Oral History Interview of Roger Kineavy

Interview Date: June 22, 2011

Interviewed by: Julia Howington and Mark Schneider

Citation: Kineavy, Roger Interviewed by Julia Howington and Mark Schneider. Moakley Oral History Project OH-074. 22 June 2011. Transcript and audio available. Moakley Archive, Suffolk University, Boston, MA.

Copyright Information: Copyright © 2011 Suffolk University.

Interview Summary:
Roger Kineavy, a former member of Congressman Moakley’s campaign and district staff, begins this interview by discussing his childhood, education, and how he first became immersed in the political world. After leaving the Navy, he volunteered to help work on Moakley’s state house campaign in the 1950s. He joined Moakley’s staff and eventually served as the district director from 1973-1994. Kineavy also discusses some of the key issues in Moakley’s career, including: Boston’s busing crisis, El Salvador, and fire-safe cigarettes. He also reflects on Moakley’s relationships with other congressmen, including members of the Republican Party. Kineavy recounts the qualities that made Moakley such a great person to work for and the inspiring legacy that he left behind.
Subject Headings

Busing for school integration
Kineavy, Roger
Moakley, John Joseph, 1927-2001
Political campaigns
United States. Congress. House

Table of Contents

Introductions and Background

Working on Joe Moakley’s Campaign pg. 1 (00:00:00)
Serving as District Director, 1973-1994 pg. 11 (00:25:20)
Moakley’s work regarding busing and El Salvador pg. 13 (00:31:15)
Moakley’s relationships with Republican members of Congress pg. 19 (00:45:35)
Evelyn Moakley’s involvement in his political life pg. 23(00:51:59)
Moakley’s involvement in fire-safe cigarettes pg. 26 (00:56:51)
Moakley’s relationship with the state delegation pg. 27 (00:58:59)
Moakley’s work on the Boston Harbor Clean-up pg. 35 (1:12:05)
Kineavy’s retirement and his continued relationship with Joe pg. 43 (01:25:57)
Moakley’s funeral and lasting legacy pg. 44 (01:27:59)

Interview transcript begins on next page
This interview took place on June 22, 2011 in Plymouth, MA.

**JULIA HOWINGTON:** Today is June 22, 2011. And we’re here in Plymouth, Massachusetts interviewing Roger Kineavy as part of the Moakley Oral History Project at Suffolk University. I am Julia Collins Howington, of Suffolk University. And I’m with Mark Schneider also of Suffolk University. So I think to begin with, Roger, can you tell us a little bit about your background, your family. Sort of growing up, and how you got into politics?

**ROGER KINEAVY:** Sure. My mother and father was born in Ireland. And we lived in South Boston. It was two brothers—three brothers including myself—and six sisters. My father worked as a longshoreman. We went to parochial schools. Went in the Navy when I was 17.

**MARK SCHNEIDER:** When was that?

**KINEAVY:** 1952. I was discharged in 1954, July 23rd. And one day, a friend of mine named Ed Morrissey came up to me and says, “Would you want to do some work for Joe Moakley?” I says, “What kind of work?” He says, “He’s running for the State Senate.” I says, “Yeah, Joe’s a nice guy.” I says, “Sure.” So I got my brother, who was a Boston patrolman. And we got together and we made all his signs. And we hung all his signs.

**SCHNEIDER:** But you knew him already, it sounds like?

**HOWINGTON:** Did you know Joe Moakley?

**KINEAVY:** No, I didn’t.

**SCHNEIDER:** Oh, okay.

**KINEAVY:** No, I didn’t. So the campaign director asked me, would I do standouts in the morning with Joe. And after that, you go to a neighborhood and you knock on doors.
HOWINGTON: And a standout, is that when you hold a sign?

KINEAVY: Yeah, those. And I said sure! So I did standouts. And then we’d go into the neighborhood. And this particular neighborhood was my neighborhood. And I knew everybody.

SCHNEIDER: Which neighborhood was that?

KINEAVY: O and 2nd Street. And everybody knew Roger. So when I knocked at the doors, I’d say to Mrs. Farnley, I’d say, “Mrs. Farnley, say hello to Joe Moakley.” I says, “He’s running for State Senate.” And she says, “Is he a friend of yours?” I says “yep.” She says, “Well, if he’s a friend of yours, he’s a friend of ours.” And the campaign continued, and we’d go to different neighborhoods, different standouts. The campaign ended, and he had one job. And he says to me, “I like your style, and I’d like for you to come and work with me.” He says, “Would you accept a job?” I says, “First of all, I don’t know nothing about politics.” He says, “Who does?” He says, “You’ll soon learn.” So I said yeah. I went up to the campaign manager, and I said, “Joe offered me the job.”

SCHNEIDER: Who was the campaign manager?

KINEAVY: Pat Luftas. And he said, “Roger, you’re a fool if you don’t take it.” I says, “Okay.” And ironically, I had fallen seven feet from the ship— I was working as a longshoreman— so I was under workmen’s compensation all through this campaign. So I says, “Okay, I’ll take the job.” Knowing nothing about it. I can remember the first person that came into our office was a lady named Ellen Jenkins. And Ellen Jenkins was an older lady. And she asked me, could we help her get her grandson into a school in Beverly, a Landmark School in Beverly. He was handicapped. I says, “Well, where does he live?” “Springfield.” I said, “That’s up to the people in Springfield.” I said, “But I’ll try it.”

So I made a call to the mayor, whose name was Sullivan. And she said, “Well you’re way out of your way.” I said, “Well, this lady is elderly. She’s very concerned about her grandson.” So she says, “I can’t do it.” I said, “Well, guess what? I’m going to call you tomorrow.” And she says,
“The same answer you’ll get tomorrow.” So I called her the next day, and the next day she says, “You’re very persistent.” I says, “Yeah.” I says, “This lady needs help.” And she says, “Okay, I’ll approve it.” So the youngster went to school, the Landmark School in Beverly. And I don’t know if it’s still there, that’s almost fifty years ago.

And then the next case was kids looking for summer jobs. And Joe says, “What are we going to do about them?” I said, “Why don’t I go over to the head of the agency that puts them to work—puts the [cross-talk] and asks them, if he takes care of us we’ll take care of him.” So I went over to the agency, and I asked the guy, would he get these kids work for the summer? And his name was Leo Adelman. And he says yes. And we had worked for the mayor of Boston in housing. We used to get all kinds of housing. So Joe says, “Why don’t we call the mayor?” So we called the mayor, and the mayor says, “Why don’t you get in touch with this guy,” the housing director.

SCHNEIDER: Which mayor is this?

KINEAVY: Mayor Collins.

HOWINGTON: And where was the office? So this was his State Senate office?

KINEAVY: Yeah, the State House.

SCHNEIDER: This would be State Rep?

KINEAVY: State Senate.

SCHNEIDER: State Senate.

HOWINGTON: So 1960s.

