

FB 27AB (Tape A)

Sub: David E. Randolph

Int: "Button Project"

Delray Beach

7-23-75

A.M.

Page -1-

- I: ^{find out} how well the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has helped blacks take part in Florida politics. Now, uh, what year did you first register to vote?
- D: Uh, I registered initially in 19....., I believe it was, 63 in Gary, Indiana. At that time I was a serviceman and uh, I voted by absentee ballot.
- I: I see. Now, um, what year were you first eligible to register to vote?
- D: At that time I believe the legal voting age was twenty-one and so that should have put me..... I guess around '58, '59.
- I: ^{see} Uh, how were you registered, by local registration board, federal examiner?
- D: Uh, it was by local, uh, local _____ board.
- I: Did the local registrars ever turn you down when you tried to register?
- D: No. In fact, they were most helpful.
- I: Have voter registration drives been held in the district in which you hold office?
- D: Uh, yes. In fact, I'm a member of the Delray Beach Civic Association and Organization uh, which is designed to uh, upgrade uh, people in the community by.... by health, education, welfare, and general community standards. And, uh, this organization, uh, under my urging, got together and we decided to put on a voter registration drive. And it's done over one weekend, uh, Friday

D: and Saturday, and we registered uh, something like uh, 350 black voters.

Uh, it was a..... I think we possibly could have registered more had we had the liberty of a mobile type, uh, registration-type procedure.

I: Mmm hmm.

D: Uh, but these were all stationary in various businesses uh, in the black community. And I felt, for that weekend, that we were quite successful and uh, I know the Civic League is also planning another. And I have talked to the chairperson of the Civic League and uh, we're going to provide some of the people that we already have, that are qualified to do this particular type of work, to them and so maybe next time the drive will.... will be quite more successful.

I: Um, now, you just named one other organization that's held a drive. Are there any others local or national that have been in the area?

D: Well, as I said, the Civic League, which has been uh, uh, moreso the spearheading development in the community. Uh, I don't know of really any others that have have really pushed voter registration uh..... locally. Other organizations outside of the local area have come in and, ^{you} ~~ya~~ know, tried to push it. I know uh, the county has put on uh, on a couple where they've had the mobile vans down for... for registration. Now how successful these were, I do not know.

I: Um, now these voter registration drives, where have they been held?

D: You said when or where?

I: Yeah, like when? Yearly?

D: Oh. Well, no, it's not.... it's not been an established, uh, schedule, uh, but generally I think the trend has been uh, to hold them uh, sufficiently in advance of an election, of a coming election. I know the one that we held was..... oh, I guess it was about six months prior to the general election here locally, and uh, the important thing that I think in holding these drives

D: is when you get people registered, make sure you know where they live and this kind of thing so at election time that you can assist in getting them.... getting them out to the pol^l to vote, because just to get a person registered doesn't mean anything unless they actually go to the pol^l and exercise that right.

I: Mmm hmm.

D: And uh, this has been something that the Civic League and also the Delray Civic Association have been trying to do. Uh, in as much as, uh, we get cars and get, uh, pol^l workers and uh, and ^{you} know, uh, people to drive the cars and go around to the people and actually try to get them out to the pol^ls to vote. We found that uh, the We could get more people out to vote if we concentrated our effort in the evening hours because most of the people are working people and they get off at ^{five thirty} 5:00, 5:30 in the evening and ^{you} have to..... between ^{five thirty} 5:30 and, say ^{seven o'clock} 7:00 get them to the pol^ls. And uh, well, generally, the average housewife is right in the middle of supper then so you have to keep urging them to..... Well, it's important that you get out to vote. So, ^{you} know, let us pick you up at..... if it's ^{six thirty} 6:30 and get you to the pol^ls. And it's been.... it's been working fairly.... fairly good.

I: Well, I guess you've gone over how successful these voter registration drives have been. Um, well, are there anythings which prevent blacks from registering to vote in your district?

D: Not to my knowledge.

I: Now, um, I have something ^{here} that I'd like you to rate and please comment on and if you'd like to, just call out the individual categories. These are how important ~~you think~~ each of the following items are in preventing blacks from registering to vote.

D: Well number one, economic dependence on white..... one whites. I think, uh.....

D: I would rate that fairly important.

I: Why is that?

D: Well, in this area there's little or no industry. Uh, most of the blacks in this area uh, well, I'd say..... a good percentage of the blacks in this area are either migrant farm laborers, or maids, and are lawn-maintenance type of personnel, and uh, so they are economically dependent uh, upon whites. Uh, because if we had some black industry in the area, in which there's none, uh, we have a few black businesses but the employment rate is.... is nil~~4~~ as far as percentages are concerned. So, we as blacks are.... are basically dependent upon the whites for our livelihood and for our economic structure. So, this is why I... I would rate this as fairly important in..... Well, not really in preventing blacks from uh, from voting but uh, let's take for example, on the other hand, if blacks owned a lot of the businesses in the community, uh, it... it... it would help. It would help your situation. I'm a businessman myself, so I'm free and at liberty to go and basically do as I please. I'm not totally dependent.... dependent upon whites for my economic uh, well-being. And so, this helps me. If I..... If I were say working for uh, a white firm there would be virtually no way I could hold a job as a councilman in the city of Delray. Because the requirements for this job are are really mean. And by mean, I mean that, uh, some of the requirements to do things, you must.... ^{you} ya know, you must be at liberty to go uh, at will. And if you can't do this, you can't hold that job. You must also have uh, a fairly decent uh, eco..... you must be in a fairly good economic ^{structure} ~~straddle~~.... uh, financial, uh, because I'm called out to meetings uh, many announced and unannounced all times of day and.... and night. And uh, and so you've got to be really sorta ^{sf}

D: self-employed to do this particular type of thing.

I: Right.

