

**“Green Mountain Chronicles”**  
**Oral History Transcriptions, 1981-1989 (bulk: 1987-1988)**  
**MSA 199 & 200**

**Introduction**

This transcription is one of approximately 42 transcriptions of interviews with individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 in preparation for a radio program sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.”

**Scope and Content**

The transcriptions in this collection represent interviews of approximately 42 individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 by Mark Greenberg, Mary Kasamatsu, Eleanor Ott, and Tom Davis in preparation for a radio series entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.” The series of 52 five-minute programs was broadcast by commercial and public radio stations throughout the state in late 1988 and early 1989. The earliest interview in the collection was conducted in 1981; the latest was in 1989.

The interviewers spoke with well known Vermonters such as Governors Philip Hoff, Deane Davis, and Madeleine Kunin; lesser known personalities such as Catherine Robbins Clifford, one of the first women to hike the entire length of the Long Trail; and historians such as Weston Cate. The following inventory of the collection highlights the major theme(s) of each interview. The following list of program tapes gives the title of each radio program.

The goal of the radio series was to tell the history of Vermont in the twentieth century using archival sound recordings and recent interviews. The project was undertaken by the VHS in celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1988 and was funded by a \$14,000 grant from the Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues with additional support from New England Telephone Company.

MSA 199, Folder 0 contains background information on the project. The VHS website at [www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles](http://www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles) contains a list of the Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcasts and audio files of those broadcasts.

Lola Aiken  
February 6, 1989

Interviewer  
Mark Greenberg

MG This is February 6, 1989. This is Mark Greenberg speaking with Lola Aiken in Montpelier for the Green Mountain Chronicles series for the Vermont Historical Society. Okay, well let's pick-up right what we were talking about. You said that Governor Aiken was interested in and had a sense of history.

LA He had a great sense of history and I think what I loved best about his type of history was that he made it so interesting. He had a knack of almost everything he did he made very interesting. He had no extra words in anything he said. And I've discovered a memo that he wrote on the Vietnam war in January of 1975 after he came back to Putney. And I think then he must have had a sense of history at that point. He realized he might forget something that was important and he put it down on paper. So we have what he really thought about Vietnam and the background for why we were really in there.

MG Well that brings up the question of probably the the aspect of Vietnam and the Governor's feelings about it that most people are familiar with and that is the so called Aiken formula or the statement he made. When was that, in 1967?

LA I don't know why I am going to say '66.

MG '66 that's right.

LA '66. He actually said that we should get out of Vietnam, but he meant withdraw easily. He did not mean an abrupt withdrawal. I think the members of Congress had always had a leery feeling about that war. But, we all felt they had to support the President and you had to believe the President. I think Lyndon Johnson in a way misled them on that Tonkin Resolution. But I think the Senators themselves felt that he was telling the truth at the time. Then it turned out that he stretched it farther than they ever intended. But I think slowly Senator Aiken had a feeling that there was something wrong and if I remember correctly, he spoke to General Ridgeway. I think he was then Chief of Staff for President Eisenhower and General Ridgeway told Senator Aiken that he had advised against going into Vietnam because our troops would be swallowed up because it was a gorilla war. He turned out to be very perceptive because that's exactly what they did. It was not a conventional war. Senator Aiken with Mike Mansfield and several other Senators went to Vietnam for President Johnson and when they came back they were pretty specific about what they thought

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about that war. Although they did not make it public. Although the public generally felt that they were against it at that point.

MG Do you remember when they went to Vietnam?

LA Seems to me it was '65. It was when Ambassador Lodge was Ambassador there in Vietnam because they were there when the Metropole Hotel was blown up and so many of our marines were very badly hurt. Senator Aiken and Mike Mansfield were in the Embassy at that point. And they were wakened up at something like 5:00 in the morning and they went to the hospital to see the marines. And I always remember Senator Aiken saying, "It was a bloody mess." They were just lucky it wasn't even worse because some of the bombs did not explode. And when they took off from being in Saigon, they had to drop some kind of bombs at the end of the runway so that it would divert the gorillas so they could take off. It was not a very happy time. And when they came back, they were pretty sure we should get out of that war. They could see no end the way it was going.