SCHNEIDER: Oh, this is ’64 you said.
KINEAVY: 1963 we got elected. And the next thing, I called the housing director. And same thing as the guy from the MDC—that’s the Metropolitan District Commission—said to me, yes. This guy told me yes. So we had housing, summer jobs were plentiful under Joe. Because we were friends of the mayor, and we were friends of Jerry Allen.

Then time went on. The Harbor Islands—you’ve heard a lot about the Harbor Islands. The Harbor Islands, Joe became entrenched in the Harbor Islands. And he worked very hard on the state level with the Harbor Islands. And it came to a stop when he left the Senate.

HOWINGTON: But at least while he was there, he was able to—

KINEAVY: When he was there, he was there. He was the only one out front. So—

HOWINGTON: And can you talk a little bit about what happened while he was—because he was at that time, I think, serving on—I’m trying to remember what the name of the commission was.

KINEAVY: He was on the MDC Commission. The MDC, he was the chairman of the Metropolitan District Commission. Out of that commission, he brought the Harbor Islands into it. And the harbor islands was very difficult, because a lot of people owned the islands. Joe wanted to take them.

HOWINGTON: For the state?

KINEAVY: For the state. So we got a lot a lot of flak for Joe for quite a while. But he was man enough, and he stood up to it. And he got what he wanted on the state level. And I’ll tell you about the federal level?

HOWINGTON: Mm-hmm.
KINEAVY: Anyway, one day we heard an announcement that he was not running for U.S. Congress, Old Man McCormack. So Joe says, “We’ll make an announcement tomorrow.” He felt that the first one there would be the best one that they would vote for. So anyway-

HOWINGTON: And this was 1970, about?

KINEAVY: Right. It was 1970. Evelyn, I, and Joe at 12:00, we made an announcement that we were running for U.S. Congress. We understood that our opponent’s going to be Mrs. Hicks. But George Kenneally was the Senator from Dorchester, and he called Joe out and said, “I’m running.” Joe says, “You can run, I’m not getting out.” So anyway, we ran. And it was Joe, Mrs. Hicks, and a black guy from Roxbury —

SCHNEIDER: Dave Nelson?

KINEAVY: Who?

SCHNEIDER: Dave Nelson.

KINEAVY: Dave Nelson ran. Mrs. Hicks got X amount percent of the vote. We did. And Nelson did. If Nelson wasn’t in the race, we would’ve won it. But he was in the race.

HOWINGTON: What was the platform that Moakley was running on? What was the strategy?

KINEAVY: If you want to use all the time, try to get things done. And he used that all the way through his political life. So, Mrs. Hicks won. Now it’s where, our back is against the wall, what are we going to do? So Bob Moakley, Mrs. Hicks — excuse me — myself, and Joe put our heads together. And we said we’re going to run for the city council.

HOWINGTON: Because had he given up his Senate seat to run for—
KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah. We were going to run for the city council. And not only run, we had to top the ticket to get any recognition. So we opened in what is downtown Boston, and we ran. And we ran. And we ran. Joe got the biggest vote ever given to any city councilor at that time. So that gave us, oh— Joe was asked by Gabe Diamonti, he was the president of the city council, would Joe be the Ways and Means Chairman? And Joe came up to me and Bobby. And we says, “Sure!” So he became the Ways and Means Chairman. And there’s a guy that you see in politics today, his name is Peter Meade. Peter Meade came up to Joe and says, “The mayor would like, if you’d pass the Community School Act.” And Joe says, “Pass the Community School Act? I’m not even hot in the seat and you want me to do that?” Anyway—

HOWINGTON: Can you tell us a little bit what the Community School Act is?

KINEAVY: Well, if you watch television lately, the community schools all through the city has been opened. And they give shelter, not only shelter— they feed them. It’s a great program. And us passing this Community School Act, the rest of the city and the state copied us. And they have the community schools now. So it was a good act.

So on we go. Let me take a step backwards. When we were tallying our votes for the city council, there was this guy, he was just out of the army, and his name was Pat McCarthy. And Pat McCarthy says, “What you should do is run as an independent.” And we says, “We couldn’t win as an independent.” He says, “Yes you can.” We says “how?” And he taught us how to poll. We’d poll every week and see where we were going.

HOWINGTON: And so he was thinking ahead to the next congressional race?

KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah.

HOWINGTON: And what was Pat McCarthy’s background? Was he just a political operative?
KINEAVY: No, he came from the—Philadelphia. He was honored as an officer in the army. And he liked politics. And if you know Pat McCarthy, you know Pat McCarthy. Anyway, we did what he was telling us. We got into the race.

SCHNEIDER: How hard was that for Joe? How did that—

KINEAVY: It was very hard. Because here you are, a Democrat all your life. And you have to swing over to an independent. And even Pat—Pat was smart enough, he says, “Joe, always talk about you don’t give up your Democratic seat. You won’t give up your Democratic seat. What you’re going to do is run as independent. And in the first order of business, you’ll be seated as a Democrat.”

So we ran. It was us, Hicks, Howard Miller. Howard Miller was an attorney from Needham. And he couldn’t get more than 14% of the vote. And as the tally was coming in, we were getting what we expected to get. And Mrs. Hicks was losing a few. Not much, but a few. So when the tally finally came in, we got two percentage more than we expected. Howard Miller got 3%, and Mrs. Hicks went down. So we were victorious.

We go to Washington two days later. And the first guy we wanted to meet was Mr. O’Neill. Mr. O’Neill sent us over to— I have to get his name... Carl Albert. And Carl Albert says to Joe, “The first thing I’m going to do, I’m going to seat you as a Democrat.” And Joe brought that news to Mr. O’Neill. As you know, Mr. O’Neill and Joe was friends for 40 years.

SCHNEIDER: They didn’t really know each other, though, before this?

KINEAVY: No they didn’t, they didn’t. Then Joe got—

SCHNEIDER: Did O’Neill ever tell Joe directly during the campaign that he couldn’t win?

KINEAVY: Yeah.
HOWINGTON: Did they back Hicks?

KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah they did. And then we went down with Joe, we seen Mr. O’Neill. And I can still see him sitting there with his suspenders on. I said, “How you doing, Shep?” He says, “Good, who are you?” I said, “My name is Roger, and I’m with Joe Moakley.” He says, “Joe who?” [laughter] I says, “Joe Moakley.” He says, “He didn’t run as a Democrat.” I said, “But he’ll be seated as a Democrat, Mr. Speaker.” And that was the big— he was the leader then. And he said, “I hope so.” And Joe’s greatest friend in Congress was Mr. O’Neill.

SCHNEIDER: Could you tell us more about that? What does that mean, “his best friend”? Did they have dinner together now and then? Or all the time? Or...

HOWINGTON: Well, in the summertime, they’d go down to Dennisport. And Joe would be over at his house almost every night, there in the summer. So they were very close, socially. But luckily, once Joe was a Democrat, they were very close politically. So close that when Mr. O’Neill became speaker, he appointed Joe to the Rules Committee. Well the Rules Committee is the most powerful committee in the Congress. It’s 12 men— at that time, 9 Democrats, and 3 Republicans. And everything that comes out of the Rules Committee has to be approved by the Speaker. So that’s how close they were.