D: Uh, fear of physical violence from whites, uh, I don't think that's important at all because, uh, I must commend the community of Delray by saying it's.... it's one of the most common sense type communities as far as black-white relationship that I've been in a long time. They have no problems here. I'd say, little or no problems. Uh, problems that are created here are created by uh, people who want to create these type of problems. Uh, and as we get further in, I'll.... I'll explain that remark.

I: Wanna ^{to} mark it down ~~so~~ here? _____?

D: Uh, complicated registration forms. I don't think that's important at all because uh, even in in going down to register uh..... Well, let's say let's say at this way _____. When we were registering, uh, people, for example, at my business place and myself and, I believe, my wife were the uh, were the uh.... what do you call it? What do you call it when you.... when you are given the authority to register people to vote? Try to think of the.....

I: Registrars all I can think of.

D: Yeah, well, registrars at the... at the store. And there are some people uh, who came that.... that basically could not sign their names. But I think a good, uh, registrar, uh, in his fair explanation of what the forms are, they have no problems. Have no problems at all. So, I ... I don't think that this is an important factor. Poor registration hours. Uh, I really don't think this is a factor at all. I.... I think that if a person really wants to register to vote uh, it's it's of little or no consequence for them to get out and do this. The thing is to get.... to help inform people

D: as to how important it is to vote. Uh, back in the...in the days, I guess, following '64 and the Civil Rights and a few other things, uh, I don't think the interest was there among uh, the average white person to get out and register to vote because we always had to kill the old adage that, you know, I'm just one person and my vote is not ^{going to} gonna count. But if everyone in the world thought this way, you would.... you would basically elect no one. And uh, our ^{free} ~~pre~~ democratic society would no longer be free. Registration not held often enough. Uh..... I think uh, that this is really not a factor and it's not important because I think uh, let's see, that the books are... are open uh, but I think to get people to vote, you have to get the books close to them...uh, by putting ^{them} ~~em~~ in the community. I know there's a couple of places here uh that are..... are standard registration areas, and that's like the city hall which is almost centered in the community. Uh, the South County uh, Palm Beach County uh, court uh..... South Palm Beach County, uh, annex, courthouse annex which is located right out here on on Pinehurst. Uh, it's it's all within, ~~a~~ ^{kinda}.... within a short reach of the average person that wanted to register to vote. But the thing is is the education process. If you get ^{them} ~~em~~ educated to vote, then fine, you can probably get some of them out to.... to do it.

I: There's one other point there that I didn't write down, it's um, re-registration effects.

D: Re-registration effects?

I: Mmm hmmm.

D: Uh, how do you mean ?

I: Well, in um some areas, if you havn't voted within a certain amount years, two or three years, you have to register again and they were assuming that since um, maybe blacks hadn't regist..... hadn't voted that they would have to

I: register again and it would be even harder the second time to get them to register.

D: I don't.... I don't really think so. I I .. I think that uh, ^{the} your thing ^{here} ~~is~~ again and I.... and I hate to keep carping on this educational uh, fact, but it.... but it is. It's a true life fact that to get a person to vote initially is to educate him as to the importance of ^{exercising} ~~exercising~~ his right to vote. So if you do not.... If someone doesn't take the interest to go to this person or ... or put out and it's almost uh, I don't I don't type- education. You can put out all the leaflets, all the pamphlets that you want. Many of the people, when they receive them will take it as another piece of unwanted mail, discard it into the trash uh receptacle and and there goes your opportunity. But, if you get to those.... these people and eyeball to eyeball contact, like many of the organizations are trying to do. Go to ^{them} em and talk to them and tell them about the importance of getting out to vote. I've found that uhhh, for example, here in Delray, if you have, uh, a black candidate that's running, your percentage of voting is much, much higher. Well, it should stay this way whether you have a black candidate or a white candidate because after all, these are the people who are governing you. So, uh, it's uh, it's one of the most awesome tasks, uh, that I've ever seen to get people interested in voting..... Well, first to get em registered and the second thing is to generate that interest, getting em out to the poll no matter what the.... what the issue may be. And, uh, I think, uh, it's real important to do these. And without these organizations, without the people who uh, has this interest in.... in the people who are in the community, you'd never get in the top list. So your civic leagues uh, uh, and I... I always

- D: think that the ministers can help because they have ^{grip} groups with the greatest concentration of people within the community and generally if a minister say something, it rings a bell, it sticks with members of its congregation. And this is why I've been working as closely as I possibly could with ministers. I... I don't want to throw politics into the church, but I do think that the minister really uh has the grip on the people if he'll only use it. And we have two or three real enterprising ministers uh in the community who will... will... will attempt just this. To get that congregation out to register, second thing is to get em out to vote. But, not only when there's a black candidate or a black issue involved, but when there's any issue involved, we should get the people out to vote.
- I: Mmmm hmmm.
- D: So it's a..... It's a big job. And I think I've just about covered the... the next one, indifferences of blacks to voting.
- I: Mmm hmmm.
- D: Uh, and it's I think uh, I would say, uh, that it has no bearing. It's not important and so and I must say this from knowing the community and I've only been here now for about six..... six years but uh, it's a.... it's a really sensible community and so we don't have.... we have little or no problems here.
- I: Now, there's another last one that I forgot to put down. Um, it's a drawing of district lines. Has this hindered blacks?
- D: No because uh, Delray is uh, is at large.
- I: Mmm hmmm.
- D: And uh, I think I would.... I think I would fight any attempt to district delegates. I really would.

I: Yeah.

D: ^{Business} I think it should remain at large. Uh, I think that uh, no matter where a person lives, ^{if} he's qualified to hold an office then let the voters decide whether he's whether he's qualified. I don't want to say that just because this is a black community and this is district number so-and-so that we must have a black represent us. Uh, I think that it should be thrown to the entire community to decide who's the best qualified to govern the city.

I: Mmm hmmm. ^{all} Alright. [?] _____ . Two more of these afterwards so. Now the um, following section um, the questions are asked to gather information on your campaign. Were you able to campaign freely? Were you threatened in any way in your campaign?

