Olivia Maynard

Interviewed by
Lynn Jondahl

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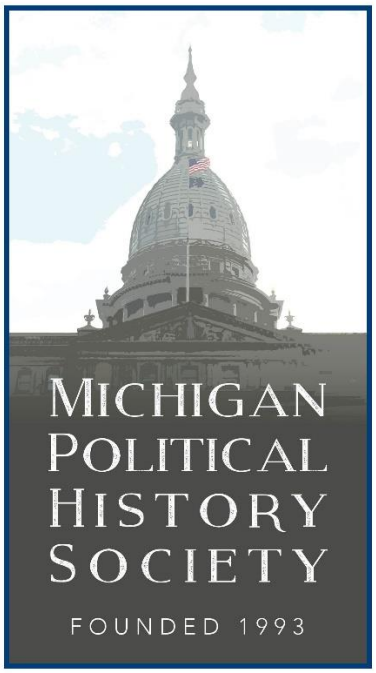
P.O. Box 4684
East Lansing, MI 48826-4684



Lynn Jondahl: Hello. My name is Lynn Jondahl and I'm here on behalf of the Michigan Political History Society to talk today with Olivia, better known as Libby Maynard. Ms. Maynard has played an active role in Michigan's political history. Well shall we say, Libby, for almost five decades. Does it sound worse if I say that or 50 years and continues, fortunately for us and fortunately for the people of Michigan, continues in that active role.

Lynn Jondahl: Libby, I'm delighted to be here with you and I'm looking forward to learning about your experience.

Olivia Maynard: Thanks, Lynn, and I can't think of a better person that I'd like to spend this next hour with just talking about political kinds of issues and issues that are important to the state of Michigan.

Lynn Jondahl: If we could gather here, to talk today, members of your family and friends who knew you as you were growing up in Ohio, and we were just chatting, would they be surprised that Libby Maynard is today, a key political figure in Michigan's political history?

Olivia Maynard: They probably, when they knew me when I was very little, probably wouldn't be surprised that I was getting into trouble so that wouldn't surprise them at all and I always thought my mother and dad who were very staunch and conservative republicans, were sort of glad I moved to Michigan so they didn't have to deny their daughter. But, it is something, when I look back, I had an interest in from the time I was quite young.

Olivia Maynard: I can remember after World War II, going with my dad, who was vice mayor of this little village, and they were having a big argument in city council about whether they should put new plumbing in the jail and I thought that was really exciting. Now can you imagine someone thinking that kind of discussion is exciting?

Lynn Jondahl: No.

Olivia Maynard: I can't either, but it was to me and it was somehow, that give and take and I did get involved in some political campaigns when I was younger. I handed out campaign literature for Potter Stewart, who eventually became a justice of the supreme court. He was running for city council in Cincinnati.

Lynn Jondahl: Running for city council.

Olivia Maynard: Right. City council in Cincinnati.

Lynn Jondahl: On a partisan ticket?

Olivia Maynard: At that time, I think it was nonpartisan but of course he was a republican and probably would be a democrat today given the difference in the parties. And

then my mother was afraid to make phone calls so I made phone calls on her behalf and said I was Betty Benedict and I was calling for Eisenhower. So, I was still a republican because I was raised an Episcopalian and Episcopalian Republican, sort of all one word. So that's what I was.

Olivia Maynard: I fought with my dad on issues from the time I was 12. We'd get into a big fight. What are the causes of slums in Cincinnati and I knew he was wrong and when I turned 30 and I still knew he was wrong, I felt so good. So that sense of moral justice and that something wasn't going right was there, even though I was raised in an upper middle class family in Cincinnati.

Lynn Jondahl: What were the kinds of issues that excited you?

Olivia Maynard: The issues were the way minority people were treated. At that time, there was a great deal of prejudice against Jews in Cincinnati, and that just outraged me. That just really made me angry. The assumptions that because people lived in the slums of Cincinnati, that somehow they were at fault and there was no sense that there was something wrong in the system that helped create that happening.

Olivia Maynard: So it was those kinds of human kinds of issues that really bothered me and that I would get upset about. I never thought about that I would end up resolving. I mean, probably, when I was a kid, I would have wanted to go into the ministry, except the Episcopal church didn't allow women to go into the ministry and so I felt the discrimination that because you're female, you can't do what you think you should do.

Lynn Jondahl: What was your interests, the nature of your interest, in the ministry and in the church?

Olivia Maynard: Well, except for my father, I think for five, six generations back, there have been ministers in the family and number of bishops and priests, et cetera, and so I did in my first marriage, I did the next best thing. I married a minister 'cause I couldn't be one but that's always a mistake and not fair to the person you marry.

Olivia Maynard: The Episcopal church didn't open till, by the time they did, then I no longer had the interest. I had found my way to work on issues and causes in a different way.

Lynn Jondahl: Think some about the relationship between the church and the kind of issues you were involved in. Was there, in your mind, a real connection there?

Olivia Maynard: At that time, i don't think the church that I attended, was really interested in some of the issues that I was interested but I hadn't made that connection yet, that there was a disconnect there and the spiritual side was important to me. I did feel that there was some kind of religion that made sense to me. You don't

think about it when you're five years old, singing in the choir, you don't think about that. It's just something you feel and it makes you feel like you're a part of something and that's important.

Lynn Jondahl: Is it fair to ask you, do you remember one of the early things that stimulated this daughter of a comfortable background becoming outraged by the injustice. Did this happen at 15 in a school experience? How did that?

Olivia Maynard: I have thought about that. I think what it is, my parents and my grandmother and people had people who worked for them and those often were people of color or people who were not of the same economic status as we were and that's where I spent my time and that's where I got a lot of love and care and people listened to me. So I think it was more the positive that someone brought to me caring and family. Not that my parents weren't good mothers and fathers, they just didn't give the same kind of love that I felt when I was in the kitchen helping Jewel cook or whatever.

Olivia Maynard: And I saw one of my earliest social protests when my parents were having a party and there were a lot of African Americans there working in the kitchen and one of the women spit in one of the drinks that she went in and served into the guests. And I thought, well that's one way that you deal with it. You don't have the right yet to really go beyond, but it's really one way to deal with an injustice. So that was one of the earlier protests that I saw.

Lynn Jondahl: So you saw that in a positive light?

Olivia Maynard: I saw it in a positive light. I certainly didn't run and tell my mother. I actually, I remember thinking, well that's sort of neat and funny. So, maybe that's a little perverse, but that's what I thought.

Lynn Jondahl: How did you carry your concerns to your family? Was politics the actions in the community, the activity in the community, were these part of mealtime discussions or did you go know on your father's door and say, "I've got something I need to talk about?"

