

John M. “Pat” Lynch Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 08/25/1976
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Biographical Note

John M. “Pat” Lynch (1902-1984) was the chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee from 1956 to 1962. This interview focuses on John F. Kennedy’s time as a congressman and senator in Massachusetts, Lynch’s chairmanship of the state committee, and Massachusetts politics, among other topics.

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Oral History Interview

Of

John M. Lynch

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John M. Lynch– JFK #1

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Oral History Interview

with

JOHN M. (PAT) LYNCH

August 25, 1976
Waltham, Massachusetts

By Dan H. Fenn, Jr. and William Johnson

For the John F. Kennedy Library

JOHNSON: Can we start off, Mr. Lynch, by asking you for a little *bit of* background about your early political career in the period before 1946? How did you first get into politics?

LYNCH: My own career. Well, I graduated from Holy Cross in 1927, and I spent the following two years in Pennsylvania down there, playing ball, and when I got back, I was asked if I was available to run for alderman of my ward. I ran that year. Those were the days when Somerville had a 21 man board, three members from each ward. I won that election by 7 votes. I was. . . .

FENN: You had a recount?

LYNCH: Yes. A recount, and it didn't change the 7 after the recount was over. I spent six years on the board of aldermen, three terms, and then ^{1 - in nineteen hundred and thirty five} ~~in 1935~~, I ran for mayor and in 37,000 votes cast, I lost by 188 votes, if my memory serves me correctly. Two years later, I ran again and was elected, by how many, I have long since forgotten, but it was a substantial margin, and I spent

three terms as mayor at the time. I was reelected in 1939 and reelected in 1941. In May of 1942, I joined the United States Navy, spent forty-something months in the Navy, came back and ran again for mayor in ^{nineteen hundred and forty-nine} 1949 and again in 1951 and I figured that five terms as mayor of this city, that people were getting tired of me so I didn't run in 1953. And that's my general background in the field of politics.

9 Some years later, John F. Kennedy, then Senator, asked me if I would run for the state committee, and in those days, there was one man and one woman elected in the forty senatorial districts to represent the state committee, and I ran, and at the request of the Senator, ^{at that time,} he asked me--he campaigned for me as a matter of fact and saw every individual member of the state committee, and asked me to vote for me as chairman, and I was elected over William Burke [William H. Burke, Jr.] of Hatfield, who was more or less a McCormack man [Congressman McCormack's [John W. McCormack] man] and I have forgotten the exact vote, I think I received something like 56 of the 80 votes, and we defeated Burke ⁱⁿ and that election. Then I served as chairman of the board of the state committee for a few years, and finally when Kennedy became, John Kennedy became president, I was appointed as collector of customs in the City of Boston, and that more or less terminated my political background. (Pause). Any questions?

JOHNSON: No. That's a good introduction. I'd like to back up and cover some of those things later in more detail, particularly that 1956 fight, but if we could, I'd like to start back at 1946, when John Kennedy first came on the

scene as a primary candidate in that congressional race.

And, As I remember, he came to you asking for support because part of the City of Somerville was in the district. Do you remember anything about that?

LYNCH: Yes I do. There was a friend of my mine who was a state representative. His name was Joseph LEADY, and Joe knew Jack Kennedy at that time, and brought him through the back door of my house into the kitchen, one morning, and said, "Pat," ^{he says,} "I told Jack Kennedy that you'd be with him for congressman in this district." Somerville had a substantial number of votes in that district. I said "Joe, I've endorsed Mike Neville", and turning to Jack Kennedy, whom I had never met before, I said, "You're more or less a carpetbagger in this district, you don't live in it." He smiled and said, "Well, I live over on Bowdoin Street" and I said, "That's in the district, but you don't live there." At that time, I--shortly after that time--I went back and talked with Mike Neville, whom I had endorsed before Kennedy got into the fight, and I said to him, "I think you're going to have a hard time beating this fellow." ^{he said,} "He's young, good looking, and I'm sure he'll have money." He said, "No, I'm going to stay in the fight." Some months later ^{on,} I had a call from Neville and he said to me, ^{he would} "You get Paul McCarthy," -- who was a state representative and a friend of mine--and come over." Also a friend of Neville's, Paul was. So we went over to Neville's house in Cambridge. At that time, he was suffering from a diabetic condition and he was in poor physical shape and he said I want you and Paul to draw up my withdrawal statement and we did. I had copies

printed in my insurance office and I gave them to all the newspapers in the area that his district covered and he withdrew from that fight and I had the pleasure of calling the police commissioner of Boston at that time, whom I knew very well, Joe Timilty [Joseph P. Timilty] and I said, "Joe, I got Mike Neville's withdrawal statement". I read it to him and he said, "Patty," he says, "stay where you are, and somebody's gonna call you." The next thing I knew, I had Ambassador Kennedy [Joseph P. Kennedy] on the phone, and he said, "I understand you've got Mike Neville's withdrawal statement", and I said, "yes we have", and he said. . . . so I read it to him again. . . .

JOHNSON: At this time, the statement hadn't been released yet?

LYNCH: It had not been released. And then it was released and Neville was--if my memory serves me correctly--I think Neville had died before the election that year. He was in bad physical shape.

FENN: What was your impression of Kennedy when he walked into the kitchen? What kind of a young man was he?

LYNCH: Well, I think I've already told you that when I said to Mike Neville, "he's young, he's good looking, he's got some appeal, and I'm sure he'll have money." And I thought he was a very clean cut, fine looking young man. That was the first time I ever met him.

FENN: Why do you think he won that? What were the important factors in him winning that 1946 fight?

LYNCH: Well, that goes back to quite a few years and, if my memory serves me correctly, he made a great impression on people when he met them, that contagious Kennedy

smile seemed to bring people to him and, as a matter of fact, I think his opposition that year was Henry Cabot Lodge Lodge, wasn't it?

FENN: No, That was later.

LYNCH: Oh, that was later. Who was it that year, I can't remember?

FENN: Oh, I don't remember who the Republican was in 1946.

JOHNSON: That almost--the Republican almost didn't count in 1946. That Democratic primary was everything.

LYNCH: Yes. Of course, the Democratic primary, if you won that, you were in, because the district was democratic.

JOHNSON: What was the . . . you mentioned the Ambassador's calling you when he heard about Neville's withdrawal statement, do you remember what his reaction was. . . . to you?

LYNCH: Yes. As a matter of fact, he said to me on the phone, ~~(laughter)~~ "How much did it cost?" And I said it didn't cost ^{us} anything. ^{And} He said, "Find out if Neville has any bills that I can take care of." I said, "I'll do that." I went to Neville and Neville told me no, he said he had spent very little money, and "what little I've spent, I can take care of myself." So I called the Ambassador back and, as I said, I had met him through Tim ⁱulty, Joe Tim ⁱulty, the police commissioner of Boston, and I told him no, he hasn't spent ^{too} much money and he's going to take care of it himself. ^{And} His casual remark was "That's the first politician that didn't try to get into my pocket." "

(Laughter)

FENN: I guess that's true.

LYNCH: ^{And} I casually said to him, "If they did, what would they find, fishhooks?" (Laughter). I won't tell you what he said. (Laughter).