D: No way. I.... I had a real, real good uh, campaign time, as I like to call it. I was encouraged first and foremost by uh, several members in the community, black leaders, and also I was encouraged by many whites to run. And uh, so I... I... I can dispell any ... any part of rumors there that uh, ^{you} ya know uh, that may come up. Because uh, I say as.... as many.... there was as many whites as there were blacks encouraging me to run for office, public office.

I: Mmm hmmm. Uh, were you handicapped by a lack of campaign money?

D: No, not really because uh, I limited my campaign contributions to a maximum of \$25.00. I didn't.... I felt that I wouldn't have to garner uh, a great deal of money to win an election. I didn't want it that way. I wanted to spend ^{the} a minimum uh, on ... on the election, on my campaign. And this I did. I think, uh, my total spending for the both the primary and ... and

D: general^y was something in the neighborhood of \$700.00. And uh, I thought it was..... And although I didn't rate low, I was very very close to the uh, to the low spender. I think one other person was lower than I was as far as spending was concerned.

I: O.K. why would did you decide to run for office?

D: (chuckle) Well, I never had really any desire to run for a public office prior to my final decision to run. Uh, I thought that, uh, with the work that I was doing in the community that I didn't necessarily have to be an elected official to continue this work and I'm.... I was civic-minded since the day I hit this uh, particular area. I was able to see some of the things that I thought needed... needed upgrading as far as the community was concerned and I immediately started in uh, to work on this. I was one of the organiz..... organizers of the Delray Beach Civic Association, and uh, it was just that the community was sort of stale-mated. Uh, they actively involved in some areas, but involvement was... was not handled the way that I thought it could be best handled to get some of the end products that they wanted. Uh, we had uh..... I won't say radicals, but we had people that was.... were..... was doing in the.... in the way that, uh, that was not generally acceptable to whites. To get something done, you don't scream and holler at anyone. You go in with a logical uh, intelligent approach, uh, you hold fast, you don't have to raise your voice to get anything done. Uh, but if you go in there with a logical and intelligent ^{approach} generally whites will accept you. Uh, I could.... I could ^{... let's} ~~fore~~ say that if you came to me wanting something done, if you came with a logical and intelligent ^{approach}, you would be far better in getting it done than if you came to me

D: with the arrogant uh, outlook-type approach because you would turn me off as soon as you came in, and I think this is what was happening uh, in this community. Uh, because although the leaders did a lot, but the the.... the approach was not _____.

I: Mmm hmmm. So, actually um, this was..... Was it your own decision before somebody had approached you or...?

D: No, no. No, no. I had no idea of running for public office, but I was approached uh, uh, by several people in the community and also several whites uh, who asked me to consider to run.

I: Were they politically active or just concerned?

D: Just.... just concerned, I think.

I: O.K. Um, what.... what party do you belong to?

D: Democratic.

I: Um, what were the two or three most important issues in which you campaigned? And uh, let me just ask you um, have you run for more than one campaign?

D: No.

I: O.K., so, just specifically one.

D: First time around I was elected. O.K..... to answer..... to answer that question on on my particular platform, uh, I've always, uh, liked a small place, a small community and Delray fitted that bill as far as I was concerned in my decision to settle in a small place. I was born and raised in Hillsborough County, lived in Tampa, ^{you} know, all my uh, uh, childhood and young-adult life before going to college and I just never really liked a big city uh, particularly when it comes to raising kids. And so, my wife is from this area. She was born and raised here. So, when I was in the service we'd come home on leave and we would uh, always visit.... visit both parents in Tampa and here in Delray. And so, I... I just became

D: attached to Delray. It was, ^{it} seemed like a small nice community that had a lot of greenery and uh, so one of my uh, platform uh, issues was based on keeping density as low as possible. The other one was uh, to improve what uh, I had felt that was to improve ^{low} enforcement in the area. To take a good look at law enforcement and see where you could... we could help by better equipment uh, better-educated policeman, both from the ranking file and also from the uh, the heads of... of ... of the department. And much of this we've been able to do, and I'm real, real happy of... of that uh, because we have, uh, one of the uh, best police chiefs, I think, now in the country. He was rated, uh, in the top ten on.... he was in uh, I believe his last duty station somewhere out in, I believe, Wisconsin. So, we have him now as a chief.... as a chief and uh, uh, he's doing a a tremendous job here in... in the city. But those were the two major issues, density and uh, and law enforcement.

I: Mmm hmm. Well, do you think these issues were the main problems facing the blacks at the time you campaigned?

D: Uh, not density as far as the blacks were concerned, but law enforcement uh, was definitely one. Uh, also upgrading, general upgrading of the community, uh, uh, it's environment, such as streets uh, sidewalks uh, sewage, and this kind of thing. It just a general uh, problem areas that effect any community, and uh, we ^{are} sort of working on this. For example, ~~even~~ before I came here, I think there was an effort to get some traffic lights in the community because uh, uh, we had uh, I guess something like ¹⁵ ~~fifteen~~ or 18,000 blacks in the community and we had one traffic light and uh, in the..... well, what I.... I call the uh, central business district for black businesses, was.... is located right on the state road. There was no way to curtail the uh, or to reduce the speed, uh, the accident rate and this kind of thing. So,

- D: that was one of the first things that I worked on, to gather a few traffic lights for the community. And uh, we made several attemp.... attempts and all of them were denied. The last attempt ~~that~~ we made, which was also denied, but we were successful in getting the county government to see that, although there's a manual that says that you do not rate traffic lights because of... of statistics, uh, there was a human element involved, and this is how we won the traffic lights, based on the human element at this site. So, it's the approach and uh, and the pattern of approach and in getting things done. And referring back to you don't go up and scream and holler at em, you go up and present it to ^{them} ~~em~~ logically and intellectually, and generally you'll get it.
- I: And so that um, housing and the traffic system and sewage were main problems facing blacks?
- D: Yes.
- I: O.K. Um, now the next section, um, the questions are asked to determine some of the conditions which have enabled blacks to win office in Florida. And as you say before, you were elected at large. True?
- D: Yes, I was elected at-large.
- I: O.K. um, these following questions refer to district. Well, we'll just keep it at-large.
- D: O.K.
- I: How many people are in Delray?
- D: In Delray? Right now it's estimated some.... somewhere between ²⁸ ~~twenty-eight~~ and 30,000.
- I: O.K. Uh now, what percentage of this was black?
- D: Uh, I'd say about 42, 43 per cent of that total are black.