Olivia Maynard: Dinner time. And there were many dinner times when I left the dinner table in tears before dinner was over because I had lost one more fight with my dad and that's okay. I came back the next night. And it didn't happen every night. It would just be if he'd say something that just was so blatantly didn't make sense and was prejudice. So that's when I'd jump in.

Olivia Maynard: I'm the middle child and middle children often do these kind of things.

Lynn Jondahl: Oh I identify with that.

Olivia Maynard: You identify with that. You too, right?

Lynn Jondahl: How did this get carried out in school as you went to school? Were you political active in elementary school? By that I mean were you conscious of talking about issues in your community with your school colleagues?

Olivia Maynard: Not so much. I'm not conscious of that. I had some wonderful teachers that really got us talking in class about political issues and got us thinking and I remember that the headmaster of the grade school I went to was very much into making sure his students knew about what was going on. So I was aware of that. I can't remember of a particular instance. Then when I went on to high school, I had a wonderful teacher who was into making us think about issues and thinking about how ancient history ties into current history.

Olivia Maynard: On exam that she gave us, which consisted of a single line, which, "the existence of a nation is a daily plebiscite," and that was it. That was the exam and you had to write for two hours. I thought, that just stimulated me and excited me.

Lynn Jondahl: You still have that essay?

Olivia Maynard: Probably. I am a saver. I'll have to go looking for it later.

Lynn Jondahl: When did you decide, well obviously it was after Eisenhower, when did you decide you're were going to change your party label?

Olivia Maynard: About the time I went off to college. It was a radical professor. You know how they say how universities are. But I wanted to go to Bard College, which was a wonderful experimental college of Columbia University up on the Hudson, and my parents had said no way. You can't go to that radical school. They didn't know what would happen.

Olivia Maynard: So I said okay. Then so the head mistress said, "Well, maybe you should go to Barnard, dear." And I said, "No, I'm not going to Barnard. I'm going to Sweet Briar." Which was, to me, the total rebellion. If you want let me go to some intellectual college in the east, then I'm going to go to a southern college.

Olivia Maynard: So I went to a woman's college for three years and turned out it was great. The classes were wonderful. They were small. You got to know your professors. I began rebelling after a while because I'd always gone to a girls' school. I began rebelling. It was the best thing, though, for me. Girls education, single sex, was excellent, 'cause then I could be as my competitive best and didn't have to worry about the boys and when you go to a co-ed school and you really like boys, then sometimes you don't compete as much as you should when you're that age. So that was very good.

Olivia Maynard: Then I was still conflicted. Was I gonna grow up and get a college degree, get married, raise my husbands kids, or was I gonna be my own person and I really didn't resolve that until after I moved to Michigan.

Lynn Jondahl: You were self consciously rehearsing those questions?

Olivia Maynard: Yes. Absolutely. But I really never really had the courage then to say, "Okay. I'm not gonna get married. I'm gonna go on to graduate school and I'm gonna do my thing." And I really didn't have the courage to do that. So I got married and after my third year at Sweet Briar and transferred to George Washington University and got my degree from George Washington because my husband was finishing up his last year of Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia. So that's what I did, but I was aware that there was this conflict, this turmoil going on.

Olivia Maynard: So when Betty Friedan wrote her book, it was like, "Yes, I know exactly what you're saying and that's what I'm struggling with."

Lynn Jondahl: What was the impact of moving east? Did you find yourself in more political activity or in community activity?

Olivia Maynard: I didn't really get involved then because I was finishing college and Olof was finishing school and when we moved to Flint, and then soon after we moved to Flint, that's when we both got involved.

Lynn Jondahl: When was that?

Olivia Maynard: That was in 1958. So by the 60's, we were into civil rights kinds of things and into political campaigns.

Lynn Jondahl: Now, did your husband share those values?

Olivia Maynard: Those were things we truly shared. The sense, the need for social justice. The things that were wrong. The need to organize and do something about it and we definitely, that was one thing we definitely shared.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you get your undergraduate degree in social work?

Olivia Maynard: No, I got my undergraduate degree in political science. So that interest has always been there and then the social work, I went back to social work school after all three kids were born.

Lynn Jondahl: Why social work then?

Olivia Maynard: Well, I knew I didn't want to teach because I had taught, as a college student, I had taught on the Navajo Reservation and they put me in charge of a class of Navajo who spoke no English and I didn't speak any Navajo, and it was a disaster. So I decided I wasn't set up to be teacher, but again, I wasn't and I knew I wanted to do something that made a difference. Although I worried because I was back in the time of the great society. I thought, "My God, I'll graduate and there won't be any jobs because we will have solved everything. God, I wish I were still back there."

Olivia Maynard: When I think back on it now, probably if I really had the courage, I would have not gotten married, gone to grad school and maybe gone to law school, just because that gives you a lot of tools. Not because I love lawyers, necessarily, and they're always wonderful, but the one I'm married to now is, but they're not by nature. It just gives you wonderful tools, or have gotten a combination of social work, law degree, would have been. I also recommended that to a lot of young women. That's great combination to have, 'cause it gives you both sides of the tool to make interventions and to make a difference.

Olivia Maynard: But I decided I wanted to go into social work because that would give me the opportunity to do some of the things that I had been wanting to do. I went back to school about the same time that I got involved in the state democratic party, so it all sort of happened at the same time.

Lynn Jondahl: Give me a year.

Olivia Maynard: Well, let's see. I ran for recording secretary in the state democratic party in 1967. And in '68 I went back to social work school and then the University of Michigan was willing to let me go part time and then full time, part time. So that enabled me to work for the state party and also go to school and take care of my kids.

Olivia Maynard: It was also about that time that my marriage was dissolving so I had to juggle all of that.

Lynn Jondahl: What did you think you would do with that social work degree?

Olivia Maynard: I wasn't really sure. I knew I wanted to get into something that made a social impact and I specialized in administration and policy, because I didn't think I could go into the inner city having small kids. So I didn't want to do the community organizing but you get a lot of community organizing. So I knew I wanted to do something out of the, not in group work, not in case work. I wanted to do something that would go out. I like what Saul Alinsky did. So I wanted to figure out, I didn't know how it would take shape. I didn't probably, at that moment, realize it would mean that I would spend a lot of my life in political activities, but that's a wonderful way to try to make a difference in terms of the system and how do you change the system.

Olivia Maynard: That's why you end up getting into politics.

Lynn Jondahl: So your focus was really policy?

Olivia Maynard: Absolutely.

Lynn Jondahl: Focus not so much a clinical?

