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RECORDED INTERVIEW

OF

JACK FERGUSON

CONDUCTED BY

CHARLES FEDULLO

WITH

PAUL McCARTHY

IN WASHINGTON D.C.

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Part 1 of 2, Tape 1, Side A

UAF ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

SENATOR TED STEVENS PROJECT

Transcribed by:

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INTERVIEW OF JACK FERGUSON

(Beginning of Part 1, Tape 1, Side A, recorded interview.)

CHARLES FEDULLO: Okay. This is -- narrator is Jack Ferguson, former Chief of Staff, former Staffer for Senator Stevens. Name of the interviewers are Paul McCarthy and Charles Fedullo. Date of the interview is June 9th. We are in Washington, D.C., in the offices of Jack Ferguson, Side A, Part 1, Senator Stevens oral history.

And the first thing we ask folks, Jack, is to talk just a little bit about what was your relationship with the Senator? How did you meet him?

JACK FERGUSON: Well, I had -- when Don Young came to Congress March 14th, 1973, he had been elected in a special election following the death of Nick Begich and Hale Boggs, actually, which occurred prior to the November election, it occurred October 16, 1973. So Don had lost to the deceased in the general election. You can't really call him deceased, though, 30 days after the event, so the election took place. And so obviously, a special election had to occur.

March 14th, 1973, Don Young won that special

election, and he was sworn into office and he hired me the very next day. I had hired -- I had worked on the Hill for two years prior for Congressman Floyd Hicks from Washington State.

And I was fascinated by the prospect of the oil pipeline, TAPS. The issue came to Congress because the Supreme Court had denied the writ of certiorari. The issue was whether or not the Department of Interior had the authority to issue special landings permits known as SLURPs. What that did was it gave you a right-of-way larger than 28 feet. That was the right-of-way that was embedded in law way back in 1920 that governed the width of a right-of-way for pipelines across federal lands.

That was a response to way back when we gave huge right-of-ways for railroads, and of course, then they made more money off the land than they did off the railroad, or they created their wealth, the worth of that land because of the railroad. But the pipeline was very narrow, so it was wide enough just so the horse-drawn carriage could turn around, 28 feet is what they figured, to lay the pipe down.

Well, obviously, a D9 Cat, modern pipelines can't do that, so the Interior for years had issued special range permits. That was challenged, went to the Ninth Circuit, the Ninth Circuit ruled, and it came to that the environmental impact statement was not adequate in terms of

its addressing this issue, and -- but they actually ruled on the narrow issue of SLURPs. I'm sorry, they ruled on the narrow issue of SLURPs.

It -- it was then brought to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court says the law is very clear, Congress has to address it. So Congress then took up the issue of addressing legislating TAPS. They had several critical issues they had to climb, one of which was that the NEPA statement, the environmental -- National Environmental Policy Act, had been complied with, and that the SLURP was broadened and such like that.

Anyway, so Don Young was on the House Interior Committee and this was, of course, his most important issue. And he hired me as his legislative aide, and I worked for him from that time up until 1976, when we had actually passed, by the way, we passed that Pipeline Act.

In the course of time when I was his legislative aide, we actually passed the House of Representatives August 4th, 1973. It went on to pass the Senate November 16th, 1973, and -- and the permits were issued by Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton January 28th of 1974.

So we had a -- we had a really good, interesting period of time, Don and I. We worked very closely with Ted Stevens. And Mike Gravel was the other Senator at the time. And it was a wonderful relationship we had with Ted. Very

strange, of course, between Mike Gravel, and I can go into that in a minute, but -- and it was through the course of this consideration that Ted came to know me and -- and understood, I guess, how -- my work with the delegation.

And so when he was elected to a leadership post in the Republican Caucus, he was the Assistant Minority Leader under Howard Baker. He then asked -- called me up and asked me if I'd be his -- in those days what we called administrative aide to that posting. He had another administrative aide in the State Office, so he had a leadership office and the state office.