MG Now was that after the conversation with General Ridgeway that you were talking about?

LA Yes. Yes.

MG When had that taken place?

LA General Ridgeway was in the '50's.

MG Oh!

LA At that point, they were trying to get President Eisenhower involved and he listened to General Ridgeway although I think President Eisenhower himself recognized that that was a no win war. How could you win against gorillas who infiltrated through towels. You couldn't tell who the enemy were.

MG Was Governor Aiken, which is correct? Governor or Senator?

LA He loved being called Governor because he loved being Governor of Vermont. He said when he was Governor of Vermont the next day he knew whether what he did was right or wrong. When you're a Senator, it takes history 50 years to make the decision.

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MG Right. Well what was the response to the, we'll get to that a little later. I was going to ask whether he was affected at all by the growing anti-war movement in the United States in reaching his decisions about the correctness or incorrectness of the war?

LA I don't know whether that had everything to do with it, but he was very much aware of it. He knew the mood of the country was against it. Television had brought that war into the home and the American public responds quickly, but he used to say they tend to forget quickly. That had something to do with it, but his own feelings about that war, particularly after being in Saigon. I remember that Mark Stoller who is the History Professor at the University of Vermont asked him if he had ever spoken to President Johnson about his apprehension about that war and Senator Aiken's response to Mark was, "No." However, not too long ago when Mark Stoller went down to the Lyndon Johnson Library, he found in the Executive Minutes of hearings at the White House that President, that Governor Aiken had said, "Mr. President, are you sure?" which showed he had an apprehension about the war.

MG Do you remember the immediate circumstances leading up to his, to the Aiken Formula to this State?

LA Yes, it seems to me that President Lyndon Johnson and Vice President Key of Vietnam met in Hawaii to discuss the war and the papers at the Aiken papers in collection, the Aiken collection at the University of Vermont which show the time, but I think it was at that time when Governor Aiken was trying to make a point to the President because at that time there were discussing about whether to expand the war.

MG Did you know that this was coming?

LA I pretty much knew what he was going to do all the time.

MG Did he discuss his plans with you or did you contribute, did he, were you an advisor?

LA I never thought of myself as an advisor but I always said what I thought, not publicly, always privately and he always paid attention. Sometimes he didn't agree with me and he would tell me if I were so smart, why didn't, why wasn't I the Senator and I would say, "That's why I'm smart." But he paid attention. As a matter of fact, he listened to a lot of people. The Ambassador from Vietnam was a close friend of Senator Aiken's and furnished him

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with more information than the State Department did. But he had a lot of areas where he could get opinions and from some of the boys who came back. The Governor was a good listener. He always said you didn't learn anything from talking.

MG As well as you recall, what were, how did this statement get made? How was it issued, to whom was it issued?

LA On the Senate floor, but it was building up. I think he had been so worried for so long about that war that it just came to a head. And I suppose something he thought of during the night because he used to think a lot during the night. And in the morning would have a pretty good idea of what he was going to do.

MG Was he at all agitated or concerned about what the response would be? Was he wrestling, was this an issue that he was wrestling with?

LA Not really. I, he was a strange man that way. He never worried about what reactions were going to be. He always said once you said something you were foolish to worry about it. The time was to go onto something else. He never worried about reactions and it was his strong point. I think that's why people trusted him. And the people of Vermont were very tolerant of him. When they disagreed with him, they never really tried to hurt him.

MG Do you recall what the reactions were to the speech?

LA Oh, tremendous reaction, all favorable because everybody was fed up and that was such a wonderful way to get out of it in a nice way, declare we've won. That way nobody loses face.

MG Let's look at certain groups that might have reacted. His colleagues in the Senate.

