came back to Bates, Frank came back from the war, too, and he was, he'd already gone to law school. And so I remember we were sitting in my kitchen, and Frank was talking about whether he should stay down in Boston and make a lot of money or come back to Maine, and he decided to come back to Maine.

CL: Stay in Boston, make a lot of money doing law?

PS: Yeah, I guess so.

CL: Working for one of the big firms, or?

PS: I suppose. I mean, that was sort of, I'm just putting that in, but I mean, that was obviously (*unintelligible phrase*) two or three months down in Boston, he decided to (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: So why did he decide to go back to Maine?

PS: Well, he (*unintelligible phrase*) from Lewiston, I never knew quite about his father, whether he died or whether he divorced or what. But he was brought up by his mother, and he, well, he just decided to stick to Maine, that's all.

CL: Now, did you get any inclination from Frank at the time what his politics were, did you guys, were you politically oriented?

PS: Oh, I guess we were both Democrats.

CL: What did that mean at the time?

PS: Oh, I don't know, . . .

CL: For instance, did you support the president?

PS: Yeah.

CL: And how about state politics, were you involved in that at all?

PS: Not particularly, I mean, but Frank (*unintelligible phrase*) involved in it.

CL: Did he become involved while you were there, or is that . . .?

PS: Well, when I, when I was at, as I say, when I left Bates that year, the time when we talked in my kitchen about what he was going to do.

CL: This is after the war?

PS: After the war, I certainly, after that I left for Chicago and, I don't know how much I saw him then for a few years. For example, then, after I came back, I was in this project in England, and I came back after well, about four years . . .

CL: So you spent four years in London doing that Berlin documents project?

PS: In northern Buckinghamshire. Then, when I came back to Washington, I was head of the project for the Americans, there were three Americans, so I was chief editor for the Americans and . . .

CL: Going through all these Berlin documents?

PS: And published many volumes, and so at just that time I went back to Washington. Why, Frank, just at that point, got elected congressman.

CL: That was about 1953?

PS: Yeah, 1953, I was in Washington from 1952 to 1957 or '8.

CL: So that whole time you were in Washington you were working on this Berlin project?

PS: Yeah, (*unintelligible phrase*). And anyway, Frank, when he came down to, we, we saw them once in a while.

CL: Did you have contact with Frank while you were in England?

PS: No, unfortunately.

CL: Just sort of dropped off until you got back to D.C.?

PS: D.C., then we were already living in Washington before when he was elected and so, I don't know, they may have stayed with us. Anyway, he bought a house not too far from us, and we gave them a big, (*unintelligible word*) gave a dinner for them and their friends. And Frank before that dinner said, "We have a surprise guest for you, the governor of Maine's going to be there." So Muskie was at this dinner we gave for them. That's the only other real contact I had with . . .

CL: So you had Muskie it seems on a couple, basically twice, when you bought your house at Colby, and then when you had this dinner in D.C. in 1952.

PS: And then when he decided to run for Senate and won, he persuaded Frank, Frank got up to his two years, he got a, I think he's the only Democrat to have a seat in east of the Mississippi that election. And Sam Rayburn, who was the speaker of the house, he took an immediate shine to Frank, and I think appointed on a committee ways and means committee, or there was some big problem right away.

CL: Now how did you know about all this, were you following it?

PS: Well, I saw Frank . . .

CL: So Frank would fill you in on what was going on up on the Hill?

PS: Oh, I wouldn't say all that, but, you know. And so then, when Muskie decided to run for the Senate, why, he persuaded Frank to go back and run for governor because, it's too bad, because he went back and lost. And then when, after he lost that, then he got his job in the State Department and . . .

CL: Now, how do you know that Frank, that Ed persuaded Frank to go back and run.

PS: Well, because he told me.

CL: Frank told you?

PS: Yeah.

CL: Well, what did he think of that, did Frank like the idea at the time?

PS: Evidently, or he wouldn't have done it.

CL: Do you know if he was worried about it, or if he liked the Congress?

PS: Oh sure, he loved Congress. I mean, as I say, he was only there that one term and he was already the teacher's pet of Sam Rayburn.

CL: And how did he get to be teacher's pet?

PS: Sam just liked him. He had a very charming, you know Frank particularly?

CL: I really don't, no.

PS: He has a charming personality.

CL: I've met him I think just once.

