

CRSTA 6A  
Interviewer: Dr. David Colburn  
Interviewee: Dr. Joseph Shelley  
Date: 09-06-77  
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MJB

1934  
20  
1901  
45  
1869

~~C: Testing one two three four five,~~

~~(BREAK)~~

~~S: You want to ask me questions or you just want me to...?~~

C: Well, I would ~~like~~ like to talk about your background, first ~~if that's okay,~~ <sup>you know</sup>

S: ~~My personal background?~~

C: Where, where were you born and raised?

S: Palatka, Florida.

~~C: Where did you go, go ahead, I'm sorry~~

S: My father and mother were both born and raised <sup>in Palatka, Florida right before the Civil War</sup>

C: ~~And~~ where did you go to college?

S: The University of Florida <sup>between</sup> 1934 <sup>and</sup> 1938

C: I saw from the diploma you went to Temple, is that right?

S: Then I went to Temple <sup>in</sup> September of 1938, ~~September '38~~ which means I graduated in ~~June~~ <sup>June</sup> 1942. <sup>Jacksonville</sup>

Then I worked for the government <sup>and returned</sup> in Korea, I saw eleven months in combat, ~~returning~~ to this country and we had to sail out of <sup>Germany, January</sup> February 4, 1976.

~~C:~~

~~S: I came onto Palm Beach or Ft. Lauderdale~~

~~C: Uh huh~~

S:

number ten, We spent the night there on the boat

something or other

S: March of 1947 I was  
Jacksonville \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital, Dr. Lockwood came over visiting \_\_\_\_\_  
he said, \_\_\_\_\_

C: What got you involved in politics, \_\_\_\_\_ surgeon \_\_\_\_\_

S: Well, we had a situation on the city commission. There was an awful lot of \_\_\_\_\_  
bickering so much so that

C: Just out of curiosity, who came into \_\_\_\_\_

S: ~~Let me put it~~ I became interested in  
politics when my brother ran for state attorney  
for the seventh judicial circuit ~~and~~ He ran in 1954 and he <sup>again</sup> ran in 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_ job as district attorney practising law in  
the court of I became very interested  
in campaigning for district attorney office in Taylorville County (?)

and I lost the first election and I was  
he won his campaign by \_\_\_\_\_ and that got me  
he got interested in politics. I knew I could not be a politician for  
anything other than the city or county.

I had a personal interest \_\_\_\_\_

and we had two other men \_\_\_\_\_

and we were getting ready for our four hundredth anniversary celebration \_\_\_\_\_

C: Right.

S: \_\_\_\_\_ go out there and tell the nation \_\_\_\_\_

S: Elected \_\_\_\_\_ selected by the mayor \_\_\_\_\_ six county commission \_\_\_\_\_  
*commission*

We had heard a rumble of problems \_\_\_\_\_

About two weeks after I was elected *and took over as* \_\_\_\_\_  
mayor \_\_\_\_\_

*Hayes*

while I was up there, Dr. Hayes, \_\_\_\_\_  
shoot first and ask questions afterwards \_\_\_\_\_

C: Now, have ~~have~~ there been any problems, when you moved in here, now you're \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ have there been any problems *with the negro community?*

S: Absolutely not, *None whatsoever* \_\_\_\_\_ I would say half of my practice, *at least,* \_\_\_\_\_

At least half my practice is *black* \_\_\_\_\_

more than half of them are black, ~~And~~ I was well known in the black community \_\_\_\_\_  
*community support*

~~We've got about~~ like I said, we had the first black policeman in Florida \_\_\_\_\_

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

Come in, \_\_\_\_\_ *cut*

?: Excuse me, Dr. Shelley, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ on the extension for you, \_\_\_\_\_

(BREAK)

S: We have a Dr. Gordon \_\_\_\_\_  
very well liked, I'd say anytime \_\_\_\_\_

S: As I say WC

Never any inkling  
downtown

C:

S:

C: <sup>Does</sup> Did any <sup>body</sup> of you have any idea what got it started?

S: Here? I think

C:

S: <sup>I can tell you exactly why</sup> Andrew Young who is now ambassador

<sup>UN</sup> Young, he was Martin Luther King's I was, I  
<sup>sat down</sup> <sup>talked to</sup> <sup>for two hours</sup>  
turned-around and ~~told him to clear out,~~ I invited him up to see

I asked him, I said, "Why are you all coming to St, Augustine?"

We're coming here because I Birmingham, Alabama

lot of publicity

older city

C: Is it, is this also, maybe, was this the

S: I have written

and I sat and talked to him and I said, Is there anything the city of St, Augustine  
can do

a fellow

I, I like it in

S:

I can say \_\_\_\_\_

Then about two days after I talked with him he came out and said there had been 13  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the city of St. Augustine \_\_\_\_\_

public, publicity-wise the newspapers \_\_\_\_\_

Now, if you go back before this happened, right after I went in to serve as commis-  
sioner, one of the, I don't remember who it was \_\_\_\_\_

he wrote his parents that word was out on the campus there \_\_\_\_\_

whole group of students, white students \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ stir up trouble and we wanted to be prepared for it.