Olivia Maynard: My focus was on policy and how do you change the policy and how do you, as an administrator, make a difference that could help change the policy? Exactly.

Lynn Jondahl: Let's back up a bit. You came to Michigan in the late '50's, '58 or so. Your community involvement then focused around civil rights activity?

Olivia Maynard: Absolutely.

Lynn Jondahl: Because of your role in the church or was that?

Olivia Maynard: There was a group, there were a group of us, Lynn. There were mostly Catholic lay people and clergy, Protestant clergy and their spouses. Most of the spouses were female and we got very involved in fair housing. We were involved in the first fair housing legislation, I guess in the country and passed a fair housing ordinance in Flint.

Olivia Maynard: We were also involved in integrating housing. There was a group called Home Incorporated where a white couple would buy a house for a mixed race couple or for an African American couple, and then sell it to them and that was a way to integrate neighborhoods. We also did a lot of picket lines. My kids used to think that Sundays was time to go picketing not picnicking, but picketing.

Olivia Maynard: So, they'd be out there with their picket signs. There were those kind of things. I did not get south. I was either pregnant or had little kids and I really, I thought about that. I did not feel that I wanted to do that. But we did it in Michigan.

Lynn Jondahl: That experience carried on for a period of time. Were you then also involved in partisan politics?

Olivia Maynard: There was an overlap there and certainly once I got involved in the state democratic party. Most of the friends, the close friends, that Olof and I have today, were all people one time or another, had been in that civil rights movement and a lot of them moved on to be judges or legislators or whatever, but we carried that passion into the party.

Olivia Maynard: We certainly carried it into the anti-war movement and carried that into the party. They were all sort of intermixed.

Olivia Maynard: I was also at that time, a party officer and so there was that. That's a more conservative role so that was always a bit of a conflict.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you have to run in a challenge race for a party?

Olivia Maynard: I never did. I ran Zolton Ferency, who has you remember ran for governor in 1966, asked me if I would run.

Lynn Jondahl: And specifically for?

Olivia Maynard: For recording secretary and would I run against Kay Nye. I think Kay's husband was a professor at MSU. I said, sure. I didn't know Kay Nye, but I thought that would be fun. I didn't even think about it. I said sure.

Olivia Maynard: Of course she pulled out of the race so no one ran against me and the entire time I ran for recording secretary, for vice chair, and for chair of the democratic party, I never had anyone run against me.

Lynn Jondahl: Oh. Eat your heart out.

Olivia Maynard: It's an easy way to run. Right?

Olivia Maynard: So it was relatively easy. But you work hard. You have to honor all the counties and districts and you do a lot of work with them and you keep in touch and you always work with them because they're really the backbone of the party and so you always honor them and work with them and it makes a difference.

Lynn Jondahl: You mentioned, and I'd be interested in hearing you reflect some more, because there had to be a tension all the way through your partisan involvement, tension between commitment to issues and commitment to the structure of the party and the operation of the party where I'm assuming you're trying there to be as broad based and inclusive as possible and sometimes the issues are divisive.

Olivia Maynard: Exactly. I can remember one in particular where I thought I was probably dead. Literally. Do you remember, it was a state central meeting at MSU and we were voting on the issue of open primary and it won the state central committee voted for an open primary by one vote.

Lynn Jondahl: What was your role in that convention? Were you in office?

Olivia Maynard: I was in office. I think I was either recording secretary or vice chair, at the time. Of course the labor movement wanted a closed primary. As you know the labor movement is very influential in the democratic party. Not necessarily in the broader democratic party but in the organization and they were against it.

Olivia Maynard: I voted for the open primary and I thought Sam Fishman would literally kill me. I found out later there were a lot of us that felt like we were the one vote.

Lynn Jondahl: Sam was at that time?

Olivia Maynard: He was the director of the UAW. So he's a very powerful person. I couldn't vote the other way 'cause I think maybe have been wrong. I think maybe a closed primary might have been more for strengthening the party but I believe that it was right so I voted for an open primary.

Lynn Jondahl: So do you think today you would support?

Olivia Maynard: I think today I might support a closed primary if we were to have, because I would prefer people who say they are democrats and people say they are republicans to make the decisions that move things on the next step up.

Olivia Maynard: I think I probably would and you could argue both sides of the issue. La Follette certainly said an open primary was the more open way to make decisions but I'm not sure in reality that is as helpful.

Lynn Jondahl: I'm moving out of a historical thing, but you raise an interesting point.

Lynn Jondahl: Do you think the democratic party and the republican party are weaker because of a lack of party discipline than they were at an earlier period? Do you have that sense? Or is that a problem for us at the present time in terms of our political lives?

Olivia Maynard: I'm not sure the fact of open primaries or those, I don't think that's been the problem within the parties. I mean discipline sometimes is substituted for control and power and the politicians I dislike the most are the ones that are in it for the power and the control and so I would prefer the opportunity to have the discussions and have the discourse that may not be everybody in agreement. So I think the problem, at least the democratic party is having today, is we're gonna have to figure out a way without giving up who we are to translate that to people outside of our party.

Olivia Maynard: I think the republican party is more trouble than they realize they are. I think the seeds of their own destruction are in the way they are behaving today but I may not live to see that.

Lynn Jondahl: The party, you describe a background of activism and community activism, issue activism and so on. At the same time you reflect on the struggle within the party for control. How come they turn to you to choose a leader in this, someone who comes from an activist background. What was the reason for approaching Libby Maynard to say will you become our, well work through the offices, to finally become chair?

Olivia Maynard: I'm not sure it's because I necessarily pleased them but that they knew that I was honest with them. That I would work with them. That at least we had one goal in mind. That we both agreed on, is that we felt that in terms of what happened to the state or to the nation, was better if a democrat got elected. So they knew they could trust me and I think trust is important. But I certainly wasn't like a lot of them because a lot of, mostly men, but some women too, were really into power.

Olivia Maynard: I mean, Lynn, you were different in the legislature. You had colleagues that were in to power and then there were people like you that cared about the issues and that's why you ran. You sometimes had to compromise, but people knew they could trust you. Hopefully that was why they felt there was a trust there and

that I would work hard and that I would work to make a difference and that I would bring people together rather than split them apart. I think they decided that made sense.

Lynn Jondahl: You were breaking new ground though.

Olivia Maynard: Yeah, right.

Lynn Jondahl: You were, weren't you, the first woman to chair the Democratic Party?

Olivia Maynard: First woman and unfortunately, the only woman so far. Republicans have done better, I mean, I won't comment on the people, but they have done better in terms of women. Yeah, right.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you face unique challenges? Was there difficulty in a woman operating in the smoke filled rooms? Was that a harder role than it might have been for someone else?