PS: We had, well anyway, Frank, I forget exactly what, meanwhile, after two years on this German documents project, the State Department had two sections up to that time, people who just stayed permanently in the department and the Foreign Service. And they melded them together, and two years after I got on this I became a regular Foreign Service (*unintelligible word*).

CL: Must have been about '54 then.

PS: Yeah, and so they left me on my job for the normal term of five years. And then at the end of five years I was assigned then out to the embassy in Berlin, I mean in Bonn, and then . . .

CL: And that was in ‘54 or so, when you went to Bonn?

PS: No, ‘58, ‘58 to ’63, actually. And then I was, then I went from, I was in charge of the reporting on the German domestic politics, you know, that stuff, Bundestadt and, and then . . .

CL: Presumably you spoke German?

PS: Yeah, and then I was assigned to the consul down in Stuttgart and ...

CL: That was 1963 to . . .?

PS: Stuttgart 1963 to ‘67. And Frank during that time was in Paris.

CL: I guess Frank joined the Foreign Service while you were still in D.C.?

PS: I don’t know what, was he in the Foreign Service? I don’t know exactly.

CL: Or the State Department, excuse me.

PS: I don’t know exactly, I can’t remember now exactly what he did in Paris except that I arranged for him to come over to Stuttgart and to give a talk to the, some, something...

End of Side A
Side B

PS: . . . in any case . . .

CL: So Frank’s in Paris.

PS: He was in Paris. I came over and I, we gave a, quite a good size dinner for them, he and his wife were there . . .

CL: Who all would have come to a big size dinner?

PS: Well, one of them, one was the son, my short term memory is shot, but it was the famous German general who committed suicide. You remember what I’m talking about?

CL: I, I’m terrible with names, but yes I do.

PS: (*Unintelligible phrase*), but his son became, he was the, sort of a chief aide to the (*unintelligible phrase*) would be called the governor in this country, (*unintelligible phrase*). And then later, he’s still going strong, he’s succeeded them to, led the government (*unintelligible phrase*) for years. I don’t know whether he’s still at it or not, I’m not quite so sure. Anyway, he and his wife were at this dinner for Frank, and I remember his wife sat next to Frank and she told

(*unintelligible phrase*) afterward, "What a charming man that man is," you know.

CL: So Frank pretty much charms everybody then.

PS: That's the only thing I can remember about the whole thing.

CL: What would you have talked about at a dinner like this in Germany at the time?

PS: Oh, I don't know.

CL: What's the proper topic of conversation with the provincial governor and Frank Coffin?

PS: I don't really know. After that then, Frank and his wife stayed for a couple of days. We took a trip with them beyond Heidelberg and so forth, made quite a do of it.

CL: Was it, do you remember, was politics something that was at the forefront of Frank's mind when you guys would talk, or was it more . . .?

PS: Well after I don't know what happened to Frank because he, he and his (*unintelligible word*), what's his name? Anyway, when Lyndon Johnson, when Muskie had been senator for a bit, he wanted Frank to be appointed to a federal judgeship in Maine . . .

CL: Muskie did?

PS: Muskie did.

CL: So I guess Muskie and Frank were having a lot of contact while Frank was in Paris.

PS: I don't know exactly the sequence of it, of things, but I do know that Sam Rayburn, who was head of the House for some reason . . .

CL: Still had that shine for Frank?

PS: Yeah, he had the shine but Lyndon Johnson, the president, I don't know, for some reason Frank had gotten in his bad books and, you know this story, do you?

CL: I know a little bit about the blood.

PS: Well anyway, he, finally one day Muskie went in to Johnson and said, "Look, if it weren't for Frank Coffin I wouldn't be here," and, you heard this story probably.

CL: Well, I'd love to hear it again.

PS: He said, "I wouldn't be here, and I want you to appoint him a judgeship," and so he did.

Frank had been out here with him family at the time, (*unintelligible phrase*), had a daughter living in Auburn for a while.

CL: Was she at University of Michigan?

PS: I don't know, I think she was beyond that phase, I don't know. (*Unintelligible phrase*), I don't know.

CL: So was Frank talking about being a judge when he came to visit you in Stuttgart?

PS: I don't think so, I . . .

CL: Did he even know sort of what his future looked like?

PS: I don't know. Actually, it's too bad that, when he tried to run for governor of Maine, and he had some, (*unintelligible phrase*) . . .