LA I think his colleagues in the Senate by enlarge were pleased he had given that speech and I think Senator Mansfield was particularly pleased. Because if you remember at that point, Senator Mansfield was also voicing some apprehensions publicly and he was majority leader.

MG Did the press pick up on this?

LA Very much so. That was an interesting statement and one that caught the eye of the reporters, yes. We were next door to George McGovern, so we were very conscious of the other side of the picture. So we were right in the middle

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of knowing what was going on because George McGovern was getting of course twice as much mail as we were from all over the country because he and Frank Church you remember had gone on the air. No, the response was extremely favorable, from everybody, from everybody, except the President. Except that the President knew it was the right thing. The fellow who was the head of USIA and also attorney for Lyndon Johnson for many years asked the President one time why he didn't do what Senator Aiken had suggested and he told him to get out of his office. And when the President retired to the LBJ Ranch, he asked him again why he got so mad. And the President said, "Because I knew you were both damn right." Which tells you that the President even at that point had apprehensions, but he was in so deep there was no graceful way out for him. I felt very sorry for President Johnson because he was doing what the military told him would win a war which was not true.

MG How did he find out? Was the speech, did he have an advance copy of the speech?

LA I can't remember. But I doubt it. I doubt the Governor would have sent an advance copy.

MG Had he and the Governor been close?

LA Very close. As a matter of fact, that was before the Senator and I were married. And one time, Helen Thomas, who is presently head of UPI at the White House asked the Governor why, asked me why we had not been invited to the White House after we were married. And I said, "I don't know, I guess you would have to ask the President." But then somebody at the White House said that Lady Bird Johnson asked why we had not been invited to the White House and the next thing I knew we had been put back on the list, but he was very angry at the Governor. More angry because I think he knew he was right. That's what bothered him most because he did like Senator Aiken. They were very very close.

MG But the relationship did change after this?

LA Well for a period of time. But yes it did change for awhile, for several months as a matter of fact.

MG What about the response in Vermont? Did the Senator receive many letters in general...

LA Oh!

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MG ...and what was the response?

LA Heavy mail, almost all entirely favorable. I think most people at that point had become very tired of the war and just wanted anything to get out of it. And by declaring victory, you sort of say there's no need for us being there anymore. And that expression has been used in a lot of other areas I notice.

MG As part of this project, we have had historians who prepared papers on each of these topics for us and did some of the research which was great and what I'm looking at now which I think is based mostly on discussion with Mark Stoller who I'm going to be speaking with in just a few days, I'll just read to you from what this paper says because it has a slightly different slant. It says, well it talks about that the Senator called for gradual deployment around strategic centers so as to guarantee the, that victory would be permanent. Then realize never, never advocated either a sudden or phased withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. The intent was to score a diplomatic coo and to reverse roles where in the U.S. ending its bombing activities and falling back upon defensive positions would put the challenge on the North either to accept the role of aggressor or, agress, that can't be the right word, give in, a seed I guess to a negotiated settlement. So that's a little different way of seeing than the popular view of...

LA Yes, and also I think the Governor had in mind too, the dignity of the South Vietnamese too. By gradually withdrawing, you didn't hurt them as much as if you suddenly pulled out which we pretty much suddenly did pull out. And it created a lot of hard feelings. As a matter of fact, the Ambassador to the United States from Vietnam, Ambassador Diem, told me in a letter that he was very upset about the United States and he has written a book which is a little hard, I think a little hard on the United States. I started to write to him to tell him that I thought he was a little hard because people in the United States were against that war by enlarge. I think it was hard for them to understand this that it was hard for Presidents to stay with it when the population was so much against it. And our country is ruled by people really.

MG So this statement that I just read then you would consider that an accurate statement?

LA I think so, yes.