Prior to the call, George Nethercutt, his then Chief of Staff, who, as I mentioned, later went on to become Congressman Nethercutt, you may recall he defeated Tom Foley. He -- he was actually from Seattle, and he defeated Tom Foley.

Just an aside, for all historians, there's --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah, just use these.

Tom Foley was then the Speaker of the House. Very -- very prominent Democrat. And there's one statistic that always still amazes me to this day -- and now I'm digressing -- is that after George Nethercutt defeated Tom Foley, won the seat to Congress, 30 percent of those polled in his district thought he would be the next Speaker of the

House. You know, just -- just, you know, just to let you know how unaware some of the constituency is.

But anyway, so George Nethercutt called me up and said, "You're going to get a call from the Senator in 10 minutes. And he's going to ask you if you'd like to take my place, at least to take a posting over in the leadership office. So think about that."

So I got the call. It was on a Friday. And I was very content. By that time I had been promoted to administrative aide, aka Chief of Staff of Don Young after the pipeline passed, and I was the -- a young guy, and I was a very young Chief of Staff in the House, and we had passed a major piece of legislation, and I was feeling good about that.

So anyway, I got this call and I said, "Hey, I'd like to think about it." And typical of Ted Stevens, that sort of just went right over his head. He said, "Come to my house for breakfast Sunday morning." It wasn't as if I was going to get any -- any say in this matter. He made his choice and that was it.

And I went in and talked to Don about it. He -- you know, Ted had called Don and so on, and he said, "Of course, you've got to go up. This is a great opportunity."

And so I went down and talked to a congressman who we all know who went on to become the director of OMB under

the Reagan years.

(Telephone message rings.)

JACK FERGUSON: Oh, shoot. Redfern Sky, come on.

Anyway, he said, "What do you think about this?" David -- David Stockton. That's right. And David and I had cut our teeth as chief of staffs, he had worked for John Anderson of Illinois, so we had gotten very close.

And -- and I know, in fact, in that TAPS fight, John Anderson wanted to go across Canada to Illinois, and we, of course, wanted to go straight down the tidewater, so we prevailed in that particular routing.

Anyway, so David and I had respect for each other because we had to -- we had to defeat that amendment on the Floor. But anyhow, David looks and me and he says, "Are you nuts? You know, go ahead and work in the Senate." And, of course, it was the best decision I had made in a long while.

And in that leadership post, you -- you were the Floor walker, you -- you know. Our duties were to set up the agenda for the -- for the week, and also we had to close.

Closing means when the Senate -- when the Senate ends its business for the day, it goes into what they call morning business, and it talks about what they are going to do the next day, when they are going to come in, et cetera.

Now, when you close the Senate down, the majority leader does that, and the minority leader has to sit there

and listen and protect the interests of the minority. And this particular interest, the majority leader in time, excuse me, was Bob Byrd. Now, Bob Byrd, the great historian of the Senate, absolutely loved being the Majority Leader. He would relish the time to speak and close down the Senate, and it might take him an hour to close it down.

I mean, he would talk about things in history and Caesar and who knows what. I mean, he would -- he would go on and on every night. You know. And -- and then the lights would get turned off.

Well, Howard Baker quickly got tired of that, so he assigned the job to Ted Stevens, which meant, of course, I had to -- I had to stand there, as well. And -- and, of course, in those days, and I've explained this to the fellows that work here, when you work for a senator or congressman, you don't go home until he goes home, I mean, if you're a key staffer.

So, you know, when Ted Stevens walked out of that office and went home late at night, I was the guy turning the lights off after him. So -- but it was a great experience. And we had a -- we had a wonderful time.

Now, mind you, I didn't serve all that long. I only served up through April 1st of 1978. And the reason was, is that Jake Javits had -- was the first to try to put the brakes on the revolving door, and that if you worked in

the United States Senate, you wouldn't be able to come up to it and lobby it for a year. And he was the first to pass that law.

And it was unclear as to whether or not you could lobby the Senate or lobby your boss or whatever it may be, and so on. And over the years, of course, this has become very -- you know, very much of an issue of revolving doors, people serving the public trust and then going out and serving the private interest and so on.

