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## The Sounds of the Sixties: the Events and People that Shaped the Decade

WLBZ News

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**University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department**

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

Title: The Sounds of the Sixties

Date: January 1, 1970

Recording number: Tape A 1970-01-01

Length of recording: 52:04

[transcript begins]

ANNOUNCER: WLBZ News and Special Events presents The Sounds of the Sixties.

[A series of short audio clips play, including: rocket launch, bulletin that President Kennedy has been shot, Margaret Chase Smith being introduced to a crowd, comment on Cuban missile crisis, John H. Reed being introduced, visit of President John F. Kennedy, picketers and campus police, space flight, air strikes in north Vietnam, Senator Kennedy shot, Hubert Humphrey nominating Edmund S. Muskie as Vice Presidential running mate, Times Square coverage of New Year's Eve, 1968, Apollo moon landing. Then music]

NARRATOR: At midnight last night, a decade came to a close, perhaps the most important and catalytic in the history of America. For the first time, man landed on another planet. In the '60s, this country saw the greatest protest movement in its history. And violence swept the country for the first time since that decade, one hundred years ago, the 1860s. The highest court in the land came under the closest scrutiny, with a Presidential appointment denied, the resignation of one Justice, and threatened impeachment of another. How would one categorize the 60s? Turbulent, unrest, a search for peace, a trip to the stars? None of these singly, but all combined, might describe the 10 years that started January 1, 1960, and ended just a few short hours ago. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: WLBZ News and Special Events presents, transcribed, The Sounds of the Sixties, a trip back through the 10 years just past, to relive and rehear some of the events and people that shaped our lives, that made our history. [Music]

NARRATOR: The Sixties saw man, for the first time in his history, hurtle around the earth in orbital flights and eventually land on another planet. On April 12<sup>th</sup> 1961, the world's first spaceman, Russian Major Yuri Gagarin, made a single orbit of the earth in one hour and 48 minutes. This signaled the start of the great Race for Space, with the United States and the USSR, the two contestants in the reach for the stars. On February 20<sup>th</sup> 1962, American had its first astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel John Glenn was hurled into space, atop the huge rocket for three orbits of the earth.

AUDIO from SPACE LAUNCH: This is Mercury Control, launch countdown is T minus one minute and counting. T minus one minute and counting, all systems are reporting in a go condition. John Glenn

reports he is ready. This is Mercury Control. T minus 45 and counting, all systems go. That's the word at this moment, all systems go. There will be ... T minus 35, the main umbilical cord should drop. T minus 30 seconds. Mercury Control, the count T minus 30 and counting. This is the last human control. At any moment the burners should light. General dynamics starts the [inaudible] motors. ... T minus 10 seconds, counting. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One. There's the ignition of the burners. Zero. Ignition. Lift off. Lifted off. The MA-6 vehicle has lifted off. Trajectory looks good. The MA-6 vehicle is off the launch pad.

NARRATOR: After these initial flights, the American public became more or less used to having men and hardware circling the earth. More single-man orbits, the Gemini series, three-man flights, space walks, the docking of two spaceships. Things predicted in the Buck Rogers comic strip of the '20s became routine. One June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1966, the United States successfully soft landed an unmanned space vehicle on the moon, a world first for America.

[Audio of control room dialogue, robotic vehicle landing on moon]

NARRATOR: The surveyor moon shot paving the way for one of the most breathtaking achievements of all time, the landing of men on the lunar surface. Shortly before 11 o'clock on the night of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on the moon while a tense world watched and listened.

ANNOUNCER: Man walks on the moon. It was 4:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time yesterday, when the vital step for man's walk on the moon took place, the safe landing of the lunar module. And this is how it sounded to tens of thousands of millions of persons listening around the world.

[Audio of astronauts ... Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed. Roger, Tranquility, we copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again, thanks a lot.]

ANNOUNCER: Charlie Duke in Mission Control breathing easier once again, with the rest of the world, as Neil Armstrong reported the safe landing. Then Armstrong told Duke and Mission Control why the Eagle's touchdown had been slightly delayed. At 10:56 p.m. Eastern Time, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, and these were his first words.

ARMSTRONG: That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

NARRATOR: Then in November of 1969, the second three-man moonshot, with the names of Pete Conrad, Allen Bean, and Richard Gordon, added to the growing list of America's pioneer spacemen.