CL: After he ran for governor?

PS: Yeah. And what he'd done to antagonize Lyndon Johnson I don't know. But anyway, he's certainly been a successful judge.

CL: Yes, he has.

PS: I guess that's about it.

CL: Well if I could go back over, if you could give me a sort of broad outline of, you know, how things, I guess we stopped at Stuttgart which is late fifties. Did you come back, you came back from Stuttgart?

PS: I came back to Stuttgart, because unless you have a higher rank in the foreign service than I, you had to retire at sixty. So I was sixty, and I came back, and I was, I started writing a book on Humboldt.

CL: That must have been 1967 then.

PS: Yeah, and so I lived, stayed in Washington, and I started, I rented a house in Washington . . .

CL: In Washington, D.C. or the state?

PS: Washington, D.C., and then, and then when I got this job here (*unintelligible phrase*), and so I came out here.

CL: So you go from Stuttgart, and you retire from the State Department, and you go back to D.C., and you write a book.

PS: Well I started a book.

CL: Which book was that?

PS: Oh, it's just, it's this thing here, it's two volumes.

CL: Oh, it's a two-volume set. May I see that?

PS: It got the lead review in the *New York London Times* literary review I've got tucked in there.

CL: This is on Wilhelm von Humboldt, it's his biography. We've got the lead review here in 20th October of 1978. And that's when you finished it?

PS: Well, they had separate reviews for each volume.

CL: And what were you doing in D.C., other than writing your book?

PS: Nothing, I was retired.

CL: That was it? And then you went out to, that's when you came here to . . .?

PS: That's when I came here.

CL: And what brought you to Michigan?

PS: Well, in fact, I got a job here (*unintelligible word*).

CL: With?

PS: Well, I had, Norman Rich had been one of my associates in England, and he had, Norman had been a professor here. And then, (*unintelligible phrase*), when I came back from Germany, why he accepted an offer in Bonn from Brown University and went there. I was in fact that Christmas vacation, the only time I went, haven't been to an American Historical Association meeting since. I went to Toronto, had an interview with (*unintelligible phrase*), what's the name of the university?

CL: I'm going to be very embarrassed here because I'm not going to be able to give you the answer.

PS: (*Unintelligible phrase*), it's a good university there, and I liked the guys very much, they

offered me a job there . . .

CL: To do teaching again?

PS: To be a professor there.

CL: Presumably history again?

PS: Yeah, and I couldn't . . .

CL: Hopefully not sixteenth-century England this time.

PS: No, no. And so anyway, I, you know, I was still hesitant about living in Detroit for some reason. Anyway I was sort of stalling around, and just then Norman got this offer from Brown, and so he suggested they hire me. And so, that's how I happen to be here.

CL: You've been here since?

PS: I've been here since.

CL: When did you stop teaching?

PS: Oh, I stopped, I went on half-time because I wasn't getting, I (*unintelligible phrase*) getting out of this book, and I wasn't making as much progress with it as I wanted to. And I went on, after three years I went on half-time, and then after three more years I said, "The hell with it."

CL: What I'd like to do, if I could, is go right back to when you were growing up in high school, ask you about what the attitudes were like growing up. What was the, do you know what your father's politics were?

PS: My father was a, he was not a, he voted partly Republican and partly Democrat (*unintelligible phrase*). And he, well, he became a . . .

CL: Was he choosing the person or was he choosing the politics?

PS: Well, he didn't like Teddy Roosevelt for some reason, and so he was a pretty strong supporter of, as a matter of fact I think he generally voted for the winners, when Wilson was running well he voted for Wilson, and then . . .

CL: What was your dad's name again, I'm sorry?

PS: William Lauren Sweet.

CL: And your mom's name?

PS: Louise.

CL: Were they European descent, or?

PS: Well, no, my, the Sweets, we, like they say my great uncle was killed at Vicksburg. And I, actually, there are lots of Sweets up in Maine, and that part, and I've never been able to determine, my known forebear was a young guy who fought at, in Virginia, at the time of the French and Indian War. And he (*unintelligible word*), I think he was illiterate. And yet there's, it's amazing how much documentation there is about him, because he, after the, after he, you know, for a while there was a question as to whether Western Pennsylvania was part of Virginia and Pennsylvania. And this guy had, anyway, he was sent up to Pittsburgh very early, just when it was started. And there are documents that he'd been appointed (*unintelligible phrase*) through someplace or other, and there are government, several, you know, amazing how many documents there are about this illiterate guy. And but when, and it says that Pennsylvania, went to Pennysl-, (*unintelligible phrase*) Pittsburgh rather than Virginia, my forbear, like a lot of other Virginians, took off for Kentucky, because that was part of Virginia. And so I have all sorts of documentation about, on this fellow.

