Oral History Interview of James F. Linnehan, Sr.

Interview Date: November 9, 2006

Interviewed by: Joseph McEttrick, Suffolk University Law School Professor

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Interview Summary
James F. Linnehan, Sr., is a Suffolk University Law School alumnus (JD 1956) and a life member of Suffolk University’s board of trustees. He served as chairman of the board of trustees from 1988 to 1996. In this interview he discusses his friendship with classmate and late congressman John Joseph Moakley; his military experience; his career in public service, accounting and law; his service on the board of trustees; Congressman Moakley’s legacy; and the evolution of Suffolk University over the past fifty years.

Subject Headings
Linnehan, James F., 1921-
Massachusetts Politics and government
Moakley, John Joseph, 1927-2001
Suffolk University
Suffolk University Law School

Table of Contents
Mr. Linnehan’s background p. 3 (00:01)
Attending Suffolk University Law School p. 4 (03:57)
Friendship with Joe Moakley p. 6 (07:56)
More on Mr. Linnehan’s background p.11 (20:33)
Public service career

Military service

Memories of Suffolk University Law School

Becoming a trustee

Changes in the law school

Moakley’s legacy

Public service today

Remembering Moakley

Sargent Hall

Mr. Linnehan’s private practice

Interview transcript begins on the next page
This interview took place on November 9, 2006 at Mr. Linnehan’s home at
45 Clark Road, Lowell, Massachusetts.

Interview Transcript

PROFESSOR JOSEPH McETTRICK: This is Joe McEttrick and Jim Linnehan, and we’re
having a conversation on November 9, 2006, at Jim’s home in Lowell [Massachusetts]. We’re
very glad to be here and have a chance to talk with you, and I just wanted to explain a little bit
about what we’re trying to do. We’re going to do this, of course, for the Moakley Archives, and
we’re really interested in several topics. One topic is yourself, because you’re a longtime
alumnus, and you’ve been a trustee for years, and chairman of the board of trustees, and so we’d
like to have a chance to talk a little bit about the school and your role as trustee as well as
student.

And then of course we want to interview you about your contact and life, really, with Joe
Moakley, and of course you were a classmate of Jeanne Hession’s1 as well, so I’d like to be able
to cover that. So I really—I have a few questions or topics just to throw out, but you’re the one
that knows the story, and so I’m just giving you these little softballs and you just keep talking,
and we’ll just have a conversation. And Beth, was there any process that you wanted to
describe? Is this—we’re going to put this on tape—

BETH BOWER: Yeah, it’s on tape, and we’ll explain the details afterwards seeing as you guys
are getting going.

McETTRICK: Okay, fine, alright, that’s great. Okay. So let’s see, we have Jim and his son
Jay [James F. Linnehan, Jr.] is here. We can talk a little bit just about yourself first just to get
your biography and so forth, so if you could just kind of tell me—I guess you were born actually
the same year as my dad, in 1921, I saw from the—

JAMES F. LINNEHAN, SR.: March 23, 1921.

1 Jeanne Hession was a classmate and close friend of Moakley’s and was a member of Suffolk University’s board of
trustees. OH-015 in the Moakley Oral History Project is an interview with Ms. Hession.
McETTRICK: Right. And you were born in Lowell?

LINNEHAN: Born in Lowell. Lived in Lowell all my life. Graduated from public schools. Went to Lowell High. Before the war, went to Bentley [College] for two years, and that was up on Boylston Street.

McETTRICK: In Boston?

LINNEHAN: 921 Boylston Street.

McETTRICK: And you know, as a matter of fact, my dad went to Bentley in town, as well, after the war.

LINNEHAN: Then after I graduated from Bentley, the war came along and I enlisted in the navy in November of 1942. I served in the navy for four years in the Pacific, mainly in Saipan, Tinian and Guam, and a short stay at Iwo Jima when they transferred our supply unit up there, and then we came back to Saipan. Then I came home on leave, and when I was home on leave we had the beginning of V-E² over in Europe. Then at the end of the war I took a tanker from Mississippi—from Savage, Minnesota, to New Orleans, Mississippi [sic], brought it around and decommissioned it.

Because I was still single I had to stay in the navy, because if you were married you got ten points and everything, so it was four years. But that advantage of the four years was such that for every day you were in the navy you were able to go to school for nothing under the G.I. Bill of Rights³, which allowed me to go back to Northeastern [University] to get my degree in accounting and then go on to Suffolk to get my law degree. And so I went both for my—at Northeastern nights, and I went to Suffolk Law School nights.

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² VE Day or Victory in Europe Day was celebrated on May 8, 1945 with the World War II allies acceptance of the surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany
³ The GI Bill of Rights, officially called the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, provided, among other benefits, government compensation for the educational costs of returning World War II veterans.
When I was at Suffolk Law School nights, that was the beginning of 1952 through 1956. At that time, everything was alphabetical order, and at that time we sat K, L and M, and K stands for Georgie Keneally, who at that time was a rep; Joe was the rep from South Boston, and [he] was M; in the middle, Linnehan, just a guy from Lowell, but because we were K, L, M, they named us the KLM Boys. (McEttrick laughs) And that’s the beginning in the statement you have over there when we—in that graduating class there was only sixty-two in the class.

At that time in the classroom, as I said earlier, in there the key person was Jeanne Hession. She was the one, at that time—was in our class, and because she was not a veteran, Joe Moakley was able to get the books, and he gave her the books. I had my own books, and then what happened was, she would then—any case, before we had anything that we had to research, she would do the paper on and she would type it on her typewriter where she worked, and it would be on a sheet. If I got there first, I got the first sheet, which you could read, and the second one, if I was there late, I got it. (McEttrick laughs) And so that was the format that we had for the four years going through law school.

When we graduated from law school, at that time, we turned around and we decided that Jeanne Hession should be our president, and Moakley was her campaign manager. And she became our first president. In that class, there were about sixty-two of us. My memory is they called that the political class, and the reason that’s funny is that Dave Sargent,⁴ that was his first year that he taught there, and at that time he taught wills and trusts. At that time we used to kid—and I was working for a CPA firm, and I would ask him questions on trusts and I didn’t know until later that I was only asking for tax questions. He was afraid of me because he didn’t understand the taxes. (McEttrick laughs) That was the only thing I did know, was the taxes.

And so at that class we had Gil Coroa that was a rep. We had John Costello that was a rep that ran for lieutenant governor. We had John Bresnahan who was a rep out of Lawrence. We had Teddy Vaitses who was a Republican out of Melrose. So eight of the group were there,

⁴ David J. Sargent graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1954, then served as a law faculty member from 1956 to 1973, dean of the law school from 1973 to 1989, and has been president of Suffolk University since 1989. OH-016 in the Moakley Oral History Project is an interview with President Sargent.
including Gil Coroa who, at that time, came out of Fall River. At that time, there wasn’t any school in any place local because four people came from Worcester, and some people came from Rhode Island to go to the school, of the sixty-two [class members]. So then, as you know now, that the law school has gone from sixty-two to seventeen hundred, graduating class of over four hundred every year, and during my tenure as chairman the women exceeded the men.

During those periods of years, I got involved with Moakley. Our friendship became very—(inaudible) when we graduated, because at that time we all graduated together. We then became—each year we would have a reunion, just our class, and Jeanne would always arrange the class. We’d all show up—it would vary anywhere from about sixty to twenty, depending, and we would have the meeting every year. Later on as it got bigger and they wanted to put the schools in five-year classes, we would go to those but we still kept our own individual (inaudible).