I: O.K. And about what percentage of the blacks ^{of} are voting age in your district or in the in the area are registered to vote?

D: Uh..... I'd say probably somewhere in the 18, 19, maybe 20 per cent category.

I: Now, about what percentage of the blacks who are registered to vote, do you estimate actually voted when you were elected?

D: About 50 per cent of those registered voted. Because we had a... another strong black candidate who was.... who was running, so this... this made the community interest a little more... a little ^{higher} barrier than it.... I think normally would have been.

I: Mmmm hmmm. I see. Do you, uh, believe that you got any votes from whites?

D: Most definitely. I uh, I carried the white community whereas, I.... I lost both in the primary and the general to the black cand.... the other black candidate. Because he was born and raised here, uh, he had been very active in, uh, in civic and community law. He was a minister, a young minister in the community and I was just a ... a transplant of actually ^{her} in about four and half ^{to} or five year, uh, but background-wise, I think I had him because I was a former serviceman, uh, when I got out of the service I was a field raid officer in the rank of major and I think this helped, uh, because I was..... I think I had him because..... education-wise he didn't possess a college degree, but I did. Uh, and I don't think that's real important but I do think it was a factor in the whites turning to me. The second thing was that, uh, I was, I think uh, the whites classified me more as a liberal than himself. Uh, he was more..... I think they classified him more as the the radical uh, although I don't think he's uh,

D: purely radical but uh, I took a more liberal approach to problems than I think he would have and uh, I guess the other thing was was the issues themselves. I think he ran strongly on law-and-order and I was not so strong on law-and-order, although it was one of my... my uh, campaign platforms. But I dealt more in... in density and things that would actually improve the.... well, not improve, but not allow the community to become a concrete jungle.

I: Right.

D: ^{Yes} Ya know and a lot of condominiums all over the place and everything uh, because uh, as I said, I just wanted to see the community have some green space and you can't do it by building condominiums completely over the place.

I: Yeah. Um, just to backtrack a little bit um, you have a.... you had a primary and a gen.... and you had a general election.

D: Yes. Yes.

I: Now in the primary, um, what percentage of the blacks voted?

D: It was, oh, it was very low. It was not uh, not.... real.... a real great percentage of because I'm trying to think of some of the figures now. Uh, for example, I think there was a ^{total} ~~table~~ of..... I think one of the larger precincts I think there was a total of around uh, probably seven or 800 people that voted in... in one of our larger precincts in the... in the black community, and uh, I think uh, overall in the primary, he beat me by something like less than 100 100 votes. And then in the general, I'm..... I closed the the gap. And I think he beat me something like, uh, forty votes overall. But uh, again, uh, I don't think....

D: I don't think the voters themselves was looking at the qualification of the men running. I think they were moreso looking at the hometown, well, what ^{you} ~~ya~~ call the hometown uh, uh boy because he was born and raised here.

~~in 1942:~~

I: ^{That's impossible.} Um, now about the white vote. About what percentage of your total vote came from whites?

D: Uh, I'd say something like sixty-forty. About 60 per cent, uh, as opposed to 40 per cent of the.... of the.... of the black.

D: During uh..... This is in the general, what about in the primary?

I: No, this was..... this was in... in really both because, uh, had the whites not voted for me like they did, I would not have been elected. Uh, that's a that's a knowⁿ fact when you look at the ^{you} ~~ya~~ know...., look at the total results of the..... of both the primary and the general. I ran very strong in the ^{beach} ~~breach~~:..... in the beach precinct, uh, which, oh, I guess uh has over..... around 900 to 1000 voters, and that's one precinct. And uh a person who can't carry the beach precinct can just about forget ~~it~~ being elected unless he's heavy in all the other precincts in town.

I: O.K. so, uh, how many opponents did you have?

D: Well, there was two officers. Uh, one of the incumbents was seeking re.... re-elec..... re-election and this was one of the council, we only had one on council, uh, but she was very strong. Uh, she's been vice-mayor and all, and uh it was almost common knowledge that she was going to win her seat back. The other uh seat was vacated by a black, the first black to be elected in the in the community and he'd served on council for six years then decided not to..... uh to seek re-election, and so that left uh, myself and the other candidate basically after that seat. And

D: uh, I was uh, fortunate enough to win it.

I: The other candidate was black also?

D: Yes.

I: O.K. and this.... the incumbent was a woman, did you say or.....

D: Yes.

I: A white woman.

D: Yeah, well see the mayor and two coucilm..... uh council members are elected on odd years, I believe, and two coucil members on even years. So, it was a year for the mayor and two coucil members that I..... that I.... that I went in under.

(tape cuts off and side one still has tape left but not recording)

(Begin side 2)

I: Um, what percentage of the total vote did you get?

D: Of the total vote?

I: Yeah.

D: I ran uh..... I guess ^I ran second uh, and I think overall I was about 40..... 47 per cent of the total registered voters in the community that turned out to the poles in the general elections. I don't remember what it was in the primary. Uh..... I think I probably picked up I guess something in the neighborhood of about 50 to 51 per cent of the total votes.

I: And this is in the general election you're talking about?

D: Yes.

I: Well, who was your opponent in the general election?

D: In the general election? Well, my opponent, uh, I think was, uh, well, at.....

D: at-large with two seats open and there was four candidates going for the uh, for the... for the two seats. In the general election, uh, I would have to say that my opponent was the other black that was running.