NARRATOR 2: In the '60s, the moon. In the 70s, what? Are the far reaches of outer space, the galaxies, unattainable? Is there other intelligent life in the universe? Perhaps history is just beginning. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: The Sounds of the Sixties. The sounds of space, of exploration, of man probing the unknown. Also sounds far more grim. Sounds that have been with man since he first walked the earth, the age-old sound of war.

AUDIO: cemetery about 8 miles to the north, there's a group of North Vietnamese Army Troops dug in the cemetery, which is one of their favorite places [inaudible] have surrounded the cemetery and are pouring fire in. Every few minutes they stop, a loud speaker goes off and tells the NVA troops to come out, that they will be taken prisoner, and that they will be well treated, The battle is slow and it is deadly here [inaudible under gunshot]. Advances are made in feet and yards, not in miles. [Gunfire] Andy Gurthrie, NBC News, Gia Dinh.

NARRATOR: The 1960s saw American involvement in South Vietnam grow from military and economic assistance to full-fledged war. An undeclared war, to be sure, but just as real to the G.I. in the rice patties and the foxholes, blasting the Vietcong from their warren of tunnels and evading their deadly booby traps, beating back their suicidal charges.

NARRTOR 2: Here at home, the war became an unpopular one, especially with the younger generation. Campuses across the nation, seized with unrest, with Vietnam the focal point of the outpourings. Some demonstrations erupted into violence. Others had that potential. May 5<sup>th</sup> 1966, the Orono campus of the University of Maine.

AUDIO COVERAGE, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE PROTEST (at 13:56): Their March in the circle and it looks as though everything, the hecklers, the leader of the picketers, Kenneth Kantrow, who is leading the picketers here now, [angry crowd shouts rise] stepped out of the line, went over and asked the Chief of the Campus Police if he would please stop, or refrain the students from throwing eggs...

NARRATOR: The most massive outpouring of feeling came on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, the first so-called Moratorium against the Vietnam War. It had its supporters by the thousands and also those standing steadfastly opposed, equally sincere in their belief that the demonstrations gave aid and comfort to the enemy.

NARRATOR 2: Two of the principle moratorium addresses in the country that day were in Maine. On the Orono campus of the University of Maine, Senator George McGovern of South Dakota spoke.

McGOVERN: For me to come here tonight and deplore our involvement in Vietnam. It is not enough for any one of us to beat on our breasts and confess our guilt. We must act from here on out in every possible way that is open to us as citizens of free society to bring an end to this tragic war. Now I believe with all my heart that the students, and the citizens across this country, old and young alike...

NARRATOR: And at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine's Senator Muskie sounded the keynote.

MUSKIE: Let me tell you what I think this Moratorium means. I think it means that a very great number of Americans have decided that we should move much more vigorously than we have toward reducing our casualties and toward ending the fighting and withdrawing from Vietnam. [Applause]

NARRATOR: The Vietnam War, a war of protest, and a war of politics. Never has a President of the United States been under such pressure to end American military involvement, causing one to decline to run again for the highest office in the world.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I do not believe that I should devote an hour or a day of my time to any personal partisan causes or to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office, the Presidency of your country. Accordingly, I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President. But let men everywhere know, however, that a strong and a confident and a vigil...

NARRATOR: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1968 and that statement by President Lyndon Banes Johnson that the stage for one of Maine's proudest moments. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You're listening to the Sounds of the 60s, a transcribed WLBZ News and Special Events documentary looking back at the decade just passed, perhaps the most important 10 years in the history of the United States.

NARRATOR: The 1960s marked the meteoric rise of one of Maine's political giants, Senator Edmund S. Muskie. The decade saw the lanky Waterville lawmaker, who started his political career in the Maine House of Representatives, emerge to national prominence as perhaps no Maine lawmaker has ever before. Maine's first popularly elected Democratic Senator in 1958, Senator Muskie ran for re-election in 1964 and won in a landslide. From there on, it was nowhere but up.

