

RECORDED INTERVIEW OF JACK RODERICK
MAY 27, 2009, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
ORAL HISTORY 2009-13-04
TED STEVENS PAPERS PROJECT JUKEBOX

PAUL MC CARTHY: Back before knowing that there was a university flat, so.

JACK RODERICK: Terrific.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Yeah.

JACK RODERICK: I didn't know that.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Yeah, it was -- it was a fun time.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, it was a good deal. Do I wear this or not?

CHARLES FEDULLO: You can leave it right there and it should be fine.

JACK RODERICK: Good.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Makes it easily. I am going to hit play and just a couple housekeeping items that I need to take care of and then we will get started. It is May 27th. The name of the narrator is former Anchorage Mayor Jack Roderick, author, friend of Senator Ted Stevens. The interviewers are Charles Fedullo and Paul McCarthy. The place of the interview is Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. This is Side 1, Tape 1, Ted Stevens Oral History with Jack Roderick. Thanks. I guess -- let's start with some simple things. How did you know Senator Stevens? How did you meet him?

JACK RODERICK: I was introduced to Ted by Bob Kendrick, who was the Editor of the Anchorage Times. I had just graduated from law school at the University of Washington in 1960 I guess and Ted had just come back from Washington where he was Solicitor of the Interior Department and after Jack Kennedy beat Nixon, Ted decided to come back to Anchorage. So Bob Kendrick had us into his office and said you two guys are going to practice law why don't you do it together. I guess we must have said why not.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Yeah, okay, okay, really.

JACK RODERICK: Yep.

CHARLES FEDULLO: What kind of law firm did you set up?

JACK RODERICK: Well, it wasn't a partnership as I recall. It was an association we made. We borrowed some money from the SBA and set up our office over on East 8th and 5th I guess -- in the back of that. Ted had one office. I had another. And Vic Fischer, who was the real estate appraiser I guess -- one of the first in Anchorage. He rented an office from us and Barbara was our mutual secretary and that was it.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Wow. I mean what kind of relationship did you have with Senator Stevens before the meeting or was that when you met him and how did it develop?

JACK RODERICK: Well, of course, we practiced law together. We lived a few blocks from each other. I lived on 10th and P Street and he was at 12th and P Street. Our kids were about the same age. Martha, my wife, and Ann, Ted's first wife, were very close -- and very close, terrific and Ann, as everyone says, was a remarkable woman and she was and so was my wife. So all our kids sort of grew up together. So that was it.

CHARLES FEDULLO: What kind of a -- people talk about Ted Stevens' intellect and his work ethic, what was he like to work with?

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JACK RODERICK: Ted was a terrific lawyer. He accepted conflict. He kind of liked it, I think. The more you pour on him the better he likes it, you know. And that gets for me at least the amateur psychologist I guess Ted was a survivor. He came out of a broken family, raised by -- I think the divorce was when he was about four years old in Indianapolis, raised by grandparents. Grandmother was a Christian Scientist. Grandfather was active. He called him a joiner. Very active in the Republican Party. Father went somewhere back in Texas and kind of lost his eyesight for a while, remarried. Ted had two brothers (inaudible). The young brother and sister went with the mother. Ted's father left. So he was raised by grandparents and when his grandparents died then he moved to Manhattan Beach, California and was raised by uncle and aunt. I think his mother's sister, I forget. At any rate, the uncle who Ted says had the most influence on him was a motorcycle driver in World War I.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Really.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, and, of course, Ted went to high school and went to China and flew and then came back and went through a couple of colleges and ended up going to Harvard Law School. I think sponsored by a fellow named Green. I can't remember his first name down in San Francis -- in Los Angeles who owned a offshore drilling company. Ted had gone to school with his son I think and I talked to his son one time. And he borrowed \$5,000 from his uncle and went to Harvard Law School. Couldn't pay the \$5,000 back to his uncle, but Ann and Ted bought this uncle a car one time and Ted said he drove that until he died. So they repaid him that way. But after Harvard Law School he went to work for a law firm in Washington, DC. They sent him to Fairbanks. I think his client was Usibelli.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah and so he got a flavor of Fairbanks. Went back to Fairbanks -- I'm a little vague there, but became the prosecutor, you know, with a gun on his hip and all that jazz.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Elliott Ness.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, that everybody talks about. And then I think he told me the Secretary of Interior was a fellow named McKay from Oregon and I think he said that there was a manager of the lodge now at Denali that had screwed up and he had violated the contract and the secretary said well, let's do something about it. So Ted goes down and talks to this guy and he says you better get out of here or you're in trouble and the guys says okay, so he left. So Ted goes back to Fairbanks and says to the secretary it is taken of Mr. Secretary and I think the secretary said let's get this guy back to Washington. (Laughter) Which they did and he stayed there and he got the flavor of politics in Washington and liked it. And, of course, stayed and became, you know, very close to Fred Seaton, who was also a newspaper man; Bill Sneddon in Fairbanks very close. Ted was right in the middle of it. He did the ANWR thing and set that aside. Incidentally, he claims and I got it somewhere in my records that the Woman's Club in Fairbanks was the one that put that in their head. We know the oil companies -- this is true. I have got it somewhere. We know oil is going to be explored up there, but you guys now set aside part of that North Slope so that it will mean the flora and the fauna will be undisturbed

and they just chose I think mainly the northeast corner and that is what Ted said. I got it somewhere in my records.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Wow.

JACK RODERICK: And they set that aside partly for that reason. Fairbanks Women's Garden Club or whatever it is called. I am getting a little off my story here, aren't I?