I: Mmm hmmm.

D: Because this was basically the way that the uh, election was... was built up. That uh, the Reverend Taylor and myself was after the one seat and Mrs. Crevalls, uh, and the other candidate was after the.... after the second seat. And so, I would have to say that that my opponent was uh, the Reverend Taylor who was also black.

I: Now, this next section the questions are asked to determine how well black officials in Florida have been able to benefit those they represent. In what ways do you think you have helped blacks in your district by holding office?

D: Well, that's a.... (chuckle) That's a.... that's a ^{pretty} good good question. Uh, I would have to say that, because of my background, and I do have an extensive background in administration, management, and uh, a fairly good knowledge of a budget. And those are, I feel ~~that~~, the key and critical areas in the total picture of a.... of the operation of a city. Uh, if you know budgets, uh, if you understand budgets, uh, if you know administration and management, I think you have the key to most of the problems that will confront any council member. And since I'm.... and since my military uh, experience..... was along these lines, I felt that ~~that~~ I'm.... ^{you} ya know, I'm better equipped, uh, to help the... the black community. Uh, for example, sewage has always been a problem in several areas in the black community. And uh, so I've been harping on this ever since I've been on council.

D: To get sewage for all of the city, to upgrade uh, uh, some of the.... some of the real bad roads and uh, byways in the community, uh, to get, uh, adequate drainage in the community. And these are things that.... that I stay on... on... on everyday. Uh, for example, I went on council believing that we needed a full-fledged city inspector, one guy to really bird dog the city. Make sure that people who had dilapidated homes, people who, uh, did not keep their property well manicured, that this individual would would be a watchdog for these things. Because uh, I live in the heart of the black community and uh, just because..... I always say, just because you live in the jungle, you don't necessarily have to be a monkey. And uh, this is my approach to it. I feel that.... I want to see my community just as clean as any other community in the city. And so, I think, uh, not to turn on the community, but I think that sufficient pressures should be kept on all uh, residents of a.... of a community to see that their property is well-groomed, their houses are painted within economic bounds. Uh, uh, you can live in a framed structure and uh, not paint it for twenty years and and look at what you got. But if you can throw a coat of paint on it every five or six years, and that you have a lawn out front uh, doesn't necessarily have to be one that's, uh, maintained by a a maintenance man, . you can do it yourself. Uh, I do my lawn myself and uh, I work on it continuously because I want to have, uh, a fairly decent-looking home environment. Some people could care less because they're in rental properties. But I say put the pressure on the owner and if, uh, you put sufficient pressure on the owner, that means that he's gonna in turn have to put pressure on

D: the tenant to keep his... his property looking looking good. Then if it's.... if it's not kept or well-manicured and this kinda thing then get rid of that tenant.

I: Have you had success with this drive?

D: Somewhat. Uh, I think that the city is improving quite a bit because when I went on council ^{w/c} you were having.... The city is real fortunate in as much as we were providing, I think, one.... one trash pick-up at roadside about every three or four weeks, but now we've gone to once a week, and it's... it's helping the appearance of the city. In other words, if you trimmed your coconut palms and threw the ... the fronds out front, it's a big difference of it laying there for three weeks as opposed to one week. And uh, these are things that that help any community. When... when you can... when you can clean up that community once a week, uh, ^{ya} know, have pick-ups once a week and uh, encourage the residents not to throw things out at these pick-up points, uh, say prior to twenty-four hours before pick-up or forty-eight hours before pick-up. Because if you.... if... if the pick-up in my area is on Friday and I come and clean my yard on Saturday, then that's a whole week it's just gotta stay in the streets. And, uh, so these are things that, uh, we are trying to get the people in the community to see. That we're our... our own worst enemy because if it's cleaned up on Friday and then we throw paper and trash out in the community, it's not hurting anybody but ourselves because we have live there. And so, these are things that we're.... we're pressing for. Uh, we have got actively involved into, uh, the schools since most of the kids in Delray have to be bussed.... bussed to ^ajoining communities. Uh, most.... Well, a majority of the kids I would

D: think in Delray has to be bussed to Boca which is some eight miles to the south of us. And uh, I think organizations like the Civic Association must keep watch on the schools and see that that our kids are treated fairly. Uh, see that, uh, that that if they're due ^{the honor} ~~beyond~~ a roll, then they ~~may be on a roll~~, and help them to maintain an attitude that, although you're bussed in this community, you want to carry that image that Delray kids are just as good as the kids at Boca. That we know how to conduct ourselves as well as the kids in Boca. Uh, we don't want to do anything that uh, will will cause others to say, well, the kids from Delray are radicals and this kind^{of} thing. We want to putth em down there with... with a couple goals in mind. First and foremost, is your....your educational experience, and then get yourself a good education. Uh, the federal government has said that you would be bussed so don't hold that against the people in Boca. Uh, go down and... and do your best while you're a guest in the community, if I may use this term. Do the best you can. Keep up that image that we feel that you should keep up. ^{You} ~~Ya~~ know? Don't go down and cause problems unnecessarily. So, we work very hard along these lines to try to keep these, uh, images of their city forth em .

I: ^{Keep} O.K. What, if anything, has prevented you from doing a better job, especially in regard to benefit.... benefitting blacks in your area.

D: Nothing. Nothing. Uh, other than uh, uh, uh, (chuckle) I'll say time. That's that's it. Because I think that uh, I could do almost anything that I set out to do.

I: That's very good.