NARRATOR 2: Increasingly, the Muskie name was heard in political circles. August 26, 1964, and the pointed honor of seconding the Presidential nomination of Lyndon Johnson at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

MUSKIE: It is also the test by which we must measure the man who will lead us during the next four years. We need a man of compassion who feels the stirring in men's hearts. Lyndon Johnson is that man. [Applause]

NARRATOR: 1968, another Presidential year. President Johnson, who could have had the nomination hands down, had ruled himself out. The race for the Democratic nomination was now wide open. McCarthy, Kennedy, Humphrey, McGovern, all possibles. McCarthy preaching the gospel of peace. Kennedy felled by an assassin's bullet. Humphrey following the Johnson line. The pressures kept building up to the climax, those fateful days in August, 1968, that saw the Democratic Convention split wide open, both within and without. Outside the convention hall, mobs of long-haired militants battled police, provoking them with obscenities, pelting them with filth.

NARRATOR 2: Inside the hall, tempers flared. Delegates were forcibly ejected as were newsmen. There were cries of demagoguery against Chicago Mayor Richard Daly, who ruled with an iron hand. On August 28, the crucial balloting.

AUDIO from CONVENTION: ... votes for Senator McCarthy. And now Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania, 130 votes. [Crowd cheering] There seems to be an awareness on the floor. Pennsylvania casts one and one half votes for Phillips, three quarters of a vote for Senator Ted Kennedy, two and one half votes for Senator McGovern, 21 and one half votes Senator McCarthy, and 103 and three quarters votes... [Crowd cheers] That does it. So, the Democratic Party has a nominee, Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, over the top.

NARRATOR: Hubert H. Humphrey, the Democratic standard-bearer, for the nominee for the 1968 campaign. Then, speculation. What about the second spot on the ticket? The Muskie name featured prominently. After hours of waiting, the word came late in the afternoon of August 29<sup>th</sup>.

HUMPHREY: Very distinguished United States Senator. And I think one of the most capable, experienced and able men in government today. He is the United States Senator from Maine, Mr. Edmund Muskie. [Applause]

NARRATOR: On the convention floor, the nomination was seconded by Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma.

HARRIS: And it is in the spirit of this pledge that I shall nominate for the high office of Vice-President of the United States, United States Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. [Applause and music]

NARRATOR: The Humphrey-Muskie ticket went down to a narrow margin In the November election that saw President Nixon edge out his opponent by a hair-breadth. But the 1960s gave Maine a Vice-Presidential candidate 100 years from the decade that saw Bangor's Hannibal Hamlin serve under Abraham Lincoln. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You're listening to the Sounds of the 60s, a WLBZ News and Special Events documentary going back over the decade that ended just a few short hours ago, reliving the events that may shape our lives for decades to come. [Music]

NARRATOR: Historians are want to draw parallels between different ages. The similarities, at times, cause one to believe that history, after all, is repeating itself. One hundred years ago, the 1860s had a nation torn by strife. IN the 1960s, violence and unrest swept the country. In the 1860s, one of the great men of the ages, Abraham Lincoln, felled by an assassin's bullet as he attended Ford's Theater in Washington. In the 1960s, a young President on the edge of greatness, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, struck down in his prime on that fateful day in Dallas. One hundred years ago, the news of Lincoln's death reached the people slowly, by word of mouth and by newspaper. On November 22, 1963, the nation learned instantly.

REPORTER: This is an NBC News Bulletin. There is a report from Dallas that President Kennedy has been shot. Here is a late report from Bob Thornton in Dallas.

THORNTON: Information is still sketchy at this time. We have just talked with two eye-witnesses, a man and his wife who were standing near the President's motorcade. They said that a shot rang out from behind them. They thought at first it was a firecracker. Then, according to the eye witnesses, one woman who was in a hysterical condition, told us that the President was hit in the side of the head and fell into his wife Jacqueline's arms. He was rushed to Dallas Parkland Hospital. We have not had confirmation at this moment as to whether he was actually hit, his condition, or any further details. This is Bob Thornton in Dallas for NBC News. [Music]

NARRATOR: The nation was rocked by two other assassinations in the 60s. In April of 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, one of the great Civil Rights leaders of the age, was shot down on the balcony of his Memphis hotel. President Johnson spoke to a shocked nation.

JOHNSON: America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King. I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King, who lived by nonviolence. I pray that his family can find comfort in the memory of all he tried to do for the land he loved so well. I have just conveyed the sympathy of Mrs. Johnson and myself.... [Music]

NARRATOR: The third assassination that rocked the nation occurred in the early morning hours of June 4, 1968. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, riding the peak of his campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination, was being interviewed by Mutual Network newsman, Andrew West, following a political rally at a Los Angeles hotel.