And then in 19—2000, before Joe died, they decided that they wanted to build a new law school, and the question came, “How does that law school get built?” Originally there was some talk about Frank Bellotti’s\(^5\) supposed to raise some money, and that didn’t work out, so we then turned around and decided to name the library after Joe Moakley. At that time we also made Joe Moakley a trustee of Suffolk. At that time, he was very instrumental in raising money for Suffolk, and that was the reason why we had the picture over there, Jay, that you have—the collage, Jay.

**JAMES F. [JAY] LINNEHAN, JR.:** Mm-hmm.

**LINNEHAN:** It’s over there. (Gestures to framed collage on couch in room.\(^6\)) Which shows Ted Kennedy and all the people. And that was the time that, as I said earlier—(Jay Linnehan brings collage to Jim Linnehan, and Jim describes what he sees.)

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\(^5\) Francis X. Bellotti (1923– ), a Democrat, served as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts from 1963 to 1965.

\(^6\) The collage to which he is referring consists of photographs taken at the dedication of the John Joseph Moakley Law Library, which took place on January 13, 2000. A copy of the collage is available for viewing at the Moakley Archive and Institute.
LINNEHAN, JR.: This one?

LINNEHAN: There’s Joe.

McETTRICK: Mm-hmm.

LINNEHAN: You can see Sargent.

McETTRICK: Yup.

LINNEHAN: I was the chairman. There’s Jeanne Hession. There’s Moakley, and there’s also Teddy Kennedy and a lot of other people.

McETTRICK: Oh, those are great. Those are great pictures. Isn’t that fabulous?

LINNEHAN: Those are great pictures.

McETTRICK: Wow, what an event.

LINNEHAN: At that time, that was the dedication of the so-called Moakley Library, and at that time, as I said earlier, they got up, and MacNamara, I think she was the librarian of the Moakley school, she said to Joe, “I will tell you, you’ll now have a better law school to read in,” and I got up behind her as the chairman and said, “I want you to know that Joe Moakley and I [had] never been in the old library, ever.” (laughter) Because our library was Jeanne Hession, and because she gave us the notes, and I told her the story. Joe then concurred, that was a true story.

McETTRICK: (laughing) Oh, that’s fabulous.

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7 Betsy McKenzie is the director of the Moakley Law Library.
LINNEHAN: The next thing that came around was that Joe in 1996 was over in China or someplace with Tip O’Neill\(^8\) and he came down with an infection. He had a kidney infection. At that time, he had the operation and he was—didn’t know what he wanted to do.\(^9\) One day he called me and said that he was going to resign. I said, “No way, Joe. You’re not under—it’s not the time to do it. You’re not going to resign.” It was just after his wife had died.

McETTRICK: Mm-hmm, Evelyn.

LINNEHAN: And I said, “You’re not making any decisions. Hold off.” Well, thank God he did hold off. And he decided not to resign. So then he had six great years from that time after this. There’s pictures in here of Joe and I when they dedicated the Moakley Bridge, but it was really on behalf of his wife. And then after his wife died in 1996, Joe and I spent more time together because in this thing that you have here, it shows that at that time he would come visit. This is a quick story of the many times we have met without going over them—you could go into them in detail. But it shows—you’ve got the copy to go over—it’s the synopsis [See Attachment A].

One thing that did happen was after he got sick the second time—it’s kind of ironic because the night before he found out he was sick he had gone to visit the pope with Hastert,\(^10\) who was the Republican at that time, he invited Joe. Joe called me and said he was coming back on a Monday night, and he said, “Are you available?” He says, “I want to talk to you.” I went in to meet him at Jimmy’s Harborside [Restaurant]. We sat and had a good meal, and he said to me that he was going in for his checkup the next day, but he felt everything was fine. Unfortunately—he said, “I’ll call you back on Friday,” and I didn’t get the call on Friday.

I didn’t think much of it, until about Sunday I got a call from Joe. He was on the line—that’s when he told me that the results had been that there was going to be—he had the leukemia and

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\(^8\) Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill (1912-1994), a Democrat, represented Massachusetts’ Eleventh and, after redistricting, Eighth Congressional Districts in the United States House of Representatives from 1953 to 1987.

\(^9\) In 1995, Moakley received a liver transplant after contracting Hepatitis B while traveling in China.

there was a question of ninety to 120 days. And I said to him, “I know you didn’t call me Friday.” He said, “Well,” he said, “I didn’t know how to handle it.” He said, “But I do know somebody down in Palm Beach [Florida] found out about it from somebody,” he says, “So they’ve been calling asking me questions.” So I said, “Well Joe, one thing you know—you always face it right on, so there’s no way—if that’s the way you go, you make the call.” He said, “I’m going to tomorrow.” Which he did make the [call], and then he turned around and we set up this so-called foundation, which set up the one in Washington, then we had the one in Boston.

And now the foundation—we have a million and a half dollars still in there. Originally, there was some talk about making it just for Suffolk. And I said to Joe, “You are a congressman of the Ninth District; you cannot just eliminate South Boston, or just Suffolk, because you’ve got to narrow your scope. So we agreed to turn around and make it the Ninth District. Then at that time you came into the picture about getting the papers, which we did timely, so now all the papers are over there so that’s why we have the Moakley Foundation. And as I say, I have a copy of this—some papers here—which I don’t know which is the final one. (gives papers to Prof. McEttrick)

McETTRICK: Right, okay.

BOWER: Great.

McETTRICK: Well thank you, thank you. Do you want me to keep these for the—

LINNEHAN: Well, that I want to see where the original is, okay?

McETTRICK: Yup.

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11 The John Joseph Moakley Charitable Foundation, Inc. was formed in the spring of 2001 “to assist worthy individuals and charitable organizations to pursue educational opportunities in all sectors of the economy. The Foundation will provide scholarships and grants on an annual basis.” (taken from http://www.moakleyfoundation.com)

12 The Moakley Archive and Institute was established with Moakley’s gift of his papers to Suffolk University shortly before his death in May of 2001.
LINNEHAN: Now this one here is a final copy— (gives letter to Prof. McEttrick)

McETTRICK: Oh, wow.

LINNEHAN: —of what Joe had written ten days before he died. This was after the two foundations. It was a letter just from him to me [See Attachment B]. Nobody else.

McETTRICK: Do you want to read that on to the tape?

LINNEHAN: Yeah, I would.

McETTRICK: Why don’t you? It’s a short note and it’s a nice note.

LINNEHAN: (reading from letter) “April 21, 2001. Mr. James Linnehan. Jim, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have done for me over the years. Your loyalty and friendship has meant the world to me. I was overwhelmed and humbled by the tribute and the honor of having a foundation in my name. Without your help, this would not have become a reality, to which I owe you my deepest gratitude. It was a true pleasure to spend the evening with you. Thank you for being part of this special evening. I will cherish it always. Thanks again for your friendship. Warm regards, [signed] Joe.”

McETTRICK: Wow, that’s a beautiful note. He was such a fine man.

LINNEHAN: Well he was the guy that called it as it is. Many times you would go out with him and he’d be the type of guy—you’re at Jimmy’s or—one side note, this kind of occurred to me, he ran as an independent for congressman. He ran as an independent. He knew he couldn’t beat Louise Day Hicks\(^\text{13}\) in the primary, so he decided to run as an independent. On a Tuesday or

\(^{13}\) Louise Day Hicks (1916-2003), a Democrat, served on the Boston School Committee from 1962 to 1967 (serving as chair from 1963 to 1965), ran unsuccessfully for the mayoralty of Boston in 1967 and in 1971, and served on the Boston City Council before being elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1970 where she served one term. It was in the 1970 election that Moakley lost his first bid for Congress, in part because Hicks was an
Wednesday before that, he said, “If I can get the [Boston] Herald to endorse me, I think I can beat Louise Day Hicks.” And he said, “I don’t know anybody [who] can reach the Herald. They’re a Republican paper.” I said, “Well, I can’t, but my wife’s first cousin is married to George Akerson, who is the publisher of the Herald Traveler.” He said, “Will you call him?” I called him, and George said, “Jimmy, it’d be a pleasure to endorse him.”