CHARLES FEDULLO: What was your relationship with him through those years? How many years did the law firm last? How did you keep in touch with him as he did these tracks around Fairbanks and in Alaska and in Washington?

JACK RODERICK: Well, our partnership, so to speak, didn't last very long because I was also had businesses. I think I told you earlier I had started Alaska Scouting Service, A Petroleum Publications, Alaskan Map Service, and I had this show Land Man. Lee Shell joined me as my partner. So that was going along. Charlie was running those things. I was practicing law. Charlie was also a Yale graduate and also a lawyer, but he hadn't passed the Alaska Bar. And the theory was that he was going to pass the bar and join us, although I don't recall talking to Ted about that, but the idea was he would join our law firm. And suddenly Charlie died at age about thirty-five, I think. And so here I was. I was practicing law and all these businesses, so I had to decide and I went off and ran the businesses. So I left Ted somewhere in the probably late '62, early '63. So we were together only a couple years, but I kept in touch with him and he then went through a series of other lawyers. Oh my, Martha and Ann and the kids stayed close. But I don't know, I can't -- I was so damn busy I can't remember, but we kept in touch.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Well, how did -- what did you think of him personally, professionally?

JACK RODERICK: Well, Ted is a fighter. He is a battler. The more you put on him the harder he fights and he is just built that way. It's -- I look back on his childhood now my conclusion is that he was angry. Most kids are when their families split up and he gets tossed around, but he was a good lawyer. The thing I remember about Ted he could come back and draft a memo orally -- just dictate a memo and hardly change a few words. I couldn't do that, but most people can. So he had a sharp mind. He liked the law. He worked like hell and not to get ahead of the game, but he is basically honest because he never sought personal wealth. So I am -- is that answering your question?

CHARLES FEDULLO: Absolutely.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I guess that -- talk a little bit about what in his conversations with you he goes through these series of events, he runs for senate, loses twice. He in between runs for state house and it looks like he is getting out of politics. It seems as though he has said I am not going to engage in politics. He has helped fight the statehood battle. He has influenced Eisenhower. He is Seaton -- and Seaton he has gotten Eisenhower to support statehood, we become a state, but then it looks as though he is getting out of politics and senator passes away and he is called back from Mexico. I mean did you talk to him about that? Any ideas what was going through his mind at that time?

JACK RODERICK: I am a very strong Democrat. I was Chairman of the Democratic Party here in the state in the late 80's. We didn't talk politics. We agreed that (laughter) -- we agreed that the two party system was the way to go. (Laughter) And both parties should be strong and that is as far as what I got. Now I have lost track of your question.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Just what -- do you think he expected that to happen?

JACK RODERICK: No, no. Ted loved politics. He loved it. He was the only guy -- well, not only, a few guys I know that simple enjoyed a hundred percent what he was doing and it was politics. He loved it. So, no, he never thought of going out of politics. He came back here. He ran for office. He went to Juneau. He was a good effective politician down there. He carried Wally Hickel's water and he loved it. When he was defeated by Elmer Rasmuson in the '68 Republican primary, incidentally, I was in India at the time, but we got back just after that election when he was defeated and he was at the bottom. He was the lowest that a guy could be.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Hum.

JACK RODERICK: His life, I think as he saw it was sort of over, but it wasn't voluntary. It was just the way it was and just a little diversion. We -- when I came back he was at the bottom and he suggested that we buy a computer company out here on Fifth Avenue. One of his clients I think. So we went out there and looked at it. So we were going to buy -- we were going to go into business in this computer company. People say well, he was going back to Washington. I don't think so. I think Ted just like I say he was absolutely at the bottom emotionally and otherwise. So, no, I don't think he ever considered getting out of politics. That was his life. He loved it and he was good at it and, but, you know, he lost in the primary, whoa. And as you probably -- when you interviewed Hickel, you know, Nixon asked Hickel do you have the guts to appoint this kid instead of Elmer? Nixon said yeah -- I mean Hickel said yes, which was probably the smartest thing he did.

PAUL MCCARTHY: Huh. Uh-huh.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Now talk to me -- I mean obviously it turns out to be a very wise choice, but did Senator Stevens expect to be called into that meeting and expect to be put into that mix by Wally Hickel and do you think he was ever expected to be named senator?

JACK RODERICK: Well, I have no idea. I knew Carl Brady, of course, and, you know, Ted was the politician. He was the strategist. He -- he was good at what he did. Carl was not that type of all. He was a friend of Hickel's and a nice fellow, but he wasn't effective as Ted was in politics and Wally must have sensed that. And as I am sure you know, Carl finally said, yeah, Wally, you know, do the smart thing. Appoint a good politician and that is what Hickel did. But, no, I don't think -- no, politics was Ted's life and it has been. He likes -- I could always -- a little personal here, but the thing I liked about Ted no matter what was happening until the last couple years I could always find that twinkle in his eye. He was doing what he liked to do.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I am going to go a little bit off of chronology and I am just going to ask you what happened in the last couple of years? I mean why did he lose that twinkle?

JACK RODERICK: Well, he got what do you call it -- well, he relied on a guy he shouldn't have relied on. Somehow he made a terrible mistake relying on Bill Allen. He should have known better and -- and, you know, I think he must have thought Bill Allen was treating him fairly and it turned out and, of course, he wasn't. Ted got sloppy. What do they call it -- entitlement mentality, you know. After a while you're in office, you let down your guard cause everybody is coming at you, you know, saying you are the greatest. Pretty soon you believe it and now you are in trouble. So, well, Bill Allen, was

what do you say about him? Very successful businessman, everybody touted him as the leading businessman in the state and after a while you believe it. But the oil industry financed him. They made him and so, you know, he just assumed that messing around in politics was an extension of (sneeze) business, you know. And Ted should have known better, but he didn't.