KENNEDY: My thanks to all of you and now it's on to Chicago and let's win there. [Crowd cheers]

WEST: Senator, how are you going to counter Mr. Humphreys and his background as far as the delegate votes go.

KENNEDY: Guess we're just going to have to struggle for it.

WEST: Senator Kennedy has been... Senator Kennedy has been shot. Is that possible? Is that possible, ladies and gentlemen? It is possible. He has been, not only Senator Kennedy, oh, my god, Senator Kennedy has been shot, and another man, a Kennedy campaign manager, and possibly shot in the head. I am right here. [?] Johnson has ahold of a man who apparently has fired the shot. He has tried to... he still has the gun, the gun is pointed at me at this moment. I hope they can get the gun out of his hand. Be very careful. Get that gun. Stay away from the gun. His hand is frozen. Get his thumb. Take a hold of his thumb. Break it if you have to. Get away from the barrel. Look out for the gun. OK. All right.

NARRATOR 2: One of the most dramatic spot broadcasts of all time. Mutual Network News on the scene. [Music]

NARRATOR: The 1960s gave Maine its first Vice-Presidential candidate since the days of Lincoln. The decade also gave the Pine Tree State the distinction of having the first woman candidate for President of any major political party. It started on January 27, 1964, when Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Skowhegan made the expected announcement in an unexpected way.

SMITH: As gratifying as are the reasons advanced urging me to run, I find the reasons advanced my running to be far more compelling. For were I to run, it would be under severe limitations with respect to lack of money, lack of organization, and lack of time, because of the requirements to be on the job in Washington doing my elected duty instead of abandoning those duties to campaign, plus the very heavy odds against me. So because of these very compelling reasons against my running, I have decided, that I shall. {Audience slowly erupts in laughter and applause}

NARRATOR: The gracious lady Senator was no stranger to the campaign trail. New Hampshire was the first state for Mrs. Smith in her first national campaign. She met the voter on equal terms, no hoopla, no large staff, no elaborate travel or speaking arrangements. A typical Smith campaign, quiet, unassuming, and effective. Many laughed at the idea of a woman running for the Presidency of the United States, but Margaret Chase Smith was serious. On July 15, 1964, fellow Senator and New Englander, George Akin of Vermont, placed the name of the lady Senator from Maine in nomination.

AKIN: The great Republican State of Maine, Senator Margaret Chase Smith. [Applause and music]

REPORTER 1: Now we have the beginnings of a Margaret Chase Smith demonstration. The first reporters are pouring in through the central doorway, the main entrance, and fanning out on either side. A very brisk march being played by the band is helping her demonstrators get right down, through the aisles and around to the sides. Carrying signs, Margaret Chase Smith for President.

REPORTER 2: This is the fourth one of these things we're seeing here today, now, and it appears to be about the size of the demonstration for the Governor of New York, Nelson Rockefeller. A great many signs, all reading Smith. Certainly an enthusiastic crowd. A lot of young people out here, many men and women, supporting this lady from Maine for President.

REPORTER 1: Speaking of the young age of the demonstrators, many a candidate has said in the past that if could only count on the hundreds, or perhaps thousands of demonstrators who walk around...

ANNOUNCER: We go now to NBC's Charles Quinn who is with Senator Smith on the convention floor.

QUINN: [voice muffled] some questions. I'll see if we can pick up some of her answers. Mrs. Smith, what do you think of this demonstration for ;you?

SMITH: It's wonderful. Wonderful. I'm impressed beyond words. [inaudible] for nominating me. That's the greatest tribute.

NARRATOR: Governor John Reed, heading the Maine delegation to the San Francisco convention, cast the favorite daughter vote.

REED: Mr. Chairman, the State of Maine casts 14 votes for Senator Margaret Chase Smith. [Crowd Cheers].

REPORTER: As expected, Maine votes for its favorite daughter.

NARRATOR: And although she did not win the nomination, it was a moment of triumph for Mrs. Smith and for Maine, and perhaps the moment in history when the way was opened for a woman President of the United States. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You're listening to the Sounds of the 60s, a transcribed documentary of the decade just passed by WLBZ News and Special Events. We pause now for 70 seconds for station identification. [Music]

NARRATOR: The 60s, a decade of progress for the City of Bangor.