JOHNSON: Oh, go ahead.

LYNCH: He said, "You're a fresh bastard^{er}." (laughter).

JOHNSON: Do you remember him continually playing an important role in the back of that campaign in those early days?

LYNCH: Well, this is more or less hearsay. I think the Ambassador was very much against Jack running in that fight. As a matter of fact, he said ^{he says,} "You're going to get mixed up with some dirty politics" and ^{he said,} "I don't think ^{./././.} this is all hearsay--^{and I said,} I don't know ^{if you (unintelligible)} whether you can come out of it too clean, or not^{er}."

JOHNSON: What do you remember ^{of him} after that 1946 race as a freshman congressman. Was he important to you in Somerville?

LYNCH: Yes he was. Everybody--I found this out--everybody that met Jack Kennedy liked him, be he Republican or Democrat. And my city at one time was known as the gibraltar of republicanism. It was the largest republican city in the State of Massachusetts for a number of years back in the 1920s, leading up to the first democratic mayor's election, that was John J. Murphy, in 1929. Everybody liked Kennedy. He seemed to have that natural appeal that some politicians have.

FENN: Did he. . . did you talk to him much when he was a congressman about things that Somerville needed, was he involved with Somerville's needs, and Cambridge's needs, and constituents there very much, or was he kind of remote?

LYNCH: Well, people in my city, knowing that I was a little bit friendly with Jack Kennedy, often came to me with their requests and often times, ^{or} ~~well~~ many times, ^{if} I thought

they were deserving ^{of them,} I'd send them on to Jack Kennedy, and they generally were pleased with things that were done by Jack Kennedy.

I'd say that he was a very active and good congressman.

JOHNSON: Even though John McCormack's district was a little bit separated from you, was he as important, or more important in Washington, to the people in the area, as Kennedy, in that early period?

LYNCH: I'd say, John Kennedy ^(McCormack) probably, at that time, was a much bigger figure ^{on} the field of politics than Jack Kennedy. He later became speaker of the house. That's only three places removed from the presidency. As John McCormack himself used to say, "I'm just three heart beats away".

FENN: (There are) roughly two kinds of congressmen, Pat Nourse Rogers, terrific on constituent service, just a tremendous amount of that kind of stuff. Some other people ^[Frank M. Coffin] Oh, I think Frank Coffin ^{to name some other people} and ^{occupied with} issues, not very good on constituent service. ^{is} Kennedy heavier on issues and not so good on constituent service, or heavy on constituent service and not so

LYNCH: Well, my experience with him was that he responded pretty well to the needs of his district, and whether he was right or wrong on the issues ^{on} congress, I really don't know. I wasn't really that close. I was close to the situation in the area that he represented. He was very appealing to the constituency.

JOHNSON: In 1948 and 1950, when he ran for reelection, what do you remember in those two campaigns about his work and his

activities^y in Somerville?

LYNCH: Well, I can remember in one of those fights, he came into Somerville and he--I'm just trying to recollect^{just} exactly what the occasion was, that it more or less bordered on the political--^{and} he came in and he got a tremendous reception in Somerville. God, the people went wild over him. It seems to me, if my memory serves me correctly, it was some holiday that we had a parade and he rode in the parade, and he^{just} got a hell of a reception.

JOHNSON: Do you remember in 1948 and 1950 when he was running for reelection, whether he came back asking for support again? Do you remember being approached by any of his people?

LYNCH: ^{I'd say} ~~Actually,~~ those were two very easy fights for him, and I can't remember too much about them.

JOHNSON: Do you remember in 1952, when they were beginning to-- when they were going statewide for the first time in that senate campaign--where were you in terms of where you stood in terms of being associated with the Dever^[Paul A. Dever] people, with the McCormack people, or the various factions?

LYNCH: In 1952, I wasn't ^{mayor} here at the time. ^{I was just -- let me get my bearings} I was just starting my fifth term as mayor and Could you ask that question again?

JOHNSON: I was wondering in 1952, I have the impression that the Democrats were very divided in their loyalties and in their commitments. Kennedy is beginning to become a statewide figure. Dever is still the head of the party. Did you have a sense of the possible conflict between Kennedy's future career and Dever's future career, and where you stood, and how you ~~ex~~ felt about it from where you were?

LYNCH: Dever, in my mind, leaned towards Kennedy. I mean he was governor, and he was a good governor, and he--I was very friendly with ^{the} Dever faction as a result of my association with Paul McCarthy, who was a state rep, and a friend of mine at that time from Somerville, and he was very friendly with Dever. And I ^hink Dever leaned strongly towards the Kennedy group. I can remember when I was being proposed as chairman of the state committee by Jack Kennedy, Dever was--he solicited Dever's support because Dever had friends in the state committee--Dever was glad to go along with him, and said there's only one trouble, he says, "Some time he might want something" and in a very interesting way, he says, "and the same guy you're with, ^{he says,} might tell you to go to hell because he's got other ideas on the matter", meaning me. But Kennedy said, "I think we can ride along with those problems", and he said, "we've got to elect our man as chairman." As a matter of fact, according to Ken O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell], at that time, Jack Kennedy at first wasn't with me for the chairmanship of the state committee. He wanted someone that--well to quote Ken--"with more or less an ivy league background!" They were trying to elect a member of the state committee by the name of Donahue [Richard K. Donahue] from Lowell, Mass. What his first name again?

FENN; Dick.

LYNCH: Dick Donahue. Yes. A fine handsome, looking young fellow, too. An aggressive fellow, ^{had} ~~with~~ loads of ability and they were trying to elect him, so Kennedy made his tour through the state committee, ^{and} he wasn't getting anywhere in a hurry,

and he called Ken in, Ken O'Donnell, and he said, "I guess we've got to kind of go along with Pat Lynch, ^{" he says,} because the Dever element will be glad, too, because they are friendly with Pat. ^{And} So that was the--to my way of thinking, and according to Ken O'Donnell, too--that was the breaking point of Kennedy's prestige in the ^{the} State of Massachusetts. In other words, if Burke had been elected, according to Ken O'Donnell, Kennedy might have been side-tracked. I don't agree with it. I don't think anybody could side-track him. But according to Ken, he said "yes," he said, "with Burke at the reigns," ^{" he says,} and leaning towards, of course, he was a McCormack man, Burke was, "Kennedy might have been sidetracked."

O'Donnell and
JOHNSON: ✓ O'Brien / Lawrence F. O'Brien / seemed to disagree, looking back over the years--O'Donnell still thinks it was worthwhile and O'Brien seems to say that the risks were too great, that even though they won that state committee fight, it was probably not worth the risk ~~that was~~ involved.

LYNCH: I don't know. I don't know.

FENN: What was it really all about, Pat? Was it about, was it to prove that Kennedy was the master in his own house, was it to make sure of the 1960 delegation, why did they ever get into that nasty brawl in the first place?