CHARLES FEDULLO: We can come back to that in a little bit. How did he, you know, you saw him on a personal level, do you -- I mean just as somebody who understands politics, how effective was Ted Stevens as a legislator and you can talk a little bit about it and in Juneau enemies?

JACK RODERICK: Well, I don't know much about Juneau, although when he was appointed, I know he got a couple calls from the Republican friends -- I can't remember their names, in Juneau. I happened to be in the office at the time and he was very close to those guys. He was just an effective legislator and, of course, in congress, as you know, his only friend -- he said it is hard to have friends in congress. He had one Inouye -- Daniel Inouye he called his brother and you will get that story and it is a good story, of course. But it is, you know, both of them trying to get money for their constituencies to catch up with the rest of the US. I mean that rationale was obvious. We got to have more money and it will make us like the other guys. We will catch up. I guess I have lost track of your question again.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Just how effective was he as a legislator? I mean it seems that he -- one thing we talked to one other interview somebody said senators -- the people who live in states sort of decide what their expectations are of a senator. And because Alaska was such a young state in many ways Ted Stevens sort of created division of what a senator should be for the state and that was appropriations.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I mean was that enough -- was he effective at crafting that role and what you say catching up -- catching the state up to the rest of the nation?

JACK RODERICK: Well, I don't have the figures in front of me, but I think it is true. I think we got per capita more than any other state probably in the nation. Maybe Hawaii beat us, but I don't think so. You know, the small population he got I don't know how many billion dollars. But well, I remember one time we were playing tennis and afterwards he said, you know, I forget the details, but, you know, I am going to get two billion dollars from this -- for this state, you know. So sure it was money and that is what Alaska needed he thought which I guess is the core of politics. He got more than our share, sure. That is the way people will recall him and in that sense he was very effective.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Talk to me about the temper. Everybody talks about Ted Stevens temper. Some people say that he controlled it and used it to his advantage. Some people say that it harmed him. Well, what do you think about that temper? Did it help him? Did it hurt him, you know, the whole thing with the hulk thing?

JACK RODERICK: I don't know whether it helped him or hurt him with his fellow legislators. I have no reading, but I know again based on his childhood he was angry. You have to be in that, I think, in that background. But and incidentally I have never seen Ted lose his temper.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Really!

JACK RODERICK: No, it is kind of strange. It is strange. I know I have talked to Michael Carey and others that have seen that. I have never and it is kind of interesting I guess, but, yeah, I understand it was real and I think it was real. I think he probably used it to his advantage my guess is. You know the hulk thing. Yeah, people were cautious with him. Hey, I heard and I can't prove this that when he first went back to Washington, Ann, his wife, bought him a couple of books on how do you keep your temper. (Laughter) And it made sense and knowing Ted, he probably read them and he learned something that, you know, there is a way to control that damn thing and, but, whether he -- it made him a more effective legislator, I don't know.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But you never saw it? I mean your -- you are friends with him and you have never seen him -- that is an interesting point.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, it is I guess. No, no, I never have. No, I have never been in a situation where I, you know, where I was, you know, asking for something or. Our joke was I never asked him for anything and he would come back at me and say, yeah, well, one time now when you were mayor you came back and he did set up a meeting with the Secretary of Transportation for me and we were talking about a commuter rail from the Valley down here, even there -- 35 years ago.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Wow!

JACK RODERICK: And Ted said, well, I got \$25 million dollars for you or something. I said I never asked for it. (Laughter) I don't know what you were doing. But, no, I never -- never did, but I never was in that situation where, you know, I was saying something and he was saying you are full of it.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Well, I mean you were his law partner, though, for even though it was only a few years, but still that says you were working and just as an interesting point. And I am going to move on and the question I want -- how did he change over the years? So you knew him as part of the law firm in the late 50's, early 60's and then, you know, he moves on, becomes a senator, moves around, did you see any -- any changes in -- in Ted Stevens over the years -- over the time he becomes a US senator and then moves on appropriations and becomes more and more powerful?

JACK RODERICK: No, I don't think I saw much change. I think he -- Ted always wanted to be one of the boys. He liked being one of the boys, you know.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And he admired entrepreneurs even in the practice. If a guy were starting a business, boy he was excited for him. I mean, you know, Horatio Alger lives in Ted's mind and doesn't he in most Americans. I don't want to go there for sure. (Laughter) But I don't -- no, I didn't see him that often so, you know, yeah we are friends, but over the years I didn't, you know, I only visited him maybe three times in Washington, DC. (Cough) No, I don't think so. He knew the power he had, you know, when he was appropriations chairman. He knew -- he knew -- he had worked hard to get there. He wanted to be -- one time he wanted to be what?

PAUL MC CARTHY: Majority Leader.

JACK RODERICK: Majority leader and he told me once that two guys reneged on their vote which disappointed him, but no, he didn't. Ted never wanted to be President, you know. I always admired him in a way. He didn't have a massive ego, personal. He was a guy in

the trenches working and moved on up through the system. I guess if I have a criticism of him when he was drawing and this is just my bias. But, you know, when he was getting 70, 80 percent of the vote here in Alaska, he could have broken with the party every once in a while like these -- you know, because he was -- he was a moderate. He did a lot of things that the right wing would not approve of. I wished he had done more of it, but that's, you know, that is easy for me to say.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Let's talk about politics a little bit now. I know that you two party system, Democrat Republican. People early on some people say that Senator Stevens broke with the Republican Party that there was a Alaska first mentality not a party first mentality and that was in his first several years in DC. Would you agree with that assessment or disagree with that assessment?