D: I really do. And I think that the only thing that would prohibit me from

D: doing it is.. is.. is really time and uh, like I said I work somewhere in the.... in the neighborhood of ten to twelve hours a day at my regular job and I manage uh, I manage a family-owned business. But, uh, since it is family-owned, I'm a liberty to do more than if I was working for somebody else. Like if there's a meeting I want to attend at ~~3:00~~^{three o'clock} in the day and although my break uh, I've had my break, if I wanna attend that meeting, I can go. And this is.... this is one of the benefits that I have, uh, that I think that a lot of other people would not have had they been elected, uh, to council. For example, the Reverend Taylor who was running against me. Now he's.... he's also in..... He's self-employed and I think he may have been able to do it. But the average guy working for, uh, another individual could not be a good council member if that employee..... that employer would not allow him to do some of the things that I can do now because of a family-owned business. You have to be at liberty to go and do. Uh, for example, I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm the vice-president of the Palm Beach County Municipal League uh, which is a league comprising all thirty-seven municipalities, uh, in Palm Beach County. And, uh, I'm a member of the, uh, of the West Palm Beach Urban Area Transportation Study uh, uh, Committee. All of these are side effects to ... to being a council member. But I feel that if I'm going to be a good council member, then my exposure has to.... has to be... has to be increased. I've got to get out and know what's going on other places so that I can..... I can be better equipped to do my job on a local basis. So, these I do. I try to get involved in as many things as I possibly can..... time permitting.

I: It helps your constituents.

D: It certainly does.

I: Now another rater. Now these are to rate how important you think the following items are in preventing you from doing a better job benefitting blacks and uh, as you said there's nothing so, if you just go down the line.

D: ^{okay,} ~~O.K.~~ Number one; Office has no real authority. And if you're speaking of my office as a council member, right? Well, this office has real authority as far as I'm concerned. Uh, by my ability, uh, to present myself and the problems of the community to other council members, to sell them on it in council member..... uh, at council meetings. Not behind closed doors and these kind of things. To present a logical approach to the problem and get the other council members to see ^{that's okay,} ~~O.K.~~ there is a need that we authorize this or that we consider this. Now, I don't think that I would get everthing that I want. I don't think anybody's gonna do this, black or white, but if you get the majority of ^{it,} ~~em~~ then the majority is better than zero or ^{zip.} ~~zip~~.

I: ^{okay,} ~~O.K.~~ so that's not important at all?

D: Uh, let's see, office has no real authority. No, that's not.... not important.

I: Whether you're outvoted by the white officials, white council members?

D: Uh, no, I don't think so. I, uh, I've found myself, since I've been on council, having the swaying vote in many, many key issues, uh, uh, because there was two council members for and two against and, uh, I being right in the middle of the swaying vote. So, the decision ma... making process, much of it rests with me and, uh, it's just the way that many issues are structured. That it could go either way with me having the deciding vote

D: so I study the problem very, very carefully. Uh, I have to be in a position to make a good, sound decision and I know many times that, uh, no^t matter what decision you make, some people are gonna be with you and some are gonna be against you. But you have to make that decision based on your knowledge of the proble^m, based on your study of the problem, and your uh.... based on your believe^f ⁱⁿ what you're doing.

I: O.K. ^{okay} Now is there the problem that is typical of the black community. Do ever find that the white officials are just overwhelming you? Say, in [?] authority [?]

D: No, no, no, no. No, in no way. No way here in Delray. I think we have uh, one of the most logical-thinking councils anywhere in the state of Florida. I must say that without reservation.

I: That's another not important?

D: That's another not important.

I: (chuckle)

D: Not enough revenue available. (chuckle) Well, this.... this is always a problem because I don't think that any municipality has excess revenue that they can do things that, uh, that everybody wants done. Uh, but I.... I think it's.... I think it's also not important because we.... we have a real fine uh, city manager, he's a very logical-thinking person uh, and he has a tendency to listen. Uh, the council, uh, listens, uh, very well. I don't think that that, uh, that this is really a factor because we make due with what rev.... revenue we have available and I think they.... that they do a real, real good job because uh, I guess ^{here} ~~the year~~ about uh, oh I guess a year, a year and a half ago uh, the city

D: just completed the southwest drainage pro..... uh, project. And that was something like uh, oh I guess, uh, well over two million dollars and all of that went right into the black community to benefit ^{the} that uh, the residents in that.... in that community. And at that time I was not on council when it was initiated but I was on council when it was completed. Uh, and I think.... I think they... they really use a ... a common sense uh approach... approach to uh, the ^{you} know adequate use of finances available to do the job.

^{okay}
O.K. Unfamiliarity..... uh, unfamiliar with administrative duties. Uh, as I said before, I think I have an administrative background that was not limiting under any circumstances and in performing well as a councilor... as a councilman.

I: ^{okay}
O.K. Another not important?

D: Mmm hmm. Uh, lack of cooperation from whites. I think uh, they've been most generous in cooperating, uh, with me and in anything I've attempted to do. For example, when I was working so diligently trying to get the traffic lights for the community. Uh, when I presented my case to the council, they passed a resolute ^{year} supporting my efforts. And I think this resolution had great bearing on the.... on the ~~kind of~~ ^{country} government, Helping us to... to get these traffic lights. Things of this nature. Uh, community development uh, grant funds which would benefit mostly uh, the underprivileged and most of this is in the black community. They have worked just as hard as I have to see that Delray, uh, could obtain uh, uh, a certain amount of these funds to, uh, rid the community of blight and help, uh, build a thing like a neighborhood center which is badly needed, uh, right in the middle of the black community. Not only for blacks but for the entire community.