- MG Was the Senator aware do you think or were you aware that this incident which was slightly misreported became sort of a almost instant folklore, instant mythology in a way?
- LA Yea, I think he was surprised because I remember his correcting it every once in awhile and saying, "I meant a withdrawal, not a just complete get out." But it pleased people to think of it the way, they interpreted it the way they wanted to interpret it, exactly.
- MG Yes, I guess that, in a way, that the Senator must have seen it as accomplishing the same purpose or something else that's quoted here is that in a 1979 interview with Charlie Morrissey, the Senator recalled that, "In the fall of 1966, I suggested to President Johnson that we simply say we won the war and bring the troops home," which is the popular version.
- LA It's the popular version. And what people understand.
- MG So he wasn't one to necessarily quibble over the fine points of something?
- LA He never, he never did. I remember one time when James Reston said something very derogatory about him in connection with education and somebody said to him, "Are you going to correct Mr. Reston?" And he said, "No." He said, "All they'll do is go back and read what he said." And he said, "I never correct anybody." He just didn't worry about reactions. He went onto something else.
- MG What does that say about the kind of man that he was?
- LA Wonderful. I remember when one of the girls in the office had made a terrible blunder and she went in terribly upset and she kept standing there and standing there and standing there and finally he says, "Betty, don't you have anything else to do, that was yesterday?" He didn't believe on dwelling on things. He believed on going forward.
- MG Was he stubborn?
- LA Ah, sometimes, but not really because he believed you had to compromise because you had so many different people pulling against each other all the time. I always remember that Secretary Benson came up and he wanted some kind of a farm program which the Senator told him he could not get 100%, that he would probably get 25% and I remember Secretary Benson saying he wouldn't take 25%. Senator Aiken said it's better to take 25% than it is to



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lose 100% because if you get 25% this year and you can get 25% next year, that's 50%, you're towards 100%. He believed you had to compromise because nothing was black and white, it was usually gray. He had a wonderful philosophy and I think that's what made him a good politician. He never stayed mad at anybody and I would remind him about somebody who had been against him and he say, "Oh, that's right. I'd forgotten that." I had not. But he had. And maybe that's a good approach. It's a good approach if you're going to survive in politics I believe.

MG Can you state what his general political philosophy was?

LA The one thing that he was always conscious of was doing for Vermont and for its people. And when he could solve a problem for a Vermonter, that to him was the greatest thing about his job and that's what we were drummed into all the time, that Vermonters came first and their problems were very important to them. And we had to answer letters within 24 hours and if we could not get the solution within 24 hours we could wait 48 hours, but at least acknowledge the letter so the people at the other end would stop worrying and know that their Senator was looking into it. And even now, I have people coming up to me and reminding me of things that he did for them. We have forgotten but they have not.

MG You worked on the Senator's staff?

LA I started it in at the very bottom, ended up as Administrative Assistant until the day I married him which was June 30th. He took me off the payroll which was the end of the fiscal year, but I continued working as Administrative Assistant without pay. Went to work at 7:00, got out at 6:00, sometimes worked evenings when they had sessions, worked Saturdays, worked twice as hard, became more sensitive to my job because he was then my husband, but we also had almost the whole staff coming in at 7:00 in the morning to work. So, but we had all Vermonters and because they were Vermonters, they were very much Vermont oriented and they would break their necks for Vermonters. I'm a great believer that if you work for a Senator, you should come from that State and pay taxes because then you become a better worker for that Senator.

MG What year did you marry the Senator?

LA 1967, June 30th.

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MG Right after the incident?

LA Uh huh. And of course the minute I married him and he took me off the payroll, I could not go on the Senate floor which made it difficult. Then I would have to send messages in and he would have to come out. But I would go up in the family gallery and sit in the last row and that's how I became so well acquainted with Judy Agnew and Betty Ford.

MG Huh. When had you begun work for him?

LA Started in 1941.

MG Oh Boy!

LA Yea.

MG When he was Governor?