JACK RODERICK: I don't have any opinion on that, no. I don't know what he was doing in those early years, but he was Alaska first. I don't remember him breaking with the party particularly.

CHARLES FEDULLO: And then even in state a lot of people say and -- that his success in Washington helped turn a blue state red, using a more modern term. Is that a fair assessment?

JACK RODERICK: Well, I suppose. I really don't know. Of course, when I came up first it was a Democrat state and I could see the shift coming. It came in '66 with Hickel and then, of course, my basic philosophy is that oil money changed the state. I mean big oil money simply made us a more conservative state and Ted was sure -- Ted -- in the 60's, Ted simply helped change this state to Republican.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: I mean literally I think more than anyone else he did that. He rebuilt the party. Now whether his being in ascendance in the senate helped us stay there, Republican, I don't know. Now I just think it is big oil. Big oil money made the difference.

CHARLES FEDULLO: And talk a little bit about over time Ted Stevens becomes appropriations chair, works really hard, develops these powerful positions, did you see -- you talked about, you know, you don't have a lot of friends in congress. We have heard other people say he didn't like -- he respected entrepreneurs and he felt like almost a lot of people in this state because of his powerful position would ask him for things. Did it influence how he acted or how he did his job being in that difficult position because everybody in the state wants your help with their project? You know everybody in the senate needs your help to get their appropriations through. And the people you befriend -- Bill Allen, are the ones who have made money and been entrepreneurs. I am trying in my mind to piece this whole thing together and how it creates this smart, hard working person.

JACK RODERICK: Well, well, you are asking the ultimate question, yeah. Yeah, well, I think again Horatio Alger lives, you know. Ted never sought wealth for himself. I think that is the kind of a key. Maybe that is true of a lot of -- hate to say it lawyers who are lousy businessmen more or less cause they are, you know, they are not risk takers. They are preventing you from taking risks. So I'm -- I'm not helping at all here, but --

CHARLES FEDULLO: You are.

JACK RODERICK: Well, yeah, well, I -- his role was simply working within the system back there in Washington getting money for the state. Denali Commission, 200 Mile Limit, what -- Title 9, you know, with the women.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Yeah.

JACK RODERICK: He knew a lot about newspapers, of course, and radio and so, you know, he helped with public --

CHARLES FEDULLO: Public Broadcasting --

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: McKinley.

JACK RODERICK: And so he was, well, from my standpoint he was -- that is where he did his best work, but he was re-elected time and time again wasn't he because he was bringing money into this state and it was just that simple. He, by my standards and it is easy for me to say, you know, he should have been more a statesman.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: But, what the hell.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But, I mean the thing that some people say is he would have these outbursts that it was almost a dichotomy with the press that he craved recognition for what he did, but he would be very prickly with the press and he would occasionally -- Michael talks about it, he would occasionally kind of go well, don't you recognize that I can make a million dollars and walk out tomorrow. He never -- he never made indications that money was that important to him, but occasionally he would have these prickly (cough) things with the press. He would always come back around and relationships seemed important to him. I mean does that play into at all that at some point he watched all of his staffers become these high-powered lobbyists and --

JACK RODERICK: Could have. Could have. He once said to me, you know, I have grandkids too. (Laughter) You know, and yeah, half of his buddies back there in the senate are probably millionaires aren't they many times? It probably went through his head. I don't -- I really don't know, but you got me thinking now I've lost track. Your question was --

CHARLES FEDULLO: Just, I mean do you think -- I don't think anyone says that Senator Stevens was interested in making money, he -- he -- but there were these kind of blasts on occasion.

JACK RODERICK: Well, the press, now that's --

CHARLES FEDULLO: The press, okay.

JACK RODERICK: That is different. Ted had a thing about McClatchy. I don't know where it came from. Oh, well, I kind of do. Evie Ruskin's kid, you know David Ruskin's reporter, she was probing on Ted and he just got mad as hell.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Was this the LA Times?

JACK RODERICK: Well, it ended up in the LA Times, but I think you will check with this reporter who just kept probing Ted and, of course, you see Ted represented Brown -- Norman Brown of the News and then when the Fannings bought the News, he represented the Fannings too. And so he had some background there and then, oh, boy, C. K. McClatchy, of course, Ryan McClatchy he came up here and built that plant out east of town and I was involved in that. And I remember Ted talking to McClatchy about some senator from Nevada saying you got to lay off him and C.K. just stood there I

remember and Ted didn't say a thing. But now I'm drifting here, but somehow the McClatchy's got into Ted's gut. I don't know why. I am a little confused on that.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Did he -- I mean I think did he -- he always thought that over the past probably decade that ADN and McClatchy were out to get him. Did that shift happen after the Fannings were uninvolved? When -- do you have any idea when the shift or why the shift happened and you said you probably don't know why, but I assume that it would happen when the Fannings became less involved?

JACK RODERICK: Oh, yeah. Well, Kay was probably -- Kay was gone by then, yeah, no, no, I don't think when Kay was running the paper that if he had a gripe with the ADN, he'd go to Kay and I don't think that happened. I would know I think if that happened. He was helping her, of course, you know, with that merger with the, you know, he passed that legislation which was to help the News and he always kind of resented the fact that he didn't get the appreciation --

CHARLES FEDULLO: Sure.

JACK RODERICK: May have had particularly, when, of course, the News took over the Times. So right in there something was going wrong, but this Ruskin reporter kept and it ended up in the Los Angeles Times.