McETTRICK: Wow.

LINNEHAN: And he did and he won by four thousand votes. The next morning, Moakley called and said, “Jimmy, I want to meet George Akerson.” Not thinking, I said to him, “I’ll make an arrangement and I’ll meet you at Jimmy’s at twelve o’clock, and I’ll have George Akerson there, and a couple of your friends.” My (inaudible) was Billy Coin, who was always a Moakley [supporter].

Even against times when Tip O’Neill was saying to Joe, “Joe, you can’t be with me because you’re an Independent, I’m a Democrat, (Prof. McEttrick laughs) I gotta be with Louise Day Hicks.” And Billy Coin would say, “He’s gonna beat you, don’t worry about it.” So what happens, I make the call, and about an hour later I get a call back from Moakley saying, “Jimmy, I haven’t gone in to Pier 4”—I mean Jimmy’s, rather—“because Jimmy, the old man, was mad at me when I ran against John E. Powers for Senate President.” So I said, “Okay, where do you want to go?” He said, “Let’s go to Pier 4.” So I took Joe to Pier 4.

Then to follow-up with that, every March seventeenth Tip O’Neill used to always have a party in Washington. His own party would be in his own office, have a few drinks and then go out to another party. There was a lobbyist that had it—Paul McGowan always had it. And I said to Joe, “Come on over and meet [Tip O’Neill].” And he said, “No, no, no.” I said, “Joe, come on over. I’m not inviting you out to dinner.” So he came over and he shook hands with Tip and

outspoken critic of forced busing in Boston, which helped her gain support in South Boston. Moakley defeated Hicks in the 1972 congressional election when he ran as an Independent in order to avoid a run against Hicks in the democratic primary.

14 Anthony’s Pier 4 and Jimmy’s Harborside Restaurant are two restaurants on Boston’s waterfront that Joe Moakley frequented.

15 John E. Powers (1910-1998), a Democrat, represented South Boston in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1939 to 1946 and in the Massachusetts State Senate from 1947 to 1964.
said, “I’m as much a Democrat as you are.” We all know—everybody knows that from that time on, the two closest people in Washington were Joe Moakley and Tip O’Neill.

**McETTRICK:** Absolutely.

**LINNEHAN:** And when Tip O’Neill went to his reward, Joe was one of the [funeral] speakers. And Joe was the one who used to get together and say, “Let’s get together,” because Tip could tell jokes, and Moakley loved to tell jokes. You heard them about eighty times, but you still had to be there to understand it. (Prof. McEttrick laughs) So those were the things that were there.

**McETTRICK:** Well, I have a number of questions that I’d like to be able to ask.

**LINNEHAN:** Okay.

**McETTRICK:** I mean it’s your story, so you tell me really whatever you want, and I understand that some things have to be kept more confidential.

**LINNEHAN:** Oh, I know.

**McETTRICK:** But whatever you feel comfortable with—because it’s a very interesting story, and you’ve been very comprehensive, really. But as you talked, there was a few things that I was interested in that I’d just like to have the chance to fill in a little bit.

**LINNEHAN:** Go ahead.

**McETTRICK:** Just on yourself, first off, you were very modest and talked just a little bit about yourself at the beginning, but it’s really important to us. You said that you went to Lowell High School, and you were at Bentley for a while to get some background in accounting. I just want to ask you a couple of things about that. First of all, were you active in sports or political activity when you were in high school? What was that like at Lowell High School?
LINNEHAN: At Lowell High, I was active in sports, but not as a real participant. My brother Gus was a football player. He was the guy that made the team. He was the one that, when he was in high school, played football, coached afterwards and all that stuff. So he was the real sportsman of the family. I thought I was a pretty good baseball player.

McETTRICK: That was your sport, baseball?

LINNEHAN: Well I thought I was a better hockey player because I played hockey. There’s things in there where we had a Holy Name hockey league, which we formed. Also Jay has a picture over the office someplace—Jay, isn’t it?—where I played in Holy Name. We won the league.

McETTRICK: Oh, wow.

LINNEHAN: And I was a first baseman, so I thought I was a pretty good baseball player, but I thought I was a better hockey player. In my opinion, when you play the Canadians you realize that you’re just average.

McETTRICK: Yeah, that’s right. (laughs) They’re pretty tough competition.

LINNEHAN: There’s no competition.

McETTRICK: You said you went to the Bentley program and eventually became a CPA. When did you take the CPA exam?

LINNEHAN: I took the CPA—what happened is, if you look in the background, I went to work for a public accounting firm in Boston. The garage case\(^{16}\) broke. Eddie McCormack\(^{17}\) was the attorney general.

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\(^{16}\) The “garage case” was an investigation into charges of corruption and graft during the building of the Boston Common underground parking garage. The garage was completed in 1961 and an investigation of the financial practices of the Massachusetts Parking Authority and other involved parties began in 1962. See page fourteen of this transcription for more information.
McETTRICK: So this was after you finished up at Suffolk?

LINNEHAN: Yeah.

McETTRICK: Yeah. Okay.

LINNEHAN: And John Tynan was a rep from Ward Six. Moakley was Ward Seven.

McETTRICK: Over in Southie.

LINNEHAN: Tynan was a rep. He never got to be a D.A. [district attorney] but he was a strong McCormack man. And I became a special under McCormack, and then the waterway and the garage case. The garage case.

McETTRICK: And that was one of the big cases—

LINNEHAN: Big cases.

McETTRICK: —really of that era. Could you say—well, I know you were a public official at the time, and there’s some things that you can talk about and others that you can’t—but could you just fill us in a little bit on the garage scandal because I think—I know what you’re talking about, but remember we’re talking for people now who are going to listen to this in the future.

LINNEHAN: The garage case—I’ve got documentation here that says in newspapers [See Attachment C]—says what it was. The garage case was a case where we got involved with—they were building an under-Common garage. For years, there was going to be private funds to build it, and then that didn’t participate. [Boston textile manufacturer] Bernard Goldfine, who

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got involved later on with [Sherman] Adams and all that—but it was built as an authority. The question came, is that when they went to New York to turn around and to get the money—Foster Furcolo was the governor at that time. At that time there was a rumor that people on the board were getting a kickback. And the question is, was that so? One of them happened to be on the board, and so McCormack got involved and he retained me, along with [Robert] DiGiacomo, to do the investigation. What happened was there were indictments put down, and then what happened is Eddie McCormack decided to run for U.S. senator against Teddy Kennedy.

McETTRICK: Oh yeah, the famous race.18

LINNEHAN: The famous race. And so Eddie McCormack then turned around and did not run for attorney general, but Ed Brooke became the attorney general. He wanted me to stay on and prosecute the case, and I talked to McCormack, and McCormack said, “You’re loyalty is with me. Do what you want to, but I think you shouldn’t do that.” So I didn’t do it. But that was the garage case. I have some—a lot of papers in here—I’ll pull out some here. (Linnehan goes through documents in a folder that he is holding) So here—

McETTRICK: Yeah, because that was quite the political event, and that was quite a campaign, the Ted Kennedy/McCormack case.

LINNEHAN: Jay? Jay?

LINNEHAN, JR.: Yup, I’m right here.