C: That was, I guess, the feeling \_\_\_\_\_

S:

\_\_\_\_\_ southern town \_\_\_\_\_

that time <sup>we had</sup> you go three ~~once~~ \_\_\_\_\_

C: I think even more maybe, than that is residential integration, That's the one  
thing that \_\_\_\_\_

S: This town is more integrated residentially than any community in the state of  
Florida. I can take you to five different sections \_\_\_\_\_  
from our street on \_\_\_\_\_

Broad Street \_\_\_\_\_

South Street over here \_\_\_\_\_

S: Washington Street \_\_\_\_\_

Central Avenue \_\_\_\_\_

But, uh....

C: You're talking about the, uh \_\_\_\_\_

S: Yes, and he told his, he told his parents something \_\_\_\_\_

Well, just before the Easter holidays \_\_\_\_\_ fellow came around and

\_\_\_\_\_ long distance call from Boston, Mass, \_\_\_\_\_

Boston Bulls \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know Mrs. Peabody? And I said, "No, I never heard of her," He said, <sup>to</sup> you know who she is? \_\_\_\_\_

He said we're taping this party \_\_\_\_\_

She's the mother of the governor of Massachusetts, George Peabody, \_\_\_\_\_

*Did you know she's coming to St Augustine? I said* \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know she's coming down here to cause trouble? I said, what will you do if she comes down here and breaks <sup>the law</sup> your leg? And I said, Well, law is made for

everybody \_\_\_\_\_ break the law <sup>gonna arrest her</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

The next day somebody handed me a paper from Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>headline</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

said, "Mayor of St. Augustine Threatens Governor's Mother," \_\_\_\_\_

and that was a ~~criminal~~ remark. We have one set of laws that apply to everybody and if she comes down here and breaks them \_\_\_\_\_

C: Just out of curiosity, while we're on that point, how about evaluating the press coverage of St. Augustine.

S: Well, the press, when the thing first started, they came down here and set up headquarters in \_\_\_\_\_ and then they, they came direct \_\_\_\_\_

Initially, <sup>when</sup> it first started, I had a lot of mail from all over the country,

S: My mail was running public opinion  
TV and newspapers \_\_\_\_\_ the trouble came  
\_\_\_\_\_ television complete and 100 per cent. The ninety per cent,  
the ninety five per cent of our population believe what's on television, or  
what they read in newspapers, and they read nothing else for, to broaden their  
knowledge of the <sup>subject</sup> system. And I mailed in at least 71 in favor  
St. Augustine \_\_\_\_\_ relative to one \_\_\_\_\_

my mail started reversing \_\_\_\_\_  
now I got long distance telephone calls \_\_\_\_\_  
this is how it expressed \_\_\_\_\_ situation,

C: How did the, how did you reach, reach \_\_\_\_\_  
how did you become a spokesman for them?

S: Well this, this is a good point, I, my own feeling is that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I think the whole thing <sup>was</sup> set up,  
because \_\_\_\_\_ reached out to me \_\_\_\_\_  
every night when \_\_\_\_\_  
And they would get up there, and boy \_\_\_\_\_

This was <sup>most</sup> ~~much~~ troublesome. We asked our state attorney \_\_\_\_\_  
to come up here and see and listen to what he had to say  
\_\_\_\_\_ breaking some law, and he came up here, listened to us, said, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ they got the freedom of speech, they can go up there and  
say anything they want, you can't do anything about it. This is \_\_\_\_\_  
this is \_\_\_\_\_ this is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Law enforcement officers in the district \_\_\_\_\_

S: Daytona.

C: The reason I say that's remarkable is the same

later criticized the people...

S: I know he did.

C: ...for letting, letting Lynch and Stoner become spokesmen for the people.

S: It's, it's a plain damn lie. He went, he went to Boston, talked before a Boston University crowd, I believe, and said that we, the city officials, did nothing to

stop Stoner and Lynch. We did all we could do and he said,

enforcement officials

"You can't touch them." Then he goes up to Baltimore and says we would do nothing,

They don't think

*this thing was*

televised, we could tell where everything was going to happen, just watch the

television police, police department could tell, we could tell

demonstration, and a lot of it was, was

arranged, put on

saying whites <sup>to</sup> look like they were beating blacks up and whites wasn't, it was a terrible lie,

C: What, uh, what sort of sheriff is L. O. Davis?