CHARLES FEDULLO: It was Liz Ruskin, yes, I remember, that's, yes.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. It was something right in that area that triggered him, so he really had some bad feelings, but well, you guys know more about the media than I do. But I don't think he had a feeling bad about the coverage he was getting maybe. Certainly John Tracy and those guys he didn't have a thing about them or I don't think. I don't know.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Let's talk a little bit about Senator Stevens, you know, we have lists and lists of accomplishments and they are all impressive, but, you know, whether it is ANSCA or the TAP Authorization or ANILCA. Every major decision in the state since statehood he has been a part of. And yet it seems that over the last years because of the trial it has changed some people's perceptions of him, but then people's perceptions sort of changed back when they found out how flawed and biased the justice department was in their prosecution. Talk a little bit about his legacy. How you think he will be remembered and do you think 10, 15 years from now people will remember the Ted Stevens before the trial or will it be the Ted Stevens after the trial or is it somewhere in between?

JACK RODERICK: I don't -- I really don't think I can help you with that. I mean I am just like anybody else. I have no idea what -- how he will be remembered. I mean that is why I am interested in your records for historians. I don't think -- I really don't. I don't -- I was surprised when the Native community backed Mark Begich and not Ted. I was surprised when the military vote Mark Begich -- backed Begich. I mean I'm confused -- not confused I am just -- I don't know what happened. So I don't know how he will be remembered. I really -- I really don't.

CHARLES FEDULLO: How do you think he should be remembered?

JACK RODERICK: Well, I think he should be remembered as a guy who has worked extremely hard, very effectively in the political milieu the US Senate, the national scene in getting money for the state and probably for the Natives, the Denali Commission, etc. I mean,

you know, I think it is fair to say that Ted's first thought was Alaska. How am I going -- well, I guess every politician does, of course, but that is pretty important, you know, that he was helping Alaska with money. On the land issues, well, I think he was effective because he could go across -- across the aisle. You know, he wasn't a -- he is not an ideologue.

CHARLES FEDULLO: No.

JACK RODERICK: No and that is big. He is a pragmatist. He dealt -- he deals -- one little anecdote might have helped. In '62, for some reason I drove up with him to Glennallen and they were having a Boy's State I think it was okay.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Okay. Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And it was in that -- that Native stone building.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Oh, okay.

JACK RODERICK: It is no longer there, but it is just a giant big school up there and I went up there with him. Mike Gravel, who was speaker of the house at the time, was there. Elmer Rasmuson was there. So they were talking to these young kids that were interested in government. And Mike got up -- Gravel got up and I am paraphrasing obviously, but my recollection is that Mike got up and said you get elected, they give you power, your job is to exercise that power and that is what politics is about. When you -- when you get power, use it. Stevens got up afterwards and said, fine, that is okay, but just remember sometimes you are in the majority and sometimes you are in the minority. And I think that captured those two guys pretty well. Ted understood the politics of that.

CHARLES FEDULLO: And that underscores the ANILCA debate. Actually that anecdote better than any I think underscores the ANILCA debate and the differences between Stevens and Mike Gravel. Tell -- I mean did -- did he -- did you talk to Senator Stevens about the relationship with Gravel at all?

JACK RODERICK: Ha, ha, ha, not really, but -- but I think I said to him once -- he went to Hawaii and he wrote -- he wrote a lot. He was writing a novel I think (sneeze) it was and then he lost it on the computer. And I said well, come on now, write -- write a book about all these guys you know. And he said, well, I can't -- I can't write anything about guys that are still alive, except Mike. (Laughter).

CHARLES FEDULLO: Now I am going to just take a pause here. (Pause) Okay, we're back rolling again. So, it seems you get in this position -- we have heard other people say -- one person we interviewed said it was about you become a US senator and your schedule is laid out for you in the morning. You don't make your own reservations. You don't get your own coffee. You don't make your own breakfast. Senator Stevens clearly -- I think that everyone we have talked to said he is not a crook and this perception has -- has really impacted his ability to trust people I think, but, you know, that sometimes you become so insulated because everything is done for you. You don't necessarily see what is going on. Could you, I mean how do you feel when people say that? Do you think that is a fair assessment of what happened? You said he has shown bad judgment in regard's to Bill Allen. Do you think -- do you think that plays into it at all what sort of happened with the -- with the indictments and the prosecution?

JACK RODERICK: Two things come to mind. One, he showed me at one time his schedule. Every 15 minutes, yeah, day to day, so he had that and he liked that. I mean the more you

put on him the better he liked it. He got comfortable being the elected official. Everybody doing things for him.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I don't know if comfortable is the word that I would use, but just that you do that so long you don't remember what it is like to not have it done that way. So I guess maybe comfortable is a --

JACK RODERICK: Well, yeah, for the most powerful guy in the world probably. You know, after a while you -- probably you had, you know, he was pro tem president you had two guys around all the time. Yeah, yeah, I think he -- sure he took it for granted and everybody would. I don't know. I mean you are talking about what power does to people. Boy, I don't know. Yeah, you can take it for granted, yeah. You get comfortable with your entitlement and that is a failing. That is a failing, sure.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Do you think he would do things any differently if he had the opportunity to do it again?

JACK RODERICK: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, sure. He'd -- he wouldn't be a friend of Bill Allen's. That is for damn sure. And oh, I don't know, I mean I was going to say he'd spend more time in Girdwood, but that is not fair. He has got kids up here and he has got kids elsewhere. He probably -- oh, I don't know. I was going to say he wouldn't work so hard. That's crazy. No, no, he only had one gear and it was just full bore, you know, yeah.