LINNEHAN: Just hold that for a minute, then I’ll get through it. Hold these. (pause—papers shuffling) Here’s the— (hands document to Prof. McEttrick) [See Attachment D]

McETTRICK: Oh, Furcolo. Oh, yeah.

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18 Eddie McCormack ran unsuccessfully against Ted Kennedy for a U.S. Senate seat in 1962.
LINNEHAN: There’s the other— (hands other documents to Prof. McEttrick) [See Attachment E]

McETTRICK: Yeah. Wow. Yeah, this is really something. And there were all kinds of people who were on the edge of this, too.

LINNEHAN: Here’s the picture of McCormack [See Attachment F]. Here is one thing that I don’t think very [many] people recognize, but that—in 1968 John Volpe\(^\text{19}\) appointed me to the new finance board which was created. That’s another article on that [See Attachments G and H].

McETTRICK: Mm-hmm. Wow. (papers shuffling) So how long were you with McCormack and his office?

LINNEHAN: I was with McCormack from 1968 through ’70. I ran the grand jury with DiGiacomo. I interrogated Foster Furcolo and all them. At that time—well, then what happened [was] Brooke came in, and he got the convictions. And then Eddie McCormack ran for governor in 1966. I went to work for him. At that time, the reason it’s important is—here is the article that says they wanted me to be the city manager in Lowell [See Attachments I and J]. And I had the votes to be one, and I told them that my first priority was to be with McCormack. Then what happened is at that time, there was another candidate running for it—Charlie Gallagher. And Charlie Gallagher wanted me to stay in to keep the other people out, so I promised him if I didn’t I would at least stay in, and here’s the letter saying that I was not going to be a candidate.

McETTRICK: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Wow. So you were pretty active on the local level at the same time.

LINNEHAN: That’s exactly right. (papers shuffling)

McETTRICK: So you pretty much enjoyed politics over the years?

LINNEHAN: Oh, yeah. I was a frustrated politician.

McETTRICK: Really? It sounds like you ran into enough of them over the years to satisfy your—

LINNEHAN: Well, the funny part of the story is when you won with McCormack and you won with John Tynan, you’d think you’d never had a loser.

McETTRICK: Yeah. That’s right.

LINNEHAN: Then all of a sudden Joe Moakley has had his win, and there’s losses. He turns around and he ran as a rep, then he ran as a congressman; he lost, then he came back and spent his first in Boston as a [Boston city councilor]. He then decided to run for Congress. The first time that he lost, the reason he lost that was there was nine in the plate.

McETTRICK: Sure, a big field.

LINNEHAN: A big fight.

McETTRICK: All in the Democratic primary.

LINNEHAN: All Democrats. And so he just changed from—it was John W. McCormack\textsuperscript{20} that was South Boston. And so at that time—it’s kind of ironic because Moakley was a strong—Maurice Donahue.\textsuperscript{21} He was a state senator.

McETTRICK: And he was senate president then.

\textsuperscript{20} John W. McCormack (1891-1990), a Democrat, represented Massachusetts’ Twelfth and, after redistricting, Ninth Congressional Districts in the United States House of Representatives from 1928 to 1971. He served as Speaker of the House from 1962 to 1971.

\textsuperscript{21} Maurice A. Donahue (1917-1998) served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1948 to 1950, then in the Massachusetts Senate from 1950 to 1971. He served as Senate Majority Leader from 1958 to 1964 and as Senate President from 1964 to 1971.
LINNEHAN: And then in 1966, McCormack was running for governor and we had the delegate votes (inaudible). And he became the nominee but he lost in the election to Volpe. At that time, Maurice Donahue had his own party—and I knew Maurice but I never worked for him—after 1966, he said, “If I ever run for governor, will you be with me?” This was in ’66. I said, “Maurice, you’re my type of guy.” Classy guy. He wanted to get out of the state house because of all the problems that were around there. So in 1970 I became his campaign treasurer.

McETTRICK: So this was his run for governor.

LINNEHAN: Yes, run for governor. We ran the campaign—he lost in the primary to Kevin White,22 who lost in the election.

McETTRICK: I remember that.

LINNEHAN: But at that time, what happened is Maurice Donahue cleared out of the state house, but always remained my friend. It was one of the few campaigns there was no deficit.

McETTRICK: Well that’s—he didn’t declare a dividend either, but there was no deficit. Why is it that those senate presidents don’t seem to have much luck when they try to move up to governor? I mean, there’s several of them that that’s happened to them.

LINNEHAN: Well I think the question is—I think it’s even the reverse. When we did a survey on Maurice Donahue, only 9 percent of the people know who he was.

On the reverse aspect, we were here two weeks ago with Marty Meehan,23 who is now our congressman, who’s a friend of mine, who we made a successive trustee after Joe died—he was here, and I said to him, “You know, you were thinking about running for governor before. Now let me tell you something: no attorney general has ever won for governor.” Take [Francis X.]

22 Kevin White (1929- ) served as mayor of Boston from 1968 to 1994. He ran unsuccessfully for governor of Massachusetts in 1970.

23 Martin T. “Marty” Meehan (1956- ), a Democrat, represented Massachusetts’ Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 2007. He is a trustee of Suffolk University. OH-035 in the Moakley Oral History Project is an interview with Congressman Meehan.
Bellotti, take Bob Quinn. You take them all. So somehow or other you don’t reach the goal (inaudible). And now what happens is your friend [Thomas] Reilly screwed up himself so bad, he’s not going to win. This was way back—and it’s cost you eight years because Deval [Patrick] is going to win.

McETTRICK: That’s right.

LINNEHAN: And he’s going to be a committed for at least four.

McETTRICK: And that’s exactly what happened.

LINNEHAN: And so you’ve lost them. So I said, “No attorney general and senate president happens. It doesn’t go that way. They’re looking for somebody different.”

McETTRICK: This most recent election is a real good example of that. Tell me about—you mentioned Marty Meehan. Marty, of course, is a great friend of Suffolk as well. Could you tell me a little bit about your—how you got to know Marty, and you relationship with him?

LINNEHAN: Well, put it this way: Marty Meehan’s father [also named Marty] played baseball with me, and he played baseball with me in the CYO [Catholic Youth Organization] and in the Holy Name [Society]. We were pretty good teams in those days. We had the pitching; we didn’t have the hitting.

McETTRICK: Now what position were you at when you played?

LINNEHAN: I played first baseman. I was a left hander. And Marty would play third base. One of the games I remember vividly. We were playing—I was—we were living in the inaudible which is St. Patrick’s, and we were playing St. Margaret’s. St. Margaret’s had the best hitting team, but they didn’t have any pitching. We had to play a game without St. Patrick’s uniforms because they hadn’t come in, and we had to play up in Highland Park after they had some kind of confirmation or something, late in the afternoon. In the ninth inning, we were
ahead like about six to three or seven to three. The guy hit a ball out to right field, and I went to
the right to cut it off to throw to third base. A perfect throw, went right through Meehan.

McETTRICK: Right over to Meehan. (laughs)

LINNEHAN: Right over to Meehan. Let the ball go through him, and it would go out, and the
guy scored. (Prof. McEttrick laughs) I said, “Marty, what the hell?! Where’d that ball go?” He
said, “That guy’s been angling me all along, yelling at me. I’m a (inaudible). I wish I had the
ball so I could punch him in the mouth.” (laughter) Now the funny part of the story is the father
knew about it, but he never mentioned it to me until the day that I brought Joe Moakley up
Marty’s wake at Sacred Heart Church.24

McETTRICK: Wow.

LINNEHAN: That’s when he [the younger Meehan] told the story.

McETTRICK: Isn’t that something. So you knew Marty’s father; that was the beginning of it.