CL: I guess what I was looking for was whether your father had some cultural connection. Whether, you know, did he hang out with the Italians or the Irish or (*unintelligible word*)? And he was Methodist background?

PS: Yeah, very much so. My grandfather was a Methodist minister.

CL: What were the, did the Methodists have a general attitude? Were they conservative, more Democratic?

PS: No, I think probably the Protestant sects, they're less conservative, (*unintelligible word*) than the Southern Baptists. And, no, I don't know.

CL: What I'm trying to do is get an idea of what it was like when you were growing up in your household and in your community.

PS: We were very much a Methodist household, (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: I went to a Methodist high school in England.

PS: You did? I don't know whether the English Methodists are just like the American ones or not.

CL: They were pretty lax when I was in school.

PS: I think, by and large now I remember we went to, my wife and I, I don't belong to any

church any more. But my wife, we went to, when we lived in Waltham, I guess it was a, (*unintelligible phrase*). Anyway, we went to this church where the minister, (*unintelligible phrase*). Anyway he said, what's the most left wing of the Protestant sects?

CL: I honestly don't know.

PS: Well anyway, he was saying that about fifty-percent of Methodists are indistinguishable from these people.

CL: About as left as you get then, really.

PS: Well, as far as class division.

CL: And was your mom, was she politically vocal?

PS: Well, she was a, it was a… Christian, she was not (*unintelligible word*) to be very vocal about anything a lot of the time.

CL: Did she let you know how she voted or would have voted?

PS: She'd have probably voted the same as my father I expect. They, as I say, they were not, they were not strong (*unintelligible word*) types (*unintelligible phrase*), about fifty-fifty I would guess.

CL: Kind of went with the personality of the people running?

PS: They voted for Roosevelt, for example, and then went through with Harding and Coolidge, and then they began, Roosevelt . . .

CL: What was it like growing up in the Depression?

PS: Well I didn't, I didn't suffer all that much, to tell you the truth, I remember that.

CL: You guys were in Chicago for that?

PS: No, I was not, my parents were living in Chicago, but when the Depression came I was, I'd say it hit the year I was in Germany, and I also had scholarships and stuff, and I was lucky. I, seems (*unintelligible phrase*) to look for a job, I got a job, I didn't, it wasn't very much of a job but it still was a job.

CL: So did the Depression affect you at all in any way in terms of your beliefs?

PS: No, I don't think so.

CL: Didn't really change your attitudes? When did you become politically aware yourself? When do you think you decided, "Yeah, I'm kind of a Democrat?" High school, or?

PS: College I guess, by the time I was in college. I was probably, (*unintelligible phrase*) Socialist (*unintelligible word*) as a matter of fact.

CL: Oh really, were you a part of organizations and groups?

PS: No, I've never been much of a joiner.

CL: So you, it was more in college that you came into your political . . .?

PS: No, I don't know. I (*unintelligible phrase*). In Indiana, the thing I remember mainly about growing up in Indiana in the twenties was the Ku Klux Klan, and the whole attitude of the Ku Klux Klan towards Blacks. And this town I grew up in, (*name*), Indiana had, there were some, several Black families. They weren't segregated, right back off of our back yard was a Black family. And the, these people I was told, they come into Putnam county back in the, sometime after the Civil War in order to bring in more Republicans into the county. I don't know whether that's true or not, but anyway there were these families in fact, one of them (*unintelligible phrase*), and they put up the fiery cross there in the back yard, and I, and, that sort of thing was rampant in Indiana in the twenties.

And, (*unintelligible phrase*) there's one, my memory's so lousy now, but he had graduated from Depauw before I did, not long before. And somehow or other he went to Vienna and got a degree, and when he came back to this country, when the, I forget the, I think in the (*unintelligible phrase*). Well, one of them anyway, he was given a job in Depauw in this department, and the, Dr. Blanchard is the one, he was a professor of Chemistry. And he wanted to give this man a permanent job at Depauw. And the president at that time was a very liberal man, became later the top in the Johnson administration, which was in New York. But he was president, a very young, very… young guy. And he wanted to appoint him, but the board of trustees wouldn't do it.