Albert, on the other hand, made Joe a Democrat but he put him on the Banking Committee, which encompasses Housing. So there wasn’t too much that Albert could do for him. But as it went on, their relationship grew, Mr. O’Neill and Joe. They went to Africa together.

SCHNEIDER: When was that?

KINEAVY: They went— I couldn’t recall. They went to Africa and the now-famous [trip]— when Joe got hepatitis.

HOWINGTON: In China, right? The China trip?
KINEAVY: Africa.

HOWINGTON: Really? Hmm.

KINEAVY: Yeah. When he went to Africa, Joe thinks that he got hepatitis by drinking the water.

SCHNEIDER: Do you know what countries they went to?

KINEAVY: They went to a few countries, I don’t know though.

HOWINGTON: I remember Egypt being one of them. It was sort of a Middle East tour, I think?

KINEAVY: Yeah, it was. And then Joe come home. And he was sick. And he always blamed it on the trip, because of the water. And I disagreed with him. And I used to say to him, “Joe, if that water was bad, how come none of the delegation got the same thing?”

SCHNEIDER: Good point.

KINEAVY: When Joe was in the Navy— when he was in the Navy, he had a machete. And he put it over the door down at his house, his cellar. And one day, Evelyn was asking him to get something, because he was going to do some gardening. [laughter] He put his hand up over the door, and what happens? He gets a cut on his hands. And till the day he got sick, I always told him, I always thought it was that machete.

HOWINGTON: From the South Pacific.

KINEAVY: Right. Right. I really do. And he got involved in helping people with Hepatitis-C. He had Hepatitis-C. And he’d get volunteers to go down to Washington to get tested for Hepatitis-C, because the medicine they were testing was supposed to be out of this world. And
one of them died. Russell Cowell died. The other is very active in politics in Boston, he’s still alive. And it killed Joe. Killed Joe. What else?

HOWINGTON: Well maybe, not to— I think we need to maybe back up a step and just talk about, when Moakley first— so, in 1973, when he first started in Congress, he was relatively new. We just came across, for instance, these tapes— these reel-to-reel tapes of Joe Moakley doing a radio show in the early 1970s that was broadcast on WILD, which was sort of the local— Do you remember that, or remember some of his other outreach efforts? Like, how he got to know different people in the district?

KINEAVY: Hmm... No.

SCHNEIDER: And how did he hire you to be district director? Was there a choice there? Or was it just so obvious that you were going to have that job?

KINEAVY: [laughs] It was— It carries on from the Senate. I was sort of campaign director in the first Congress fight. And the second congress fight, I was the director. And from being director, Joe says, “I want you to be my district manager.” Taking a step backwards, Joe went on vacation when we won the Congress fight. And I got in touch with the GSA, General Services Administration, and I wanted them to give us furniture, everything, for South Boston, West Roxbury, Canton, and our main office in Boston. I hired everybody. Woody, I hired him, because he was a smart guy. But not only a smart guy, he was a Vietnam veteran. And the guy I hired— Excuse me, the guy I interviewed before him, he brought up the race color, and I says “This is not that kind of a race.”

So, the two people in Roxbury, I still communicate with them. Carol Ray and Gloria. Jimmy O’Leary was in the West Roxbury office. Paul Trayers was in Canton. John Burke was in South Boston. And you know—

HOWINGTON: Was South Boston the main office?
KINEAVY: It was. I'll get to that. The next thing was, I hired everybody for the staff, Paul, he stayed with us— Excuse me, Doris stayed with us for about 25 years.

HOWINGTON: That’s right, Doris Keating, right?

KINEAVY: Right. And Molly Hurley, on March 17, I was doing at the parade, and I see her standing on her steps. And I says, “Do you want to go to work for Joe Moakley?” She says, “Yeah.” I says, “You be at our office tomorrow.” And Molly was with us for years. And we went with Steve. And the other people, they’ve come and gone. They’d be there for a short period of time, and would be gone.

SCHNEIDER: Now how’d you guys get the money for five offices? How did that happen? That was unusual, right? Most Congressman don’t have that?

KINEAVY: Most Congressmen are not Joe Moakley. You get Joe Moakley— when he said he’d do something, he’d do it. You know? I don’t know what the other congressmen do. But I don’t think they do what Joe did.

HOWINGTON: Was it unusual— I remember at one point, he had the mobile van that he drove around?

KINEAVY: Right.

HOWINGTON: Can you talk about that a little bit?

KINEAVY: Sure. I went down and picked it up in Connecticut. And we went down and picked it up in Connecticut, drove it to Washington to show Joe it. Joe liked it. And we shut down one of our offices to have that. We shut down Canton, and we shut down West Roxbury. We couldn’t shut down South Boston, because that’s where he came from. And we got a lot of business out of that. Even on the special Saturdays, we’d visit different areas—that was the visitor point. They’d come in, they’d see Joe. And whatever their problem was— and if the problem was maybe big,
Joe would take care of it down in Washington. Two of them were El Salvador, and Joe took care of that. He says to the lady and the guy, “To be honest with you, I never heard of El Salvador.” But Joe did. And the rest is history.

HOWINGTON: Do you remember those people coming into the office? Like who they were, and maybe around what time or date it was? What year?

KINEAVY: No. No, because Joe would handle probably 20, 25 constituents would come into the office. And at the end of it, he’d get me to—and then Woody used to be our immigration person. So all the immigration would go to Woody. Blue Cross, everything else. Soldiers in the army and all that. And I could tell you a story about probably ten guys. One guy came into our office this day. He says, “You know, I heard Joe can do wonders.” He says, “Can you get my discharge fixed?” I says, “What do you mean, ‘fixed’?” He says, “Well, I was in the Army, and I got a bad conduct discharge, and I got thrown out of the army. And I need to get it fixed.” I says, “I don’t know, I’ll try.” This is years later. And he used alcoholism as a crutch, you know. When he was in the Army, he was a kid, and he used alcohol. And he had a very short temper too, in the Army. And he got the bad conduct discharge fixed. Fixed. Fixed. Fixed. What we used was, if they can have drying-out places for the higher-ups, how come they can’t have them for the grunts?

SCHNEIDER: Right after he came in, it was like the worst time in the city’s history, right? Between ’72 and ’74, maybe there was a grace period. But ’74, the busing thing started. And I’m very curious to know—I’ve looked back at all the records, there’s big files of all of this. A lot of stuff doesn’t get in the records—How Joe came to the opinions that he came to. Did you guys have regular staff meetings where everybody spoke up? Or how did he—he came up with the constitutional amendment to ban it thing. How did that all happen?

KINEAVY: That constitutional amendment never worked, because Garrity was the judge at the time. We were going to run for re-election, and again Mrs. Hicks was going to be the candidate. So all she did was pound us, pound us, pound us. The parade, she’d pound us. One parade, Joe says, “I’m not going to march.” I says, “Joe. Don’t do that to your neighbors.” I says, “We’re
going to march, and you’re going to be proud, because you never did nothing wrong.” How are we going to… Pat McCarthy says, “We’re going to take a plane up to South Boston at 6 o’clock at night. There’s a big, big meeting on busing. The big, biggest meeting they ever had on busing. And we’re going to have Joe walk in, go up on the stage. ‘Mrs. Hicks, you’re a liar. You’ve been lying all these years. Joe Moakley is never for busing, and never will be for busing.’” And there’s hundreds and hundreds of people there.