S: L. O. is extremely

situation L. O. Davis had the support of the black community. It's

comparable to \_\_\_\_\_ old man

had a store down in Washington Street

not know and not care

C: Was, was Lucy

S: Lucy

they televised him. They, they never asked me or televised me, They represented him to the American people as being a cross section of the people

C: How about, uh, you told me that Boston is, how about, uh, the press coverage in the

was it, will you describe it as inaccurate? As inaccurate as that public

S: At least as inaccurate, maybe worse, We only had one, we only had one writer

one writer

I had a young fellow, called me up about three days before Easter

I had a prepared statement

he came to my house on Easter Sunday morning, I had coffee with him, I gave him the statement, <sup>we</sup> sat there and talked about it for two hours, When he wrote the article, he didn't mention one thing about this, He wrote the most biased, slanted, false report I've ever seen

You know, I thought the press was supposed to quote the facts, not, not public opinion.

C: You know, at that time, \_\_\_\_\_ before the time of the civil

rights sort of moral consciousness

of the nation, did you, did you feel, as a consequence that you were getting any hearing at all?

S: Let me tell you about my personal feelings, I grew up

on of my, two of my names

and I was very sympathetic

S: and I made up my mind I was

you just \_\_\_\_\_ I think,

C: Can you describe a little bit more

S: \_\_\_\_\_ one night  
and a car ran by with white boys

police station \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>chief</sup> she called me up

two FBI agents \_\_\_\_\_

they came down from Indiana, they started interviewing these kids,

blacks or white \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll tell you, he said

\_\_\_\_\_ I want a hundred years of you white people under my  
heel like we've been under your heel,

and he did, Mr, \_\_\_\_\_ turned to me and he said, Boy, there is  
Black Panthers

C: So this was '63?

S: This was just \_\_\_\_\_ just thing started \_\_\_\_\_

This was right in, no this was <sup>6</sup> '63.

C: Oh, I'm sorry.

S: Right in \_\_\_\_\_ from <sup>6</sup> '63

That wasn't the interesting way, the way people \_\_\_\_\_

C: Yeah,

S: \_\_\_\_\_

S:

she disappeared

ever since

C: Did you have much work with

King

S: I ~~had~~ never did talk to

C: Uh, we were talking about, uh what uh, King and whether you were meeting or not,

S: Oh, he, he was coming in state for a day, maybe a night when he took off

\_\_\_\_\_ . The only time I, I never did talk to him, He never came

and talked to me. Never asked to see me. Matter of fact, Andrew Young didn't

ask to see me; I set <sup>n</sup> for him. I said, I want to see the <sup>Fella</sup> guy \_\_\_\_\_,

Nobody, nobody involved in that movement ever asked <sup>to speak to me</sup> them to come

a representative.

to me. They I asked them to come to me, they <sup>didn't</sup> came come down

here to \_\_\_\_\_, they came to get publicity and they were frank, Andrew

Young told me, said, "We're dying on the vine. We've got to get some publicity this summer and we need it fast and we need it quick."

C: Did he say why they were dying on the vine, just out of curiosity, were they losing out to the maybe more militants or \_\_\_\_\_

S: I don't know. I don't know what the reason for it was, They weren't getting <sup>the</sup> publicity through the press, I guess.

C: Uh huh,

S: I don't remember, This is

when they started that

[(Cecil) Farris Bryant]

C: What about uh Governor Bryant, was he pretty cooperative?

S: Up to a point and then he became just the reverse and I'll tell you an <sup>incident</sup> instance

S: that happened right at the end of this, About a month before the civil rights  
bill of 1964, <sup>was</sup> <sup>into</sup> signed the law by Lyndon Johnson, George  
Senator Smathers, <sup>George</sup> the late Smathers, called up H. E. Wolf he was a  
prominent citizen of St Augustine, <sup>president of a bank, had been</sup> A George Smathers' campaign treasurer  
when he ran for the State Senate. He called him up and said, "Lyndon Johnson,  
the president, was very anxious to get this civil rights bill passed and signed  
and <sup>he</sup> wants it signed on the fourth of July." This was around sometime in June, and  
he wants you to form a committee in St. Augustine, a bi-racial committee, call  
Martin Luther King, and do anything he wants you to do, ~~use~~, Cooperate with him  
so we can get this, give King <sup>a</sup> the victory, — come out of St. Augustine  
with a victory, Well, Mr. Wolf called me up  
and asked me if I knew I know what they were talking about  
all of our representatives in  
the legislature and Mr. Wolf told us what Senator Smathers had  
called him and talk<sup>ed</sup> to him about and he also called Governor  
Fabris Bryant and Bryant had been in contact with Mr Wolf  
and we discussed and kicked it around and I kicked the ball and I said, "Mr. Wolf,  
you've lived here all your life" and said, "This Civil Rights Bill is going to  
be signed in the next, very week, two, couple of weeks," We knew it was  
coming because he told us. I said, "When that happens, all this is going  
to be finished," and I said, "Now you do this, <sup>you</sup> <sup>we</sup> you're going to double-cross your  
friends in this community. <sup>you</sup> <sup>we</sup> We're going to sell the community  
out to give Martin Luther King the victory so <sup>he</sup> we can go to  
any other communities <sup>you</sup> <sup>we</sup> ~~they~~ see what we did in St. Augustine, we can do it  
any place else we want to and that's  
Another man that that man supported, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ that's the way you're  
going to be. In fact \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Harrold Mr Wolf and Frank Harrold

