



Joe Miller seen here with Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo at M.E.B.A. Headquarters a couple of years ago.

Finished with Engines: Political Operative Joe Miller

Political operative, journalist and consultant Joe Miller recently died at the age of 95. At one time he was an M.E.B.A. official in Seattle and also worked with Jesse Calhoun to help advance various Union initiatives. He wrote a brilliant account of his life as a political insider in his book "The Wicked Wine of Democracy: A Memoir of a Political Junkie, 1948-1995."

Joe served in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. After the war, he wrote for Pacific Northwest newspapers, including the *Oregon Journal* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

He was also a regional correspondent for Time, Inc. In 1956, Joe moved his family from Seattle to Washington, D.C., to take a job as executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. He worked on successful campaigns for Senators Ed Muskie, Gaylord Nelson, Bill Proxmire, Frank Church, and many others. Senator Dick Neuberger once said of Joe that he "would never base a campaign on personal malice or an appeal to a hate element. His politics are never bitter."

In 1961, Joe opened a small lobbying shop. Over the next 40 years, he represented many clients including the M.E.B.A. A long-time fixture on Capitol Hill, he was known as the dean of Washington lobbyists specializing in Pacific Northwest issues.