PAUL MC CARTHY: It is hard to think of Alaska without him for those 40 years. I mean as you are saying his tracks are everywhere and people -- maybe it was Sheffield yesterday that talked about, you know, there is an older group of Alaskans who went through this whole experience and can really see what he did. And then there is a younger group that have no idea how we got to where we are and that Ted was such a substantial actor in all of the things. And as you said he focused on Alaska not being a great statesman for the country or foreign policy specialist. And he, like Bartlett said, you know, you got X amount of time and I am going to focus it on --

JACK RODERICK: Sure.

PAUL MC CARTHY: What is helpful to Alaskans.

JACK RODERICK: Well, I think in your pursuit of land his involvement in these land issues you are going to get a lot of results. I think he sees it too. I can't remember where I got that idea, but, yeah, his -- his relationship was, of course, fish, but land. All those big issues beginning with statehood and ANWR, of course. I don't agree with him on ANWR, but -- but, you know, he made commitments -- commitments were made to him way back with Scoop Jackson and all these guys.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Paul Tsongas, yes.

JACK RODERICK: Tsongas, you know, and so that is where Ted modally said God dammit, you know, people made commitments to me and they are breaking them.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: Which is irrational for me. I mean it is not irrational it is just, you know, get very far with that modally.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: My argument against ANWR, not that you asked me, but, you know, if you open ANWR, you are going to have the Exxon's and the BP is bidding great amounts of money, they should be going in NPRA, right? They are not doing it and I don't blame them. They are going to go where they think the oil is, but that is not going to help the state, in my view. The long-term future of the state isn't getting more people exploring in the available acreage that is now available and ANWR may be drilled some day when the nation needs it. I doubt it. I happen to think there is probably a lot of oil there, but geologists don't agree with that. All geologists don't agree with that, but there probably is. Well, I am off the subject now.

CHARLES FEDULLO: No, that is -- any -- any stories that you would like to -- I love the one about the book and Mike Gravel. Any stories that you have any anecdotes that you think are worth sharing that kind of exemplify? He is -- what is interesting, Jack, is you have really helped us with -- he lived in a house with 10 people during the depression, a small house in Indianapolis. Clearly, a grandfather who was raising him who was blind, having to work at a young age, but early in his career being around Green, you know the Standard Oil from California's son and having help, but always having to work and always having to take care of people. Any anecdotes that come to your mind that sort, you know, are worth telling as we kind of prepare these tapes for the archive?

JACK RODERICK: I don't think I do. I think I go back again to the fact that only recently have I concluded that basically Ted's anger was original. It came from his childhood. I never made that connection until recently. So his temper was real. I mean he looked out at the world and said, you know, it is tough world out there and I am going to survive and that is what he has done and he has enjoyed it. That is the thing about Ted that I have always enjoyed. He really has enjoyed it. I mean he likes politics. He likes the battle. He likes the fight and he is smart as hell. I mean, you know, intelligent. Shows up in the law practice. And that is just who he is and when you add them all up; statehood, ANWR -- I mean, you know, ANILCA, Native claims, whoa, big player in Alaska's modern history, huge, huge.

PAUL MC CARTHY: You could almost see Alaska in the same relationship to the nation as he was to his family of having to be a survivor and not being treated well for a long time and that we were neglected as a state.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, but one thing in politics and I don't know if I got this correctly some politicians personalize their adversaries. He never does that publicly. I know privately he just blows his top, well the other -- blows his top in a sense, you know, after he has dealt with some guy he will say that dirty son-of-a-bitch, you know. But it doesn't -- I don't think it shows publicly, which is an asset. You see politicians start to personalize they are going to get in trouble.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Something that strikes me when you -- when you say that is Ann and Catherine both very different not again Stevens' is not an (inaudible), but he marries Democratic wives who socially very soften -- have a much softer stance or a much more liberal stance than Senator Stevens, does that strike anything to talk about? I mean it just was interesting (cough) to me as you read the history that he is this Republican man who has really changed the state where both of the people he chooses to marry are more Democratic leaning than Republican.

JACK RODERICK: Well, of course, Ann was an orphan as you know. She was incredible. You know the gag used to be well, God, it is too bad Ann isn't the senator, you know. (Laughter) But, of course, Catherine was a Democrat but she is a different type though. So, yeah, she is a Democrat, but I don't know enough about her, but she is a pragmatist too, a lawyer as you know. So I have to talk about Ann.

CHARLES FEDULLO: You should.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. Really terrific and the kids are great. I mean particularly Susan, the oldest, is just like Ann. Just like Ann. Same personality, same soft touch, bright. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I mean is there anything you'd like to add. I think we have covered a lot of the areas. We are going to try to set up an interview -- we are going to Vic Fischer about land claims and we will also try to set up an interview with Don Mitchell. We have been playing phone tag cause we -- that is an important component.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But you have really helped us I think capture a lot of the personality. Is there anything you'd add and I am sure Paul may have some questions to add too?

JACK RODERICK: Well, you haven't mentioned a Native. Are you going to get interviews?

CHARLES FEDULLO: We will interview Orie Williams. We will inter -- we are trying to get Julie Kitka. I will talk to -- I have talked to Byron Mallott, but Byron is trying to think up other people. Byron is not comfortable doing an interview.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But there are -- I have a list of about forty.

JACK RODERICK: Willie or some thing -- Willie --

CHARLES FEDULLO: Willie I have talked. He doesn't seem interested, but I am going to approach him again.

JACK RODERICK: Interesting.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I am going to approach Willie again. Tony Knowles doesn't -- has --

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Expressed an interest in not helping.