LINNEHAN: Knew Marty’s father.

McETTRICK: So he [the younger Meehan] went to Suffolk, as well.

LINNEHAN: Yeah.

McETTRICK: Yeah.

LINNEHAN: In fact, he graduated with Timmy [Linnehan], didn’t he?


24 The elder Marty Meehan passed away in 2000.
LINNEHAN: Yeah.

McETTRICK: Yeah, I think that sounds right. There’s a whole bunch of you guys that went to Suffolk.

LINNEHAN, JR.: Eighty-five; my brother Tucker—Tucker was ’85 or ’84?

LINNEHAN: Eighty-four.


McETTRICK: Wow; you were moving right through there in the pipeline.

LINNEHAN: And Timmy—Timmy was ’86.

McETTRICK: Wow. So now did you get involved with young Marty in terms of his political career? He was in the local level in Lowell?

LINNEHAN: Well, what happened is—one of the conditions that happened was Marty was a congressman, and originally when he went to Congress, he and Joe Moakley did not hit it off completely.

What happened was I was on the Lowell Historic Park Commission. The tenure—I was on there for ten years; I should have only been on for three, but I was on there for almost eleven years. At that time, they wanted to extend it, so Marty called me and asked me would I talk to Moakley about doing it. Joe called me and said, “What the hell is this all about?” So I told him, “Joe, you’ve got to go for that.” I’d been on the commission myself for eleven years. I had to get off because there was a violation; you can’t be reappointed more than three times. So I said, “To keep it going, you’ve got to vote for it.” So he said, “Okay, I will vote for it.” Because he was then chairman of the Rules. And that was in 1992, when they [the Democrats] had the power. And he put it through, so they extended it. At that time, that was as a result of having that
hearing down at my house at the beach, which you can see who was there, and that was then—the reason that was there was because there was (inaudible) who was a Suffolk grad. There was—

LINNEHAN, JR.: Richie Neal.25

LINNEHAN: Richie Neal.

McETTRICK: Richie Neal, oh, sure.

LINNEHAN: Who was a friend of mine who I had known for years. He was there, and it’s kind of ironic because last night on O’Reilly [the O’Reilly Factor, a television show] they had King, who was a Republican, on—

McETTRICK: Oh, [Congressman] Peter King from New York.

LINNEHAN: From New York, yeah, Peter King.

McETTRICK: From Long Island.

LINNEHAN: Peter was there that day of the party, but we were supposed to have a hurricane, so he went back home. But he was at the house that day with Marty Meehan.

McETTRICK: Yeah. And Peter King was pretty friendly with Joe—

LINNEHAN: Yeah.

McETTRICK: —Moakley, even though he was in the other party, but nevertheless.

25 Richard E. Neal (1949- ), a Democrat, has represented Massachusetts’ Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1989.
LINNEHAN: Yeah, well he’s a Notre Dame boy anyway. And so that is what it is. But he was on there last night. But then Jay, because of his [being] vice president of Middlesex Community College—Jay and he had worked together quite well. We had a foundation meeting a year ago—

LINNEHAN, JR.: Two years ago now, right? Is it two years ago now? When we did it out in Lowell?

LINNEHAN: So that was—

BOWER: Yeah, yeah, that was the—

LINNEHAN, JR.: The Moakley exhibit?

BOWER: The exhibit, yeah. Yeah, I think it was November or December, wasn’t it?

LINNEHAN, JR.: That was good.

McETTRICK: Jim, I did want to ask you a few questions—you mentioned the navy and the war, just a few phrases on that, and you said that you volunteered for the navy, and I think probably what happened to you is what happened to my dad and a lot of people, that the war came in and sort of interfered with your career and everybody went, but could you just tell me a little bit more about the navy and your rating and what you did? You described the Pacific, but if you could just fill in a few details on that, because that’s interesting, I think.

LINNEHAN: Well, I joined the navy—we finished boot camp in Newport, Rhode Island, and when I was in Newport, Rhode Island, my brother that was a monsignor that died, he became a priest, so they sent me home early for his ordination. I went back to Newport, finished boot camp, got transferred out to San Francisco, out to Treasure Island—

McETTRICK: Oh sure, yeah, the base out there.
LINNEHAN: —which was a—and at that time, because I graduated from Bentley, they wanted someone in finance. You could’ve either gone [into] storekeeping, which was loading ships, or you could be in storekeeping in finance, which was paying the help. They put me in paying the help. So on every Friday, you used to have to pay the help. There was some temporary and some were permanent. One of the highlights I can always remember is they had a warrant officer go over to the annex in San Francisco to pay the help that was going out to sea. And so we got all done, we come back to Treasure Island, and all of a sudden the warrant officer’s face went white. I said, “What happened?” “I left all the cash in the top drawer in the annex. I better get back over.” (Prof. McEttrick laughs) They called over and thank God, all the cash was still in the front door—it was in the drawer.

And so then after that, it ended up that then they decided that you had to now, it become a question of going out to sea. So at that time they had what they called amphibious supply units, and the amphibious supply unit that I was assigned was Loine, L-O-I-N-E , dash eight, and that meant “landing invasion dash eight,” which was technically supposed to be the spot just after—just before Japan. But they short-stocked us because Saipan was a bit more difficult because that was the place where the marines and the army went in, and the marines would go in—the army would go in and fall back and secure. So they misinterpreted how much because they put us in the Marianas, which included Saipan, Tinian and Guam. Saipan was the island where all the ships came in.

At that time, the amphibious supply units came in. All the flyers that used to go—used to fly from Guam, would take out of Guam and Saipan and fly to bomb over in Japan. But they realized that coming back was fifteen hundred miles, where Iwo Jima was only seven fifty. They then decided they wanted to take Iwo Jima, which was not on our scale at all. Then what happened was they decided to take Iwo Jima, and you know that was a hell-hole, and the only reason we ever knew anything about it was the flyers would come back, and all the booze that would come into Saipan, I was in charge of, give it to them whatever their lottery was. I didn’t drink that much. So we got to know them. They will tell you, “You know what that was there,” and we said it was a hell-hole. Well exactly what happened is when they went up, the Japanese let them all land, then they get out and drop things down. We didn’t have the equipment, the
destroyers and all that, so they had to re-correct what they did wrong and bring in us to at least move the stuff they didn’t get in. Then we went back to Saipan.

**McETTRICK:** So how did you decide to go to law school, after that background in the navy? What happened to you—?

**LINNEHAN:** Well what happened is, as I said earlier, when you get out of the service, they gave you the G.I. Bill of Rights. For every day that you served in the service, you would get a day of school free, including books and everything. From the time I went in in November of 1942 through February or March 1946, that was each a day which gave you enough so you went back—you went back to Northeastern to get your degree, and then you had plenty of time to go to law school.

**McETTRICK:** Sure, because you had your—

**LINNEHAN:** So the reason that I went to law school was I was working for a CPA firm, but I was in the tax division of the CPA [firm], and the one thing I learned is if you’re doing taxes, you get paid by what you say. If you’re doing them as an accountant, it’s hours times the rate.

**McETTRICK:** Sure, sure. Different situations.

**LINNEHAN:** So that was the reason that I wanted to become—

**McETTRICK:** Now was this all at night at Suffolk?

**LINNEHAN:** Yeah, nighttime.

**McETTRICK:** This was night classes, because of the fact that you were working during the day?

**LINNEHAN:** Yeah, yeah.
McETTRICK: Now can you tell me a little bit more about Dave Sargent? Did you have him as an—was he your instructor, too?