Olivia Maynard: I think that women always have the trouble, even today, of being taken seriously right away. They may turn to Joe Smith sitting on your right, rather than ask you your opinion. I think that was a problem and it continued to be a problem. It was a problem when I was chair. I just viewed it as a problem that I just had to overcome. Then when people say to you, "Why are you so forceful?" It's like, "You don't understand?" It's how you have to do it. If a male were behaving in that manner, no one would think anything of it. I think women and men both have that problem with women who are leaders. I think that is a problem.

Lynn Jondahl: Women and men?

Olivia Maynard: Women and men. I think women sometime react to other women who are forceful and think, oh they're being screechy or bitchy or whatever.

Lynn Jondahl: So you couldn't assume that you would've had support of other women just because you were running for a position in the party?

Olivia Maynard: When I was active in the party, no. Maybe today, women have moved beyond that. I certainly see the wonderful grounds well for women candidates for Debbie Stabenow, Jennifer Granholm, with the women voters and the women in the party are really excited. When I was active in the party, that's when the women's caucus got started and we were still in the early stages of the women's movement. If a group of women decided you didn't act the way they wanted, they would basically shun you. I can remember, Olga Madar, you remember? She was vice chair of the UAW, so she'd made her way but she didn't want to keep that door open for anyone to come after her. I remember Olga was a formidable shunner.

Lynn Jondahl: So she didn't see her role as one that was the stepping stone.

Olivia Maynard: No, she did not. I think women, and there are still today women that aren't that way, but more and more women realize that you have to keep that door open. Because otherwise you got to bring your sisters along. I mean we were still acting even though we were a majority in numbers, we were acting like a minority group. Which is sometimes you step on people within your own group because you've been stepped on so long. And so you take on the characteristic of your captor.

Lynn Jondahl: When you got involved and decided to get involved actively in the party, you could see it was going. You were going to hold off as if you were going to do that, it was going to take major time. You had family responsibilities. You were concerned about a number of other things. Who did you commiserate with? Did you have a family council? Did it go beyond that to say I'm going to really now make a major commitment of time and energy. That's what I'm considering. I need to talk with you about that. Who did you commiserate with?

Olivia Maynard: I spent some time in therapy. So my therapist was very helpful. And then I had a couple of female friends in Flint that were very helpful. And then there was this wonderful woman, Shirley McGee who helped me raise my kids. She was their other mother. And so I had them.

Olivia Maynard: But there are also a lot of lonely times too. When you're doing something new, there are a lot of times when you're your own counsel. So it was a combination of people there to help you but also learning how to, the way I function in my life, it someone knocks me down, so then I cry, and then I take a deep breath and I say no. And then I just go. So that's basically the way I function. But there were women there to help me, definitely. And as I said therapy was helpful too.

Lynn Jondahl: When Zolton Ferency came to you, he was party chair at that time?

Olivia Maynard: Well he had just run-

Lynn Jondahl: Run for governor.

Olivia Maynard: Remember that disastrous year, 1966? And he had run and was soundly defeated. And then he was running again for chair of the party. So he was putting together, it was the anti Neil Staebler group and he was putting it together and that's when he came and asked me to run.

Lynn Jondahl: Were you the first woman to run for that office?

Olivia Maynard: No, that was Kay Nye, I think her husband was a professor.

Lynn Jondahl: Oh she had held the position.

Olivia Maynard: She had held the position. She was the incumbent. But Zolton was running against all of the incumbents. And so he got me to run against Kay Nye, he got Nancy Waters to run against whoever was corresponding secretary and Patty Knox on her own decided she was going to run against whoever was vice chair. And then Ken Hilton was the other vice chair. So that was the team.

Lynn Jondahl: So that was the slate you were on. Hearing those names suggest was subconscious effort to bring diversity to that slate?

Olivia Maynard: The party at that time had this sort of quota thing they did and that was if there were two secretaries and one was white and one was African American, there were two vice chairs and one was white and one was African American. So that's the way they did it. And also within the party rules, if the chair is a male, the first vice chair has to be female. So that was the way. Now today, they have a page full of officers so the functioning and the structure are different but I don't think the officers today have the same kind of role they did. I think it's more of a lot of staff people that do a lot of the work.

Lynn Jondahl: At what point was it when you ran for chair of the party, is that when you were breaking new ground?

Olivia Maynard: That was when it would have been a first. Morley Winograd, I was vice chair, Morley Winograd was chair. And he stepped down about a fourth of a way into his term. He had decided that he had it. And I became chair and then I ran one more time. So the state central elected me. And then the next. That would have been, let's see... Jim ran in '82, so it would have been '81 I guess that I ran for the second term.

Lynn Jondahl: So you became party chair before '81?

Olivia Maynard: I was party chair for the last Carter campaign and then for the Blanchard campaign.

Lynn Jondahl: Okay, the first Blanchard campaign.

Olivia Maynard: Right.

Lynn Jondahl: Did that put you, again, in a unique situation, just from the perspective of gender? Obviously it was unique in the sense that you were the first one in that role. Were there problems in terms of your functioning in that role with the party or was the party ready to say, okay?

Olivia Maynard: I think the party was pretty okay with it. The Labor Movement was pretty okay with it. But as I said, the one issue that I've always found in terms of being female is whether or not they'll accept your credibility. And that was just an issue. And I don't know whether that was my personality or my sense was it was more because I wasn't a man.

Lynn Jondahl: That job, party job, was it essentially a full-time job as party chair?

Olivia Maynard: Yes. I was through with that school by that time.

Lynn Jondahl: You were through school, had you done any teaching then?

Olivia Maynard: No, I didn't teach until after I left the state of Michigan. One other thing, I should talk about is in 1978, which was sort of a surprise, but it was exciting, Bill Fitzgerald asked me to run with him. He ran against Bill Milliken for governor and I ran for lieutenant governor. And that was before I was state party chair.

Lynn Jondahl: Before you were chair?

Olivia Maynard: Right.

Lynn Jondahl: So you had been active in the party and Senator Fitzgerald came to you after he had his nomination and said will you run with me?

Olivia Maynard: Right he did.

Lynn Jondahl: And talk a little bit about that process. What did he say and what did you go through in making that decision.

Olivia Maynard: Well of course people interview you. You can't just sit there and not do anything. And then they come and tap you on the shoulder. So you have to be willing to go through the interviews. And from his staff people, Rick Cole, who is very active in Fitzgerald's campaign. And I think in the end one of the reasons that I was selected was that I balanced Fitz off. Because he's right to life, I'm choice. And we understood that going in that we would be different on that.