CL: Was the board conservative, or?

PS: Oh, sure, so this guy went up to Chicago and became a chief chemist or something in some big company. And, you know, prospered and, lo and behold, he had his name on a postage stamp about three years ago.

CL: That cross burning stuff, did you see the cross burning?

PS: Oh yeah.

CL: Did this affect you, do you think?

PS: Oh, I guess.

CL: I mean did it, you didn't like it I guess.

PS: Of course not.

CL: Now why, presumably there's a lot of people that did like it.

PS: Well, not me.

CL: I'm just wondering what made you not like it. Did you hang out with the Black kids?

PS: No, we didn't, we didn't hang out, we just played normally together (*unintelligible phrase*). I remember at school some little Black kid, he just loved it when you had a baseball game at recess because he wanted to be the pitcher. No, I (*unintelligible word*), . . .

CL: And your parents didn't mind you playing with the Black kids?

PS: No.

CL: Now were there some parents that you remember who didn't let their kids play with the Black kids?

PS: I don't, there wasn't any (*unintelligible phrase*) except for these Ku Klux Klan gooks out there. You know, in school there weren't any (*unintelligible phrase*), I always had one or two Blacks in the class (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: That must have had a lasting impression on you.

PS: That Ku Klux Klan, I'll never forget that.

CL: Do you think that shaped your politics in any way?

PS: Probably, I was more left wing in the early days before I turned to Socialism.

CL: So what drew you to switch, to Socialist?

PS: Well, there was a lot of, a lot more social justice under Socialism than . . .

CL: Were you reading Marx, Engles . . .

PS: Oh, yes, (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: Were you reading that in high school or college?

PS: Probably in college.

CL: I'm just wondering if you picked up the Socialism stuff from reading, or whether it was from your experience with workers who weren't getting a fair shake?

PS: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

CL: The workers? Did you, you had a lot of contact with workers, or?

PS: No, not really. In my generation there were a lot more (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: Reading things. Did you follow people like Eugene Debs, that sort of thing?

PS: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

CL: You didn't vote for him?

PS: I remember that somebody said on the election that (*unintelligible phrase*) Debs or dubs.

CL: It's amazing that the guy could pick up votes in prison. So at Bates, when you were there, when you first met Frank, and you'd heard about Muskie, by that time you were pretty solidified Socialism, left wing?

PS: Well, I was of course left wing, but I, no, I voted Democratic.

CL: Did you vote in the state elections as well?

PS: Actually in the, first time I voted, come to think of it, I'd forgotten it, was when I was a senior at Depauw. And I voted Socialist and then when they announced the votes they didn't even notice that anybody voted for, my vote was not mentioned.

CL: Socialist at, what, at the university, or at the . . .?

PS: No, for, I forget which . . .

CL: State elections?

PS: State elections.

CL: So there was a Socialist candidate?

PS: Yeah.

CL: And what was the, what was the politics of DePauw, was it conservative or liberal?

PS: At DePauw?

CL: Yeah.

PS: Well, the, President Oxon was very liberal.

CL: But what were the students like?

PS: Oh, just a general run of the mill . . .

CL: It was a mix? Some colleges get a reputation as being conservative and some liberal.

PS: They probably had, they had a very strong, at DePauw, they had a, I told you, a very strong journalism tradition . . .

CL: Well there's your liberals.

PS: . . . and the, a guy named Casey Holgate, came from Danville, his father was superintendent of schools, and he was a DePauw graduate. And in the twenties he became head of the *Wall Street Journal*. And the big man on the, in my class was a guy named Barney Kilgor who, when he graduated he got, Holgate just flooded the place with DePauw people, yeah. And Barney Kilgore, as I say, (*unintelligible phrase*), he became, af-, I don't know when Holgate departed, but then Kilgore became head of the *Wall Street Journal* and also the, what's the other outfit that's socially-?

CL: What, the *Wall Street Journal*?

PS: Yeah, the, there's a, anyway, when I retired from the Foreign Service, Kilgore, on that time, there were five people on the masthead of the *Wall Street Journal*, and three of them were in college with me.

CL: Why did it get so conservative then, for heaven's sake.

PS: What, the . . .?