And so there were a number of us that -- that looked at that. I looked at my future. Ted always thought there would be -- the Senator always thought that this posting that I held was an obvious launch pad to go down and serve in a commission, whether it be the FCC, FTC, FAA, whatever it may be and any of those interesting things. I mean, after all, he was on the Senate Congress Committee and on the Appropriations Committee and in the leadership. And, you know, mind you, you know, as things were wrapping up here, Ronald Reagan came in and, you know, for quite a robust period of Republican leadership, I -- of course, that was hard to foretell at that time, but nonetheless, it would have played out rather nicely had I remained, but I had no interest in doing that.

So I thought I would head out and start my office, which I did April 1st, 1978. And a lot of great things have

happened to me on April 1st. And I'll get to them at some point, including a call from NBC at 6:00 a.m. in the morning, saying, "Can you confirm that Eric Holder dismissed all charges against Senator Stevens?" Which came in April 1st.

And, of course, one thinks about those things as to whether or not this is a real game or not on such a day, but I've long moved beyond the tradition of April 1st tomfoolery and take it quite seriously.

Anyway, so back to my years with Ted, the Senator, we had a great time. And there were many interesting times on the Senate Floor that occurred then. One was the famous Abourezk-Metzenbaum filibuster. Now, the filibuster rules have changed over the years, have changed to there being two-thirds of the Senate to 60 percent of those voting, or 60 -- I'm sorry, 60 of those voting, such like that. But the filibuster was extremely difficult for a Senator to take the filibuster like they had done when -- in the '60s and the '70s where they just spoke endlessly. You know, the -- the famous Russell Long filibuster. There's two or three others that were famous for the filibusters.

So this particular filibuster, the Abourezk-Metzenbaum filibuster was a dilatory one, which is, under the rules, prior to filing cloture, any amendment filed at the desk is privileged and can be offered during the period of cloture.

So even though the cloture was invoked, there were over 500 amendments that had been filed by Abourezk and Metzenbaum at the desk and privileged to be offered. So what they would do is they would offer them, and then you would have the roll call, and then you'd have -- you know, then you'd have quorum call, and then you'd have a roll call, and then you'd vote.

And this is the time where -- where they put cots in the -- in the lobby and such like that, the members' lobby because they had a lot of old members there. I mean, you had McClellan and you had Young, a different Young, Senator (indiscernible) Young, Milt Young, these guys were all up in their eighties, and they -- you know, leadership was concerned that the stress of staying up 24 hours for endless times was going to harm one's health so, yeah, they provided for that and so on.

My job, because everyone's just more or less standing around twiddling their thumbs, was to entertain these people in the private quarters that Senator Stevens had, we had a bar, we had a chess board. And I ended up playing chess with -- with Senator Hines. And we became quite good friends, actually, through that period of time. We played chess, you know, endless hours.

And he usually beat me, but one time he called me down to the -- to the cloak room, which is right off the

Senate Floor where, you know, a preponderance of members sit on the leather couches looking up at the monitor and the TV and such like that, and it was a Saturday. I mean, this thing is now in its 8th or 9th day, went on 13 days. And there was a -- I think the Texas game, the big Texas game, Texas A & M, John Tower was down there watching this thing, and everyone was ribbing John Tower, and I was playing chess there in the presence of about 20 senators, and I beat -- on that occasion, I beat Senator Hines humiliating him in front of all his colleagues while they are watching this football game. One of the low points of my career.

Anyway, so -- so anyway, you know, we -- we would -- on occasion, we would go in and we are, you know, the wingman for Senator Stevens, so when certain votes occurred, we would -- we would have to help go around and poll the votes, and this and that.

And we call it whipping the -- whipping the votes so you would know specifically who was going to vote for and why, and who was going to vote against. And that number had to be relatively accurate. You had to hand that over to leadership so they could presumably plot their strategy as to how they would offer amendments to that vote according, and so on.