SCHNEIDER: Wait, so that happened?

KINEAVY: That happened.

SCHNEIDER: He did that?

KINEAVY: He did it.

SCHNEIDER: And do you remember, like, when it was in this?

KINEAVY: Well, it was—

SCHNEIDER: ’74, ’75?

KINEAVY: It was the year we were going for re-election.

SCHNEIDER: ’74.

KINEAVY: ’74. And it was about May of ’74. And Joe got up and says, “I went in the Navy when I was 15 years old. I’m a product of these Boston schools. So again, Mrs. Hicks, don’t you ever, ever”— I’d never seen Joe like this— “do that to me again.” And prior to that, every place we went, they’d give it to Joe. After that happened, everything stopped.
SCHNEIDER: Interesting! Now, how about Woody? What was Woody’s take on all of this, in your opinion? How did he— Was everybody basically in agreement all the time? Or were there debates around your staff?

KINEAVY: Well, let me say, they had to be in agreement. We couldn’t have Woody—

SCHNEIDER: Yeah, no. But I mean, when you’re working things out quietly among yourselves in your office—

KINEAVY: Oh yeah, yeah. I worked things out with Woody. If there was— If we had something to do with— Say the cadets at West Point... Woody would do all the work, all the homework. He’d give me them to go over. I gave them to Joe. So the three of us, always in agreement of who was they. Immigration, he had hands-on immigration. He was the expert in immigration. Same thing with immigration. We had a case— I get a call from a state senator— he’s dead now— he says, “Roger?” I says, “What?” He says, “This lady is getting married to a doctor up in Peabody.” I said, “Oh yeah?” “And she has to come in this country.” I says, “You’re not pulling my leg.” He says, “No. This is the God’s honest truth.” I says, “It has to be.” So we got her in here. A few months later, I get word that she just came in here to be in here. I gave it to Woody. Woody looked it over and says, “She has to go back.” She went back.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah. Whew. Now in that ’74 campaign, Hicks didn’t run. And you got— I think it’s ’76—

KINEAVY: That’s a story here— story in ’74. We had that plan put together by Bennett. And he says, “Let’s fake the editor of the newspaper out.” I says, “How are we going to do that?” He says, “Hey, don’t you dare put that open letter in your paper. I dare you to do it.”

SCHNEIDER: Is this the *South Boston Tribune*?

KINEAVY: Yeah, it was Harry Shepard at the time. It was Harry Shepard at the time. And he had you up to see Harry once a week. And he’d say, “Roger, believe me, I have no open letter.”
says, “You and Hicks, is going to try an open letter. And you’d better not use it.” So when we pulled that off with Hicks, and they waited over the election department, and no Mrs. Hicks, I called up Joe and I says, “You’ll never believe it.” He said, “What?” I said, “Hicks is not running.” He said, “Really?” I says, “Yeah.” I says, “I think that’s between you flying up here and us giving that to Harry Shepard.” And then when everything was over, I went up to Harry Shepard, I says, “Thanks a million.” He says, “For what?” I says, “For not having that open letter.” He says, “I never had it.” I says, “I know you didn’t.”

SCHNEIDER: Hah! That’s a funny story. Billy Bulger told me that he thought Hicks never wanted to even be in Congress. That she didn’t like it there. Did you have any clue about that?

KINEAVY: No.

SCHNEIDER: No, okay. And in ’76, you ran against Bob Flynn. Who’s he?

KINEAVY: He was a probation officer in the Suffolk Courthouse. He was a nobody. But what he was, he was a pain in the ass. You know, you have to go through all this campaigning. And he came out of the same project Joe lived in. They both come out of Old Colony.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. But that wasn’t much of a campaign. People didn’t take him too seriously?

KINEAVY: They were nothing. There was another kid, he was a perennial candidate. And every two years, he’d be out yapping. And I got him on the MBTA. And I says, “You know, you have a hard time thanking people.” He says, “Why?” I says, “You’re running against us, and you’re going to campaign against us.” So I says, “You know you ought to”—

SCHNEIDER: Who is it?

KINEAVY: Meaghan, Jerry Meaghan. I says, “Get out of the office, for one campaign.” He was yapping. So we’d have a campaign at a different place. So then I called up this guy, and I says,
“Can you do me a favor?” And I says, “Would you be the narrator of a debate?” I says, “We’ll give you the questions, and he’ll answer them, and this Jerry won’t know what we’re saying.” [laughter] We did that, and he didn’t know what to do. There was a Republican at the time. And the Republican got up and says to the kid, “You know, you’re a disgrace.” He says, “This man is doing a good job.” And he says, “I don’t think you should be saying things like you are.” And this Republican dropped out of the race.

**SCHNEIDER:** I want to ask you more about that constitutional amendment on busing thing. A lot of people said, obviously this isn’t going to work, it’s not going to pass. Did Joe know that?

**KINEAVY:** Yeah.

**SCHNEIDER:** Okay. So why’d he push it?

**KINEAVY:** Well, he’s not going to lay back and sit on his ass. You know?

**SCHNEIDER:** Okay, he thought he’d give it a shot.

**KINEAVY:** Yeah! Yeah.

**HOWINGTON:** Were there any other proposals floating around, like different ways to address it locally, the issue? Because I think, once the federal ruling had come down, there wasn’t much that people could do.

**KINEAVY:** No. No. Once she died down— She was the frontrunner for all that stuff.

**HOWINGTON:** Louise Day Hicks?

**KINEAVY:** But when she ever— You take Jimmy Kelly, he ran for city council, on what? Busing. You take any one of the guys, what’d they run on? Busing. Tom Menino, when he first ran, busing.
SCHNEIDER: How’d Joe get along with people like— My sense is, he didn’t get along well with Ray Flynn. Is that right? I don’t know whether that’s true or not. They seem to be very similar kinds of guys.

KINEAVY: We wasn’t close to Ray Flynn. Not that he’s a bad guy. We just wasn’t close to him.

SCHNEIDER: Age difference?

KINEAVY: Ray Flynn, today, is 75. And Joe would be 80-something.

SCHNEIDER: But there was no big political difference between them?


SCHNEIDER: How about William Bulger? How close were they?

KINEAVY: On paper they were close.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. In real life?

KINEAVY: Yeah, they were close.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. But he didn’t go over there for dinner like you did with Tip? ... Okay.

HOWINGTON: And he was just a little bit younger than Joe, also. So there was a little bit of an age—

KINEAVY: Yeah. Billy Bulger’s 77. March 17. Tell you a story, it’s off the record...
SCHNEIDER: I’d like to ask some earlier questions still, too. Because I’m— I don’t know whether you know the answers to these. But what was his relationship with— This is before you came on board. But his first Senate race, he lost 1960 against Powers. What was his relationship with Johnny Powers?