LYNCH: Well, of course, I don't know what was in Jack Kennedy's mind, whether the presidency was at the time, of course, I can't say. To me, it was--and Ken O'Donnell seems to think so, too--it was a challenge on the supremacy of controlling the state. Either the McCormack element

were going to control it, or the Kennedy group were going to control it. And if the McCormack group had won, and Burke was elected as chairman of the state committee, it's quite likely [↑]probably [↑]that, what Ken O'Donnell says, that Kennedy might have been sidetracked. In other words, he would have been another man in the parade, but he wouldn't have been leading it.

Does that answer it? ↗

JOHNSON: Do you think that Burke's personality was a big factor, that the President might not have gone into that fight so quickly, but for the animosity?

LYNCH: Well, and this I don't know with any degree of certainty, either, but I understand that he—and Burke had told him—he said, "I'll take care of you" and after that election was over, he says, "I'll take ^{care} ~~care~~ of you in the coming fight, ^{he says,} "I'm going to run against you". And Ken O'Donnell's reaction to that was "Jack, how lucky can you be?" (Laughter)

Burke wasn't a bad fellow. He was a big pompous individual. ^{And} ~~I mean~~ he was about 6 feet two or three inches tall, and he—just a big hulk of a man, you know. Other than that, I never had too many words with him, after that election at the Bradford Hotel, and he had said to me, ^{he says,} "Pat, I ought to knock you on your "a" ^{AND} double "ss". According to Ken O'Donnell, I can't remember the incident, but Ken says I reached into my pocket and gave him my card. (Laughter)

JOHNSON: Did you sense that McCormack was really strongly, personally committed to Burke?

LYNCH: Definitely. Definitely.

JOHNSON: He wasn't just sitting it out?

LYNCH: He told members of the state committee, he himself said I'm not going to get into the fight, but he contacted many members of the state and he said it will be a personal affront to me if Burke isn't elected.

FENN: What was the Kennedy-McCormack feud ^{really} all about? Why couldn't those two groups get along? Why was the battle?

LYNCH: Dan, I don't know. I really don't know just what the back-ground ^{of the whole thing} was, but anyway, I don't know whether you were at the dinner or not, but the first big dinner I ran out at the armory, with over 50-odd hundred people, paying a ~~one~~ hundred dollars a crack for that dinner, I gambled a little. I hadn't told the Kennedys anything about it, but my opening remarks at the dinner as chairman of the state committee at that dinner--it was the dinner that the state committee put on--I said, "I gambled," I said that the toastmaster of the occasion was going to be Congressman John W. McCormack, and much to the chagrin of everybody who was a Kennedyite, I introduced McCormack and I had cards printed--we had a limited number of speakers--and I had cards printed with the information and general background of each speaker, and I handed them to the Speaker, Speaker McCormack, and I said "You can embellish these or you can just take what data I've given you". The Kennedy crowd, of course, was pretty much ^{--I mean, you're mad} ~~mad~~ at the time. And I said, "Hell, how long is this imaginary feud going to go on between you and Congressman McCormack?" I said "isn't it high time that we ~~talk~~ tied both organizations together for the good of the state?" and later on Kennedy agreed it was a good idea.

FENN: So, do you think it was just that there were two powerful groups in the same state? Or do you think it was something personal? Or...

LYNCH: I don't think there was anything personal. I think it was just who was going to control the state. Was it going to be the McCormack group, or the Kennedy group. I think it was as simple as that.

FENN: No difference in program, or people . . .

LYNCH: No. ^{NO, NO,} It was a question of who was ^{going to} ~~be~~ supreme in the state, the McCormack element or the Kennedy element, and it came out that the Kennedys prevailed.

JOHNSON: Was there much of a change, people talked at the time ^{about} ~~of~~ a new era in democratic politics in the state, was there really that much of a change after 1956, or was it just a change in the committee leadership?

LYNCH: I don't think there was any tremendous change. ^{Ahh--} Let me get my bearings now. I remember an incident that would best explain it. Ahh, [↑]
 Oh yes. At the . . . the day that I was chosen chairman was the occasion, Jack Kennedy said to me, and he had a room upstairs at the Bradford Hotel, a suite--I think there was some member of his family getting married in New York at that time and he flew on to be sure that the election went as he wanted it to go--so Ken O'Donnell came to me and said, "Gee, the Senator is very pleased with the outcome of the election and he wants you to make a statement that this is an indication of the state's interest in Stevenson Adlai E. Stevenson, who at that time, Kennedy was interested in and I think it's all

he said
 in Ken O'Donnell's book--and they want you to make that
 statement to the press and I said, "the hell, I will" and I said
 "this was nothing but a Kennedy victory, not a Stevenson
 victory or any ^{other} presidential candidate victory. It's
 strictly a Kennedy victory and that's the way it's going
 to be" and according to Ken O'Donnell's version of it all,
 he went back and repeated that statement to the Senator,
 and he said, "He's kind of an independent cuss, isn't he?"

JOHNSON: Did that sort of thing happen very often in the years after
 that when you felt as though you had to state your own
 independent point of view? And remind him that you
 had your own independent point of view?

LYNCH: Probably on a few occasions. I can't remember any
 particular incidents

JOHNSON: ~~.....~~ none that were

LYNCH: that remain in my memory. But I know that I
 did at various times disagree with what he thought should
 be done.

JOHNSON: How did he take it, as a rule?

LYNCH: ^{Generally} He wouldn't say much. He'd walk away from me.

FENN: Do you remember any incidents in that 1956 fight, I mean,
 you know, moments, conversations, or anything that stands
 out in your mind as important, or interesting or funny?

LYNCH: That was the ^(unintelligible) ~~.....~~

FENN: No, no, the state committee fight.

LYNCH: Oh, the state committee fight. No, I can't think of any
 particular, anything I haven't already given you that
 stand out in my mind. ^{I can remember this}
 Yes. I can remember this. As I said, the Kennedys, any
 one of them, Jack, Bob, ^{or who,} or the father, were very thorough

in anything they undertook, and Jack made it a point to visit every member of the state committee, and there were forty men and forty women. Of course, he didn't have to visit me. So that meant 78 of the others and he said, "I never thought I'd see the day when I'd be called a 'stoop' and a fool." But a member of the state committee, I guess the fellow from Lynn called him. He said, "I never thought I'd see the day when I'd get spit at," and I can't remember her name. . . .

FENN: Ida Lyons.

LYNCH: Ida Lyons is it.

FENN: From Quincy.

LYNCH: She spit at him.

FENN: That's right.

LYNCH: She spit at him. And he said, "I had some tough moments making the rounds". *She was a tough broad. She was a good looking dame*

~~FENN:~~ ~~She was a tough broad.~~

~~LYNCH~~ ~~She was a good looking dame.~~

FENN: Uh, huh.

LYNCH: She was a good looking woman, but she was ^{or} ^{tart.} tough. She used to challenge me every once in a while when I'd make a decision on something and I would just hit the gavel and say "Mrs. Lyons, that's it".

FENN; She was mean.

LYNCH: . . . you can talk forever. She was a mean "son of a b" ^(unintelligible) ~~(?)~~

JOHNSON: What do you remember about the 1956 convention, what was the first important thing after that like, and particularly that vice presidential effort, was the state delegation very heavily involved in that?

LYNCH: All I can remember ~~is that~~ I was in a room--that was in Chicago--and I was in a room with many of the so-called leaders of the Kennedy group and, if my memory serves me correctly, the ~~A~~mbassador was in Paris, wasn't he?