JACK RODERICK: Well, yeah, that raises Tony -- it raises a question of Ted always came down or supported Republican candidates no matter who they were.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And he made the difference in Tony's election I think twice didn't he? He weighed in --

CHARLES FEDULLO: With Lisa.

JACK RODERICK: With Lisa for sure and then maybe with Sarah I think. I think that is too bad. I think I wrote him one time or twice or something and said, stay out of this cause you're, you know, you will fling the election. So he did each time for the Republican candidate and I understand it, but I don't blame Tony for being angry cause that is kind of bad, so.

CHARLES FEDULLO: It is interesting too because they talk about Wally Hickel when he was running in a primary against Jay Hammond and Hickel having appointed Stevens and Stevens not wanting to be involved in the race and saying --

JACK RODERICK: Really!

CHARLES FEDULLO: In the primary, you know.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, I didn't know that.

CHARLES FEDULLO: That was something that you read a little about and Hickel doesn't want to talk about it and I would be interested to see if Senator Stevens does, but apparently some people have requested -- Carl Brady had requested Stevens' help with the race for Hickel against Hammond.

JACK RODERICK: I will be damned. No, I didn't know that. I had forgotten. That is interesting. Now why he would do that I have no idea. (Cough) It doesn't sound like him.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Well, he stayed out of it.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But because you just don't -- rules -- I guess rules stipulate you don't endorse a primary candidate.

JACK RODERICK: Well, I -- I can understand why Knowles would be angry.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Sure.

JACK RODERICK: Sure. It made the difference and he knew it. No. And I think I tried to intervene and said don't, but it didn't make any difference. I think I came in late anyway.

PAUL MC CARTHY: How could Ann's death change him or did it?

JACK RODERICK: Oh, boy, I think that is -- I don't really know. I just know that, wow, what - - what a loss cause she was well, I assume she was the one that kept -- when Ted would go off too far in some direction, she would say hey, stop it, slow down and he would listen to her. So I don't know. Philosophically I guess it made all the difference in the world. She was something special. Smart, empathetic, a liberal on the social issues, smart enough to stay away from the stuff he was doing supporting him. I am sure that, you know, she didn't tell him how to vote, but she was, you know, important.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. Who knows?

PAUL MC CARTHY: Just thinking back to those times, you know, with Begich, Nick Begich, you know, disappearing in the flight, you know.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Do you think how that affected Alaskan politics and then certainly affected the senator? Small aviation has been great for us, but we have lost some great people.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, yeah. Nick Begich, whoa, I mean you get Don Young for Nick. It is just an incredible change. Nick would have been, you know, anything in the House and great politician like his son. I just don't know. The death of Ann and all his friends recognized it was a terrible strategy.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Devastating.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. She was great. I did talk to him a couple of months ago on his way, I went back East just to take a break and I did ask him, well, how's he doing and he did say, well, I feel worse or whatever than ever since Ann died.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Really. Really. Yeah

JACK RODERICK: Yeah, sure. Yeah.

PAUL MC CARTHY: I guess what astounds me is that he was prosecuted during a Republican Administration.

JACK RODERICK: I know.

PAUL MC CARTHY: I just don't -- I mean you would think that with charges against a US Senator, a local guy, is not going to act without some deference to Washington cause the attorney general I would think is going to have explain this or rationalize it or.

JACK RODERICK: Well, my theory is simply that when they caught Bill Allen, you know, with --

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: With the TV tapes and indicted him and he confessed and they made their deal to protect him -- his kids and VECO, Bill Allen just spilled his guts. He just said I bribed Benny, I bribed Stevens, I -- look what I did in Girdwood. No, I think and the prosecutor had all his stuff from a --

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: Admitted criminal they had to do something. Ted did tell -- say one thing to me. He said well, it all started in Juneau cause I asked him about the same thing you asked. Was it coming out of Washington in a Republican? He said no, it came out of Juneau. So, yeah, it was Bill Allen. Bill Allen just, you know, filled the record with all of these things he had done bribing everybody to protect himself.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And you have all this evidence. I am out of the law for a long time, but I assume that the prosecutor has to do something with it.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And so they indict Stevens for failing to report. Technically, they are right, but come on.

CHARLES FEDULLO: The exhaustive resources that are used to get all this information and to look at the home and you have seven counts of failure to report.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. And then it turns out the prosecutor is going to do a good job and so Ted is no longer convicted, but well, he had paid the ultimate price, didn't he?

PAUL MC CARTHY: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: He lost his job.

JACK RODERICK: Sure and I, you know, that is the way -- that is the way it is. But, no, no, he -- he made a mistake. He let this guy -- he relied on this guy and that was an error.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Didn't he trust him because of that -- you said he admired entrepreneurs. I mean do you think he saw Bill Allen as an entrepreneur at one point?

JACK RODERICK: Well, yeah, I think Bill, yeah, sure. The oil companies gave him a con -- he was a roustabout on the rig.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: Some guy from ARCO said, well, hey we need something done and he did it and they gave him a contract and then they gave him another contract and yeah, he was rags to riches and that is what I hate to say it, but that still the American ideal, right?

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh.

JACK RODERICK: And Ted always liked that. I don't know Bill Allen at all other than to say hello, but there was something about him that Ted kind of liked. He talked about, you know, those horses that they went into. Ted was, you know, all his investments were lousy and but here was another one -- sort of a crazy thing. He did say, of course, well, I

owned a horse with Larry Carr as if to say well, if I was with Larry Carr, I must be okay, which is probably true and he let those other guys into the partnership, but hell, that is, you know, what the hell. That is no big deal. But well, don't get me on Bill Allen because, you know, he was successful. The Chamber of Commerce said he was the leading guy in the state. You know, after a while you start to say this guy is special. Well, he is special all right.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh. Special in not so good a way.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. He started to just bribe legislators. He had -- must have had fun doing it too. Crazy.