KINEAVY: No good. No good. Up until the day Powers died, it was no good. Hmm... It just was no good. Because Joe supported Collins, when Collins ran. Joe supported John Collins, who was a peach of a guy. Collins was a good guy.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. Now I want to ask you also, too. Now this is— This, you would have been around for. In ’67, when Hicks ran against White, do you know where Joe was in that one? I mean, Hicks is his neighbor. It’s— What happened, do you know?

KINEAVY: He was nowhere, no place.

SCHNEIDER: He was no place. Okay, kept his head down for that.

KINEAVY: Because he had a lot of friends. The treasurer, all for White—

SCHNEIDER: Bob Quinn? That guy?

KINEAVY: No... What the hell’s his name?

SCHNEIDER: State treasurer?

KINEAVY: Yeah, state treasurer.

SCHNEIDER: I don’t remember. He had friends on both sides, in other words?
KINEAVY: Oh, did he ever. Did he ever.

SCHNEIDER: And I imagine that both White and Hicks appreciated his position, right, that he didn’t line up with one or the other?

KINEAVY: You’re right.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. Now how about the next year, ’68. Democratic primary for President, you’ve got everybody and their mother is in that race, right? Humphrey, McCarthy, Bobby Kennedy. Here’s Joe having to run the South Boston dinner on St. Patrick’s Day. Do you remember that one?

KINEAVY: Yeah, I do. Bobby Kennedy came up from New York, and he marched in the parade. And Joe was very cordial to him. And treated him like anybody else. It didn’t go “in hand in the house” so to speak. But I can remember it. And then Bobby Kennedy got out of the parade, not too long after it started.

SCHNEIDER: Did Joe have a horse in that race?

KINEAVY: No.

HOWINGTON: So he stayed low too.

SCHNEIDER: Now I want to go back even further. I don’t know if you know this one. ’62. Teddy versus Eddie McCormack?

KINEAVY: Who do you think?

SCHNEIDER: Eddie McCormack, but I don’t know for sure.
KINEAVY: Positively. All of Joe’s friends, Pat Loftas, Eddie Morrissey, all of them guys—and they got me involved in Eddie McCormack’s fight. And Eddie McCormack’s father, “Knocko.” He used to see me on the street, and he says, “You son of a bitch. You’re for Kennedy.”

SCHNEIDER: Oh, they got you in on the Kennedy side!

KINEAVY: Yeah. They got me working Kennedy. I says, “Well, all of the other guys are.” He said, “I never thought you would be.” And that relationship went for years, until Eddie got sick. And I went off to see him one day. You know, he was a nice guy.

SCHNEIDER: But Joe was with Eddie, right?

KINEAVY: It was the other.

SCHNEIDER: Okay, say more about that.

HOWINGTON: What did that mean—?

KINEAVY: What does that mean?

HOWINGTON: What did that mean for his later relationship with Ted Kennedy? How did that play out? How long do people hold onto those—

KINEAVY: Most of Kennedy’s people in South Boston, there was hundreds of them, Walt and Joe. You know, Frank Berg, Frank, Ed Loftas, Eddie Morrissey, myself. And there was never no grudge. Never no grudge. And even up until McCormack’s dying days, there was never no grudge. He was a gentleman.

SCHNEIDER: Now did Joe ever— When he was a state senator, did he ever interact with Speaker McCormack? Before he—
KINEAVY: No. No.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. Yeah, one’s local, one’s national, sure. Yeah, Speaker of the House has his hands full.

KINEAVY: He knew the speaker through Evelyn. Evelyn came from Cambridge. Joe’s wife, Evelyn. And that’s how he knew the speaker. He got to know the speaker through Evelyn.

SCHNEIDER: You mean Tip?

KINEAVY: Tip.

SCHNEIDER: Now what was her connection to Tip, though? Just that she was from Cambridge?

KINEAVY: Yeah. The corner—Murphy’s Corner in Cambridge that Tip always talked about. No matter where he is, he always talked about it.

SCHNEIDER: The way I understand it is, Evelyn wasn’t that interested in politics. Is that right?

KINEAVY: Never was. She liked the glory that went with it.

SCHNEIDER: She did.

KINEAVY: She did. But she never—she’d rather stay home.

HOWINGTON: Instead of go to endless campaign events, and dinners.

KINEAVY: Yeah. If she had to be there, she was there.
SCHNEIDER: I don’t know whether you know this. I’m writing Joe’s full biography, so I’ve got to write a little bit about some personal stuff. So she had a first husband who, I think, died in the war. Do you know anything about that? No? Okay. He never mentioned it.

KINEAVY: No.

SCHNEIDER: Alright. Okay, not too important.

KINEAVY: It wasn’t important to Joe, you know.

SCHNEIDER: Right. And what’s your sense of— Did Joe and Evelyn ever— I know she wasn’t interested in it. But did she ever have some opinion where, she said to him, “You shouldn’t be doing this,” or “Why don’t you change that”?

KINEAVY: Oh yeah. Yeah. She had a lot of opinions, yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Can you give us a for-example?

KINEAVY: Busing. “You should be doing this...”

SCHNEIDER: What’d she think?

KINEAVY: Whatever she was thinking, “Joe, you shouldn’t let them do that to you. You should be out there fighting.”

SCHNEIDER: So she was defensive towards him, trying to protect him.

KINEAVY: Oh, was she ever. And she’d go to candidate nights some nights with him.
HOWINGTON: Because at a certain point during that busing era, in the ’70s, they were getting calls, getting picketed at their own house in South Boston. So they were catching a lot of flak for not appearing to be strong enough against busing, right?

KINEAVY: Him and I would walk down from Filene’s Basement. And in front of us is a group of people—a couple, 300—and they spot us, and they turn to us, “You’re for busing, Joe?” And I says, “Joe, let’s go in this door.” And he says, “Why?” And I says, “You’re going to get upset.” He said, “The hell with them, I’m not going to get upset.” But every place we went, they’d follow.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah. Got the picture. Now—if it’s okay with you guys—I’d like to move just ahead a little bit, into the national stuff in the seventies. That okay?

KINEAVY: Yeah!

SCHNEIDER: What do you make of the different Presidents that you worked with? Carter, Reagan. What was your general sense of— Did he ever come back and say, “That Jimmy Carter, he’s not doing enough.” Or what?

KINEAVY: He liked—what’s his name. His wife is Secretary of State, Bill Clinton. He had a great relationship with Bill Clinton. I mean, not a good, a great relationship. Because some of the legislation Bill Clinton wanted was tied up in the Rules Committee. And Joe would take it out for him. He wasn’t too fond of Jimmy Carter. I don’t know why.

SCHNEIDER: Tip O’Neill didn’t like him.

KINEAVY: No. No.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. This is a really specific question, and I don’t know if you’ll know. I’m writing now about the cigarette issue. Remember that? There was a fire in Westwood, ’79. House burned down, family killed. Remember that one?
**KINEAVY:** He filed legislation.