CL: The *Journal.*

PS: The *Journal*, I think it's more conservative now than it used to be.

CL: It must have been more liberal then with your old classmates on it.

PS: Oh, I don't know about that, I don't know what the politics were (*unintelligible word*).

Anyway, Kilgore, everybody knew him and he was the big man on the campus when (*unintelligible phrase*). But these other two guys who were on the masthead, they were just ordinary guys you wouldn't think were ever going to go anywhere, but they did.

CL: Just buddies with Kilgore.

PS: No, they, as I say, they, I know, when I was in Bonn, the *Wall Street Journal* didn't have anybody in Germany. But they had the, they sent over the, a guy from their London office periodically to. And so this guy, I was, had the, at the embassy, you know, he'd come and (*unintelligible phrase*) German politics and stuff. And I told him that Kilgore was a classmate of mine, and he, I immediately became his buddy. He would call me up from London.

CL: So, I guess, it only took you a year to become close to Frank. And that's lasted up until now, just a couple of weeks ago, a week ago you got a letter.

PS: And I don't understand how he happened to write this letter. Does he, have you been in touch with him?

CL: I really haven't, no. As I said, I've only met him once.

PS: I'm amazed because he wrote and he doesn't say anything about any of this.

CL: Oh he probably doesn't know about the interview setups.

PS: Well, (*unintelligible phrase*), here's the letter.

CL: Oh, it was your sixty-second wedding anniversary?

PS: Yeah, I don't know how he knew that.

CL: Good heavens. Well that's why he got to where he is, he just remembers things like that. You wrote a piece about Fichette?

PS: I'd forgotten, I didn't send it to him.

CL: Is that something you recently wrote?

PS: Well , actually I, since I've been here I've got about five different things.

CL: Is that, did you have something in the *Historian*?

PS: Well, this was a thing, actually this thing was published originally, I, we had. When I was editing the documents the big thing was the, there were documents about the Duke of Windsor and, in the German documents, and Churchill was determined that they should not be published,

although we were supposed to have unlimited decision on what could be published. And so the result, we had quite a to-do about the whole thing, so I wrote this piece on the Windsor file, on the Duke of Windsor, and for some (*unintelligible word*), then they asked me for this interview which they published in . . .

CL: This is the winter of '97 *Historian*. Michigan State Press.

PS: Well they actually, my article, I published it, and I sent it to a German publication thinking they'd publish it in German, that it would, darned if they didn't publish it in English.

CL: Had you written it in German for them?

PS: I forget. I guess I sent it in English, I thought they, I forget why, I was taken by surprise. In any case, it was published, and then another former colleague published an article (*unintelligible word*) getting the whole thing all screwed up, and I was outraged. And so I thought I'd set the record straight, and so I wrote this thing. And after I did, they said they wanted to have this interview, and, that's it.

CL: Interesting note in Frank's letter, where he says he finds it amazing he's writing that letter as he enters his ninth decade. And he still keeps all his correspondence up.

PS: What's his, I was trying to figure how old does that make him?

CL: God, I guess ninety. I didn't, don't think that's right.

PS: No, that can't be right. He must be . . .

CL: "It's hard for me to believe that I write this three days before I enter my ninth decade." Maybe there was a typo.

PS: Well, I mean, I think he, from, I was, when I went to Bates I was twenty-nine years old, I think. Hold on, (*unintelligible phrase*), I think, I don't, I think he may be in his eighties, I think that's what that must mean.

CL: I hate to keep jumping around, but they gave me a few more questions here. I want to make sure I cover all the bases, and I don't think I have entirely. I don't know if I've like, deep enough into what they wanted me to do. They want me to ask you how your education shaped or modified your beliefs, in other words, your high school, college. Do you think your teachers had any influence on how you came to your political point of view?

PS: I don't think so particularly, I don't know, unless I, I think I was a little more to the left than my parents were. I don't think, I mean, the whole leftist position has lost so much of its zeal lately, the whole atmosphere was different in the twenties (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: And how do you mean, it was . . .?

PS: Well, I mean the, oh, there's hardly any real Socialism left outside the Communist countries, and the labor party here, the Democrats are not socialist. And so the whole Socialist idea had more substance when I was growing up.

CL: Do you still subscribe to the idea, the Socialist ideal?

PS: Not particularly . . .

CL: Perhaps become more centrist?

