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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Maine Industry in a New England Survey

Date: August 16, 1955

Recording number: Tape 28

Length of recording: 9:31

[Transcript begins]

ANNOUNCER: On this, final program in our New England series, we're keenly aware of our sins of omission. Time and circumstances have conspired to prevent our telling many important stories in New England, for example the power story. We've neglected many elements of industry: plastics, jewelry, metals, silverware, lots more. As I say, there just wasn't time. And now, a few final moments of a final program, and we'd like to go back to the state where we began this series of programs. Go back to Maine and listen finally to some sounds and voices that say more about New England and its people than any further recital of facts and figures.

CORMIER: I'm Lucia Cormier from Rumford, Maine. This is my fourth term in the legislature. I come from a paper town. We have, we make, manufacture the paper for the finest magazines in the country. The economy of my little town is usually very stable because we have a nice payroll coming out each week which helps. We are really, even when things are rather difficult throughout the country, we are the last to feel it and the first to recuperate from it.

ANNOUNCER: I'm sure there's some problems in your home, in Rumford. What are some of them?

CORMIER: Oh, definitely, we have our problems. We have our problems along highways. We have our problems in welfare. We have practically the same problems that the other communities in the state have, only our economy, perhaps, is more stable than theirs.

ANNOUNCER: I think it'd be very interesting for many of our listeners to hear from you as a woman about how you got into politics.

CORMIER: Well, it's quite an interesting thing. I had been a schoolteacher and left teaching to go into business and after I got into business, I was more, I was free to participate into politics more than before. And I was asked to run on the Democratic ticket in my town. We had been sending Republicans to the legislature for at least eight or ten years. And I accepted the challenge and went out and rang doorbells from door-to-door and hauled people to the polls and I found myself elected. And from then on, it has been very interesting. I have continued to work each year in my home town so that now we have no difficulty of electing Democrats from Rumford.

ANNOUNCER: Is this a full-time occupation or do you work?

CORMIER: No, it isn't full-time. We meet once every two years. And where I have a business I'm free to come to the legislature.

HASKELL: I'm Senator Robert N. Haskell from Penobscot County and I have just been honored by the Maine senators by being elected to the presidency of that body. We've got some problems. We've got transportation. We're not the nearest to the consumer markets but we're within reach. We've got a problem of bringing steel and fuel into the state, we've got a long-haul problem. It's not a pushover, all of these problems, but I think the scales are balanced in our favor. In a good industrial climate, with our natural resources that haven't been touched, I think we're going to overcome those minor disadvantages of transporting finished product to market and bringing the steel, fuel, into our state to build these facilities and to operate them. So far as the power companies are concerned, we like to believe that we're progressive. We like to think that we've got competitive rates and certainly we've got investor confidence that will give to us the dollars that need to be put into the plant to take care of any industrial developments could come into this state.

ANNOUNCER: Senator, I note among your many activities that you're concerned with atomic power, development of power through nuclear reactors. Is this true? Is any prospect of that around here?

HASKELL: Well, the New England Governor's Conference set up a New England Committee on Atomic Energy on the 13th of February. I happen to be on that committee. I've enjoyed the work and I'll make this flat prediction that within the next 20 years, atomic energy will be a substantial part of the power supply all over the world. The world power supply requirements are growing so fast that normal sources, the ordinary sources, are not going to do the job and we've got to turn to atomic energy. And I hope that New England with our [inaudible] high fuel costs, are one of those who will be a leader.

REID: I am James L. Reid from Hallowell, Maine. We are probably not able to afford some of state services at a great many states having larger populations and a lot more wealth can. But by and large, I think the people of the state of Maine are frugal by nature and are willing to do the best that they can with what they have. I believe that Maine's greatest asset is the character, the solid character of its people. They have that have had that reputation for ever since the state was formed or separated from Massachusetts in 1820. The average Maine person, maybe I should say particularly along the coast, is a person who has been brought up to believe in the American Way of life the American traditions. I think you will find him rather a quiet person, very prone to think before he acts or think before he speaks. I think he is deliberative by nature, and I'm speaking now of Maine citizens in all walks of life. I believe that frugality and industry is a native part of the average Maine person. I do not think we are spendthrifts by nature and I think that, above all, you will find as you circulate through the state that there is something that Maine people have which is necessary to a good, strong, solid character, and that is a wonderful sense of humor.

ANNOUNCER: What's your best Maine story, Senator?

REID: Well, one story that might be considered to be typical is the story of a preacher was delivering the sermon to his parishioners one Sunday morning. And he started in by asking all those who would like to go to heaven to stand up and everyone stood up but one gentleman in the back row. Then they sat

down and he said, now, all those who would like to go to the other place stand up. And no one stood up. And he noticed that the man in the back row had stood up on neither question, and so he said to him well, I've asked you, I've asked all of you, whether you'd like to go to heaven or the other place, and I notice you, Mr. Smith, you didn't stand up on either question. If you don't want to go to either of those two places, where do you want to go? To which he replied, well, I'm satisfied to stay right where I am in the state of Maine.

ANNOUNCER: Yes, New England has a great deal to tell the nation. Wisdom born of maturity. Skills, learning, and at the base of it all, as a thousand church spires testify, there is great faith here. As New England faces a future with confidence and with hope.

MINISTER: Now let us pray. Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we invoke thy presence and blessing upon this body this day. We come in a spirit of gratitude thankful for the day and its significance. We seek the leadership of thy spirit in all that is done. We pray thy blessing upon each member of this body and the families associated with them. We seek thy leadership in the affairs of our state, pray thy blessing upon everything that is done, that it may be for the good and the welfare of all people of our state. We thank thee for our United States, for this great country in all the opportunities it affords. We seek thy leadership as we work together that we may be a great nation, great in resources and power and also great in spirit. All these things we ask in the name of the Master. Amen.

[Music.]

ANNOUNCER: With this program, we come to the end of this series of tape recorded, on the scene reports entitled New England Original Survey. These programs presented by NBC Public Affairs, were narrated and produced by James Fleming. Arthur Hefner was associate producer, Hal Schneider tape recording engineer. The entire series was made possible through the cooperation of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

[Music]

ANNOUNCER: Hear Morgan Beatty and the news of the world, tonight over most NBC radio stations.

[Music]

[Transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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