**SCHNEIDER:** Yeah. How did he— What happened to make him do that? Did somebody call him up, or what?

**KINEAVY:** Someone came into the post office, and asked him, does he really understand what’s happening in Westwood? And Joe says, “I have so much on my mind, brief me on it.” And they briefed him on it. And he fell in love with it. And he—

**SCHNEIDER:** Do you know who that person was? Was that a neighbor? Fireman?

**KINEAVY:** No. No. You know, if you go to the post office with Joe, he’d get so many people that wanted to see him, you wouldn’t know who it was.

**SCHNEIDER:** Yeah, sure.

**HOWINGTON:** Except sometimes— So how did it work there? Someone would come in, Joe would take some notes, hand it off to you, “follow up on this?”

**KINEAVY:** I’d take the person’s name and address. And I’d give it to Joe. And then Joe would speak to the person. And every person’s problem is gigantic in nature. You know, every person who has a problem, they think Joe Moakley can solve it. And he did help an awful lot of people.

**HOWINGTON:** Even people outside of the district— didn’t they sort of know—

**KINEAVY:** Oh, did they ever!

**HOWINGTON:** They knew that they would get some action if they went to you guys instead of to their own—
**KINEAVY:** Of all the delegation, like this, our delegation— Joe says to me one day, he says, “You know who the smartest guy in that delegation is?” I says, “Who’s that?” “Barney Frank.” He says, “Put out a word, Barney Frank is the smartest guy that he’s seen in our delegation.”

**SCHNEIDER:** Who was he close to in the delegation over the years?

**KINEAVY:** He was close to Joe Hurley. He was very close to Joe Hurley.

**SCHNEIDER:** How about later on— Well, this was after you left. Okay...

**KINEAVY:** Early on, he thought Jim Burke was a nice guy. Nice guy. He thought Philbin was a nice guy.

**SCHNEIDER:** How about— He served with Father Drinan for a while.

**KINEAVY:** He liked Father Drinan.

**HOWINGTON:** And were there any— that you know of— any examples of where he had to really work with the delegation to get something done?

**KINEAVY:** No. Joe had a philosophy. “Always be kind to whom you’re talking to, because that kindness is going to come back, and hit you right in the ass.” [laughter] That’s the truth. That’s the truth.

**SCHNEIDER:** That’s good philosophy!

**KINEAVY:** He told Jim McGovern— Jim McGovern, as you know, worked for us— He told Jim McGovern that exact same thing. And Jim McGovern, as of today, uses that philosophy, you know, to make deals with other congressmen.
SCHNEIDER: I wanted to ask another specific issue. It has to do with labor. When Reagan was elected in ’80—in ’81 there was a series of labor demonstrations. I don’t know if you remember them, but a big one, the AFL-CIO called in 1981, I think on Labor Day—I remember, I went to it myself. What did Joe make of all of that? I know he was close to labor throughout his career. Were there any labor leaders in town that were his guys that he really liked?

KINEAVY: Not really. Labor is labor to Joe.

SCHNEIDER: Everyone was his friend, then.

KINEAVY: Exactly. Yeah. Everyone. Even the Labor Day breakfasts. The head guy could be up there, Joe wouldn’t pay attention to it. No. But we got along good with labor, because when labor needed our vote, we were there for that vote. We were always with labor, especially when a key vote came up. So they would never—Labor never would come down on Joe, any which way.

SCHNEIDER: What do you mean?

KINEAVY: Say labor—Joe wouldn’t go to one of them Labor Day breakfasts. And the highest guy in Washington was coming up there, and Joe wouldn’t go there. Well, labor wouldn’t be mad at Joe because he’s not there, because John’s there—

SCHNEIDER: I see what you mean now.

KINEAVY: Wasn’t there.

HOWINGTON: So Joe consistently voted pro-labor where he could in Congress?

KINEAVY: All the time.
HOWINGTON: So labor was one of the people that would help Moakley get re-elected, I would assume?

KINEAVY: All the time.

HOWINGTON: And were there other groups like that, that were really important to Moakley’s success? Like in getting re-elected?

KINEAVY: Yeah. The school teachers. You know, we had a great relationship with them. But sometimes they didn’t agree with what we were doing. But we’d go back to them and talk to them. As an example, we were for funding for parochial schools. Labor and the teaching unit, they weren’t. They were against it. So we took a crack in the face, on that one.

SCHNEIDER: I remember— You know, I worked for the railroad, myself, for 30 years. And I remember in 1980, a lot of guys, a lot of whom were from Southie, voted for Reagan. Do you remember, in that election campaign, ever talking about that issue with Joe? That some of the working-class base were starting to vote Republican? Did you notice that at all?

KINEAVY: Not really. No.

SCHNEIDER: Not all of them. But I remember being really surprised by that.

KINEAVY: Reagan received a big Democratic vote. But me, personally— If Joe was sitting here, he’d say the same thing— It’s not because he was a Republican, it’s because he was Reagan.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah, that’s what I think too.

HOWINGTON: And maybe sort of an anti-Carter.

KINEAVY: Yeah.
SCHNEIDER: Do you remember Reagan coming to the Eire Pub to have a drink? Do you remember that?

KINEAVY: Oh yeah, yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Did Joe notice that, say anything about it? Wasn’t his district, I know. But...

KINEAVY: No, no. He said he’d go any place to get a vote.

[laughter]

SCHNEIDER: Well, he did say something then!

KINEAVY: Yeah, he did.

HOWINGTON: So I’m thinking, we’ve talked a bit about some of the issues that Moakley became involved in, mostly because of constituents coming in to see him. That would be busing, that would be El Salvador, fire-safe cigarettes. Are there any other issues that come to mind where it was really constituent-driven? Where it was the personal— someone coming in to Moakley and raising his awareness about something that he should be working on in Congress?

KINEAVY: I can’t recall.

SCHNEIDER: I also, I got a question about Joe’s downtime. Did he ever take any? I mean, there’s some pictures in the archive— it looks to me like he’s on vacation in Italy. I don’t really know. Did Evelyn like to travel? ... She didn’t like to travel, okay. So they didn’t ever take their own trip somewhere that was— Didn’t he have a house in Scituate?

KINEAVY: He had one on the water. Right on the water.
SCHNEIDER: In Scituate.

KINEAVY: In Scituate.

SCHNEIDER: Okay, and when did he buy that, do you know?

KINEAVY: Jeez. He was in the Senate then. He got hit with a hurricane down there. We were in the Senate. Then I think the hurricane made him sell it.

SCHNEIDER: He had a boat.

KINEAVY: He had a boat. The “Evelyn M.” That was Evelyn’s name. He had a boat.

SCHNEIDER: Did he go fishing?

KINEAVY: He’d go out in the harbor.

SCHNEIDER: That’s it?

KINEAVY: Yeah! [laughter] Then he’d get rid of the boat, and bought the house. It was from here to there from the water.

SCHNEIDER: And how long did he have— he had that until that hurricane?

KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: And how much time did he get to actually spend in that place?