PS: Well, (*unintelligible phrase*) I think there are still social inequalities, I mean, that's apparent from what the congress debate right now as a matter of fact.

CL: The health care bill.

PS: And that whole thing, I mean, and then, I mean then the Republican position, you know, let's give the folks back the tax (*unintelligible phrase*) . . .

CL: Give them a monster tax break but the heck with Medicaid. Of course that would benefit their constituents.

PS: That's about the extent of it, I mean, it's quite, nobody calls that Socialism any more.

CL: Well, I think the Republicans call anything vaguely left Socialism. So you don't know teachers who have stuck out in your mind as being great political influences then?

PS: No.

CL: You mentioned that you had one that you liked the best, or is that just because he was a brilliant mind, or did it go more than that?

PS: Well, he was a, he was just such an excellent teacher, actually. I had him, as I say, I had him for three years, and the general amount of influence was in teaching me how to write, and . . .

CL: So it was more for his academic qualities that you . . .?

PS: Yeah, but I think Depauw was outstanding in that aspect, (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: So there wasn't any great political agenda being pushed by any of your professors, or, because you can usually look back and think of one or two professors who had definitely some bent to them.

PS: I've been more influenced by my father's attitude towards (*unintelligible phrase*), as I say, (*unintelligible phrase*). But he was a devoted Republican and I'm a devoted Democrat.

CL: What about during WWII when you were over there, and I guess you were involved, when you were doing the Berlin documents, was that part of the Nuremberg trials?

PS: The trials of the German war criminals you mean? No, that was (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: Oh, you didn't have anything to do with it? You think WWII affected you in any way, did it maybe change your point of view at all?

PS: I don't think so, no.

CL: How about, I guess you must have followed with a lot of interest what was going on in Russia, the Soviet Union.

PS: Yes.

CL: With the movement of Lenin and Stalin and, did you have any great liking for, at the start of the whole thing, for what was going on?

PS: No, I certainly didn't. Stalin's system's a horrible system.

CL: Some people were sort of of the belief that Lenin was on the right track anyway when he got going.

PS: Well I think, in the twenties it didn't become quite so obvious (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: That didn't sway you from some of your Socialist ideas, though?

PS: Oh, I never really had any Socialist ideas, (*unintelligible phrase*).

CL: Well I think I've mostly covered the bases they wanted me to go through. I don't know if there's any funny or poignant things you can remember, you know, from your meetings with Ed or from Frank that jump out, little anecdotes?

PS: I think I've told you all that I have.

CL: Did Ed jump out at you in any way when you went to meet with him, anything funny about him or odd?

PS: No, I don't remember. Actually, he came here and made a speech when he was running for president, and I went to hear him. But I didn't go up to meet him or shake his hand

(*unintelligible phrase*), he wouldn't know who the hell I was, and so I didn't. And it wasn't long after that that he threw in the sponge. He had a good crowd here.

CL: When he did that deed for you it was just kind of like meeting with any other lawyer, he just did the deed and that was it?

PS: Well, I don't remember anything about it. I don't think I ever saw him afterwards, I don't know. He looked at it and said it was okay. I told them,, I decided, I got this, in the spring, I guess, I decided that I'd had enough of Colby and I got this offer to, from the State Department, so I decided right away I was going to sell the house and the same guy who sold it to me, I told him, got in touch with him, (*unintelligible word*) he sold it right away.

CL: Anything about Frank that jumps out, any old stories or funny things that you remember about him, anything odd that he did?

PS: No, I can't think of anything in particular. As I say, he was certainly socially very adept.

CL: I guess I'll close with this one. It's, I guess you must have known a fair amount about Muskie just following him even if you didn't really meet with him that much. What was your impression of the effect he had on Maine politics and politics in general?

PS: Well, I think Madeleine Albright has done more than anybody else to emphasize how important he was.

CL: How so?

PS: She has his picture in her office. She said, "I owe it all to Ed Muskie."

CL: What do you think Muskie's most lasting donation is?

PS: I didn't follow that aspect of things enough to have an opinion that's worth anything. He was a, he really wasn't (*unintelligible word*) long enough to make a very compelling impact, but as I say, Madeleine Albright certainly . . .

CL: I guess he took Madeleine under his wing.

PS: Yeah.

CL: Well I guess unless you've got any other thoughts.

PS: Okay, I guess not.

CL: Well listen, I truly appreciate your time, thank you very much.

End of Interview