D: I wanted to see something that's uh, although it may have been put^{up} in the middle of ... of the black community, something that was... that every citizen in Delray would be happy to use. Uh, I want to... to keep working so that, uh, so that the average white would not have any reser.... reservation^s about coming into the black community, attending a function, and enjoying themselves. And uh, we were thinking on something for a neighborhood center or a community center, something in the half million dollar category. Something that would've provided a real, real fine facility. Something that you could uh, have the the cultural arts uh, uh, exhibits and these kind^{of} things. Something that the whole community, the whole community of Delray could be proud of and utilized to it's best advantage. So, uh, uh, this item uh, we put to, uh, uh, put to a referendum. And I must say that it was, of... of the five items that you had on which only one passed was a half million dollars..... uh, six hundred thousand dollars for streets and sidewalk bond issue, passed. The other four failed. And of the other four that failed, the community center that we were trying to get in the community failed by a difference of 127 votes. Now, I.. I've... I've always said that had the black community turned out in sufficient number to the pole^s, we would've had that authorization to go ahead with this. So, since we didn't get it, I didn't drop it. I decided that we could If we didn't get it this way we could go with other ways. Uh, so the community development block grant program is the next objective that I have to getting this center built, which is badly needed. Uh, right now we joined in... we

D: enjoined the county. Uh, first the city was going to go it alone and try to gather the necessary funds under the com.... community development block grant program to get this center built and to upgrade housing in the... in the community and remove some of the blight in the community. But we found that the county, and most of this was from my doing, I happened to be at the county on a on another uh, at the board of county commissioners meeting on another subject and, uh, it was brought up at that time by one of the commissioners that the county did not possess the two hundred thousand, uh, population count that it needed to qualify as an urban county for community development block grant program. So, based on the 1970 census, uh, the city of Delray at that time, I think, cleared about, uh, 19,000, uh, population count. Riviera Beach carried a little higher. And they needed those two communities to include Lake Worth to get above 200,000 to apply as an urban county. So, at that meeting the county said they couldn't see why these communities had not enjoined them uh, shouldn't, uh, join them. And, uh, so, I, uh, came back to our, uh, city manager and asked him to hold a council and see if.... if our council was agreeable to enjoining the county to pull our population count in to see if we could the county above 200,000. Well, we did get a majority vote on it and so we enjoined the county and then Riviera Beach, I think, also enjoined them and Lake Worth and so this put the county above 200,000. And so we could no longer go it... go it alone, but we were going in with the county. So, uh, the community development block grant application as submitted by the county has been approved by the regional office in Jacksonville and is now at the federal level waiting their approval. So, if that approval comes back the county will get somewhere in the neighborhood of, uh, about 1.2 million dollars and so hopefully

D: Delray will get its fair share of it so that we can do some of the things that we need to do within the community.

I: Well, that.... how ^{can} it it relate to the next question, lack of cooperation for blacks?

D: Well, uh, this a.... a process where, that, the average black and I'm saying the average black, not your.... not your leaders or your possible leaders, uh, you have to get em off dead-center to get things accomplished. The average black can sort of have a careless attitude as how things are going downtown. Uh, he will complain within the community, he will complain to himself, he will complain to others but the complaints have to be garnered and taken downtown uh, to get things done. And this is something that I've been doing now for the last year and a half, trying to get the average black more interested into local self-government. It's a.... it's a hard thing because, uh, I think that when I look out into the audience at council meetings, the blacks that are down there are generally the same blacks that are there every week. But I'm trying to generate the interest to get more down to get involved in local self-government. Because this is the the greatest opportunity for a citizen to be a part of government, to be a close knit part because when you get at the county level you're ... you're away from the community. When you're at the state level, how many citizens do you know that really goes up to Tallahassee to, uh, be involved in leg... in the legislative process. So, I try to tell them, along these lines, that you are right here where government is going on. So, you have a voice in it ~~it~~ so why not come down and listen in and join in, uh, because no matter what your educational level is, ~~A~~ lot of blacks will tell me, ~~And~~ I tell them well come down and see how local self-government

D: operates. Said well, I'm... I'm not a good spokesman. You don't need to be, because if you have a problem come down and present it not matter whether your educational background, uh, says that you are an explicit speaker or you're just a run-of-the-mill speaker, I think they'll get the point. Even if you split verbs or even if you get crossed up on certain ways of presenting yourself. So come down and try it. And, uh, we're getting more and more, uh, but it's a continuous process. You can't do it this week and drop it next week. You have to stay on them and stay on them, uh, and uh and get them to be a part of local self-government. Uh, we have uh, uh, several community leaders who, uh, are really getting involved. Uh, since I've been on... on ... on council, I've gotten a black from this area nominated and is now a member of the manpower board, which is a key and important board as far as funding is concerned manpower-wise. Uh, most of the manpower money was staying north. Well, we needed some help in the south county area. So, this guy now represents the south county area and he was my campaign manager at the time and he.... he did a... such a fabulous job, I asked him to.... to please be available to, uh, to accept appointment to some of these boards. And he's the dean of boys down at Boca School and, uh, so when the manpower appointment came by I considered he among two others and Joggs basically eliminated the two others so I had to go to the principal... his principal uh, to ask if, if he could uh contend with this individual making some day-time meetings in West Palm Beach and this kinda thing. He... he was agreeable. And so this guy is on the board now and he is doing a tremendous job. And and you're... and we're seeing some results of his sitting on that board. But could you imagine

D: if this guy had not been on the board whether the south county area which we are a part would've been thought of. No, I doubt very seriously because when it comes to a point of handing out money you almost want to, uh, look after your area. You... you want to see that your particular area is represented with funds. So, we needed some help in this area. Like I said, I'm on the... I'm on the transportation, uh, board and so I can look out for the south county area... uh, because if I wasn't on the board there would be basically be no one to look after the south county board. One of the commissioners who was just elected to the, uh, to the uh, county.... the board of county commissioners, Commissioner Medalin, uh, he went in and he said that he would do as much as he could for the economically deprived and he's doing a good job because when he receives notification that he can make an appointment from his district, generally he calls me and asks me if I have anyone that I'd like to consider. All the time the people do not get these jobs, but at least it's a step in the right direction because he calls me and asks me if I know of someone that I... that I could recommend.

I: Well now, for lack of cooperation, generally you'd rate it not important?

D: Well, I'd rate it not important. Really.

I: ^{Okay} O.K. Now, um, so what about state officials with the problems?