S: right in his office <sup>Farris</sup> he called Parrish  
<sup>Bryant</sup> <sup>"Farris"</sup>  
~~Brown~~ up and said, Parrish, he said, "No dough or no dice"

This was on a Monday afternoon, Tuesday night, national television  
came out, said, and said, Farris Bryant, Tuesday night, na-  
tional television came out Governor ~~Parrish~~ announces that he has formed a  
bi-racial committee in St. Augustine. Well, all that group that attended that  
meeting that night were rather desperate man.

I <sup>called</sup> saw a couple of them and in about thirty minutes they were all over <sup>at my</sup> my  
house. They were Everybody was all mad as a wet hen, and I got brought into the city  
attorney over here and he said, "look, let's don't go off half cocked."  
He said, "The governor and he said let's wait and let the and <sup>we</sup> you've got to  
find out what's going on ~~so we~~ let's wait and let the

the mayor called ~~the~~ the governor from my office in the morning  
<sup>which</sup> it was July 3, <sup>he</sup> we called the governor up and had him on the phone and I said,  
"Governor Bryant, what in the world's going on"

St Augustine  
something a little fishy <sup>about</sup> here and he said, "Well, Mayor, if you'll promise  
that you'll never reveal this, I'll tell you. Of course me being a simple little  
idiot--now I'm political I said

I give you my word I won't say anything. He said, "Well, the truth of it is  
I haven't formed a committee in St. Augustine." I said, "You mean to tell me,  
Governor, and Robbie Andrew was listening in on the extension in his office, I  
said, "You mean to tell me that you formed no committee and <sup>yet</sup> that you told the  
people of the state of Florida that you had formed a committee?" and he said, "That's  
right." I said, "Do you mean you've lied to all the people in Florida and in the  
United States?" and he said, "Now don't you start calling me names, man." I said,  
"Look, you're a lying so-and-so. You said it yourself, You tell us one thing  
and you make an announcement on national television," and he did it to pacify

Next morning

Andrew

S: Senator Smathers and ~~Lyndon Johnson~~, <sup>and</sup> the president and he hung up the phone in a big huff. Well, I kept my word for about a year, year and a half and I said, "I don't know why I should keep my word to a <sup>a</sup> liar" and then I began to tell people what trans<sup>cribed</sup>cribed. He never did form a committee and this was brought out in this pamphlet here. It was very strange, no committee, and the next day, Thursday, July 4, the Civil Rights Bill was signed into law but the announcement had been made that a bi-racial committee had been formed and that was to get King out of here with some kind of a victory because and he was in Washington when the president signed the bill. The minute that happened everybody left this town -- Stoner left it, Lynch left it, All the outside agitators left it <sup>There isn't been another one</sup> and they never back here since to my knowledge

C: Well, you did have some problem afterward because Monson's restaurant had thrown out....

S: Now that is before the Civil Rights Bill was signed. That was at the height of the demonstration.

C: Wasn't, wasn't that, I think I'm right here. I think you're wrong,

S: \_\_\_\_\_

C: Remember....

S: I think they \_\_\_\_\_ after the Civil Rights Bill was signed

C: I think they tested. They went around and they tested some of the, some of the Negroes who stayed tested the bill and then Manucy's....

S: You may be right. You may be right.

C: ...picketed, picketed some of the restaurants,

S: You may be right because I, I, the dates \_\_\_\_\_

C: Didn't last much longer, but it....

S: It didn't last a long, uh, they did. Manucy picketed and the reason they did it, Monson was the headquarters of all the press and the television and everything else and Jimmy Brock \_\_\_\_\_ County

S: was kind of an important

C: Because.... really was

*Because you said*

S: I think that a lot of people thought that

Here's a statement that I made <sup>the paper on</sup> ~~in~~ the morning, July 7, 1963,

C: Uh huh,

*Mayor*

S: Shelley makes ~~an~~ statement to citizens on racial relations, "to the citizens of St. Augustine. ~~Now~~ <sup>As</sup> the mayor of St. Augustine ~~was real~~ have you seen this?

C: Uh, I have not seen it.