And also the task was that when certain members came into the Floor, they would come up to you and they'd

say, "How should I vote on this matter?" And we would never tell them how to vote, we would bracket it for them. We would say, "The leadership has voted this way, the colleague from your state has voted that way, and you may recall you have spoken on this last week in favor of a motion to table to be a motion in favor of because you never know, you know, yea or nay whether or not that puts you on the right side of the issue. It could be a motion to table, it could be a motion to pass, so on. So that was our job. And so on.

Now, --just for the color for the history of it all, since people might read this, let me tell you how important that job is.

When the pipeline issue came up on the Floor -- now, this was -- I was over in the House side, but I've been told this story many times -- there was an issue of compliance with NEPA. A very controversial issue. This is where Congress simply finds that NEPA had been complied with. And that's it. That's the end of their -- it's not appealable by a court, and so on. Well, it is in a certain way, but the finding is pretty dramatic. Never been done before. I don't think it's been done since.

We -- we pass that issue on the House. And Ted Stevens did not want to make it an issue in the Senate because he was fearful that we'd lose that vote. And if you don't vote on it, if you don't get a "no," you can go into conference

with a more open mind because the conferees were going to be chaired by Henry Jackson, and he was very much a strong supporter of ours. So we would have the House view, and then the Senate conferees would simply have to receive and concur with the -- with the House position. So on. So we didn't want to take that vote.

Well, Mike Gravel insisted on it. He wanted to have that vote. And it angered Ted Stevens to a great degree because he felt it put it in jeopardy. Turns out that that vote turned out 49-49, and the president, the presiding president, Spiro Agnew, President of the Senate, Vice-President of the United States, had to cast the tie breaking vote.

But what was unusual about that 49-49 vote was one of the 49 in favor of finding NEPA had been complied with was Senator Brooke of Massachusetts, a very liberal Senator, a Democrat, who had a history of opposing this sort of legislation and had voted the wrong way by his stated record. He had walked onto the Floor, and my guess is, walked up to one of the Floor walkers, such as I who served, and there was, you know, maybe a half dozen of them out there, three for the Democrats, three for the Republicans, or whatever it may be, or your personal staff, doesn't matter, whoever you sought out when you walked through those doors onto the Chamber and said, "How do I vote on this?"

And you may not have heard the debate, you may have been confused, well, it was a motion to table, a motion to pass, whatever it may be. Usually you can get -- get the eye the person calling out the vote, and you go thumbs up or you go thumbs down, and you don't even have to give a verbal interpretation, but he voted the wrong way according to his stated record, and then he departed the Chamber. And no one could find him. And only a senator can vitiate his own vote.

So they held the vote open for, I don't know, a half hour, 45 minutes, an inordinately long time. Usually a vote may go 10, 15 minutes, sometimes 20, but you know, to hold the vote open to see if they could find him. They couldn't find him, so there the gavel came down and there it was. So that's how important a person on the Floor can be.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I want to clarify, so the Senator -- Senator Brooke from Massachusetts just made a mistake?

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: And then the second part is the main issue was the NEPA issue?

JACK FERGUSON: Right. Right. Right. So anyway, so back then too, I think, the controlling question here, what was my rapport, job responsibility with the Senator while I served in this post as, again, administrative aide of his leadership position.

Well, he'd go down to the White House and get briefings, and I would have to get a security clearance. And so I had been in the Army prior to coming to work on the Hill after I received my Masters at University of Oregon, so, you know, I liked -- you know, getting a security clearance was something of a bit of value, and I liked it because it made me privileged to be in certain meetings, which was, you know, very fun.

And also there is what's known as the caucus lunch, it's held every Tuesday, and the Republicans always have it in the Mansfield Room, S-208, and the Democrats always have it in the Lyndon B. Johnson room.

And you go into that room and only senators are there, their guests. You know, former senators, should they care to call in town, call in, and four nonelected officials. They were the -- well, the one -- I guess one is elected. They were the Secretary of the Senate, his deputy. It was Bill Hildenbrand was Secretary of the Senate at the time, his deputy, I can almost remember, and then the Chief of Staff of Howard Baker, who is now a Senator, whose name is -- from Tennessee -- I can come back to that in a minute -- and myself, who was then the Chief of Staff of Ted Stevens. So we would sit in the back.