LINNEHAN: I had—as I said before, Dave was our first instructor. And Dave came on and he instructed us, and at that time was when we had the group of sixty-two. That was his first year teaching.

McETTRICK: How was he as a teacher? Was he pretty good?

LINNEHAN: He was. As I say, he jokingly says, “I flunked people, but I couldn’t prove it.” (laughter) He says he did, but I don’t believe him.

McETTRICK: Really? (laughs)

LINNEHAN: But anyway—but he knew his teaching. He then became the dean of the law school.

McETTRICK: Sure, yeah.

LINNEHAN: At that time, he was involved as the dean, and I always had admired him because of that. What happened was, going to law school at that time, Daisy Donahue [Judge Frank J. Donahue]26 was Mr. Suffolk.

McETTRICK: Yup, right, sure.

LINNEHAN: What happened was, at that time, when you involved—there was a group of people—Larry O’Donnell was on the other aspect, and Larry wanted alumni trustees to be...
involved. He even went so far as to take it to court. The court ruled that we were a private school; we weren’t subject to it. After that, the Paul Smiths, the Donahues decided they should set up an alumni trustee for three-year terms. The one who had been on there before as a trustee was Jeanne Hession. Jeanne Hession said to me, “I nominated you to be alumni trustee,” but she never told me I had to run for it. (laughter)

McETTRICK: So what was that like? (laughs)

LINNEHAN: Well, I didn’t know. But what had happened—because I was fortunate to have been working with McCormack, working with Donahue—I knew a lot of people in Boston that automatically voted for me, so I won the nomination. And during—while I was in there—I had a three-year term. It was during that term that Judge [Walter] McLaughlin and the judge that was up—

McETTRICK: Fenton?

LINNEHAN: No, no. After—no—a judge that was up out of Clinton. Judge—

McETTRICK: Oh, yeah. Umm—yeah, Rowe?

LINNEHAN: Judge Rowe.

McETTRICK: Judge Rowe, yeah.

LINNEHAN: Judge [Edward C.] Rowe and the others, they were the ones that said, We want you to be an alumni [trustee], then they said, We’re going to make you a regular trustee. So then I stayed on, and in the process all of a sudden what happened was they then had—Sugarman got involved, but at that time, that’s because Dave—the reason this got involved was that originally the new president of the law school was the fellow that came out of Roosevelt—

27 Paul R. Sugarman served as a law faculty member and dean of Suffolk Law School from 1989 to 1994.
McETTRICK: Oh, Perlman, Dan Perlman.28

LINNEHAN: And Dan Perlman was a good guy, but the question was he all of a sudden lost control of the board. And at that time, unfortunately, Joe Shanahan,29 who got all kinds of trouble, made a recommendation that he get fired. I, at that time, turned around and said, “Well, let’s form a committee.” And so if they form a committee to fire him, they get a replacement. At that time, it was obvious to me the only guy that could take Perlman’s job would be Sargent.

McETTRICK: That’s right.

LINNEHAN: So I turned around and said to Dave, “I want you to be our new president, but in order to do that, you have to give up the dean[ship].”

McETTRICK: Which he was reluctant to do.

LINNEHAN: Which he was reluctant to do, but then I said to him, “This is what everybody thinks of you.” And there’s an article I can show them in the book that was written by Daisy saying if there’s anybody who was like a Daisy, it was a Dave Sargent.

McETTRICK: Sure. Absolutely.

LINNEHAN: So what we did—at that time, we decided that we have an open seat [for law school dean]. At that time, the faculty had no votes. I was the chairman. We gave them three votes to participate. At that time, they got Sugarman involved, and they had, in my opinion, the guy that was assistant U.S. attorney who’s now the judge over there, that was a Rhodes Scholar—Rick Stearns.

McETTRICK: Oh, okay, yes.

28 Daniel H. Perlman served as president of Suffolk University from 1980 to 1989.
29 Joseph B. Shanahan, Esq. was a member of Suffolk’s board of trustees from 1979 to 2000 and served as its clerk from 1981 to 2000.
LINNEHAN: Rick Stearns was interviewed by me, and I told Dave that if you wanted
Sugarman, he would (inaudible) go along the chain of command, but if you didn’t want him,
then I would promote—try to promote Stearns. Whether he would have got the other votes, I do
not know.

McETTRICK: Very competent guy though, Stearns.

LINNEHAN: Competent.

McETTRICK: Yeah.

LINNEHAN: So what happens is they turned around and then we had a meeting, which Judge
McLaughlin and the group on there—on the (inaudible) committee approved that Sugarman
should get the job, and that therefore—now what happened on that day, the faculty tore into
Dave. Told him he had no right and this and that. And as you well know, I went back up the
board of trustees and said to them, “If the faculty wants to run the law school, let’s all go down
the [Omni] Parker House [Hotel] and I’ll buy you a drink, and you can all go home.” (Prof.
McEttrick laughs) Because if that’s going to happen—they’re not going to run the school; they
haven’t raised any money; they’re not going to do it.

So Sugarman became the dean. And he was a good guy, Paul. But what happened was he turned
around, and the people he was against, he tried to marry. (some feedback noises on recording)
We go to a meeting with Judge McLaughlin one night, and he gets up and he says, “We’re going
to change the menu at the law school.” So I, being fresh, said to him, “What, are we giving up
for lunch—or for Lent, or what?”

McETTRICK: Oh, this was the curriculum changes.

LINNEHAN: The curriculum changes.

McETTRICK: Oh, yeah, tell me about that, yeah. I’d like to hear about this.
LINNEHAN: So I said to him, “No, on the menu we’re going to make Evidence elective.” Before he finished, Judge McLaughlin said, “How can anybody give up Evidence who wants to be a lawyer? It’s mandatory. You’ve got to be out of your mind going on with that.” So at that night—his office was still down on—where he lives on—they were on—you know, just as you go over the Moakley Bridge there.

McETTRICK: Oh yeah, right.

LINNEHAN: So I drove him down there, and I said to him, “What do you think?” He said, “I just can’t understand that.” On the following Monday he called me and he said, “I just don’t understand.” He said, “I wanted to get together,” he said, “I know you’re going to Florida the next day.” I said, “Yeah.” So I called Dave and I said, “Dave, Judge McLaughlin wants us to meet him over at Jimmy’s for lunch,” which I did and we decided at that time that if he was going to continue the ritual, he had to go. At that time I said, “His five years was up. Don’t cut him off; wait until his five years is up, then just don’t renew.”

McETTRICK: Yeah, it makes sense.

LINNEHAN: Which we did. That became the opening, again, for Fenton.

McETTRICK: Right, yeah.

(interruption—phone rings)

LINNEHAN: So that’s how he came along (phone rings again)—and now we’re at the third ring. Now we got involved in who would be the new dean again (phone continues ringing). And as I had made the statement—because I’m on that committee; I haven’t been able to attend the meetings because I’ve fallen and hurt myself—is that we had the proper dean, but I made the mistake of making him the president. That’s why we don’t have the proper dean.
McETTRICK: We needed two of them. We needed two Daves.

LINNEHAN: Don’t I know.

McETTRICK: Yeah, yeah.

LINNEHAN: So that’s the story on that.

McETTRICK: So what do you think about the changes in the law school? I mean, it’s a quite different organization from 1956. I suppose there were good things and bad things. What are your reflections on that? Fifty years of history—you’ve seen it. What do you think?

LINNEHAN: I think what happened is the school has gotten bigger and better, but the question is you’ve got to turn around and have a sequence of where the authority is. I don’t say this regretfully, because a lot of people—you’re a teacher; you teach there. We went in last Wednesday night for the dedication of the new conference room that they gave in my behalf, which is a beautiful room on the thirteenth floor.30 That’s there. And so you can turn around and run into your people—because we had about sixty people there.