Lynn Jondahl: How did you deal with that in that campaign?

Olivia Maynard: He definitely didn't go to any of the Planned Parenthood events. But I did get sent to Catholic events. I would just go in. I went to places where sometimes the priest wouldn't talk to me. But that was okay. Everyone else would, so that was fine. I worked pretty hard. We worked hard. I know I worked hard. I'm told that I worked harder than Fitz did, but I don't know. I never saw him because we never campaigned together because you don't. You split up and go opposite directions. But I really enjoyed that campaign. It really, that was a lot of fun, people were really wonderful. The only time, and I think what was most fun, was a couple of times I had to debate Jim Brickley and of course here's someone who is a statesman.

Lynn Jondahl: Now Brickley was the lieutenant gubernatorial candidate.

Olivia Maynard: Right, exactly, Jim Brickley was running against, I was running against him. And to be able to stand up to Brickley and handle a debate with him, I felt pretty

good about that. Because that was like a freshman debating a senior. But it didn't turn out, that would be the perception going in, but it turned out fine. I did pretty well.

Lynn Jondahl: You had the reputation that you knew your stuff and were not intimidated in that kind of a setting that you were knowledgeable and articulate and I think you earned that reputation. Were there issues that in '78 that the campaign focused around?

Olivia Maynard: I'm trying to remember, there were some issues, there was a controversy over Brickley when he had been president at Eastern Michigan and I don't know remember the details. I remember that I used to get letters from professors at Eastern. I do remember that. But of course they're always mad at their president. So that's not unusual. And there was a whole, the PBB thing up in Mio, so I remember going up and visiting the pits up there. That was a really important one. There was the whole question of the Japanese airplanes that Bill Milliken had bought. It was tough running against Bill Milliken because as you look back, he was such a moderate and had reached out to so many parts of the state. So there were obviously were no issues that were so inflammatory that the citizens were willing to turn out the incumbent.

Lynn Jondahl: Who were you contending with as a potential candidate for lieutenant governor?

Olivia Maynard: Well I think I've been told, like Debbie Stabenow was interested then in running. Because I think she was probably chair of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners at the time. Debbie would have been one of them. Actually hers is the only name that comes to mind. But there were others. It was interesting because there seemed to be a sense that Bill needed to have a woman run with him that would sort of soften his macho whenever. And so, but I'm sure there were other names, I think maybe Bobbie Crim's name was mentioned.

Lynn Jondahl: He was probably Speaker of the House at that time.

Olivia Maynard: Speaker of the House at the time, yeah right. So there were some other names. I truly don't know where in terms of the decision making that Fitz made, I don't know how large the list was to begin. I'm sure if I went back and read the newspapers I could find all of that.

Lynn Jondahl: But there was a general sense at that point that it would be good strategy and it was pretty broadly accepted within the party to have a woman.

Olivia Maynard: A woman would be a good moderating force to Bill. In some ways, I probably was a total unknown and maybe that wasn't the wisest thing for him. But it sure was a great experience. And I think I would have done a fine job, even back then when I was just a baby.

Lynn Jondahl: And did you wind up addressing uniquely a set of issues because you were a woman?

Olivia Maynard: They sent me everywhere. And the only time I ran into someone who was surprised that a woman was running for lieutenant governor was out in Jackson County. And it was in some township hall and I was with another woman candidate who was running for county board. And to this old man, he was a farmer that had come in, and he thought it was fine that she was running, because she was running for county board of commission. But he could not get over a woman running for lieutenant governor. That just did not make any sense to him at all.

Lynn Jondahl: You didn't bring him around?

Olivia Maynard: No, I'm sure I didn't convince him. I'm sure it was a Republican township anyway. But I went everywhere. They did not say well you only do women's groups, you only do this kind of group. So I just basically went everywhere.

Lynn Jondahl: I do recall going down opposite sides of the street knocking on doors together.

Olivia Maynard: Knocking on doors, right. So you see I went everywhere, right?

Lynn Jondahl: That's right, that's right.

Olivia Maynard: And that was one of your first times.

Lynn Jondahl: Well it would have been. I first ran for the State House in '72.

Olivia Maynard: Okay so you had been.

Lynn Jondahl: You came out of that race, it's the day after the election, how are you feeling now and what are you thinking?

Olivia Maynard: Really glad I had done it. Sad I really didn't really want to run again and lose, which was unfortunately I did. But I was glad I had done it. And I had a wonderful sense of the citizens of this state. Well you travel to 83 counties and there's lots of differences. And they really for the most part care about what's going on and want to listen to you and shake your hand and ask you something or bring their concerns to you.

Olivia Maynard: I truly, you lose 10 pounds and you're exhausted, but I had no regrets at all. Because I'm not sure I went into it thinking oh sure. I think I went into it more thinking oh, good this is an opportunity for a woman to be a candidate, to do a good job, to have people feel positive about that happening. But I didn't really think we're going to win. So the defeat was not, it didn't hurt. I think it hurt my kids more than me. But I think I understood that going in.

Lynn Jondahl: You've been working on a campaign for months, probably a year and a half or so. You had before that been chairing the party. You now got time on your hands.

Olivia Maynard: No actually that Lynn, in '78 then I went right into being chair of the party.

Lynn Jondahl: Oh from there?

Olivia Maynard: Soon after that.

Lynn Jondahl: You stayed involved immediately.

Olivia Maynard: Yeah, right away.

Lynn Jondahl: Turned around.

Olivia Maynard: But then in 1990, so in '82 we got Jim Blanchard elected and I became the head of the state office on aging, which I would have been happy to stay on as state party chair, but my research when I was at school of social work was in gerontology. And I had worked under Wilbur Conn, I had done my research under him. So I was delighted to have that job. And they were a great bunch of staff. That was a good office.

Lynn Jondahl: So you served

Olivia Maynard: To both of Blanchard's terms.

Lynn Jondahl: To both of Blanchard's terms. He appointed you to chair the office of services and aging.

Olivia Maynard: Right.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you get involved then, were you involved as a member of the cabinet in that role? At what tables did you sit in that administration?

Olivia Maynard: That was an administration where sometimes you were part of the cabinet and sometimes you weren't. It just depended on how the governor was feeling on any given time. But you know, the great thing for me, the best quality that Jim Blanchard had is, well I knew when things were political and that I needed to consult. So he trusted me to do what was best. I never felt like he ever interfered so I could develop policy for the elderly in the state that he did not interfere. He never interfered. When something was political, then I would talk with him and he knew that. So it was a good eight years. And after that, Engler was in to everybody's department. He was a control freak. One of Jim Blanchard's assets is that he really understood, he trusted his appointees. I mean if I had been treasury or budget or something like that, it wouldn't have

been as easy to do my own thing all the time. But those were a great eight years.