PAUL MC CARTHY: It wasn't very expensive either.

JACK RODERICK: No, but let's not -- this is my bias coming out, of course. Let's remember that that was oil -- that is oil money that made Bill Allen. Oil contracts from the multi nationals. And he helped them get done what they wanted to get done. And in my view it is a simply thing. You get big money. In this case, multi national oil corporations and it sifts into the system and it corrupts it. And Bill Allen was a -- was the flag carrier. Boy, you are really getting me going here, but I mean that is the fact. And it is too bad and Ted got caught in it because of Bill Allen. He just spilled his guts. You can -- you can imagine the interviews that the FBI did with this guy and he was just telling them everything, except maybe some personal stuff, but they caught that too.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Whew. Some of the things you read it is not even -- it is not even rated well for the paper.

JACK RODERICK: That is right. So, you know, it was -- it was too bad. And we are all to blame, you know. We let Allen take charge there in Juneau and a lot of the veteran legislators knew it. Nobody was going to step out and cry foul, except a couple of them I guess. But that is -- I better not go that route. That is just a part of the system.

PAUL MC CARTHY: I guess I am impressed with it, you know, the senator's accomplishments over the years. As you are saying, really, very hard working and directed to Alaska's betterment and I hope as we mature and look more reflectively over the last 30 or 40 years that people will begin to appreciate him anew.

JACK RODERICK: Well, yeah, that is up to historians. I hope -- I hope there is a place in the university library somewhere in the system where there is recognition of what he accomplished. Sure, there should be. Yeah, I mean as far as effective politician, yeah, I put him up there with Egan and Bartlett and Gruening and maybe Jay Hammond. I don't know.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Do you remember how the idea for the Denali Commission got started and how he -- I mean he made obviously the whole commission possible in terms of funding.

JACK RODERICK: I have a vague recollection that some other state had done a similar thing.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Okay.

JACK RODERICK: I think he adopted that format from some other state, but I don't -- no, I don't know the background.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Tennessee Valley Authority.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Was it really?

CHARLES FEDULLO: It was based on the Tennessee Valley Authority and he started it from a -- he started it and this is why it became controversial is he put it on an appropriations rider. And there was a debate as to whether it was an appropriate rider or not. And that is how the first -- I think it was 150 million got started. Yon Hunter wrote a really nice article on that. I think it was in the '95, '97, but he based it on the TVA.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. I don't know how much good the Denali Commission has done personally. Big money going through it. I assume it has been very effective. I don't know.

CHARLES FEDULLO: You know the above ground -- I can speak only because of my experience working for -- as a special assistant in the Environmental Conservation. Millions of dollars in above ground storage tanks that needed to be replaced, especially in areas like St. Lawrence Island and Shishmaref and Gambell. They had tanks that were degrading and with global warming and erosion, those tanks had not been replaced. You were looking at potential fuel spills. I mean I think there is also a lot of money from Denali Commission went into water and sewer projects. And, you know, the state has gone from less than 60 percent -- numbers will be a little off. Less than 60 percent of people in rural Alaska having running water to more than 85 percent and a lot of that is Denali Commission.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, that is big and there is a limit on the administrative costs in the act or something?

CHARLES FEDULLO: That and that became an issue about two years ago, three years ago they were investigated because for the first time the administrative costs had been over 10 percent. It was always limited at seven. That was one of the things that Senator Stevens was very harsh about and oh, why can't I think of his name -- the chief of staff who is now considering a run for public office.

JACK RODERICK: Oh, Jeff?

CHARLES FEDULLO: Jeff Stacer had always worked very hard to make sure that it stayed in that seven, eight percent range.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah. And I know nothing about fish, but I think he will go down probably (cough) in history as, you know, 200 Mile Limit and relying on the scientists right?

PAUL MC CARTHY: Right, right.

JACK RODERICK: That is a big deal.

PAUL MC CARTHY: It is a big deal, right.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

PAUL MC CARTHY: How did he form -- did he talk to you about how he formed across aisle alliances? I mean obviously Jackson and Magnuson and others.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Congressman Dicks from Washington. Nancy -- what is the senator from Washington -- Nancy -- they fought like cats and dogs when they began? I can't think of her name.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: But now they're -- they work together.

JACK RODERICK: Yeah.

CHARLES FEDULLO: That is a great question, Paul.

JACK RODERICK: Well, he is a friend of Ted Kennedy's.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Yeah, he is for sure.

JACK RODERICK: When I was back there on his 80th birthday, here is Ted Kennedy. So he is not an ideologue. He is a pragmatist and he knows, you know, I don't know. That is the way the system works I guess and maybe he has personal friends. I guess Ted Kennedy and he might just like each other.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Like Inouye I mean.

JACK RODERICK: Well, Inouye is very practical I mean, you know, they decided that they stuck together. You will get it from him, but if they stick together they are going to prosper and they did. I heard Inouye out there at the university one time and he outlined it, you know. They just go together wherever throughout and they will get more than their share and they did, but he liked the guy too. I'm sure (inaudible) he calls him his brother. The only one is the legislature he felt that close to.

PAUL MC CARTHY: Right.

CHARLES FEDULLO: Is there anything you want to add, Jack?

JACK RODERICK: Well, thank you for putting me on tape. Maybe some historian will go back and listen to this and say, hey, he had something to say.

CHARLES FEDULLO: I think that they will --