McETTRICK: Wow. It must have been a nice event.

LINNEHAN: A lot of them were there, and it’s kind of ironic because Judge McLaughlin’s son, he came, spent the whole night. Marty Meehan came, and Richie Neal came. [Steven] Panagiotakos, our state senator, who’s involved with Jay in education, he came. He’s involved, I think. So it was a good dedication.

All I’m saying is that you’ve got to be able to delegate authority more, because I remember when O’Neill31 was the chairman after me, there were people on the board who felt the new dean

__________________________________________
30 The Linnehan Conference Room is located on the thirteenth floor of the Rosalie K. Stahl Center at 73 Tremont Street.
31 Brian T. O’Neill has been a member of Suffolk’s board of trustees since 1988. He served as chairman of the board from 1997 to 2000.
wasn’t doing the proper work. And they wanted to go down and have the meetings with him beforehand. At that time, the chairman thought it was not the proper time. As it turned out, it was the proper time. Because if you have a problem, it’s my opinion you face it head on. If you can’t resolve it, then you’ve got to make changes. You don’t say mañana, because it doesn’t go away.

McETTRICK: I don’t want to keep you talking too long because I’m sure this is kind of an exhausting process, but there were a few things I did want to ask you. Just thinking about Joe Moakley, a good friend of yours for many years—we can see now his legacy now that he’s deceased and we have the foundation and so forth. What do you think Joe’s legacy is? We always ask this question. How would you answer that question, if somebody said to you, “What is Joe Moakley’s legacy? How has he affected people? What does he really tell us about law or public service?” How would you sum Joe’s legacy up?

LINNEHAN: Well I think it would come twofold. Number one, Joe was an average Catholic like I was. Whether he was a great Catholic, I don’t know. But what happened is when he went to San Salvador and found out that all those people were getting massacred and everything,32 he then became a person—all of a sudden out of the clear blue sky, people like B.C. [Boston College] thought he couldn’t do enough because of what he did down there. At that time, it made McGovern, who was an aide—for him to go with him, and that made history for Joe because he now established something.

Number two, Joe was the type of guy that he was never too busy for you. If you had a social security that was screwed up, he would eventually be the one that would make the call. He wouldn’t delegate it to somebody and never go back to it. And that was his nature. I know the many times I’ve been with him, even in Washington, even in Boston, or even in Anthony’s and Jimmy’s after the fact, he would walk—you’d be with him, you’d go to sit down, the two of us, whoever stopped and said hello to him, he would spend ten minutes with them. I joke—would

32 In December of 1989, Speaker of the House Thomas S. Foley appointed Moakley as chairman of a committee to investigate violence in El Salvador, specifically the November 16, 1989, murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America in San Salvador. The committee is commonly referred to as the Speaker’s Task Force on El Salvador or the Moakley Commission. The Moakley Commission investigation revealed that the Salvadoran military was responsible for the murders.
say to him, “Gee, be glad I’m not a drinker because I could’ve had two drinks waiting for you to come to sit down.” (Prof. McEttrick laughs) His format—he always had time for everybody. He was not a guy that was looking over his shoulder to see who was in front of him, and that’s what made him unique. That’s why people in the Congress, they can tell you that when Joe was there, he had the respect of all the congressmen. It took him a little time to get Meehan in line, but he got him in line.

**McETTRICK:** Right. (laughs) In that score, you’ve been in politics in one form or another for a very long time, going back to that garage scandal, and you’re seeing some of the new guys coming along, the Marty Meehans and all the contemporaries. How has politics changed, and what would you say to a young man or woman that’s thinking about public service?

**LINNEHAN:** Well I think the one thing you—if you’re going to get in politics, if two people know, that’s one too many. (Prof. McEttrick laughs) You have to disclose everything about you, even when in doubt. Because they’re going to search it out. Because whether you like it or not, you’ll look back—and Joe and I discussed many times Richardson, who—

**McETTRICK:** Oh, Elliot Richardson?

**LINNEHAN:** Elliot Richardson, who was a great statesman. He was seventeen years of age, and he got arrested for drunken driving. I don’t care what article they ever wrote about him, in Washington and everything else, they always would throw that thing in. And you say to them, “Why throw it in? He was only a kid.” But it was there.

**McETTRICK:** Yup. And they used it.

**LINNEHAN:** And they used it. And I don’t say whether it would help or hurt; I do not know. But it’s something that disclosure today—because when you look back—you know, when you look back at [Deval] Patrick, the new guy [governor elect of Massachusetts]—I don’t know what he’s for, but he’s got no record behind him against him because he hasn’t had the time. But yet he was able to get the new people to say it’s time for a change. So it’s obvious that you look
back—when you get too stubborn, you don’t get things done either as à la [President George W.] Bush.

McETTRICK: Sure. Do you think that these politicians today don’t connect with people the way a Joe Moakley would have, or a politician of his era?

LINNEHAN: Well it’s not a Joe Moakley; it’s a Tip O’Neill.

McETTRICK: A Tip O’Neill, okay.

LINNEHAN: All politics is local. And you’ve got to be local. Like Tip tells the story a thousand times about how he would go to somebody, and he’d talk about somebody’s neighbor, and the guy said, “You didn’t ask me, so I didn’t vote for you.” So you have to ask for everybody. “I need your vote, I want your vote.”

McETTRICK: There’s a lot of congressmen thinking about that this week after they got knocked out of it—

LINNEHAN: That’s exactly—

McETTRICK: —because those are the people that will stick with you really need them, regardless of issues.

LINNEHAN: That’s exactly—well every year when they would have a party for O’Neill, it was that gang in the corner that I only would see once a year. The reason I knew Tip O’Neill—he went to B.C. with my brother, the priest, and he knew him because Arlington was part of his parish. So that’s why I knew that background, and Tip was that—and that’s why I say, looking back when Joe met Tip after he was there to (inaudible) what a Democrat you are, they had a great relationship.
McETTRICK: One other thing I wanted to ask you about—and you showed me the pictures of the dedication of the federal courthouse, and you mentioned Pier 4—that was really a magnificent story in itself. Anything you can tell us about the courthouse and about Joe’s thoughts on it?

LINNEHAN: Well Joe, at that time—there’s the picture there, Jay— (motions to picture)

LINNEHAN, JR.: Right.

LINNEHAN: —of just the four of us and [President George W.] Bush. And Bush told him—

LINNEHAN, JR.: This one. (holds picture)

LINNEHAN: —on that date—

McETTRICK: Oh, yeah.

LINNEHAN: Yeah, that’s the one.

McETTRICK: Oh, okay.

LINNEHAN: But there’s one—there’s one that’s just the three of us.

McETTRICK: Now was this the [Moakley Courthouse bill] signing, was it? At the Rose Garden?33

LINNEHAN: Yeah. That was in—when—if you read that article that’s over there, on April the thirtieth [see Attachment A]—this was held beforehand.

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McETTRICK: Okay.

LINNEHAN: That’s the one that Meehan talks about.

McETTRICK: I see.

LINNEHAN: Only a few. And we were there, and at that time—

(phone rings)

LINNEHAN: —we told Joe that he was going to name the [courthouse] in Boston after him.

McETTRICK: I see.

LINNEHAN: So then what happened is that was the format, and that night when he found out he was sick, when he had his speech he also made that night, and at that night he made the statement to the Congress that he was going to name the [courthouse].

McETTRICK: Wow, that was (inaudible) an honor.

LINNEHAN: So it was—and then when Joe died, Bush came up, and also Clinton came up, and they went to the state house, and then they went to the mass.