And, you know, when they came in, even back in those days, they had to buy their lunch. You know. And so there

was a little cash box, and they would come in, and the Deputy Secretary would be sitting there and that would be $5.50, Senator, whatever it was, and he'd pay out $5.50 and go take a seat.

And then there'd be a dais and Howard Baker would be up there and Ted Stevens would be up there and Bob Dole would be up there and he was -- and Trent Lott would be up there. They had their various different leadership posts. You know, they were either, you know, policy, Chairman of the Policy Committee or Chairman of the Caucus, whatever it is, but you'd see this posting up there. There's a picture of the Caucus right there.

Anyway, and it was always really an interesting time. I mean, guests would be, like, Henry Kissinger, and Margaret Thatcher, and things of this nature. And when you came into this -- this -- this lunch, which I never once missed because it was just fascinating.

The purpose was it was early in the week, and they would tell you each -- in those days, it was ranking member would tell you what they had in front of their committee and what they would -- what they would talk about. And -- but it was very private. And no word would ever get out.

For example, John Tower would say something like, you know, "The issue of having women on battleships have come up, and of course, it's a very controversial issue, and I

say, if you have a woman on battleships, you should have enough to go around." And, you know, everyone would, you know, go, "Oh, my God, my son." And that sort of thing.

And -- and -- or you would -- or when certain people like Jake Javits spoke, he spoke, oh, so beautifully and with such amazing elocution, but you know, there are other things about Jake Javits before his health sort of started to fail on him, he had a ravenous appetite. And, you know, they'd have various servants in there and he would be, like, "Bring me some more of this, and I want a cup soup right over here, and I want some more of the, you know, salami over here," and so he would just -- throughout the lunch, he would just be eating in the most ravenous way.

Or then you would get -- you know, Henry Kissinger would come up and you'd stand up, and of course, he would have this tan, and you know, and people hooting and hollering, "Where have you been, Saudi Arabia?" You know, and this sort of thing. You know, he -- "You look a little like you've been on the desert," on it goes.

And -- but everyone had a huge amount of respect for Henry Kissinger. And when he spoke one time, it was just hilarious because he was, like, annihilating the head table. You know, he would say, "You know, if the Italian election comes out Communist, we can expect big troubles in that region," and he would swoop his hand across, knock the

ketchup all over Howard Baker and it's going onto his plate. And then, you know, "However, I think you know what one can expect at this point in the Cold War," and he threw his hand out like that and knocked over the water pitcher and stuff like that. And the four of us in the back, of course, were stifling. I mean, we were privileged to say nothing, we were just stifling laughter. And, of course, all of the other senators were just ignoring it and, you know, various people coming in and cleaning up the mess as he would go about waving his hands.

When Margaret Thatcher came in, I'll never forget it because she was just, you know, one of those people, maybe never, ever in doubt, she just stood up and said, "This is the way it is, boys, and this is what's going to happen, and this is what you can't expect. You got that?" You know, she was a very forceful speaker, and very certain of what she said. And just, you know, sort of like dared you to challenge her, you know, in any of her thought. And, you know, it was -- it was pretty interesting stuff.

PAUL MCCARTHY: Keep going. I'm sorry.

JACK FERGUSON: Oh, okay. Look -- you know, I don't, because we had to cancel awhile, you know, she lost her -- yeah, but the other ones are coming. Go downstairs and check on the new ones.

So evening would fall and the course of the day

would change, you know. We've done our work regarding the schedule, we may have had a meeting over in Howard Baker's office, you'd always go over to Howard Baker's office to have those meetings. And you know, sometimes things weren't always -- didn't always run smoothly with Howard Baker, and you know, the Senator would come back and say, "Here's what we've got to do: We've got to do that, we've got to do this, we've got to do that."