JOHNSON: Yes, he was, ~~in~~ in the south of France, I think.

LYNCH: Yes. ^{well wherever he was} In France, anyway. And they put in a call through to him--I don't remember, ^{whether} ~~if~~ it was Bobby or Jack--I will say one thing--I never knew anything of importance to come up in the life of Jack Kennedy's political life, anyway--that Jack didn't always say "I want to talk to Bobby about it." He must have had great faith in Bobby's judgment because I went into a number of states on the Kennedy train, ⁱⁿ /the presidential fight, and ^{it} ~~there~~ was always that way. But to get back to ~~19~~¹⁹56, where were we?

FENN: You were in a room in Chicago.

LYNCH: Oh, Chicago. And they called the ~~A~~mbassador and his answer was blunt, short, and simple. He said, "Park Place ~~or~~ or nothing^{or}." That was the decision.

FENN: What about ~~we~~ we skipped the 1952 campaign. What do you remember of the fight against Lodge for the Senate in ~~19~~¹⁹52? Were you involved in that?

LYNCH: Yes, I was. ^{Yeah.} ~~Sure.~~ As it turned out, it was a comparatively easy fight. Kennedy had the appeal and the ^{votes} ~~looks~~, and Lodge didn't. Massachusetts is a funny state. Even today, I think there are only 22 or ~~23~~²³ percent of the enrolled party people that are Republicans. There are in the vicinity of 50 to 60 I think are Democrats and the rest ~~of~~ are non-partisan and the proportion is the same in the non-partisan groups. Those who tend towards

the Democratic Party are proportionately the same ^{as} and to the Republican Party. So this is a substantially democratic state.

FENN: And you think that was essentially what carried him through that one?

LYNCH: Oh, I think so. Along with--he had a natural appeal Lodge I don't know too well. I've met him, but he always struck me as a little bit on the stiff side. You know, austere and a push-off attitude.

FENN: What did you do in the 1952 campaign, do you recall?

LYNCH: I think I confined myself to my efforts to Somerville, if my memory serves me correctly.

JOHNSON: You talked about that ~~...~~ I don't want to jump back and forth too ~~much~~ much, but you were talking about that telephone call to the Ambassador from Chicago in 1956, can you recall whether that was very early on in the effort on the vice presidential nomination, or whether it was toward the close of it?

LYNCH: Well, as I remember conventions, and I've been going to them. . . . well, I went to Philadelphia in 1936, I went to Chicago in 1940, in 1944 I was ^{away} in the Navy, in 1948, I hadn't been home long enough so I didn't run in 1952, I went to Chicago, 1956 I went to Chicago and in 1960, I went to L.A. when Kennedy became the nominee. And to me, I don't understand any of this now, these two conventions that had just gone by in those days, you elected a president first, you nominated your president, your presidential choice in each party, and then, that man said who he wants to be vice president and then the word

went out ^{And} ~~that~~, there generally was ^{n't any} ~~no~~ serious opposition to it.

FENN: But in 1956, Stevenson said "you people decide."

LYNCH: He did that, yes. I remember that. But behind it all, I think there was a movement on the Stevenson group, who was it ~~at~~ that time? ~~Barkley~~ Barkley?

FENN: Kefauver [Estes C. Kefauver].

LYNCH: Kefauver, that's right.

FENN: So you think they were really with Kefauver, the Stevenson people

LYNCH: I my feeling is that they were--gee, my memory on names is shot as I get older. (Laughter)

JOHNSON: And then after that 1956 effort, was there anything going on in Massachusetts before 1958 when Kennedy was up for reelection again to the Senate, was that the next important activity?

LYNCH: On the part of the Kennedy group?

JOHNSON: Yes. And the committee.

LYNCH: I can't--to be honest with you--I can't ^{not} recall ~~of~~ any particular incidents of importance in those years that you mentioned, that I can recall.

JOHNSON: Now, that 1958 reelection effort was an important fight, not in terms of the opposition, but in terms of amassing the largest and the most impressive vote possible, so there must have been a great deal of organizational work involved?

LYNCH: That's when we put the city and town committees to work as ^a ~~the~~ result of recognizing them. In other words, you can't go to a city and town and say "Here, I want" by

telephone and say, "I want this done." As a matter of fact, with the help of Judge Mellon [James Mullen] and myself and a few others, we visited practically every city and town committee in the state. We made a tour. We (unintelligible) in the one section for a few days and then went to another section. We'd look the chairman up and say here we are and the feeling in those cities and towns was "holy god, we're looking at a chairman for the first time". They only knew them from a distance and we did, we organized it, with that idea in mind, to promote the biggest plurality of any fight in the history of this state.

FENN: Were the Kennedys, the Kennedy people, and particularly, then Senator Kennedy, interested in what was going on in the Democratic Party in the state after 1956. Once you got the chairmanship, then did he sort of stay out of. . . .politics?

LYNCH: No, no sir. Many times, particularly through Larry O'Brien and Ken O'Donnell, Bill Hartigan [William J. Hartigan] that group, they were always in constant touch, when I say always, at least pretty much of the time in touch with the state committee to know what was going on.

FENN: What kinds of things did they want? What kinds of things were they interested in?

LYNCH: Well, I suppose the answer to that would be easier said by saying that anything that came up that would promote the Kennedy cause, they would call you on. Any particular instance, my memory is kind of poor. But I know that they were always in touch with us and knew what was going on.

JOHNSON: You mentioned the President's reliance on Bobby Kennedy. The people in Massachusetts who had known him politically before Bobby Kennedy came on the scene, and there are some stories that he was difficult to deal with, and difficult for him to get used to the political situation when he first came on the scene here. Do you have any recollections of that, and how he was for the Massachusetts people to deal with?

LYNCH: You're talking about Bobby now?

JOHNSON: Yes.

LYNCH: Bobby wasn't the easiest fellow to deal with. He was very opinionated and he was strong, he had a strong mind and he was interested ⁱⁿ to a marked degree ^{with} in what was going on in the state as it affected the Kennedy element. Now, I remember at one of the big dinners--and I think it was the \$5 dinner--Bob said to me, "Pat", he said, "I have an appointment, an early appointment tonight, ^{he says,} "will you introduce me". He was never a long talker, what he had to say, he said in a few words and got it over with. And I introduced him. . . .I asked the. . . . I think the tail end of the dinner. . . .the dessert ^{ends} was taking place, and I asked them, I begged their indulgence and asked ^{them} ~~him~~ to listen, that Bob Kennedy had an outside appointment and he wanted to address the crowd. And he did. Oh, he asked me where they were, that was right. This was at the beginning ~~ing~~, not at the tail end of the dinner, it was before the dinner started. And he said, "Where are they, Pat" ^{he says,} Of course, we had bars set up downstairs in the armory and of course, when liquor was flowing free, you find ~~that~~ people can drink a little more. And they were

all down there having a good time for themselves, and finally, in an irritable way, he said to me--I was standing on the rostrum--"Pat, where are they?" I said, "they're all downstairs, Bob, enjoying a few drinks". He said, "Well, don't you think it's--" he looked at his watch, the hour of the dinner was at hand--"why don't we get them up here"? So, I dispensed Jim Boyle [James^{P.} Boyle], who always was a great help to me--Jim was a hard worker, you could give Jim a job and you were sure it was going to be done--so I sent Jim to round them up and get them up on the floor and then I introduced Bob before they started to eat. It wasn't at the dessert end of it, ^{it was,} the dinner was beginning and I introduced Bob, and I begged their indulgence, said that he had another appointment, and so forth and so on, and he spoke anyway. The place was black with people by that time. There were over 5,000 in there that had paid a hundred apiece. At the end of his talk, he said, "Gee, Pat, what a crowd". I said, "You didn't think so twenty minutes ago". He looked at me and kind of got mad. (Laughter)

JOHNSON: How did other people react to him?