Lynn Jondahl: And you got to do some things that you felt were really important policy.

Olivia Maynard: Yeah we started developing the whole home care as alternatives to nursing home. We began all of that. We started the prescription drugs for poor elderly. So there were a couple of things. And Jacobetti loved us.

Lynn Jondahl: Jacobetti was the House appropriations chair.

Olivia Maynard: Right, so we got money from him to do a lot of things around the state for senior programs. So it was a good eight years.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you get involved in national policy on issues of aging?

Olivia Maynard: Yes, because I sat on, there's a national organization for state heads of aging organization. So I got involved in that. And then got involved, later I was appointed by Clinton to the federal council on aging. But then that sort of lost all of its money. That was after I was out of OSA.

Lynn Jondahl: Then, at the end of the second term of Governor Blanchard, his lieutenant governor was Martha Griffiths. Did you know Martha?

Olivia Maynard: Not real well. I saw Martha, I liked Martha. She was difficult. Martha was very difficult. And I had known Martha when she was a congresswoman, so that was my first experience with Martha. And I can remember the guys sitting around and talking about Martha. But those were the guys. And we always took everything they said with a grain of salt. But she was tough and she had had a stroke. And she was having some problems and Jim decided that it just didn't make any sense for her to go into a third term.

Lynn Jondahl: She had been, she's another one of those pillars of leadership in Michigan political history. She had been a state representative. She had been a judge. A member of Congress, lieutenant governor.

Olivia Maynard: Right.

Lynn Jondahl: So she certainly had a reputation.

Olivia Maynard: Oh absolutely. She was a tough lady.

Lynn Jondahl: And was very well known. So when Governor Blanchard said she's not going to be on the ticket, that was not a happy moment for her as I recall.

Olivia Maynard: No, it was not.

Lynn Jondahl: She did not evaluate him positively.

Olivia Maynard: No, she did not, never again for the rest of her life, she never did.

Lynn Jondahl: So the governor turned to you and said, "Will you become the candidate to run with me?" The candidate for lieutenant governor. That's a little different context because of the dynamics surrounding that relationship between the governor and lieutenant governor.

Olivia Maynard: And it was not something that I saw. This was not like 1978 when I was interested. I was up in Marquette and I had just finished reading Paula Blanchard's book. I stayed up all night and read her book. And at the end of the night, I said, "That's it, I'm getting out of politics. I don't want anything more to do with it." So I called Olof, who is my husband, and said I'm getting out of politics, that's it.

Olivia Maynard: He said, "No I don't think so Libby." Because he had some conversation with some folks. That was a decision, I took a secret trip to Mackinaw Island to talk to Tom Lewand, who was his chief of staff.

Lynn Jondahl: Governor Blanchard's chief of staff?

Olivia Maynard: Governor Blanchard's chief of staff. And then the governor called. Well I had gotten a phone call from Tom Baldini who was his staff person up in the upper peninsula and things were happening. I really had no, I can't say I had any control, but I wasn't part of orchestrating any of this. And then got a call from the governor to ask me if I would run. And it's sort of like if the presidents ask you if you'll be vice president, you don't say no. It wasn't that I didn't want to, but it was sort of ironic that I had made the decision no more politics for me.

Lynn Jondahl: Say something before we get back into this. What was it that you had read or had been thinking that brought you to say I want out of this?

Olivia Maynard: Well it was Paula's book, and I can't tell you exactly what was in the book, that it was just sort of a recounting on a lot of things that happened in politics. And I thought, that does happen in politics.

Lynn Jondahl: Hers was a biographical about her experience.

Olivia Maynard: Yeah her experience.

Lynn Jondahl: And her experience with the governor serving in office.

Olivia Maynard: Right. And it just made me think about, well what is it that I really want? And I decided well I really want a personal life more than I have now. Not that I haven't always, made very sure I had some. But I want more of a personal life and it didn't happen. Eventually it happened, but it got delayed.

Lynn Jondahl: But you caved in. What do you think persuaded you?

Olivia Maynard: It's just if someone says you're what we need, I want to do it. And Jim had said, I may not fulfill out the whole four years, I may go to Washington, just think you would get a chance to be governor. Well that's pretty heavy stuff. And that would have been exciting because they you get even more frustrations than you have. But it would have been exciting. So I said yes. And again, I really enjoy campaigning, but I don't ever intend to run for something like that again because it's no fun to keep running and losing. And we lost. We weren't expected to lose. And people say well it's because he dumped Martha Griffiths. Nothing in the polling ever said that. Why we lost, I'm not sure. Where we lost, you could say where we lost, but Coleman Young did not get his troops out, and I suspect Coleman Young would probably be the most instrumental in that happening.

Lynn Jondahl: When you agreed to run and throughout the campaign, you had every reason to think that Governor Blanchard would win reelection over against Senator Engler.

Libby Maynard: Exactly. Absolutely. Absolutely. Right. Up until the last 10 days, it was there.

Lynn Jondahl: Did you see a time in that last 10 days when, at least in your mind, this was looking now more like a possible loss?

Libby Maynard: Well, it's hard to say, because I would get what the polling, because they were doing tracking polling, and things were beginning to move, so that's what ... Yeah. Yeah.

Lynn Jondahl: That might have been a harder loss than even the '78 run, because that was more precarious.

Libby Maynard: That was hard. That was harder. Yeah, it was. It was. Yeah. Right. We all stayed up. We were down in Detroit. We stayed up all night, and then Ollie and I headed up to the Upper Peninsula.

Lynn Jondahl: Right. Yeah. You really didn't know until the next day, the outcome of that.

Libby Maynard: No, because Detroit comes in last, and Rick Wiener was part of that campaign, and he had said the numbers just aren't there.

Lynn Jondahl: The campaign itself, was it different in terms of what you did, you as a candidate, Libby Maynard, from the '78 campaign? Was it pretty much the same kind of campaign? Did you have different responsibilities? Was there any difference for a woman running in '90 than in '78?

Libby Maynard: Much worse. I never ran into like the gentleman from Jackson County saying, "A woman running for lieutenant governor?" It was perfectly normal. People were

accepting, and you really campaigned everywhere. A few times, the governor sent me into places he didn't want to go. Those weren't always pleasant, but you grit your teeth and go, right?

Lynn Jondahl: That goes with the job.

Libby Maynard: That goes with the job. Right, right. Again, I like the people in this state. Losing isn't the best. You learn a lot, but it's not the best thing to go after all the time.

Lynn Jondahl: Is it fair to say it was easier as a woman to be a candidate in '90 than it was in '78?