S: "I feel that it is incumbent on me to issue a statement <sup>some</sup> on matters of concern to our city and to our nation.

listen to the radio, reads the papers, or whatever racial tensions throughout our country. The causes of this are many, both the white and negro races

<sup>are</sup> is doing nothing to help the situation. But of even more importance, there has been a failure of the legal bodies to speak out in on this subject. In an effort to build political <sup>power to</sup> ~~clout~~ and maintain themselves in office, politicians have resorted to the old political trick of using minority groups to accomplish their objectives. In effect, such politicians seek the minority vote by calling the majority names, 'If you don't vote for me, those other people will misuse you.' Not once have I heard of a single <sup>leader either</sup> ~~interview~~ on the national <sup>or</sup> state level say that our Negro citizens that along with equal rights go equal responsibilities. Freedom of association is <sup>as</sup> ~~that~~ inalienable, inalienably a part of our Bill of Rights as is freedom of speech, freedom of religion and pursuit of life, liberty and happiness." I wrote this myself

"I would remind our citizens that justice demands a fair consideration of the right <sup>of all our people</sup> ~~of law~~ <sup>recent years</sup> in which the use of the words civil rights and equality have been misused

S: and abused until their has become

law. There is no such thing in this world as two equal people. From the moment of birth, infants show individual differences. Some are physically stronger than others. Some develop more rapidly. Others show defects, both mental and physical, as they age. Some are born with natural talents, God-given talents, if you wish. A beautiful voice with which, voices with which to sing. How many Negro boys are equal to a Willie Mays on a baseball field? How many white boys are equal to Stan Musial at the plate? How many Einsteins or Admiral Rickovers are there among us? No, even in God's eyes we are not equal,

but <sup>we do</sup> you have equal opportunities to prove the goodness or badness of before God. Equal employment opportunity has been a sore spot for Negro leader in this

*all out drive* for equal rights. How <sup>ever</sup> they apparently fail to recognize that the key to this problem is education. The drop-out rate in our public school system is the of our education problem and hence, our employment problem, and this problem is not peculiar to the Negro race alone. The drop-out rate in the white race is entirely too high. In this day of automation and high technological requirements, <sup>they</sup> an uneducated youth, both Negro and white, represent a boffling problem and often are unemployable except for common labor, but here again leaders of both races have failed to attack this problem vigorously. Integration of our public schools has not solved this problem. Witness the public schools in Washington, D.C. now. They have been fully integrated for many years and are a national disgrace to this finest is time for educators in this country seem unable to solve this problem and it's still....

C: By the way, hadn't St. Augustine integrated its schools in '63?

S: We had the, yeah, the school was integrated and the parochial school was always an integrated school,

C: It was done, it was done voluntarily <sup>wasn't it?</sup>

S: It was done on a voluntary basis, <sup>that is correct,</sup> January 12, "The finest educators in this country seem unable to solve this problem, Therefore, <sup>to that</sup> I say that you have personal responsibility <sup>for these</sup> actions ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. The laws are made in Washington but <sup>implementation</sup> ~~any imitation~~ of these laws, to great extent, must come from \_\_\_\_\_, I admonish both our Negro and white citizens to beware the radical fringe in both places, Use prudence and reason so that we may avoid the pitfalls which can destroy the respect and friendship which are the foundations of a good race relation ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

C: I'd appreciate <sup>it if I could borrow that from you.</sup> ~~what you've done~~ \_\_\_\_\_

S: I'd like to <sup>get it back though.</sup> ~~do some~~ \_\_\_\_\_

C: Yeah, okay, yeah.

S: \_\_\_\_\_

"The city commission of St, Augustine recognized the <sup>tensions</sup> intensity of the present situation. Many cities have <sup>violation</sup> ~~abolished the~~ <sup>of community</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ problem, however this is <sup>regarded by administrators</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ as passing the buck. No decision by a committee of this type could be ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>binding</sup> on the city commission ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>because</sup> of the legal implications involved. The city commission is responsible to all the citizens and can <sup>only</sup> ~~no more~~ accept recommendations from any committee which would \_\_\_\_\_ a possible law suit by adding a bona fide legal status. Furthermore, a bi-racial committee ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>something</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>assumption</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ that there is a racial difference because the city commission of St, Augustine interracial stand that it is responsible for only municipale ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ facilities." Let me interject here that at that time the state of Florida had by-

R: a trespass law and these were the things that, uh, the, these demonstrators would do. They <sup>would</sup> ~~were~~ go <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ a store downtown and lay all over the floor like a \_\_\_\_\_ and the people couldn't get in and out. They were about to arrest, to call the police to come down there and remove them. <sup>Under</sup> Only the state trespass law, police department had not alternative accept to go down and remove these people physically from the premises. I don't <sup>know</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ there's still trespassing law isn't there?

C: Yes?