NARRATOR 2: Urban Renewal, voted in in the most hotly contested referendum ever seen in Bangor, and still a matter of controversy. A new high school, one of the most modern in Maine. A new \$10 million campus for Husson College, ranking it among the best in New England. A municipal golf course, an industrial park, and the most precious jewel in the Queen City's crown, Bangor International Airport. Formerly Dow Air Force Base, the Bangor facility has become one of the major jetports on the East Coast. As a military installation, Dow became an integral part of eastern Maine. A multi-million dollar payroll, a solid economic impact, but most of all, people. People becoming involved in community life while serving their country. Dow was regarded as permanent by most Bangorians, but there were always rumors that the base would close. On November 19, 1964, those rumors became reality with the word from the Pentagon and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, that Dow would be phased out in June of 1968. There were cries of anguish heard in Washington. The Congressional delegation voiced protest, but the decision stood. One man, City Manager Joseph R. Coupal, Jr., however, took a positive attitude.

COUPAL: John, obviously, this is not entirely unexpected. The city of Bangor has been quietly considering what action it would take if, or not if, but when, Dow Air Force Base was de-activated. I think that all of the indicators for the past 3 or 4 years have pointed toward the eventual deactivation of this base, so that it doesn't come as any great shock to us. As a matter of fact, we now...

NARRATOR: And the wheels were set in motion, a Dow Re-use Committee formed, plans were formulated. On April 15, 1968, Wing Commander James L. Flannigan throttled the last B-52 Bomber off the long, concrete runway, made a low sweep over the field in a last farewell.

REPORTER: City of Bangor. Over the flight line, 500 feet, and his wings tipped for a final salute to Dow Air Force Base and the City of Bangor. [Sound of airplane passing]

NARRATOR: Two months later, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Dow Air Force Base was officially deactivated and Bangor was handed a multi-million dollar package that was to bring the city into national and international prominence. Things started slowly at first, but then the word on Bangor International got around. Its long runways, capable of supporting the new, giant 747s, its customs and catering facility, the trans-east air international refueling crews among the fastest and most efficient in the country. The distinctively colored overseas jets of Pan American, Air France, Swiss Air, Lufthansa, TWA, were familiar sights. It became the “in” thing to do for the evening to drive out to the international arrivals area and watch the aircraft disgorge their passengers and take on fuel and food. Many carried small transistor radios tuned to the control tower frequency to listen in on the air-ground communication.

NARRATOR 2: On Friday, October 31st of 1969, Bangor International became the focal point of national and world attention. Early that morning, a young Marine Lance Corporeal, Raffaele Minichiello, hijacked a TWA California to New York jet with 39 passengers aboard. Holding the crew at bay with a carbine, he ordered a refueling stop in Denver, where the passengers were disembarked. Then on to Kennedy where two qualified overseas pilots were taken aboard. The destination, Cairo, Egypt. As the aircraft roared off the runway at Kennedy, word was flashed that the jet was headed toward Bangor International for refueling. Immediately, authorities went into action. The area was sealed off. Expert marksmen were stationed at strategic spots. All evidence of unusual activity was stifled. WLBZ News was there.

WLBZ News: Of the jets there, as the craft goes over to the refueling area, reportedly on a flight to Cairo, and I believe two more refueling stops would be necessary to make the flight to Cairo. There comes the, there goes the plane. You can hear it whistling and whining there in the background. Everybody still out of sight. No move made yet. We have a fairly good vantage point here where we can see what is going to happen. From a news man’s point of view, I was going to say we’re really close there, but of course the authorities will not permit that. But this is the first time that hijacked aircraft has ever landed at Bangor International Airport. Of course, the international airport one of the better jetports in the country today on the great circle route to Europe. Perhaps if you didn’t hear, the communication said that he’s going to fire into the building unless they get some people. I can’t see the building he’s referring to, but I think I know what it is. Oh, Roy says that the fiberglass, the green fiberglass entryway to the international arrivals building there. And this is quite a tense situation out here.

SECOND REPORTER: There it goes. There goes the hijacked aircraft, taking off now for Shannon, Ireland. Airborne at approximately 13 minutes before 2. Landed shortly after 1, so there goes the hijacked aircraft, heading for Shannon, Ireland. Steep climb, with the jet trails behind. Photographers now climbing out of the [Audio of air traffic control? Difficult to understand... Fuel on board. Cannot thank you enough for your cooperation.]