McETTRICK: And wasn’t that something?

LINNEHAN: That was something.

McETTRICK: And you know what was really impressive was when they were going for the burial, that they had all the people with the Joe Moakley signs. Do you remember that?

LINNEHAN: Yeah, yeah.
McETTRICK: Wasn’t that something?

LINNEHAN: Well, there’s one picture there of at the cemetery, I think there’s a picture of me.

McETTRICK: At the cemetery?

LINNEHAN: Yeah, I think there’s one. Yeah, I think I—

McETTRICK: Wow.

(pause—papers shuffling)

LINNEHAN: Let me see. I—

(phone rings; papers still shuffling)

BOWER: Yeah, this one?

LINNEHAN: Yeah. That’s me, right here.

McETTRICK: Oh, yeah. Oh, sure, yeah. Wasn’t that something? Well Jim, you’ve been very patient. Were there other things that I should’ve asked you about or that you wanted to talk—

LINNEHAN: No, no.

McETTRICK: I mean, you’ve give me a very complete—I mean, this has been the easiest interview I’ve ever had. You just kind of took the ball and ran with it, so that’s really excellent. Of course, you know, you did talk about Sargent Hall, and isn’t that the crowning jewel?

LINNEHAN: Yeah, that’s beautiful. Well that’s—
McETTRICK: We’re so fortunate to have that building. You guys really came through for us.

LINNEHAN: Well, when you realize—that’s another anecdote. We turned around and we bought—

(phone rings)

LINNEHAN: —we bought the building. (phone rings) Ray Flynn was still the mayor of Boston, and we wanted a dedication when we bought it. It was on a Saturday. It must have been a hundred degrees. We go—we meet in the Parker House, then we walk down to the building. On the way down, I’m talking to Ray Flynn, who I’ve known for years. I said to Ray, “What do you think of this building?” I said, “Well Ray, this reminds me of three streets: Rodeo Drive out in California, Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, and this street here.” And I said—because at that time it was a beautiful street. I can remember going to Bentley, walking to school. You walked up—you walked all the way up Tremont Street, you cut over the [Boston] Common, went to the [Public] Garden. You walked up.

McETTRICK: Very vibrant, yeah.

LINNEHAN: So I said, “That’s what I remember.” Which will be another story. This was just the dedication. He gets up and starts off, “I want you to know exactly the three streets this is exactly—” (laughter) And so when we came back, Sugarman’s there, as was Dave, and we said, Did you ever hear of plagiarism? (laughter) He said no, he was just repeating what I had told him.

McETTRICK: (laughing) Well you gave him good stuff, and he went with it.

LINNEHAN: Because then he became the ambassador.

McETTRICK: Sure, to the Vatican. Boy, that’s a great job, huh?
LINNEHAN: Oh yeah.

McETTRICK: Well, I think we’ve pretty much covered—the only other—I guess the final question—just one piece of it—you talked about the attorney general’s office, you worked for McCormack, but you didn’t really talk too much about your own private practice, which I guess must have had tax aspects to it. Did you do tort law, or what cases did you like?

LINNEHAN: Well, I did mostly—I’m looking for names. I represented Jimmy the Greek.

McETTRICK: Yeah, okay.

LINNEHAN: I represented Gerry Cheevers, the [hockey] goalie.

McETTRICK: Yeah, oh, yes, yeah.

LINNEHAN: I still represent him. He got indicted, but we straightened him out good. So I did a lot of tax criminal work. I probably—Billy Hogan, the son, his father was chief probation officer.

McETTRICK: Oh yeah, I remember the name. My grandfather knew him.

LINNEHAN: He was the chief probation officer in the federal court. He and I became very good friends. When he became a judge and then he retired, he gave twenty-five thousand dollars to Suffolk in behalf—and at that time he made the statement that when I came into the court, I was not a regular that had been there that often; always had come up with something different.

And the reason I tell you that story is that we were up in Springfield, and I was sentencing a guy that hadn’t filed a tax return in thirty-nine years. And so at that time the statute was six, and they could go back to six, but not (inaudible) go back. I was up on a Thursday night staying at the hotel to be there on Friday morning at ten o’clock. He comes in—now I never met him before,
but I knew of him—and we sat down and I—he said, “Are you Jim Linnehan?” I said, “Yeah.”
So I told him what I was up for. He said, “Did you ever think of the alternative sentencing?” I
said, “No, what’s that?” He said, “Well, instead of putting people in the can, make them do time
for what they did wrong, in their profession.” This guy happened to be a doctor.

So the next morning, Friedman, who was the judge—and I’d only met once or twice because
Volpe appointed him and I on the so-called commission before he was a judge—Friedman. So I
got up and made the speech that this man should be punished, but putting him in jail serves no
useful purpose—is that he should be punished, he should give his time back to the people who he
should do as a doctor. So Friedman takes recess. Next thing I know, I see him mention Hogan
in, so Hogan goes in and talks to him, and the next morning he said, “I think, Mr. Linnehan,
that’s a pretty good approach.” He said, “I’m not going to put this man in jail. I’m going to
make sure that his reputation—I’m going to order him to turn around and to serve every Saturday
for the next two years dealing with patients.”

McETTRICK: Wow. What an excellent approach.

LINNEHAN: And so he gave it to him. The next day I go back to a wedding that was over in
Chateau Frantenac over in Milton.

BOWER: Yeah.

McETTRICK: Yeah, yeah.

LINNEHAN: There was a guy there that was a very close friend of Tip O’Neill, and he said,
“Jesus, did you see that son of a bitch” (laughter) “who didn’t file a return for thirty-nine years?
He’s off on two years!” I looked at him and I said, “Yeah, that’s my case.” (laughter) “You son
of a bitch,” he said. (laughter)

McETTRICK: (laughing) Oh, that’s great. That’s a great story.
LINNEHAN: And that was the end of that. But that’s what happened.

McETTRICK: Yeah. Well, that’s a great story. You know, Jim, I really enjoyed this conversation. Thank you very much for taking the time. You’ve been very, very patient with us.

END OF INTERVIEW
OH-065 List of Attachments

The following documents were referenced during the interview

Attachment A  April 30, 2001, *Lowell Sun* article, “Lowell lawyer has shared highs and lows of Joe Moakley’s career,” by Christopher Scott

Attachment B  April 21, 2001, letter from Congressman John Joseph Moakley to James Linnehan

Attachment C  March 29, 1962, *Boston Record American* article, “Garage Probers Invade N.Y. for Grant Evidence,” unknown author

Attachment D  April, 1962, article from unknown newspaper source, “Furcolo Back, Confers Monday With Probers of Garage Scandal,” by Stanley Eames

Attachment E  n.d., *Lowell Sun* article, “Pick Up Odds and Ends In MPA Investigation,” unknown author

Attachment F  n.d., image with caption from unknown newspaper source, “McCormack’s Aide” (picture shows Linnehan with Edward J. McCormack, Jr.)


Attachment H  January 22, 1968, *Herald Traveler* article with picture and caption, “Word of Sizeable Industrial Site Along Rte. 495 Due Soon” (picture shows Linnehan and others being sworn in as members of the new State Industrial Finance Board)


Attachment J  November 10, 1966, article from unknown newspaper source, “Linneman Not A Candidate,” unknown author

Attachment K  April 8, 2001, *Boston Sunday Globe*, “It was a great party for a great Democrat—and a great tradition,” by Mary McGrory.


Attachment M  Parking pass and parking information for Congressman Moakley’s Memorial Funeral

Note: Attachments K, L, and M are not specifically referenced during the interview but were provided by Mr. Linnehan as supplementary material.