KINEAVY: Very little. I used to pick him up, and down we’d go to Southie because they’ve got this appointment tomorrow. And then he’d go down after he finished whatever he was going to do, to the house. And usually he left at 3:00 on a Friday—excuse me, on a Sunday.
SCHNEIDER: To go back to Washington.

KINEAVY: Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. So he was in Washington Monday through Thursday?

KINEAVY: Easy. He had a house in Washington too.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. And where’s that? Did you ever go there?

KINEAVY: I went there twice.

SCHNEIDER: Where was it?

KINEAVY: Umm.... Christ, every time I drive up from Florida I see it... I forget.

SCHNEIDER: It doesn’t matter.

HOWINGTON: And did Evelyn go back and forth with him to Washington? Or did she sometimes stay behind in Boston?

KINEAVY: She’d stay behind in Boston.

HOWINGTON: Most of the time.

KINEAVY: Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Now I get the sense that when he was in Congress— I think he said this, he did an interview with Suffolk before he passed— that he didn’t hang out with guys in Congress. He went to work, and pretty much went home. Is that right?
KINEAVY: You’re right. Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: So he didn’t play cards, he didn’t drink. He just went to his house. What’s your sense of—if Joe had a perfect day off, what’s he doing? Ballgame?

KINEAVY: He liked to once in a while play golf. He played golf a couple times down there. And it depends on when Congress opens. If it opens at twelve o’clock, he’d go out early in the morning and play golf.

SCHNEIDER: He was a boxer apparently when he was in college?

KINEAVY: Yeah, he was.

SCHNEIDER: But he doesn’t look like he stayed in shape the rest of his life.

KINEAVY: No!

[laughter]

KINEAVY: Funny you say that. In later life, when I wasn’t with him, he had a house in South Boston. He had two gyms down in the cellar. He had—

SCHNEIDER: That’s the one on Colombia Road?

KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah. That had two gyms to it.

SCHNEIDER: Two gyms? Why do you need two gyms?

KINEAVY: I don’t know. One side and the other, when you walk in the back, you go over to the right, there’s a gym. And then you go over to the left, there’s another gym.
SCHNEIDER: But he didn’t much... Alright.

HOWINGTON: And what else— People always tell us about how he, as part of his routine— so he’s in Washington Monday through Thursday, but the moment he got back, he was trying to meet with constituents and do different stuff. A lot of people said that, on Sundays he would spend time purposely on Castle Island, making himself available to people that would drop by. Do you remember?

KINEAVY: Yeah, he loved Castle Island. Like everyone does. Joe would walk out there, yeah.

HOWINGTON: What would people— if they came up to him, what would they typically be asking him about?

KINEAVY: Everything that bothers them. In South Boston, like any place else, they get problems. And they catch Joe. And Joe would say to me, “You know, I met Mary Hearns, and can you help her with this?” And I’d say, “Let me see.” And whatever it was, we’d do it. He had a— not a habit, but if he tells you he’s going to do something, he did it. There was no if’s, and’s, or but’s about it. There was— President Clinton wanted him to vote for a certain bill. And I says to Joe, “You’re going to ruin the waterfront if you vote for that bill.” He says, “You think so?” I says, “Yeah.” He said, “Okay.”

HOWINGTON: Do you remember what that was about?

KINEAVY: I’ll think of it before we leave.

HOWINGTON: Alright, we’ll come back to that. So I guess while we’re talking about the harbor and the harbor front, how did it change in the time from when Moakley was in the State Senate, and then into his congressional years? There was quite a bit of work going on, harbor cleanup and all that kind of stuff. Can you talk a little bit about that, and what it meant to South Boston?
**KINEAVY:** You mean, South Boston in general?

**HOWINGTON:** Yeah. And the city of Boston, I would suppose as well.

**KINEAVY:** Well he really didn’t have no opinion of— Sometimes I think he thinks it was better for it.

**HOWINGTON:** What was?

**KINEAVY:** The work that was going down in the harbor. In South Boston, all Joe did as a senator was beautify the walkway all the way out to Castle Island, around Castle Island. Every moment— every bit of his strength, he spent getting the MDC up at Castle Island, and look at it today.

**HOWINGTON:** It’s great.

**KINEAVY:** You know?

**HOWINGTON:** Because at the time, probably when he was in the Senate, you wouldn’t really want to swim in Boston Harbor, or at Carson Beach for instance, or some of the other—

**KINEAVY:** You’re exactly right. You’re exactly right.

**HOWINGTON:** So I guess by the time— It seemed like he had sort of an agenda, though. He wanted to clean up his backyard, to a certain extent, and have it come to its full potential. Do you think that’s a correct—

**KINEAVY:** Well, give the Devil his due. John Powers tried to do it before Joe. John Powers originally tried that. He did get the wall up. That’s Powers’ wall. And it was a name they used to
give when they got that Powers’ wall up, Powers’ Nigger Pole. That’s what they called it. And that’s—

SCHNEIDER: Why’d they call it that?

KINEAVY: Because in their mind, they thought that all this wall is being built for is then the poor minorities. But then Joe got in, and he beautified the wall. Look at that wall, look at Carson Beach, what are they telling on television? They talk about Carson Beach? That was nothing until Joe got in there. And then out at Castle Island itself. I love it out there.

HOWINGTON: Because at a certain point, they were thinking of putting the World’s Fair, or the 19— do you remember which one?


HOWINGTON: 1976 for the bicentennial.

SCHNEIDER: They were talking about it when Joe was in the Senate, the sixties.

KINEAVY: Never would’ve passed. Never.

HOWINGTON: So he was strongly opposed to that.

KINEAVY: Oh, was he ever. He would never be for that.

SCHNEIDER: What should we have asked you that we didn’t ask you?

KINEAVY: I’m trying to think of the bill, that Bill Clinton—

HOWINGTON: Wanted him to sign, or to get moving on?
KINEAVY: Yeah...

HOWINGTON: We can pause for a minute, do you want to do that?

KINEAVY: Yeah, would you please?

[pause, side comments]

KINEAVY: Do you know, who was the chairman?

SCHNEIDER: Well he had Boling for a while. And he had—

HOWINGTON: Claude Pepper.

SCHNEIDER: Pepper, yeah. There was a guy, Jim Delaney, he had at the very beginning.

KINEAVY: From New York.

HOWINGTON: Because by the time Clinton came in, Moakley would’ve been chair of the Rules Committee. He was chair in 1989? So he would’ve been in the driver’s seat for that.

KINEAVY: I can’t find it.

SCHNEIDER: Could I ask you a little more about the—

KINEAVY: It was a bill that Clinton wanted bad. It was real, real bad. And I says to Joe, “I don’t— I think you’ll be hurting yourself with the longshoremen.”

HOWINGTON: Oh, was it, like, Free Trade agreements?

KINEAVY: Free Trade agreements.
SCHNEIDER: NAFTA.

KINEAVY: Free Trade agreement. That’s it.

HOWINGTON: So how did that play out?

KINEAVY: It passed, but Joe didn’t vote for it.