NARRATOR: Here at WLBZ, calls came in. Hawaii, the BBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, Phoenix, Arizona, Providence, Rhode Island, CBS in Boston, Salinas, California. Bangor International Airport was no longer a “What? Where?” But a definite spot on the news maps of the world. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You are listening to the Sounds of the 60s, a transcribed WLBZ News documentary covering the decade just passed, the ten years that ended just a few short hours ago with the advent of the 70s. [Music]

NARRATOR: The 60s was an era of political change in Maine, a four year term for governor, the death of a Chief Executive in office, the institution of Maine’s first personal income tax, a Vice-Presidential candidate, the first nomination of a major party of a woman for the Presidency. The change started on December 30, 1959. Governor Clinton Clauson, in office less than a year, died quietly in his sleep. John H. Reed, President of the Senate, was rushed to the State Capital by a special escort to take the oath of office. On January 19, 1960, the new Governor made his first official speech before a special session of the 99<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

REED: Mr. President, and members of the 99<sup>th</sup> Legislature, we meet on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1960, under challenging circumstances. We have come together, in the 140<sup>th</sup> year of our statehood, at an hour when the citizens of Maine mourn the passing of a kind and capable man who was our Governor. Whatever political faith we may avow, whatever our vocation or environment, all of us share a personal sense of loss in the untimely death of the honorable...

NARRATOR: Shortly after that first address, the youthful Governor announced his intentions of running in the special election in November for the remaining two years of the late Governor Clauson’s term. At the polls that year, a resounding victory for Republican Reed, defeating his Democratic opponent Frank Coffin by a resounding margin of more than 22,000 votes. On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1961, John H. Reed was sworn into office in solemn ceremonies at the State House.

AUDIO of REED Ceremony: As Governor, according to the Constitution and the laws of the state, so help me God. That John H. Reed is Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of Maine and the due obedience should be rendered to all his acts and commands as such. God save the State of Maine. Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Legislature, it gives me great pleasure to introduce his excellency, the Governor of the State of Maine. [Applause] [Music]

NARRATOR: Governor Reed exercised quiet control from the corner office. His term was not spectacular. He described himself as not an arch conservative, but certainly not a liberal, either. With a Republican Legislature and Executive Council, the road was not a controversial one for Maine’s Chief Executive. In 1962, Governor Reed ran for his first full, four year term, and although he won, his victory was not the triumph of 1960. He squeaked by Democrat Maynard C. Dolloff by under a thousand votes. As in the past, Governor Reed’s term was not spectacular, but he was described by most as a good Governor, his own man. 1964 was not a gubernatorial year. If it had been, perhaps John H. Reed would have gone back to Fort Fairfield, the family potato business, and his hobby of harness racing. 1964 was

a deluge. The Democrats, headed at the top of the ballot by Senator Muskie, swept off to victory, taking virtually every office from the top on down. When the political waters receded, Governor Reed was faced with a Democratic Legislature, and an all-Democratic Executive Council, with the power to block his every move. But Governor Reed kept his cool and proved that he was the man for the job. The remaining two years of his term were marked by a surprising harmony between the GOP Chief Executive and the Legislature and Council. 1966 was an election year and the office of Governor was up for grabs. On February 24, Governor Reed announced that he was definitely not to be counted out.

REED: I am grateful to the people of Maine for the faith and trust they have placed in me. Our future is exciting and challenging. I am eager to take part in this dramatic and productive chapter of Maine history. For all these reasons, I am announcing my candidacy for reelection as Governor.

NARRATOR: A little over 2 weeks later, the Governor had his opponent, Secretary of State Kenneth Curtis.

CURTIS: I am as of this date a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Almost one hundred years ago, Governor Joshua Chamberlain outlined his philosophy of government in these words, "A government has something more to do than to govern, and to levy taxes to pay the Governor. It is something more than a police to arrest the evil and punish wrong. It must also encourage good, point out improvements, open roads of prosperity, and infuse life into all like enterprises. It should combine the best minds of the state...

NARRATOR: Then the June primaries, with both Reed and Curtis emerging as their party's choices. The campaign was a long and arduous one. The Reed slogan, Seven, Come Eleven. The Democratic rallying cry, Too Long in Office, Time for a Change. And evidently, the Maine electoral thought so, and inundated the incumbent by more than 20,000 votes, ironically almost the margin by which he first won office at the polls. Maine had a new governor and in the early morning hours of November 9, Kenneth M. Curtis spoke to his supporters.