And my job was supposed to coordinate with the House and the House leadership and the House Republicans. And I would -- following the meeting with Baker, I'd go over and deal with the House -- my House opposite, and so on, this and that. And the day would work on. And we would move into the evening time.

Now, chiefs of staff, administrative aides are privileged to eat in the Senate Dining Room, so we could go down there and grab -- grab a bite, which we liked to do because we observed the other senators and who they were talking with and this and that, and just a little bit more information.

We had a little -- in those days you didn't have TV, we just had a voice box of what was going on on the Senate Floor. And turn the volume up and down depending on who was going on.

Sometimes I would sit in the meetings that the

Senator would have with his constituents and other people and -- and lobbyists that would come to town and so on. And one time the Senator was exercising his Floor responsibilities, and there was a very prominent D.C. lawyer dressed in the best of his lawyer clothes, attache case at his feet, sitting there waiting to see the Senator. He had had an appointment earlier in the afternoon, say, like two o'clock or so. And the Senator, just because of his Floor responsibilities, couldn't meet with him until 5:00. And the man, of course -- not of course, but the man, unaware of the protocol of events, went in there and read the Senator the riot act for being so rude to him and not respecting his two o'clock time slot.

And the Senator just says, "You know, you made more money sitting there waiting for me than I've probably made all year. Why don't you just get out of my office." You know, and that sort of thing.

And, you know, from time to time, you know, a chief of staffs is -- what makes his position so important is that he can walk in and out of the meetings with the Senator and he can -- I guess he would have to pass on, you know, Howard Baker said X or, you know, you're needed on the Floor, or whatever it may be, or your next meeting is there, such like that. And I wasn't beyond sometimes saying when somebody was in the office that I felt he should be wary of, I'd, you

know, go, "Yeah, Mike Gravel's on the Floor right now saying X," and he would spin out. And they would go, "What happened there?" "Well, meeting's over. He's got to go down there and see what he's up to."

And so anyway, and there was a time, too, of course, later in there -- you know, in those late-night sessions, oftentimes Wednesday night would go long, we had that bar open, and I was to pour drinks and such. And so -- and to keep general conversation alive among senators when Senator Stevens was out doing his responsibilities.

One time John Tower, who is a notorious drinker to begin with, and he came down and sat there. And he was an amazing stern individual. I mean, he always dressed in a three-piece suit buttoned up, always a dark blue suit, and very erect. When he sat on the couch to drink, he sat on the edge of the couch, you know, very, very erect. And he always drank scotch, and I'd pour him a scotch. And no one else would be in the room, and I'd be sure he had the ice, did he want it, the routine. And every now and then I would attempt to engage in conversation with him. Like, you know, "Well, I felt the debate went very well this afternoon," something like that, just anything just to get him to say something. He would always look at me, like, "Kid, when I want to talk to you, I'll start the conversation." You know. "Otherwise, just keep my drink full and sit over there." You

know. That was one of those great times.

And then there was another time I've got to tell you, which is so funny. The Senator says to me, he says, "Elizabeth Taylor's going to come in with John Warner. And John Warner's running for the Senate in Virginia." And so I said, "Okay."

And he said, "Now, your job is they are going to come in for lunch, and she likes to have a Bloody Mary at lunch, so you pour her the Bloody Mary. "Right. Got it, boss."

So the day arrives, this was a week out or so, the day arrives, I'm dressed to the nines, and I walk in there and he's dressed in a corduroy sport coat with patches on, and I don't know, some weird pants, and this and that, and I looked at him and said, "She cancelled, didn't she?" He said, Yep." And so on.

So anyway, the day finally arrived and John Warner came in. And it was one of those things where Warner only wanted to talk to the Senator, and Elizabeth Taylor was clearly sort of the attraction of the hour. But you know, when we sat down to lunch, it was Senator Stevens and John Warner, and old Jack and Elizabeth were over here on the couch and I had to do whatever.

So anyways, time to have the drink, right? So I go to the bar. Well, Bloody Mary is sort of a funny drink.