LA I did not know him as Governor. Um, I knew the girl that was his top secretary as Governor and she asked me to go to Washington and I really didn't want to go, but I went. And for a year, I did not like Senator Aiken because he was, I say he was very Vermontish. He would be reading the paper and I would go into tell him something and he wouldn't look up and it took me a long while to discover he heard everything I said, but didn't pay any attention. But I was the lowest paid in the whole office when I started out. And the only reason I got to be the top was that after he had two or three Administrative Assistants and the last one left, he called me in and he said you've been doing the work for a long time, you might as well get the title and the money. So I did.

MG Was he, he was, was he taciturn, short with words? There are stories about his fiscal \_\_\_\_\_.

LA He never, he never, he never wasted words, that was for sure. In his letters, he could write a letter on two paragraphs and put everything in it, where everybody else would take two pages, he would, he really learned how to write and he had a good grasp of words. He was very close to his staff. They were almost a family to him. Anytime you had a problem, you could walk right into his office and he had time for you. I remember one time one of the girls wanted to withdraw her retirement. She thought she was too young and she told me about it and I went in and told him and he called her in and told her, "Hot dogs were great when you were young, but when you got older you needed more substantial food and she would be getting

older faster than she thought." She says now when she gets her retirement check, she always thinks of the Governor. But he was involved in everything that happened in the office. And it was, he cared, he just cared.

MG Did he like Washington?

LA No. No. No. His love was Vermont. He loved the Senate, but his love was Vermont. There was never any idea of staying there. As a matter of fact, President Nixon asked him if he would consider being an Ambassador when he got through and Senator Aiken said, "No, I'm going home to Vermont." And then he turned around and he said, "What two Ambassadorships?" And he said, "Canada and Austria," which were two of the best. And Senator said, "They're great posts, but I want to go home to Vermont." And we went home to Vermont every chance we got. He probably took as little overseas trips. I think his entire 34 years he took 4 overseas trips. He felt you could learn as much sitting in your office talking to foreign ambassadors as you could going overseas with a great group of people because at that point nobody would tell you anything because they were so afraid it would be leaked. And he picked up information every day because Ambassadors felt very close to him. I remember the Ambassador from Iran, \_\_\_\_\_, and one time I asked him why he was so good to the Governor, he said, "Because when I was a lowly foreign service officer from Iran, he was very very nice to me." And that was typical of the Governor. The elevator operators used to talk about it all the time. People were people to him. It didn't matter who they were. I think this is why he survived to 91. Life was fun for him and people were wonderful for him. It was kind of a shot in the arm when he went out.

MG Did he retain his interest in the nursery and the outdoors things?

LA Oh yes. After we retired, he planted blueberries, raspberries, strawberries. We had apples, peaches. He grew his own, his own potatoes. We had pumpkins, squash, peas. I told him once that the rural letter carrier wasn't going to stop off anymore with the mail. And he said, "Why?" And I said, "He's sick of zucchinis." No he loved, I guess that to him that was a religion. It was his religion, working with the soil and making things grow.

MG I guess one of the things that going back to the Aiken formula that might have seemed unusual to people in the country at large was that here's a Senator from what was

by reputation one of, if not the most, conservative State in the country, one of the two states to vote against Roosevelt and all of that and yet here he was speaking out against the war.

LA Yes, that's true, but Senator Aiken was never known as a conservative. He was known first as a great liberal and that's what they attacked him on when he wanted to go to Washington. I think as he got older, he became more moderate, but very independent. He was always independent. He made a lot of trouble for himself with the republicans because he was so independent. I told Jim Jeffords that, you know, he thinks it's hard now, but it isn't because you have so many independent people, but when Senator Aiken was running, you really had conservatives running the State of Vermont and he still was an independent person and voted as he sought, as he darned pleased, as he saw fit.

MG Other than the falling out with President Johnson, was there any other political flack from having made the speech?

LA I don't remember any political flack. I think at that point, people were ready for it and they sort of breathed a sigh of relief that someone, that the country as a whole thought Senator Aiken was pretty wonderful. Yea, our people in California used to tell me that. They accepted it from him where maybe somebody else might not have come across quite as well. And the press liked Senator Aiken which is a great help. I think he was the right person at the right time with the right message.