LYNCH: Well, I think most of them realized his position in the campaign, what the hell, he was the candidate's brother, ^{and} they might have resented inwardly his direct way. ^{But} I think on the overall picture, I think they accepted it. Bob was a, ^{he was a} hard taskmaster.

FENN: Pat, what about the 1958 ^{and the} 1960 state conventions? Did the Kennedy group take a hand in the nominations or the platform, do you remember? Or did they leave that pretty much alone? 1958 would have been Furcolo's reelection

[Foster Furcolo]

for governor and 1960 would have been Joe (unintelligible) nomination?

LYNCH: To tell you the truth, there was always a feeling of animosity existing between the Kennedy group and the Furcolo group, and I never did know the background of it. But I'd say this much about Furcolo. He was the only governor when I was chairman of the state committee, who would leave the governor's office, and come over to the state committee, and ask you how things are going, what he could do and so forth. To me, he was an easy fellow to get along with. I've heard it said ~~it~~ --whether it's so or not--that this feud came about as a result of Larry O'Brien. Now, just what particular angle was involved, I don't know, but I understood pretty well that it was kind of as/a result of a feud between Larry and Furcolo. Because Larry was very close to Furcolo, years back. Does that answer the question?

FENN: Did the Kennedys try and defeat Furcolo for renomination in 1958?

LYNCH: I don't know, sir. I don't think so. I didn't see any evidence of it.

FENN: Now How about the 1960 convention when Furcolo was running against Tommy O'Connor ← for the nomination.
Senate/ Did the Kennedys get into that support of O'Connor, or did they stay out of it?

LYNCH: I think they stayed out of it, if my memory serves me correctly. O'Connor could have (unintelligible)

FENN: And what about Joe Ward[?] did the Kennedys have a candidate for governor in 1960? [Joseph Ward]

LYNCH: I don't remember. I don't recall.

FENN: What about the 1960 platform, ^{do you} /remember their being involved in the state platform in 1960?

LYNCH: I don't think they took too much interest in it. ^{I think} They left it pretty much with the state committee.

FENN: O.K. So, essentially, the Kennedy people's interest in the Democratic Party and the state committee between 1956 and 1960 was in terms of what served the Kennedys interest rather than involving themselves in the party chairmanship.

LYNCH: That is right. That is right.

FENN: All right. So that brings us to Los Angeles. Oh, I'll tell you what I What about, Bill and I were talking about this before. . . . How was the delegation, the Massachusetts delegation to Los Angeles, selected? Who were the people who picked that delegation, how were they picked?

LYNCH: That was the year Kennedy was nominated?

FENN: Right.

LYNCH: Well, of course, it's incumbent upon the state committee to pick the delegates, right?

FENN: It was then.

LYNCH: It was then, ^{yeah,} And I think they had a strong hand in picking the delegates, ^{and,} I know that some of them that were elected that were not altogether in accord with the Kennedy group. Naturally, that was ^{know, you} ~~you~~ you could figure that they would be. But the delegates generally were favorable to the Kennedy effort.

FENN: Who picked it, do you remember? ^{who was --} You were. . . .

LYNCH: I was chairman. I was picking them, and Ken O'Donnell had something to do with it. Larry O'Brien, Bill Hartigan ^(A)

I depended upon those fellows to be sure that anybody that we were interested in, were elected as delegates. As a matter of fact, I was a--^{let's see,}no I wasn't--I thought I had an angle there, but I didn't--but generally speaking, the atmosphere was good, I mean, the Kennedy people prevailed. And there was no strenuous opposition from any particular faction, either. No sir.

FENN: It was a pretty harmonious delegation.

LYNCH: It was a very harmonious delegation. Of course, you couldn't keep the McCormack ^(unintelligible) certain ones of them out, you know, and you didn't want to.

I think the best break of all, which broke down that barrier, was introducing McCormack as the toastmaster of the occasion at a big hundred-dollar dinner. That kind of ^{seed (unintelligible)}, you know. To me, it was an imaginary problem.

FENN: Emotional thing, rather than. . . .

LYNCH: Yes, ~~emotional~~/ more or less emotional, that's right, Dan..

JOHNSON: Do you want to go ahead to the campaign itself?

FENN: Sure.

JOHNSON: You said you were involved in some of the campaign activities in 1960. Can you tell us where you were, and who you were with, and what you were doing?

LYNCH: Well, I went on the Kennedy train for a while, and we finally decided that I was of no importance on that Kennedy train going into states where I didn't know anybody. ^{Oh,} There was ~~---~~ let me get my bearings. Yes, I got a call one day, early, from Wisconsin, and it was

Ken O'Donnell calling me and he said, "Pat", he said,
 "do you know--he ^{was} ~~is~~, the present governor of Wisconsin--

FENN: Pat Lucey [Patrick J. Lucey]

LYNCH: "Do you know Pat Lucey?" And I said ^{--he said,} ~~yes~~, "he was in the
 service with you." I said, ^{"Gee,} ~~yes~~, I do, I know him." He
 said he isn't--this was the only important effort ^{that I made} ~~at~~
 outside the state of Massachusetts--and he said, "he's
 not interested in Kennedy out here," ^{he said,} "Would you get out
 here?" ^{And,} I said, "when?" ~~He~~ ^{he} said "immediately!" ^(Laughter) And he was
 the chairman of the state committee in Wisconsin at
 the time so I took a ^{--from East Boston -- took a} plane, and went out there, and the
 following morning--I called Lucey that night and told
 him I wanted to meet him--so I met him at the ~~Hotel~~
 Blackstone I think, could it have been?

FENN: Could have been.

LYNCH: And I had breakfast with him, and as prearranged, after
 I had a talk with him, ^{and} try to soften him up a little bit,
 Jack Kennedy came along, ~~the~~ ^{the} Senator came along, and I
 introduced them, politely removed myself from the scene,
 the Kennedy charm went to work and Lucey wound up with
 us. And that was my only effort outside the state.
 On the ^{train} train, anyway, Ken O'Donnell finally said, "you
 better go back to Massachusetts and see that not only
 that's organized, but contact Bill ~~Dunfey~~ [William L. Dunfey]
 up in New Hampshire," and he named the others anyway,
 I forget who from Maine. So I went back and contacted
 those fellows to see that New England was organized for
 them anyway.

FENN: John Donovan _____ in Maine?