I mean, maybe you drink it on Sunday morning or something, but we had a Bloody Mary mix, you know, we looked, checked, saw it, but when we opened it, it had previously been opened many months prior and there was nothing but mold pouring out. And so I -- oh, God, you know.

And so I went down there, "Well, how about a vodka on the rocks?"

"Well, that would be fine."

And -- and so -- and Stevens glowered at me, he said, "Hey, she wants Bloody Mary's." "We don't have any Bloody Mary's," you know, we were talking out of the sides of our mouth.

And so I said -- anyway, she's powering through this vodka, and she -- she pulls out the cigarette to be lit, and like a lady, you know, I -- she nods to me to light the match, and I had the match and I light it, and when I cup my hand in the cigarette and hold -- hold the match like this, and she -- you know, she puts her hand underneath my hand like a lady would do, you know, just like -- and then she stared me dead in the eye. And there were the National Velvet violet eyes that you wouldn't believe. They were so penetrating. You know. And I was just, like, wow.

And she was not very svelte at that time. She was wearing muumuus and they were flowing out, and she was -- this was one of her period of times when she was having

difficulties. So anyway. That was one of the great chores of all time.

And I -- actually, I had to take her over to the Senate Russell Building, and when I walked out back of the Capitol to walk outside those two blocks over to the Senate Russell Building, by the time we got there, we must have had 40 or 50 people following us, you know. She was really quite the catch. You know.

I -- anyway, so those days were really interesting days, not only for the reasons of covering the Floor agenda, covering the White House briefings, being part of the Floor strategy, setting out on our chores to inform our colleagues, but also just the personal interaction with the senators that the job brought.

And we got quite close to a number of them. Senator John Warner later, Senator Mark Hatfield in particular, and really became -- what's that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible. "the mail came in..)

JACK FERGUSON: Oh, really? Oh, okay. Did you want some money or something?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. (Inaudible.)

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah. Here. Actually, I'm getting -- here, take it. That's it. Very good.

So anyway, you know, that was pretty much those

days.

PAUL McCARTHY: How did the -- you know, he was known for being able to walk and work across aisle. I mean --

JACK FERGUSON: Well, yeah. I mean, he -- he had -- he had a real respect for elders, people senior to him. In fact, when he got this post, he received a car and driver. And I guess Bill Young of North Dakota, elderly man, he wanted to give the car and driver to him because he felt he needed it, too, he was more ambulatory, and he wouldn't have anything to do with it. In fact, Ted Stevens was so unaccustomed to it, he would ride around in the front seat of the cars. He would -- in those days, there were Town Cars and, you know, a little more elaborate. Now they just are all SUVs and sorts of things, but anyway.

Yeah. No, he -- you know, he -- he just really -- and Bob Byrd and he were very close, he had a huge respect for Bob Byrd. And obviously, Dan Inouye, I mean, his rapport and relationship with Dan Inouye is legendary.

He -- you know, he just really revered those people. And there was McClellan, you know, from Arkansas at the time, and -- and Russell Long, and a number of those Southern senators that he really revered.

Scoop Jackson. I tell you, he loved Scoop Jackson. When Scoop Jackson passed away, he mourned for a

year after Scoop Jackson. I mean, he really, really -- we always called Scoop Jackson a third senator to the State of Alaska. He, you know, really was very close to Scoop. Now, Magnuson, you know, he liked and all that, but he wasn't all that close to him, but Scoop Jackson was truly a friend and confidant and so on.

So, yeah. No. I mean, Ted -- Ted worked very well with Democratic colleagues, especially the ones leadership.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Well, you know, you were with him when he was Whip, and that -- that's a significant position. He's relatively new coming into that position. How did he handle it -- he brought you in, clearly he had a view of the hospitality of the position.

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But how did he handle that position as being a relative -- a relative newcomer to the Senate at that point?