MG Great. Is there anything that we haven't touched on that you'd like to have on the record since we're taping this for posterity?

LA I think one of the things that bothers me most today about politics is people spend so much money to get elected. I still have to believe you don't have to. I believe the people are intelligent enough to make a decision without a lot of media hype. Senator Aiken only had nine people paid, I was the tenth unpaid. We served the people of Vermont and every time he came up for re-election, he did no campaigning except to get around the State as he always had and they sent him back with big margins. I still think the time is going to come when people are going to recognize that's what they want again. I don't think they want somebody who's going to be a "yes man" when they say something to them, they'll agree. I think they want somebody that will go down there and represent them as he

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believes to be the right way. And I hope that time's coming back again.

MG I guess the classic story about the Senator and campaigning is the year that he spent...

LA \$17.09.

MG Could you tell that story?

LA And then he was mad at me because a Democrat from Burlington had called me in Washington and asked for some petitions for him to circulate and I sent them. And sending the petitions cost \$4.35 and I made out an accurate report and he gave me the devil because he said had I told him to go to Montpelier and pick-up those petitions, we would have saved \$4.35 which would have been what to \$13.00 maybe. We always turned back stationary money. He turned back staff money. We moved into that office suite in 1941 and we left the same office suite on January 1, 1975. That doesn't sound like much. But every time you move an office it means painting, sometimes new carpets, switching everything around, switching telephones around and I remember a Democrat Sergeant at Arms told me, he said, "Lola, your husband could campaign on the millions he saved the Government," because he said, "he's never moved from that one spot." Perfectly happy there. Everybody else wants a big suite and wants plush, he didn't care, he just wanted a good office and that's what we had. We were next to Jack Kennedy for eight years when he was the Senator. And Jack Kennedy was right next door to us which was on the Court side and obviously he was very happy on the Court side too.

MG Wasn't Senator Aiken instrumental in the beginning of the Food Stamp Program?

LA He was one of the originators of it and he and Hubert Humphrey of course worked very hard in the Senate for it, but it was Congresswoman Lee Sullivan of Missouri whose Food Stamp Plan was accepted. And Hubert Humphrey and the Governor decided, fine they didn't care who got the honors, as long as it went through. It was intended primarily though for older people who could not go out and get jobs. I don't think it was ever intended that it should be for young people. But Hubert Humphrey and the Governor worked on practically all the food bills in the Senate together. They were very close on agriculture.

MG Okay, I think that will do it. We just need to let the tape run with silence for about a minute.

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SPACE IN TAPE

LA The University of Vermont is going to have somebody do oral history with me which I think is a good idea because I said, "You know the longer time goes on, the more you forget."

MG Sure.

LA We were in the Senate at the most interesting time. I just wonder what would have happened had Mike Mansfield still been Majority Leader now. I can't believe that he would have given a week off every month for members of the Senate to go home because you never settle, if you settle down to work, you can't work for three weeks and then, and then say we're going to take a week off. I don't like the way things are going. It bothers me a lot. I think there's too much money being spent and not enough really being done.

MG How do you feel about this pay raise issue?

LA I'm very much against it. I argued with Dick Snelling about it who things they should have it. I said at a time when they're talking about that unbalanced budget, at a time when they're talking about increasing taxes, at a time when they're talking about homeless and the poor and everybody else, I think they've got to show the way.

MG I agree.

LA And then they come back and tell me, "Well, you want just rich people there?" And I say, "How many poor people have ever retired from the Senate, how many?" And if it's so bad, why do so many people want the job? And they're perquisites that nobody knows about. They have a watts line in their home. You know what that means? No long distance bills.

MG That's right, I know, I heard Ralph Nader on \_\_\_\_\_ last night going through a whole list of \_\_\_\_\_, it was unbelievable.