LYNCH: Donovan, I think. And I contacted ^{those} ~~the~~ chairman of every--
the six New England states--and told them to get going, let's
get organized and let's unite New England for Kennedy, and
I guess the effort was O.K.

FENN: It worked.

LYNCH: It worked, yeah.

FENN: Anything at that 1960 convention that you remembers that
we ought to recall? How was that convention organized?
What did you do in working with those other states, that
delegate count and all that?

LYNCH: Well, there wasn't too much to do on my part, to be
honest ~~with you~~ about it, as far as the New England
states were concerned. ~~They~~ They were pretty well
organized, and for the Kennedy effort, and I can remember
being out in Chicago at the convention, ^{-- it was, yeah, at that time -- out in} and I don't think ^{7/1/1}
there was some problem with Daley [Richard J. Daley]
wasn't there, at the time?

FENN: In Los Angeles? Yes. A question as to whether it was--
when he was going to declare--

LYNCH: Declare, yes. But I know, I met Daley at church--in those
days I used to get up in the morning and go--I looked down
the altar rail and I'm sure it was Daley who was there--
and I was further back in the church than him, and when
I got outside, I stopped and said "Hi, Mr. Mayor" and
introduced myself. He took me to breakfast, Daley did.
He had a chauffeur with him, and we had a nice chat, anyway,
and I told him about Kennedy and he said "he's O.K." He
went to a ball game with him as a result of that meeting.

FENN; Yuh? Yeah?

LYNCH: ^{6:22} I can't recall the whole background of the thing, anyway, maybe Ken O'Donnell can help you, but it seems to me as though the arrangements were made ~~and~~ anyway, and, ^{by God} I think Kennedy took ~~him~~ ⁱⁿ a ball game with him. (Unintelligible) a little bit hot.

JOHNSON: When you were talking to him that morning, do you remember what kind of approach you used to try to get him interested in Kennedy?

LYNCH: No. I can remember meeting him at the hotel and. . . .

FENN: This would have been ¹⁹56, I guess. This would have been Chicago in ¹⁹56.

LYNCH: Would it?

FENN: Would it? Rather than Los Angeles?

LYNCH: I'm muddled up there. *It could have been either.*

JOHNSON: It could have been either.

LYNCH: Yes. But he kind of warmed up to Kennedy and I know they took a ball game in together and. . . .

FENN: Who was playing?

LYNCH: I don't recall.

JOHNSON: Los Angeles didn't have a team in ¹⁹60, did they?

LYNCH: No, so it had to be Chicago, yes. Geez, as I said, my memory's gone to pieces. [↑]

But when I'm talking to somebody, I can generally pick up things here and there.

FENN: Do you remember in ^{the} ~~19~~60 convention when they picked John McCormack to be ~~at~~ ^{the} least nominally ^{the} floor leader for the delegate thing. Whose idea was that, to give McCormack that ~~sort~~ ^{sort} of visibility, how did he take that, do you remember?

LYNCH: It's not too clear in my mind, Dan, to be honest about it. We're talking now about 1960.

FENN: Yes, talking about 1960.

LYNCH: Well, I think that previous dinner had more or less broken down--when I introduced McCormack as the chairman--broke down any serious opposition of the McCormack part. ^{not} The I think McCormack was wholeheartedly with Jack Kennedy.

FENN: So it was a logical

LYNCH: ^{ah.} Yes. I knew McCormack for years. Had known him long before I knew any of the Kennedys, and of course, I met him through his brother "Knocko" [Edward J. McCormack] You remember "Knocko"?

FENN: I sure do.

LYNCH: "Knocko" was a hale and hearty fellow, and a direct opposite in makeup from the congressman. "Knocko" was a two-fisted guy. And he wasn't any political ^{either} boob^{er}/you know. He was damn cute and smart. He knew his way around.

FENN: What about after 1961? when did you become Collector of the Port?

LYNCH: Shortly after the inauguration.

FENN: And who succeeded you at the state committee then, or did you keep both jobs?

LYNCH: No, I didn't keep both jobs. I think the fellow from Charlestown--what was his name--Doherty. [Gerard A. Doherty]? I think he was the one who was chosen to take over. What's his first name?

FENN: Gerry.

LYNCH: Gerry Doherty. I never got to know him too well. I introduced him around the office. He was kind of a quiet

sort of a fellow, wasn't he?

FENN: Teddy's guy, I think.

LYNCH: I think so.

JOHNSON: So, how long were you in that job?

LYNCH: Just short of four years. And then I was appointed collector.

JOHNSON: That's what I meant, in the collector's job?

LYNCH: Oh, I forget the exact number of years. And following Kennedy's assassination, Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson]^{first} naturally became president, and one of his/moves was to abolish the collector's jobs, and set up what they call "regional areas", and appoint a regional man and in most cases, the regional man was--had a good--your background experience, and I recommended Bill --what the hell's his name--he's the regional head now, he was my assistant, he was a sort of a--well, he had been in customs work for a long while and--what was the name of the collector, the assistant collector to me up there, Bill ~~Griffin~~ big, big fellow. [William Griffin].

FENN: I don't know.

LYNCH: He played football for Boston College.

FENN: So, he succeeded you.

LYNCH: He succeeded me. I'll think of the name probably when I leave here.

I always ^{W.} reminds me of the Irishman saying goodbye to his friends when they were leaving for America and he says "the thing I'd like to say most to you now will occur to me after you're gone." That's the way with me. I'll think of these names when I leave here. (LAUGHTER).

BEGIN SIDE II TAPE I

[Edward M. Kennedy]

FENN: Did you get involved in Teddy's campaign? What did you think of the idea of him running and what role did you play in that? In 1962?

LYNCH: For the senate?

FENN: Yes.

LYNCH: Well, I suppose I became involved to the point where I'd be interested in anybody of a Kennedy background, and I don't think I carried an important position in the campaign--let's see, at that time I was collector--I don't know of anythingⁱⁿ particular that I did except to pass the word along and everybody would be interested in the Kennedy background.

FENN: Were you in favor of him running in 1962? Because that was quite a controversial issue.

LYNCH: I'd say yes, I was interested in him running.^{Yeah.} There was no particular reason I have in mind. . . .

JOHNSON: Well, there was some question, of course, about his age and his experience, qualifications, and the fact that there were a lot of other interested and ambitious young politicians in Massachusetts whose careers might be cut short, that the Kennedys just continued to dominate the scene with their own people.

LYNCH: Well, I don't think there was any way that you could stop a Kennedy movement in this state, honestly speaking. I think he's a damn attractive candidate, you know, whether ~~if~~ he has presidential ambitions, I don't know. I know one thing, I've been led to believe that the mother^[Rose F. Kennedy] is diametrically opposed to his^{my} being a candidate, and for

substantially good reasons. Holy Lord, she lost two of them. Some nut around this country might be--have a crazy idea in his head 9.1.1.1.
She's a remarkable woman.

JOHNSON: Is there anything that comes to your mind, thinking back over the years, and what we've discussed, that you remember as being important enough to record, that we might have slipped by?

LYNCH: I think we pretty well covered the waterfront. As I said, I'll be glad I thought of that incident of Pat Lucey because that was an important angle.