S: I think there's still trespass law but they wouldn't, they were, they were <sup>enforced</sup> in the state and these were the laws on which we made arrests <sup>of people who</sup> ~~at these, they were violating~~ ing \_\_\_\_\_ places for their own personal reasons and their own. It wasn't by ordinance. It wasn't by the city commission or a mandate from the city government. "The city commission has no legal or moral right to tell any merchant how to operate his business. The decision, any decision to file an order to \_\_\_\_\_ has been set forth in the previous statement. <sup>Race relations, race relations</sup> ~~Regulations, regulations~~ in St. Augustine

\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>of both races</sup> making statements to that effect. Parents of teenage children <sup>of both races</sup> should know and this, to me, is an important statement, cause I believe that right here is the start of the lack of respect we have for law in this country <sup>where</sup> today and it, I think it started back in the <sup>cc</sup> <sup>cc</sup> <sup>cc</sup> ~~Civil Rights Movement~~, <sup>where</sup> that kids, twelve, fourteen years old--were urged to go out and break laws, any law, if you didn't like the law, go out and break it--whether it was a good law or a bad law--not have it changed through the legal process, just go out and break the law. And I predicted then we were going to see just rampant crime in this country based on this urging of young people to get out and if you don't like something do away with it. And I think it and I think it's \_\_\_\_\_ this country. I think it's coming fast. "Parents of teenage children of both

S: races should know where their children are at all times and should not let them to be put in a situation which can lead to trouble. It is a responsibility of parents to see that their children are home at an early hour and know whom they are associating with all ~~the~~ times. One of the basic ingredients of good citizenship is a respect for law and order. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our ~~the~~ entire police department and the ~~sheriff's~~ <sup>sheriff's</sup> office for the speedy and efficient handling of the recent incident which occurred. Such individuals have demonstrated good citizenship in reporting to WV police the series of incidents leading up to the shooting. "And that was <sup>what happened</sup> because some things transpired earlier but <sup>they</sup> ~~we~~ never did call the police department and tell nobody about it <sup>they</sup> ~~we~~ just let it go on and end up with the shooting. "but certain individuals had demonstrated good citizenship and reported <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ police the series of instances <sup>idents</sup> leading up... End of Side One

C: Uh huh,

S: \_\_\_\_\_  
she told me \_\_\_\_\_

C: <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ there any bickering on the commission at all during that \_\_\_\_\_  
policies?

S: I don't know \_\_\_\_\_

C: How about the business community, do they pretty much support or were they,...

S: <sup>Well</sup> No, I think the best damn thing we ever had is I got the largest vote that was ever given \_\_\_\_\_ when I was elected to the city commission, I ran two more, for two more times, was re-elected both times, One time I was unopposed and I come within about thirty votes of getting \_\_\_\_\_ and I got within thirty votes of the \_\_\_\_\_

S: in politics and God, I was elected, re-elected. \_\_\_\_\_

C: That's so, something....

S: I think with my, I think the community, business-wise and all, supported the city commission and the city government. \_\_\_\_\_

C: Appreciate your time, I, I really want to.... I ran into one thing today that <sup>was over at</sup> who was really interesting, I ~~go to~~ the Historical Society and there was an election notice and I assume it was '65, <sup>It</sup> ~~and~~ said, "Attention, citizens of our city, don't be misled. It has been revealed that John Bailey, Carlton O'Neill and Dr. Joseph Shelley made a secret pact with the National Association of Negroes for integration. It says two things: 1) to integrate all our schools, motels, hotels and so on; and 2) to appoint Negroes to the quadracentennial committee. Vote," it says, ~~and~~ at the bottom, "vote to elect R.C. Blackner, Jim Dart and Harry Gutterman. Save our way of life."

S: Alright, let me tell you what happened on that. The morning of <sup>the</sup> election day they put out 5,000 of those folders all over town. Daylight, on the morning of election day, John Bailey and Carlton O'Neill called me up, Harry Gutterman ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> on the commission,

C: Uh huh,

S: Blackner wasn't; and ...who's the other one?

C: Jim Dart

S: ~~they were on~~ and that was a, that was, they figured that <sup>would steal it</sup> ~~was a scheme that~~ by putting all those damn folders out that it would be too late for us to counteract it. John Bailey called me up and Carlton called me up. Carlton O'Neill was upset about it. He said, "What are you going to do? You ought to get on the radio and deny all of it." I said, "Hell, Carlton, anybody that knows me knows it's not true. Anybody who knows you and knows John knows it's not true." I said, "Don't let it bother you. Forget it." Well, I

S: I got the most number of votes and John Bailey got the next largest number of votes. Carlton didn't win. Harry Gutterman was the third guy ~~that~~ on the committee but Roger Blackner got beat. That was ~~in the run~~.

C: Was Gutterman really involved in this thing? This thing

S: I think he was behind it.

C: Yes?

S: Quite frankly. He was quite, he was a politician. Somebody was behind it and I think it was somebody in that trio...

C: Well,...

C: ...and I think he was the most likely prospect and I'm sorry that, that he's not here to answer my accusation, but I really think he was probably,...

C: Would he get ~~more~~ involved in something like that there...

S: Huh?