CURTIS: Maine is going to forge ahead. But prosperity is not going to be automatic. It won't come simply because we want it to. But progress and prosperity are going to come to Maine because we're going to work to see that they do. [Applause]

NARRATOR: On January 5, 1967, Maine had the distinction of inaugurating the youngest governor in the nation.

REPORTER: We see at a place of honor Senator Edmund S. Muskie, former Governor Horace Cooper. [Sounds of applause] The Governor is now standing, acknowledging the applause, and is about ready to speak.

CURTIS: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and members of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, we live in an age of paradox. Affluence and poverty are both on the march throughout the world. Challenge and opportunity are

found, but only for some. The wonders of science thrust man toward the stars while the shackles of poverty still sink men into despair. The technological revolution has brought great things in our way of life.

NARRATOR: Governor Curtis was confronted with a Reed situation in reverse, a Democratic Chief Executive and a Republican Legislature and Council. However, things went as smoothly as possible. On January 9, 1969, Governor Curtis addressed the newly elected members of the Republican 104<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and he dropped the bomb that will have definite repercussions at the polls next November.

CURTIS: One of these recommendations, in following the lead of 38 states, I must conclude that the time is now upon us when Maine must consider a personal and a corporate income tax. The Citizens Task Force on Municipal and State Revenues found no evidence that either a state corporate or personal income tax would harm the economy or the welfare of Maine citizens. And as income taxes are based on earnings, and reflect the principle of ability to pay, they will bear most lightly on Maine citizens with low incomes, retirement pensions, the aged, and the farms. Income taxes will also provide more productive sources for future state revenues that will be needed. So in view of the facts presented, I make the following recommendation: the institution of a corporate income tax of 5% of net income earned in Maine and a personal income tax of approximately 25% of the federal income tax obligation. This will produce...

NARRATOR: The 104<sup>th</sup> did not give the Governor the package he requested, but in the longest and one of the most heated sessions on record, the Maine taxpayer definitely took a beating. For the first time, a personal and corporate income tax for the Pine Tree State, plus a hike in the sales, gasoline, and cigarette taxes. Maine, with a high percentage of persons on fixed incomes and one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country, became an expensive place to live in the financially soaring 60s. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You are listening to the Sounds of the 60s, a special WLBZ News documentary going back through the ten years that ended at midnight last night.

NARRATOR: The 1960s marked the year of the big move for Radio Station WLBZ. Long a fixture at 100 Main Street, more than 30 years, Radio 62 moved to its present location, the specially designed radio building on Broadway, the transmitter location. Complete facilities geared to modern broadcasting enable WLBZ to serve better the eastern Maine community with news, information, and entertainment. On April 24, 1960, WLBZ opened the new era with the first broadcast from the radio building.

AUDIO from 1960 broadcast: And how far behind is that year of 1926. But progress is our key. Now before Norm plays us another tune from that year, here's a telegram received, addressed to Edward Guernsey of Radio Station WLBZ, our Manager. Please accept heartiest congratulations on your move to a new, modern radio building. This is indeed another first and a significant step by station WLBZ, eastern Maine's first full-time commercial radio station. And this is from the Weed Radio Corporation, our representative advertising agency. And all the staff of WLBZ were out here this afternoon, looking very happy indeed.

NARRATOR: During the nearly ten years here on Broadway, WLBZ has seen a decade of progress, a decade of change. Perhaps the most dramatic and meaningful in the history of the state, the nation, and the world. Many things came to pass that were earlier never dreamed of. Figures emerged to prominence to influence our lives for years to come. Events took place that will be felt perhaps 100 years from now. In the 60s, all these things. In the 70s, what? Man may forecast, men may try to foretell. But in the final analysis, we shape our own destinies. The 70s, men reaching for the stars. Perhaps the future was foretold in the words of astronaut Neil Armstrong as he set foot on the moon, one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. [Audio from moon landing] [Music]

ANNOUNCER: You have been listening to the Sound of the 60s, the WLBZ News and Special Events documentary of the decade just passed. The Sound of the 60s was written by John Wellington and produced by Hal Wheeler. This is the Maine Broadcasting Company.

[Music]

[transcript ends]

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