JACK FERGUSON: Well, and keep in mind, when you're in the leadership role, you are the, you know, Assistant Minority Leader. So you really do what the Minority Leader is asking you to do. Sure, you're the Whip, so you do the counts, that's your responsibility, put out a Whip notice every time, and you're in all the strategy meetings and you get assigned certain tasks, but again, I

mean, Howard Baker didn't come to our office, we went to Howard Baker's office. You know. And that's -- that's just the way it was. And -- and Howard Baker, to the extent that the minority leader can, makes those choices.

Now, mind you, Ted ran for the position of -- of Majority Leader, and Bob Dole prevailed in that instance, and that's quite a story, as well. Maybe I'll regale you with that, if you want.

PAUL MCCARTHY: We would love to hear it.

CHARLES FEDULLO: We would like to hear it.

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah. Yeah. No, so, I mean, having been -- let me just step back and warm up on it. Having been -- thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible. "you want more water?")

JACK FERGUSON: Yeah, just give me some more.

You know, even though you're in the leadership post, and a lot of people would revere that post, see it as really something quite elevated in terms of where you were in the standing in the pecking order of the United States Senate. We would have fundraisers, we would fill the room. But in truth, we were -- we were at the beckon call of the Minority Leader. And when Al Simpson took that post, and again, it's the assistant minority posting, there was a fellow that took my place, and his -- his name was Mike

Tongert, and we met once at a party and we each looked at each other and saw that posting and we sort of laughed because we knew in certain ways it was important, but in other ways, it wasn't anywhere near as powerful as people it preceded.

And -- and Mike was a very funny guy, he even had a different bent on it because, again, you know, he was a staff person for Al Simpson, a very strong personality, he says, "I'm a key advisor to a senator who doesn't like key advice." Or no, doesn't take key advice, I think it was. It was fun.

And we used to laugh over our roles in it because, you know, to some degree, it was quite important; other - to some degrees, maybe, you know, the Chief of Staff back in the State Office, Tim McKeever was, in some ways, doing, you know, that -- taking a heavier load and such and so on.

Anyway. So we -- we get to the point in Ted's career where he can now -- well regarded, strong intellect, very serious person, takes a lot of work home with him, reads everything. In fact, we used to say the best way to communicate with Ted is to write him a note. Now with e-mails, he's all over e-mails, too, such like that.

So he decided to run. And the vote is held in the old Chamber of the Senate. In fact, it's where the Supreme Court used to meet. And you can't really -- only the senators were in there, plus Bill Hildenbrand, the Secretary

of the Senate. And he was there just to tally the votes.

And Ted Stevens and Howard Baker were on dais of this whole Chamber because they were the leaders at the time, so they were setting up the vote.

The vote was an elimination vote. There were five candidates. Let's see if I can recall them all. Bob Dole, Jim McClure, Ted Stevens. Oh, boy. I used to be able to do this. And two other quite conservative members that challenged. There were five moderate senators that wanted to eliminate those conservative people, so they formed a cabal, and they were led by Mark Hatfield and Mathias of Maryland, and who was the guy that went on to become governor up in Connecticut. Oh, come on. Jeez, it's sad, isn't it?

Anyway, there were five of them. So they vote as a block and then some. And so, you know, one would be eliminated, then another would be eliminated, and then it got down to Ted Stevens -- and, oh, McClure was one of the first out. Ted Stevens and this other guy. And, oh, God, I've got to remember his name or the story's not good.

Anyway, we thought we had more votes from this fellow than Bob Dole would have. So after each vote, we would sort of get -- you know, the white smoke would go up the stack, someone would come out and let us know what happened.

Cathy Stevens and I were sitting there in that

hallway. We couldn't look into the Chamber, we could only look down the hall because the place had sort of headed off. And so we were there by the Roosevelt chandelier looking down the hallway, and these people would come out from time to time, we'd hear who had been eliminated. And so on.

And so it got down to these last three, and we thought, wow, we'd go back in, look at our little vote count and say, man, if he is out, we get more of those votes than does Dole. Well, it didn't prove to be true.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I'm going to ask you --

(End of Part 1, Tape 1, Side A of recorded interview.)