4 I don't know whether you altogether agree with Ken O'Donnell but Ken O'Donnell says that the election of a Kennedy man for state chairmanship played a highly important role in his quest for the presidency. In other words, if McCormacks had prevailed, he might have been sidetracked. I don't agree with that altogether, but that's Ken's opinion: "If his efforts on your behalf hadn't been successful, he might have been another fellow standing on the sidelines, and the parade would have gone by." As I said, I don't know whether that's so or not, but it's an angle that Ken was very strong on.

JOHNSON: I may not have asked in just this way, but I meant to. Do you remember exactly when and how O'Brien and O'Donnell approached you about the possibility of taking that. . . going for that chairmanship job?

LYNCH: I think they both came to me together and told ^{me} what was going on, that ⁿ Senator Kennedy was going to visit each and every member of the state committee in an effort to

~~you~~^{elect} you as chairman."

JOHNSON: And then they then took you to him, is that how you remember it?

LYNCH: Before the election? No they didn't take me to him. They didn't take me to him. I was just told by those two that the effort was being made and that I looked like--that we were going to prevail.

FENN: Before that, they had tried to find candidates in those forty senatorial districts to run for the state committee, and I never did know, did they have people in all of them, or most of them, or . . . they put on a pretty good campaign to elect those.

LYNCH: They did, yes. And I think they had candidates in most of the districts. I'm sure they did because the evidence was there when the chairmanship came up. They could put the finger on. . . . I think I got 56 votes and the balance went to Burke.

FENN: What happened to Burke after that? Did he just sort of disappear?

LYNCH: As I said, as a result of that Kennedy effort that elected me as chairman, Burke made the statement he'd take care of Kennedy^{and}/in the next election he's going to run and again, to quote Ken, he said, "How lucky can you be get, Jack?"

FENN: I can't remember if he did ~~or~~ or not, did he run in the primary?

LYNCH: No. He was just smoking the pipe.

FENN: Well, is there anything else?

LYNCH: I don't know whether I've been very helpful or not.

JOHNSON: We've skipped around a bit and "oh", that'll happen for the rest of day.

LYNCH: "Oh."

FENN: One other thing, was there anything about the--when you left the state committee--the transition from you to ~~Doherty~~/ your successor, and did the state committee change, did they do anything different or was it pretty much the same?

LYNCH: ^{It was the same} ^ Pretty much the same. I guess Doherty ^{was} ~~is~~ a good chairman.

FENN: He ~~is~~ had a lot of trouble since.

LYNCH: I don't know. He has, huh?

FENN: No, not he, but the committee has.

LYNCH: Oh, the committee has. Well, I don't think Ted Kennedy is paying too much attention to them. I mean I don't think he's too interested in them. Of course, not that it's going to affect him in any great way in the state, ~~but~~ ~~the~~ vote getting ^{wise}, but in my opinion, he should be actively interested in the state committee, and see that they are functioning. And by god, the only way you can make them function is to have that chairman go out and visit those cities and towns. That's what we did, and despite what people might say about John Carr, ^[John C. Carr] John Carr seemed to know his way around this state and he worked well with me. We'd organize a certain section--and I can see his organized mind--we'd hit so many cities and towns on this visit and outline the whole state and we went into every city and town.

FENN: Your ^{telling me} ~~timing~~ before we started about the incident, ^{where} after

you got elected chairman, then you brought John Carr into work with you, do you want to put that ~~down~~ on the record, that ^{was} kind of interesting?

LYNCH: Well, of course, I was immediately pulled up by Ken O'Donnell who said, "what the hell, the ~~senator~~ wants to know what the hell's going on, what are you doing with John Carr up there?" I said, "Well, he's former chairman, ^{and} a friend of mine, ^{a former chairman} who knows his way around this state a lot better than I do, and I just brought him in there to help organize the thing". Well he said the ~~senator~~ is quite mad and I said, ^{well} let him get another chairman." It's as simple as that. And that ended it.

FENN: Why were they so upset about ^{you} ~~you~~ bringing John Carr in?

LYNCH: I thought--I think they thought Carr was kind of slippery in his ways in that he would do things that might be undermining their intended efforts, which I thought Carr wouldn't, as a result of his friendship with me, and he didn't. The only thing ~~that~~ he did that I didn't altogether agree with was bringing Mrs. Sullivan in there, because she was absolutely worthless except to look at.

FENN: She couldn't type?

LYNCH: She couldn't. . . . put ^{ting} a typewriter in front of her is like putting a jewish bible in front of me.

FENN: She didn't know what to make of it?

LYNCH: she couldn't do anything! But she insisted on answering every call that came in there. I suppose that was due to her inquisitive mind. She wanted to know who was calling.

FENN: She was a rogue?

LYNCH: A little bit of a rascal, yes. And she always wore an armload of trinkets. That was her best effort, waving them. (laughter).

FENN: There's some kind of characters in that party in those days. You remember Peter Clarity?

LYNCH: Oh, I knew Peter well. That first meeting at the Bradford Hotel, he was at one corner, and he was--I didn't know him, he was standing up^{and} in a loud raucus voice he was hollering and yelling to the chair--I said--somebody gave me his name--I said, "Mr. Clarity, you haven't been recognized by the chair". "Well, Who's going to shut me up?" and so forth, I don't remember too well, but I started down after him, and he went out a door. (Laughter) I was going to kick him out a door. He was amazing. Had more spirit than brains.

FENN: Those state committee meetings were pretty peppy?

LYNCH: Some of them were real active meetings, and of course, "Knocko" was a member of the state committee. Funny part of it was he was very orderly. As a matter of fact, when we beat Burke, the roll was in and we beat Burke 56 to something, and there was ^(unintelligible) enough to make it unanimous. Knocko and I were old friends anyway of years back, long before I ever knew the Congressman. That's how I got to know the Congressman, through Knocko. I used to go over with a group from Somerville, this was back in prohibition days, years ago when a group from Somerville would go to Knocko's emporium over there in South Boston. He used to have spirits of ^(unintelligible)

barrel right handy and dump it if the cops came. (Laughter)

FENN: No kidding.

LYNCH: I don't know if I should tell this story or not but I went over one day and there was a fellow by the name of O'Brien, John O'Brien from Somerville, they called him Rocky, a very capable fellow, too. No educational background but my old Irish father always said, "People are born with intelligence to lesser or greater degree ~~of~~ education ~~you~~ ^{will} require". We went over, anyway, and as I said Knocko was inately smart, and there he was sitting--it was raining, pouring rain--it was under a tin roof and there was a leak right overhead and he had an umbrella over him and he was sitting there in his shorts with the spirits there and the (unintelligible) barrel there in case the police came, and with the umbrella over him. I said, "For God's sake, Knocko, what the hell--of course, he had just a pair shorts on--what are you doing sitting under that drip in the roof for"? He said, "The roof is leaking". "Well, I said, "move your chair". He said, "Geez, I didn't think of that." (Laughter).

FENN: So, he held the umbrella instead?

LYNCH: Umbrella over his head, right under the drip.

All he had to do was move three feet away where there was no leak. He was a funny--he had his good points. ~~He~~ wasn't a fancy thinking man although his language was a little on the rough side.