LA Well, and you talk to people and they don't understand what you're talking about. I get upset because I still get a Christmas card from Lady Bird Johnson \_\_\_\_\_. Now you think of the frank as not costing anybody anything, it cost, they have to pay the Post Office that money. What are some of the other things? They get a \$3,000 allowance towards living in Washington. That may not be much, but how many people work in Washington would

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love to have a \$3,000 allowance. They get stationary account and most of them get their private stationery, personal stationery out of the stationery room which is paid for by the Federal government. There are a lot of perquisites.

MG Yea.

LA Now they can come home every month. When we were there, you could only, the Governor could only come home four times and that's why we drove because there was no, I couldn't come home and get paid. We would drive once a month you know. So Ralph Nader's absolutely right. Talking about Ralph Nader though, you know, he wanted the Secretary of Consumer Affairs. Oh, he fought like the devil for it. And the Governor was against it. So he came into see the Governor one day. And he was in a long long time and when he left, he patted me on the shoulder and he said, "You take care of him, he's one in a million." So I went in and I said, "What did you do to Ralph Nader that he came out so happy?" He said, "I told him I would go for that Secretary of Consumer Affairs, if they would eliminate all the consumer affairs and all the other agencies." There were five agencies with consumer affairs in them doing nothing. And I noticed he never persuade it after that. You know, they add an agency, they add a department within an agency and before you know it, there's a lot of people in there and nobody's doing anything. It's happening here.

MG In Vermont.

LA Nobody reviews what they're doing. The Governor used to harp to Mike. He used to say, "Mike, we got to take the first session and have continuing resolutions to keep government going. We ought to review every program we put on the books to see whether they're really doing what they're put in there for." But nobody does, because once you put a program in, once you got the staff in, you're not going to eliminate it. Well, I'm not going to change it, so I stopped worrying about it. Otherwise, I'm going to get ulcers. But I still think people can make a difference if they yell enough.

MG I hope so.

LA And individuals, you know, they say you have to be organized. Yea, to a certain extent. But I remember if we got a lot of cards on a subject that were you know just stamped cards, we very seldom paid much attention to it. What we paid attention to if somebody bothered to write a

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letter. Then you read the letter, because that person really wanted to get some views across. It's an interesting life.

MG I'll bet. I bet you've got some stories to tell too.

LA Yea, I think about them once in awhile you know. I forget about them unless something triggers my mind.

MG Do you miss it, do you miss Washington and all those \_\_\_\_\_, people and?

LA I'll tell you what I do miss. What I miss is the kind of conversations you have down there. Everything is interesting. You know, it's about what's happening. If you talk about budgets sometimes up here, it's too big for people to think about. They rather not talk about it. Down there everything is what's current. And it's interesting. And I was telling somebody the other night. I was at a dinner party Saturday night and he said he didn't like to go to receptions or big dinners. And I said, he said, "You must have had to go to a lot of them." I said, "That's where the Governor met a lot of people that became very important to him later when he wanted something." If they meet you at a dinner party, if they meet you outside, Bill Simon when he was head of the Gas Business was very helpful to Vermont and the Governor could call him direct and Gil \_\_\_\_\_ and who was the other one that he, I remember his calling State Department one time at 7:30 in the morning, got the head man, the one he wanted, only one there. But that's where you meet the people. So you have to do it. And they're fun. I sat next to Marvin \_\_\_\_\_ at Roger Mudd's birthday party one time. I sat next to, I sat between Martin \_\_\_\_\_ and Robert Pierpoint. I was so thrilled. You know, I was so thrilled to be sitting next to those two people. So you meet people that are interesting. You hear interesting things. Yea, that's what you miss. I don't miss Washington. Sometimes when I was riding up in the cab or on the trolley I'd say, "What's a nice Vermont girl like me doing in this place?" You know, everybody running. But it was, I learned a lot.

MG Yea, I'll bet. Great. Well I appreciate you taking this time.

LA Well I hope it's what you wanted.