Libby Maynard: Absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely, because a lot of women then had run and won. There are more women running for things like school boards and judges and things like that, so much more acceptable. We'd had Martha Griffith in there. There was a woman running, Connie Binsfeld was running on the Republican ticket. There were plenty of women around who were running.

Lynn Jondahl: I wanted to ask you about that. Connie Binsfeld. Senator Engler ran as the Republican challenger to Governor Blanchard, and he chose a colleague from the Senate, Connie Binsfeld. Did you sense that was because Governor Blanchard had chosen a woman? Was it part of the political necessity at that point?

Libby Maynard: I think so. Yeah. I think so. I think it's almost gotten to the point, in Michigan and a lot of other states, is that if you have a woman at the top of the ticket, you better run a man as the lieutenant governor candidate, and vice versa.

Lynn Jondahl: Right.

Libby Maynard: Which is great. It's one way to make progress. Soon maybe we'll even be more diverse than that and won't have to think about it.

Lynn Jondahl: Close race in that instance. You had some surprise at the end. What then did you do following that 1990 race? Did you revert to where you'd been before you were asked to run and say, "Now I'm going to go home?"

Libby Maynard: Yeah, I did sort of, I did several things. I did a lot of teaching. As I said, I'd never taught, but I had an area of expertise, which was gerontology, so I taught at Lansing Community College, and I taught at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, and MSU School of Social Work.

Libby Maynard: One of the things I've felt best about is, in one of the classes I taught at U of M, there was a man there who was a nontraditional student. He'd come back to get his MSW. He'd been in the business world. He was going to go into case work, because he figured that's what he should do. He took my class, because I can't teach a class and not talk about systems and change and everything. At the end

of the class, he came up and he said, "Well I may still go into case work, but I'm certainly going to approach it in an entirely different way because of what we talked about in class."

Libby Maynard: I think that made me feel as good as anything, because that would be my criticism of social workers. They think they can just handle one little individual, and they don't understand everything that impacts what they're doing.

Lynn Jondahl: Well, help me understand. What is it your message is in that classroom and from your experience? We certainly understand social work from the perspective of feeding the hungry, and getting healthcare to the needy, and so on. You're wanting to add something to that.

Libby Maynard: Yes and no. Jane Hull, who, you know, Hull House in Chicago, she was not just into feeding the hungry. She was also in looking at what was going on in the city of Chicago that was causing this. She was looking at what are the social constraints that are out there. What's going on, and how do I change that?

Libby Maynard: What I say to the students that I teach, and unfortunately today a lot of students who go to social work school, they go into case work or group work, or they'll do individual counseling, because they can get third party reimbursement there. They think that if they can learn all about the psychology of intervention for an individual, then they can wear those blinders and not realize that what the legislature does, what laws are passed, what's going on in their city council makes a difference on their individual clients. All I say is, learn your material for your area, but understand there's a bigger world out there that you need to think about, and if you can have an impact on, make that impact. That's all I say to them.

Lynn Jondahl: It's interesting that you and our junior US senator, Debbie Stabenow, comes from a background in social work as well.

Libby Maynard: Right.

Lynn Jondahl: Do you think that uniquely prepares someone for political office?

Libby Maynard: As well as the ministry. I think the better legislators are the people who have thought about it in other than in just in terms of power.

Lynn Jondahl: Right.

Libby Maynard: But there are school teachers that get elected. There were all kinds, so you can own oil rigs and get elected president, so what do I say, right?

Lynn Jondahl: You didn't go home for too long.

Libby Maynard: No, we did a couple other things. A group of us started a wonderful organization called the Michigan Prospect for Renewed Citizenship, of which you are the executive director, to look at state public policy issue and how government and citizens can work together to solve the problems that are here in the state of Michigan. It's a progressive think tank. We look at policy issues that impact the state of Michigan, like education or social justice or campaign finance reform. It's really why, when I think about it, it's really originally why I got into politics.

Lynn Jondahl: And focus on issues.

Libby Maynard: To focus on issues, absolutely. We did that. Then in 1996, I ran as regent of the University of Michigan and was elected, and was reelected again last year. That's a wonderful challenge. Public higher education is under real stress today. I don't think the legislature really, or state governments all over the country, really appreciate the value of public higher education to the quality of life in this country. I think tough times are here for a while.

Libby Maynard: The other interesting thing is that I've learned how to work with seven other colleagues, sometimes well and sometimes not well. I really honor those of you who've worked in the legislative arena when it gets expanded by numbers, because you have eight different egos, and it's not always easy, but in the end it's a good group.

Lynn Jondahl: Now you've spent this time in public education, on the board of regents, is this something that you thought about earlier as a possibility? Had you ever considered that in the midst of your other political activities?

Libby Maynard: Back when one of my jobs was to go help find education candidates.

Lynn Jondahl: When you chaired the party.

Libby Maynard: Well actually more when I was vice chair. We only have vice chair and chair. You're looking for good education candidates, and as you know, they oftentimes, in the heat of a convention, don't end up being good education candidates. It's whatever balances the ticket.

Libby Maynard: I understand that side of it, but in the back of my mind, I said, "Someday, when I have more time," because I think even though this is not a paid position, you know, you get paid with football tickets and basketball tickets and free parking, which isn't bad, but there is no pay involved and it's not full time. You do expend a lot of hours, so I wanted to do it when I could do a better job than just run in and run out.

Libby Maynard: Yeah, it was in the back of my mind. I'd been asked before to do it. It wasn't until '96 that I decided the time had come. I'm glad. It's eight years, so you don't have to run, you don't have to campaign that often. That makes it a little more pleasant too.

Lynn Jondahl: What do you say, Libby, to the young, particularly the young woman, but the young person who is maybe in one of your classes, or you encounter some other way who is looking at options? What do you say about politics to them? How do you reflect on that in terms of both an avocation as well as a vocation?

Libby Maynard: First of all, I would try to encourage them to do whatever they want to do that they care about with a passion. This sounds sort of, I don't know, hokey or something, but we do live in a democracy, and if we're going to make that democracy work, it's really important to impact those entities that do it, whether it's city council, or school board, or county board of commission, or drain commissioner, whatever it is, those are very important roles that that need to be played, and we should take them very seriously.

Libby Maynard: For someone who doesn't feel like they want to run, just to be in there to support, to make that person more honest, to make sure the person that you think can do the job gets elected. I still go back to what that teacher, the exam she gave us, that existence of a nation is a daily plebiscite. That's really what it's all about.