C: ...~~her~~ <sup>for a</sup> commission <sup>seat</sup> ~~there~~,

S: Yeah ~~don't~~ ask except he later, Harry, later ran for He had a file on about 1500 people in this town. ~~In other words~~ if he could get about 1500 votes, he could get elected, ~~that~~ Harry was a tough little critter. He had a, a small group of people in this town and he was like an actor on the stage and he'd play up to the the

He didn't work. He was retired. He was, he'd been an enforcer for the union up. There was, I wasn't involved in that thing

cause I'm waiting on the city commission. He was on the commission before I was.

A group of guys tried to get him removed from the city commission because he was, he

he was arrested on a felony charge up there in New York some place for the

some people down or the

C: Do you know, do you think he really the

That he...

S: No, he didn't think that. That was strictly politics, That was strictly politics.

C: ...he was \_\_\_\_\_

S: Oh, hell no. He knew ~~that~~ didn't \_\_\_\_\_  
strictly politics.

C: What about <sup>Judge</sup> ~~Jim~~ Simpson; <sup>Judge</sup> or Don Simpson?

S: Don Simpson? I finally made a, I finally passed a, a, <sup>under</sup> ~~in~~ my powers as \_\_\_\_\_  
mayor, I \_\_\_\_\_

I'm empowered, under the law; the mayor's empowered, under the law; \_\_\_\_\_

to maintain peace in the community. In other words, <sup>in public, the</sup> I can get up <sup>up</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
get up and say, <sup>"everybody"</sup> ~~they~~ hold your right hand <sup>up</sup> I can swear him in as

a deputy and say everyone here who takes this oath of office has got to obey me  
right now and do what I tell them to do. The mayor has that right, I got that  
from \_\_\_\_\_, I have, I carried a paper with me

at all times so I could invoke that right as mayor \_\_\_\_\_

and I invoked that. We were getting to the point where we were afraid that the  
blacks weren't getting much of a following till at night. They decided to march  
at night. They wanted to stir up violence and I think, now to be honest with

you, King and some of those people and Andrew Young and the rest of them wanted  
to see some Negroes murdered in the city to really put the imprint on us, to  
really give the Civil Rights movement the thrust it needed, just like happened  
down in Philadelphia \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Rights movement.

We were afraid that was going to happen, so I passed a what ~~is~~ you call ~~a~~ a

\_\_\_\_\_ no marching from 8:30 at dark at night till 8:30 in the

morning. They could march all day long, but because we've got poorly lighted  
streets and real narrow streets, real dark and hard to police we felt we couldn't  
protect the <sup>marchers</sup> ~~marchers~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Simpson said they could

march. They could march any time they wanted to. Well, I overruled Mr. Judge

Mayor can

S: Simpson and later on he called me in on contempt of court,  
federal  
traffic court Harold Davis, And Farris Bryant,

Still at that stage it was back to it was back in we called  
Farris Bryant and Jimmy <sup>Kynes</sup> ~~Kynes~~ was attorney general of the State  
of Florida and he had them reply

to by the contempt charges <sup>in the</sup> and federal court, and I spent nine  
days on this court and I never heard such, <sup>Mr. Kufnstler</sup> and

signed it were the two attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union, and that

Kufnstler then <sup>showed</sup> to them <sup>was made of</sup> ~~should~~ what he had ~~later been~~ and showed

this country what a, what a, I don't know what. He should have been barred from  
law practice. He broke every rule <sup>of</sup> the court procedure that there is to break

<sup>and the judges</sup> let him get away with it. It was obvious up there <sup>that</sup> Judge Simpson had been made  
a promise by the President of the United States that if he would let them do what  
they wanted to that he'd be promoted and he was promoted to the Fifth Circuit  
of Appeals. We had Chester <sup>Buddell?</sup> who was the finest lawyer in Florida  
at that time.

C: Jacksonville?

S: Jacksonville. He and Judge Simpson were close personal friends and they fell out  
completely <sup>where</sup> ~~over~~ Judge Simpson that case <sup>in</sup> to the court, He  
just let this guy Kufnstler do anything he wanted to, He'd  
browbeat witnesses. I got so mad one day in that court I got up and stomped  
out right in the middle of court and walked out in the hallway, and Charles  
Quinn, Chuck Quinn was down here representing NBC  
or CBS he's still - you see him on television once in a while.