FENN: What other characters on that state committee do you remember?

LYNCH: I remember the big fellow, Cleary. Do you remember him?
[Bernard F. Cleary]

FENN: Yes.

LYNCH: He was a big hulk of a man. He must have been six feet three or four or five and he was as portly as he was tall. He was noisy, too. But he--at one of the meetings anyway-- I was leading the chair and I gave a list to the state committee people--~~I think he~~ ^{I forget who} ~~was~~ ^{anyway, and} acting chairman. I said, "Here's the list!" He said, "What is it?" I said, "Those you don't recognize".

FENN: Who was on that list besides Cleary, Clarity. . . .
and Cloudy (laughter), and this

LYNCH: *Cleary,* Clarity, Ida Lyons, ^{and} a fellow from Lynn, the fellow that's. . .

JOHNSON: Costin?

LYNCH: No, he called Kennedy a "stoop", when he went to him looking for a vote for me, and there were probably 15 or 20 on the list that I gave him. Some of ^{the names} ~~them~~ I've forgotten, and said, "These are the ones you don't recognize". I forget who I was turning the gavel over to.

FENN: Well, I don't know, politics was different in those days.

LYNCH: It was good. I mean, it was active. Of course, the television has taken everything away from the rough and ready element of politics. I can remember back in one of my early campaigns and there was a lady of Portuguese background, and--Piro I think her name was--she. . . .you can hire her for five dollars to say anything in the crowd-- and those were the days of outdoor rallies and I was speaking in Union Square, running for mayor, I forget whether it was the second or third term--^{and} she started to heckle me from the crowd and the previous summer, there was a raid in Davis Square which was the other end of the city. There were some boys writing numbers on horses and they had a place

There and they raided the place one night. ^{And she said,} She was yelling, she said, "Oh Mr. Mayor, you sound good, you sound fine, but why don't you tell the good people in Union Square where you were the day of the raid in Davis Square?"

Her name was ~~was~~ Sampson, I called her husband Sam. She ~~was~~ of Portuguese extraction. I said, "Mamie, I didn't hear the question." ^{"I didn't hear the question."} Her name was Mamie Sampson. She said, "You did, but I'll repeat it". And in a loud raucus fishpeddler-type voice, she repeated the question. And I said, "Mamie, you know where I was that night, that's the night we brought your husband, Sam, home drunk. We carried him in, don't you remember?" And the place went into an uproar. Everybody around me was telling me don't answer, don't answer. I had to say something. I said, "that's the night ~~night~~ we brought your husband, Sam, home drunk, don't you remember, we carried him?" ^{Geez,} I found out later Sam didn't drink. (Laughter).

Geez, those were the days I had to fight.

FENN: She ~~quited~~ down, though.

LYNCH: She ~~was~~ out of the crowd.

But there was a tremendous amount of activity in the campaigns in those days. The first fight I fought Bill Sherman [William Sherman] and he was a tough, rough guy, a Republican and later he became a judge. He and I on the same played/football team at Central High together. He ~~was~~ ^{happened to be} a senior and I was a freshman, and Bill gave me about as tough a fight as anybody. Knocked down, and he fights you physically along with--in a wordy battle, too--because he could go and he was of Jewish background. Bill Sherman.

And the next year when I was running for reelection, Gene Giroux ran. Do you remember him, the senator, and you couldn't fight him, he wouldn't fight. Every mayor got at least two terms with the exception of Knox and Egan before me. I figured I had an easy fight and by god, I did. I beat him in every precinct in the city. I mentioned to him one day, I think I beat you in your own street.

Those were the days of roughhouse politics. Gene wasn't rough. Bradley was rough, I beat Bradley twice and he was a good candidate. Gee, I went to his-- he later became governor's council, took the place of that Raymond who got into a little difficulty--I went to Bradley--they were giving Bradley a time down on Route 1 and down around Saugus--and I was invited to the occasion--and some of the Bradley fellows were friendly with me were in the house that day to be sure I went that night. My wife said, "he's upstairs dressing, he's going." They wanted to drive me over to be sure I was there. It was a hell of an occasion. ^{It was his} A farewell dinner to politics, ^{and} he wasn't going to run again. He was retired now living down on the Cape, ^{so} they introduced me but the toastmaster was a Boston rep--I/forgotten his name now--he said, "Do you mind if I don't ask you to speak, Pat?" I said it would be a pleasure. I didn't know what I was going to say, anyway. I remember Bradley, the guest of the ~~eye/i~~ occasion, was introduced at the end of it. He gave a tremendously long, ^{lengthy} background of his political background, and his family life, too,

because he was one of fourteen children, so he had a lot to talk about. Bradley in his conversation--I was seated in the hall--and he said, "Everybody's here tonight" he said, "this is a particular occasion I'll never forget, even Pat Lynch is here, and he and I spilled blood on every street corner in Somerville".¹ ^(Laughter) We didn't exactly spill blood, but we damn near did.

FENN: How has television changed it, you said television changed politics?

LYNCH: ^{Jesus,} Television has changed politics. The day of the outdoor rally is gone. You don't have any big rallies in any of the cities and towns today. You reach the people through the medium of television. Thank god, it wasn't that way in my time because I don't think I'd have looked too good on television. (Laughter).

FENN: So you think it's calmer now than it was then, and more

LYNCH: Much calmer. Much calmer.

FENN: You had different kind of candidates now than you had in the old days?

LYNCH: No, I think they're pretty much the same. That is, from the viewpoint of their background and their--the temper of the thing has changed, let's put it that way. It's not as intense as it used to be. I saw outdoor rallies in my day, going back some years ago, and wind up in physically--fights in the crowd and everything else.

FENN: ~~Do~~ People feel more strongly about it in those days?

LYNCH: They did. ^{Because} Definitely did. /They were a part of it. They're not much today a part of an election. You see your candidates through the medium of television. You don't

have any big rallys today like you used to. I can remember my father talking about the days of Curley rallys, if that would be of interest to you. My father was an old Irishman ^{who} lived in ~~from~~ Charlestown. In those days, Curley used to, you know they were all outdoors. These were the days before the speaking systems ^{that} they have now. And anyway, he told about a rally in a cold, November night in City Square, Charlestown, and Curley was talking in his usual eloquent manner, anyway, and of course, the fellow was a plant--it was a cold night and my father says there was man standing there with his hands in his pocket, no coat on, Curley with a big raccoon coat and ^(blows in hands) what it was worth to the crowd, you know and it was worth a lot-- Curley turned casually and said, "My God, my God, ^{he said,} on this cold November night, look at that poor man standing there without even a coat on". And off came the raccoon coat and ^{he} said to one of his attendants, "Take that and put that, wrap that around that man there, for God's sake". The people went wild, the coat was placed around the man's shoulders, and he casually turned to one of his other hired hands and said, "Follow that bum ~~Go~~ and get the coat". (Laughter)

Those were the things that made politics interesting.

"Follow that bum and get the coat".

I don't know if that's recorded or not.

JOHNSON:

FENN: That's a good story.

FENN: Well, are you interested in some lunch?

LYNCH: No thank you.

END OF TAPE