Libby Maynard: I keep telling myself I'm going to go up to a rock somewhere and meditate, but it hasn't happened yet. We'll see. I really do encourage them, because I think with all the nastiness, and that's one of the things I worry about today is there's so much nastiness, that I think it is an honorable profession if you choose to make it that way.

Lynn Jondahl: Yeah. As we look at politics over a number of decades now, and you've lived in the midst of it, how do you evaluate what we are today experiencing? Does it seem more divisive? Are you seeing a different, not only the role of women, but is politics done differently? Does it feel different today?

Libby Maynard: There is a lot, I think, more nastiness than there was when I first got started in the party. I know when I first got started in Michigan, there was a sense of civility between the Republicans and the Democrats. Today you don't see that. You see each one is trying to, these are the organizational people, each one is trying to make the other one into a nasty person.

Libby Maynard: I think there's, unfortunately, too much of that, but you can't just step back and say, "Unfortunately, there's too much of that," so I would encourage the young men and young women I talk to to get involved and make a difference, and not go in there. You don't see Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow into that nastiness. We do have elected people, and my former state representative, Jack Minore, is not one of those in your face, nasty kind of people. Everybody isn't that way, but there does seem to be a lack of appreciation for the other person's differing point of view.

Libby Maynard: This whole fight over the filibuster was just a lot of in your face kind of posturing. That doesn't bode well. When people can't reason together, even if

they disagree, I think it does not bode well. That does worry me, but that's all the more reason for young people to get involved and say, "Enough's enough. We can do it in a more civil way."

Lynn Jondahl: Do you reflect on why that's the case today? What has caused that kind of change, the sharper edges, the more abrasiveness?

Libby Maynard: Well, I've thought about it, and I'm not sure I have an answer. I do know that people have found that if they're nasty in campaigns sometimes and negative against the person they're running against, that they're more likely to win. Even though citizens say they don't like it.

Lynn Jondahl: The pollsters say it works.

Libby Maynard: It works, so maybe that gets carried into elective office. There's something, maybe we're in an era where we think we can do things alone. We've forgotten that we need to work together as communities to make a difference. I'm not a sociologist, so I'm not sure I really know the causes of it, but I have watched it evolve, and I've watched this country in terms of its ideals sort of split where we used to. I know US senator Al Simpson, who is Republican out of Wyoming, said he got out because he could no longer tolerate the desire on his party, the Republican Party, to be winners and to win 100% of the time, that they didn't understand anymore the art of compromise and give and take.

Libby Maynard: I don't want to blame that just on one party. It's easier as a Democrat to do that, but you see a lot more of that. I would hope that as the young people get involved, they'll say, "No, we're not going to work that way. We're going to go back to the concept that we work together, and that's how we make progress, not by screaming at each other, and being nasty to each other."

Lynn Jondahl: How many governors have you, have been in Michigan during your activism.

Libby Maynard: Well, there was Governor Romney, Governor Swainson. Who came after Swainson? Milliken, and then Blanchard, and then Engler. Governor Engler, for me, was a symbol of the nastiness. I realize you shouldn't speak that way about a governor, but I found him a very, I think I even coined the phrase mean spirited governor. That was the way he functioned, was power.

Libby Maynard: You can win in the short term that way, but I think in the long term everybody loses. I think some of the problems that Governor Granholm is dealing with today is some of the kinds of things that Governor Engler did when he was governor. He won temporarily, but in the end, we're all losing.

Lynn Jondahl: Can you compare and contrast his style with Swainson or Romney?

Libby Maynard: Well, Milliken more.

Lynn Jondahl: Milliken. I'm sorry.

Libby Maynard: Milliken was someone that reached out to people that he didn't agree with and tried to convince them. You, Lynn, were probably in the legislature when he was there, but my sense was he was more a way to figure out how he could get everybody to agree and then move on. Although he was not adverse to, if he had the votes and he thought something was right, to moving on, but he wasn't one like Governor Engler that said, "This is the way it's going to be, and I don't want any argument, and that's it."

Lynn Jondahl: It is interesting to reflect on governor Milliken, because at the time, or for a period of his service, he served with a very strong and active Democratic House and speaker.

Libby Maynard: Right, with a strong speaker. Right.

Lynn Jondahl: He certainly had to deal with, but they were willing to deal with each other.

Libby Maynard: The Democrats were willing to deal, and he was willing to deal, so it was a dialogue.

Lynn Jondahl: But in the current Granholm relationship, Governor Granholm with the legislature, that willingness to sit down and work out the problem it doesn't seem to be as apparent.

Libby Maynard: Right. Yeah, and in this instance, I would say that most of the time I watch the Governor willingness to offer something and then talk about it, with the Republican leadership saying, "No, it's not going to be that way." There are some occasions when they have actually worked on things together, but that's true. Each body is different than it was in Milliken's years.

Lynn Jondahl: It'd be interesting to look at those two, because Milliken had a Democratic both House and Senate during the period of his term.

Libby Maynard: And he worked...

Lynn Jondahl: ... and contrast it with Granholm.

Libby Maynard: Right. Blanchard had, at one time, Democrats in both House and Senate, and then he lost control of the Senate. Then it became more difficult for him, but I didn't ever have the sense in any of those governors until the one before this one where the question of power was what it was all about. That was very troubling to me. That's what I see in Washington going on today is that it's not about policy. Well, it is about policy, but it's about power first.

Lynn Jondahl: Control.

Libby Maynard: Yeah, and control. That's not helpful.

Lynn Jondahl: Right. I saw you on the platform on January 1st of 2001 behind Governor Granholm.

Libby Maynard: Mildred and I. Yes. Right.

Lynn Jondahl: The first woman to serve as Governor of Michigan.

Libby Maynard: Yeah.

Lynn Jondahl: What were you thinking then? Did you have a sense of you and your other women colleagues of paving away? Did you get caught up in that?

Libby Maynard: It was a very emotional and special day, because I think a lot of work that a lot of people did, going back to Adelaide Hart who was vice chair of the party many, many, many years ago, who insisted that there had to be women in the leadership of the party organization, going back then has made it possible for someone like Jennifer, with all her skills and talents, to be governor, so it felt good. It really felt good.

Libby Maynard: Then Mildred Jeffrey was up there too. Millie and I have had our differences, but we've always been colleagues and allies, and so that felt good too. There were several generations that were part of that, and that was wonderful.

Lynn Jondahl: Thank you, Libby Maynard.

Libby Maynard: Thank you, Lynn Jondahl.

Lynn Jondahl: You've provided us with some good insight here. It's been delightful talking with you.

Lynn Jondahl: Thank you for joining us. On behalf of the Michigan Political History Society, I appreciate your taking time to join in this conversation with Libby Maynard.