C:

S: He was there for two years, I talked to him many times and he was a great admirer  
of Martin Luther King and we would discuss all angles of it, I walked out of  
that courtroom and Quinn walked up behind me, followed me out, and  
he said, "Well, mayor what do you think of the proceedings?" I said, "I think they're

Kufnstler

^

S: the lousiest, this is the lousiest damn thing I've ever witnessed. The way  
this Kubnstler was acting He had a young Florida highway patrolman witness<sup>on the stand</sup> and  
he was browbeating that boy and trying to cross him up and contradict him and  
the boy was smart. He was going to law school as a matter of fact. He studied  
to be a the law and Kubnstler couldn't cross him up but he just used every  
tactic <sup>that he could</sup> he needed to use to try to make him lose his temper and it got so bad  
I got up and left the room. Quinn followed me out and right be-  
hind him there was a big old marshall, federal marshall about six foot two  
and he and I got to be real good friends and as a matter of fact I think he is  
still up in Jacksonville

and he walked out behind Quinn <sup>us</sup> he followed <sup>was</sup> out in the hall because  
he was                      and I turned <sup>to Quinn</sup> the ~~corner~~ and he said, <sup>well</sup> ~~you~~, what do you  
think about the trial? <sup>And</sup> I said, "Listen <sup>you</sup> no good son of a bitch you",  
I said, "I'm fed up to here with you and your two-faced way you're handling the  
way you <sup>are</sup> ~~talked~~ <sup>ing about it</sup> ~~to me~~ and I said, "I'm fed up with that judge in there and I'm  
fed up with that farce ~~that farce~~ that's going on that they're calling a trial"  
and I said, "Don't you ever come up and talk to me again." I said, "I don't want  
to see you again. I don't want to talk to you again." "What do you mean, what  
do you mean?" I said, "If you don't get away from me I'm liable to hit you right  
between the eyes." That was the only time I lost my temper in two years and he  
turned around, he got right and walked off and left ~~us~~ and when he did that big  
marshall came up to me and reached out and grabbed my hand and shook it and <sup>he</sup> said,

"Mayor, I wished you would have hit him." He said, "I feel the same way about this  
as you do." That was the biggest Kubnstler's son sat in that court-  
room with a Negro girl <sup>and they</sup> had a lot of people from St, Augustine  
in that and necked her and kissed her and hugged her and not  
once did Judge Simpson ever say, "That will not happen in my courtroom." When  
something humorous happened and some of the people in St, Augustine snickered

S: it was - Whap! - and <sup>he said</sup> say, "If ya'll do that again, I'll clear this courtroom." That's how biased he was. Well, I <sup>let it get on with</sup> ~~made up my mind that~~ Mr. Judge Simpson, I talked to my brother, who is an attorney, and my wife and I said, "If this guy fines me a thousand dollars <sup>or</sup> thirty days in jail, I'm going to <sup>let him</sup> go ahead ~~and let him~~ send me to jail for contempt, for three months <sup>if he wanted to</sup> ~~I'm going to~~ ~~just~~ because I'm not going to pay no fine and let Judge Simpson run like that and while our trial was in progress, the Civil Rights Bill was signed and the law and \_\_\_\_\_  
The trial was never completed.

C: \_\_\_\_\_

S: Yeah, he went to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. - He was promoted, and I think he was bought and paid for by Lyndon Johnson. - <sup>to</sup> let this guy Kuhnstler get away with murder <sup>in the courtroom.</sup> ~~and~~ Kuhnstler's <sup>He's probably been doing it</sup> ever since. I don't understand how the guy gets away with it. His conduct in the courtroom. - <sup>lc</sup> ~~If~~ any other lawyer, anyplace else, anywhere else did that, he'd be absolutely thrown in jail. Any judge would throw the lawyer in jail for acting how this guy acted. and he did that, He got so damn bad to buy a sign and vote company. He parted <sup>ways with him</sup> ~~over~~ and he didn't, he didn't stay <sup>wouldn't</sup> ~~there.~~ <sup>with him.</sup>

C: \_\_\_\_\_

S: We asked \_\_\_\_\_, Judge Scott ruled in favor of us and one thing \_\_\_\_\_ wanted the court about \_\_\_\_\_, Judge Scott, a federal Judge prior to that ~~there.~~ Incidentally, <sup>have you</sup> ~~^~~ looked up the report of the Florida Legislative Investigative Committee? Have you seen that report?

C: Yeah.

S: They disbanded that organization \_\_\_\_\_, They did come down after all this transpired and conducted an investigation. I had the there was

S: a copy made

C: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything that you haven't told me that you thing will \_\_\_\_\_

S: No, except I think it took a while for relations to get back where they \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, I think they are as good now as they were before all this happened and <sup>I</sup> still feel the same way I did before all this \_\_\_\_\_

I say I still feel the same way, I was very sympathetic towards the black people and their plight. I'm not as sympathetic today because I think \_\_\_\_\_

they'll just I think is a bad deal, I <sup>think</sup> ~~that~~ \_\_\_\_\_

our education is still the answer to it and some of them don't want to do it,

They don't want to work and I think the \_\_\_\_\_

out in California started this case where he was denied medical school and somebody was....

C: \_\_\_\_\_

S: Well they don't want to \_\_\_\_\_

C: \_\_\_\_\_

S: They don't want it to go to Supreme Court and I think they're afraid that they'll

rule in favor of this boy that's its really going to be a blow to \_\_\_\_\_