HOWINGTON: So was Joe somewhat helpful, but yet didn’t—helpful on the Rules Committee, but not necessarily helpful when it came down to the final House vote?

KINEAVY: Right. Right.

SCHNEIDER: That’s important, yeah.

HOWINGTON: Did he catch any flak for that from longshoremen or other labor?

KINEAVY: No. No. Because he was doing what they wanted. That’s it!

SCHNEIDER: That’s good. Can I ask a little about, his two brothers? Now I spoke to Tommy. Was he closer to Bob? It seems like Bob was into politics, Tommy not. Is that right?

KINEAVY: The only time Tommy was involved in politics was Election Day. Get in the camera, ride around.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. And how about Bob? He apparently was a very close advisor?

KINEAVY: Was he ever.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. Did he ever think of running, himself?
KINEAVY: No. No.

SCHNEIDER: Joe leaned on Bob quite a lot, would you say, for advice?

KINEAVY: Yeah, he did. He leaned on me for a lot. I’d tell him the truth. “We should’ve did it Mrs. Hicks’ way before we did it, but it would never have been that effective.”

SCHNEIDER: I’m sorry, you said—

KINEAVY: When we— come up from Washington, to the big crowd in South Boston, if we did that before, I don’t think it would’ve been effective.

HOWINGTON: I guess— I’m always kind of curious— Because every time his district was redistricted after the census, it would change a little bit. How did that— At one point, all of a sudden, he has to represent the area where Ocean Spray is, and have a more agricultural— How did that work out? And how did it change over the years?

KINEAVY: [laughs] It’s whoever you know. If you know the president of the Senate— I don’t think you could do it today— but it’s whoever you know. If you knew Billy Bulger, you were going to be treated good. And believe me when I say this, I think Billy Bulger is the salt of the earth. Me personally. Because he was so kind to Joe. He was extremely kind to Joe.

HOWINGTON: Was it hard for you to represent the needs of all the different types of people that you represented?

KINEAVY: No. No. They’d come, and whatever their problem was, our Boston office was strictly constituent service. We had a lady in charge of Social Security. We had Woody in charge of immigration and the academies. We had someone else in charge of something else. We always had someone in charge. We’d have a meeting every single week. And we’d go through the meeting, “What happened?” And in that meeting, they’d go through what happened. Like that
story on the lady with the immigration. If Woody didn’t clamp down on her, she’d be still here. Kids, a lot of kids that went to the Naval Academy, and they would have never went there if it wasn’t for Woody. See what I mean?

**SCHNEIDER:** And in Washington— you guys never met with the Washington people, right?

**KINEAVY:** Very seldom. Very seldom. Pat McCarthy and I were very close. The other guys—

**SCHNEIDER:** There was a Nelson Hamill.

**KINEAVY:** I knew Nelson. He quit. For whatever reason.

**SCHNEIDER:** Pat said he quit to run against Burke— No, when Burke retired, he ran for Congress and lost to Donnelly.

**KINEAVY:** He did.

**HOWINGTON:** So some of the other Washington directors, like John Weinfurter.

**KINEAVY:** John Weinfurter and I was close.

**SCHNEIDER:** Do we know where he is?

**HOWINGTON:** Yes. He’s in Washington still. So there was some interplay between the Washington and the district office. What did they want to know from you?

**KINEAVY:** They’d- Mrs. Murphy. I’d see Mrs. Murphy is looking for this, and we’ve got the answer here from the agency, then I’d say, “Mrs. Murphy is so-and-so.” And they’d say, “Oh, well you better have a better line or connection.”
HOWINGTON: And then of course the district staff would be really important in terms of campaigns. The Washington staff, probably not. Was that true?

KINEAVY: Well it depends who’s in the—who’s ahead in Washington. The Boston staff, they all never campaigned. A lot of them never campaigned.

SCHNEIDER: They did policy stuff.

KINEAVY: Policy stuff, yeah.

SCHNEIDER: And who succeeded you? So, was Fred Clark next as District Director?

KINEAVY: Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. And when did that change happen?

KINEAVY: I don’t know, twenty years ago? And then Fred didn’t know all the connections I had. Because I could pick up the phone with Billy Bulger. He couldn’t.

SCHNEIDER: Because he was not a Southie guy.

KINEAVY: Right. Right.

SCHNEIDER: And can I ask, what did you do after you— Or, is that the job you retired from? I’ll bet you didn’t go back to working on the docks, right?

KINEAVY: No! I retired, and I retired.

SCHNEIDER: From that, that was your last job.

KINEAVY: Yeah. Would I go back to work? No. Not feeling good anyway, so.
SCHNEIDER: I’m sorry to hear that. But it sounds like Joe kept calling you. Because you weren’t working for him when Clinton was in, were you?

KINEAVY: No. He called me—he wanted to see me. So I’d go over there, and Fred would put me in. And believe it or not, he’d talk about spiritual things. He says, “I’m prepared to go home.” And another day he met me, he says, “Meet me in Dorchester, we’ll have breakfast.” And I went over to Dorchester, and I says, “How you doing?” He says, “I don’t know. I feel good, Roger.” And he says, “I’m not as scared.”

SCHNEIDER: This is ’96? Or when he was dying, 2001?

KINEAVY: When he was dying.

SCHNEIDER: At the very end.

KINEAVY: Yeah. Yeah. And then the office was set up different, than when I left. I think Fred had hands on everything. Where I sort of delegated to different people. Because you’d get more affection out of delegating.

SCHNEIDER: Do you know—I should’ve asked you this. Is Joe’s priest from St. Bridget’s, is that person still there? ... No, that person—

KINEAVY: The priest at St. Brigid’s? Has he gone? No, they’re still there.

HOWINGTON: It was Father Casey, I think?

KINEAVY: Yeah, he’s still there.

SCHNEIDER: Maybe I’ll stop by and talk to him too.
KINEAVY: Yeah. It was a beautiful funeral. It was.

HOWINGTON: Can you tell us a little bit about what the funeral was like?

KINEAVY: Well, it was like all funerals. But at this funeral you had two presidents. And you had Billy Bulger give the eulogy. I would like to have done that. But I didn’t do it. And then the— he’s buried out in the Blue Hills, which is in Braintree. Him and Evelyn’s right against the fence.

SCHNEIDER: Okay. Well, I’m ready to turn my tape recorder off. Roger, thanks so much for your time. Really. I really appreciate this. It’ll make a contribution to what I’m doing, to the book, quite a lot.

KINEAVY: My cousin works for you.

SCHNEIDER: At Suffolk?

KINEAVY: Yeah.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah, you told me. Cosgrove?

KINEAVY: Yeah. I don’t even know him!

HOWINGTON: We work with him a lot, actually.

SCHNEIDER: I should talk to him. Did you know any of— I’ll bet you knew some of my railroad buddies. They were Southie guys who liked Moakley. Arthur Fritch?

KINEAVY: Oh. Know him well!

SCHNEIDER: So I gotta go look up Arthur. I haven’t seen him since—
**KINEAVY:** His son works for the MBTA.

**SCHNEIDER:** Well I worked with Arthur—

END OF FILE