D: Well, no other than... than.... than council-wise uh, myself personally, no. But council-wise, we had.... the last legislative delegation we had from the..... from this area, we were quite successful in getting some of the things done for the city that we wanted them to do. For example, uh, the city of Delray is laden with what we call county pockets, uh within our

D: our reserved area there are a lot of pockets that are basically in the city but not controlled by the city because it's a county pocket and we're getting a lot of those eliminated and this is gonna help us. So, I... I'd say.... I'd say it's not important.

I: ^{okay} O.K. and federal officials?

D: Federal officials well, (chuckle) we have uh, Paul Rodgers to represent us and he is.... he's very good. We've gotten a lot of help from him. He's down in the area quite often and when we have a problem we see him or we call him and uh, so he's... he's good. with feedback in this area...

I: That's not really.....

D: Not really important.

I: (chuckle) Well, at least, you're consistent anyway.

D: Like I say, we're... we're really fortunate in this area. We really are.

I: I might move down, it sounds great. (laughter)

D: I'll tell ya. I'll tell ya.

I: ^{okay} O.K. Has criticism or lack of support from the black community hindered you in holding office? That is, do some blacks not cooperated with you because they believe you are only a token in government and have no real authority?

D: No. Because I think there was a great deal of reservation when I first went on council from the blacks in the community. It was sort of "I'm wondering if he's gonna be able to do the job. I'm wondering if he's gonna ~~uh~~ be able to get in there with his approach". Ya^{o.k.} know, with the low key, liberal-type approach. Whether he's gonna be able to accomplish some of the things that he said in his... in his in, ya^{o.k.} know, his platform and other community and civic work that I was doing. But, after the first

D: year I think there is a really earned uh.... earned uh.... a ... a ... a pretty good title that I can get the job done. Uh, I know numerous blacks who have come down to council on... on critical issues that involve blacks, and the way that I presented the problem and the way that the vote turned out, I think I have gained their confidence that I can do the job, uh, uh, ^{uh} ya know, as required. I'd like to quote you just... just one.

I: Sure.

D: Uh, the community child care center, uh, hadhad leased some property from the city to build, uh, a child care center within the black community, but because of funding they could not do it. So they located, uh, a resident^{ce} which would be of size to handle the thirty-five to forty kids that they were handling at that time. But this resident^{ce} happened to be, uh, in the southeast area of the city and it happened to be in a white community. So the whites had some reservation as to bringing these minority kids ^{black} like uh, Mexican-American, ^{uh} ya know-into the community. Whether it was going to lower property values and this kinda thing, ^{uh} ya know. And this was a ^{bad} ~~good~~-awful fight, uh, and it was presented in such a manner that I think we dispelled all of this. And this has turned out to be one of the prettiest little pieces of property in that community. The Jaycees and everyone pitched and and helped. And so now there's no kids running in the road like they said, no kids getting run over by cars and this kind of thing. And it's.... and it's worked beautifully. We havn't had one complaint from council as to this... this activity being in this... in

D: this... in this community. I think they have earned their place in that community. So, I'm real proud of that.

I: Do you feel that white officials treat you differently from other officials? That's is, do they consider you the spokesman for the blacks and you're only able to make certain issues pertaining to blacks?

D: No. Because when I was running for council I made it perfectly clear to all residents of this community, I think, that if I were elected, I would be a councilman for all the elect. I don't want to, ^I ~~w~~ didn't want to at that time, and I still don't want to, be considered as the councilman that represents the black community. And... and I get real appalled when people say that I am, ^{o'w} ya know, the black representative on council. I'm not. I'm a council member just like anybody else is there, I'll fight just as hard for the black community as I will for the southeast, or the northeast area, or the beach. So, I don't..... Running at-large means that I'm a... I'm an at-large council member and this is the way I see it. So, I want no one to say that, ^{o'w} ya know, even though I live in the black community, that I'm the one that represents the blacks. I want to be.... I want to be so deversified that when people see me they'll see me as councilman, not as a black councilman.

I: Do they see..... (End of side two and end of tape A)

D: ^{Would} you repeat the question again?

I: Yes. What services have you provided blacks in your district that they did not have before you took office? Could you please give some examples of these?

D: ~~O.K.~~ Number one, we spoke of the traffic, uh, light situation in the community where we needed it for the safety and welfare of people living in the community. Uh, those are now being installed and I think prior to the end of this month they will be fully functioning. Uh, we had initially started to gather one on the state road uh, but we said, why go for one, let's go for two. Because, uh, the ... the one traffic light that we had was on the state road and it was on the corner of 5th and Atlantic and we needed, with I-95, the Turnpike, 441, and these major arteries leading into Delray, we felt that we needed, uh, some way to slow the... the traffic down, especially through the residential and the, uh, and the black business district. So now we have two being installed, one at 8th and one at 10th. This is something that the citizens of the community want... wanted. This ^{was} is one thing that they urged me to fight for for them and come up with traffic lights. And it was.... oh, it was a heck of a battle, but we won it. So, I feel that I was an integral part in getting the traffic lights for the community in which they so ^{desperately} really wanted. The other thing was street sidewalks and uh, is really a problem in the community. So I was.... I think I was instrumental ^{in that} enough in getting the uh... the uh, bond issue for streets and sidewalks to go to referendum at the last general election. And fortunately, it was the only one that passed. So, the bonds, uh, the ^{is} Mayor, ~~is~~ I believe, ^{is} up in New York now signing the... signing the bonds so we'll have a council workshop on how we're going to utilize this.... the \$600,000.00

D: So, it's going to be uh, uh, an effort on my part to see that the greater percentage of this \$600,000.00 come into the black community to help upgrade some of the streets uh, some of the sidewalks that are presently in, have ^{there's} been in since early 1930s. I've had, uh,..... We've get some paved alleyways in the community which are dearly needed. For example, behind ^d my place, the alleyway doesn't go all the way through. If we had a fire that, say, the street was blocked off and the fire engine would have to come in the back, we'd be stranded. Because the alleyway is just not.... the side street that runs past my house is virtually, uh, uh, a dirt road. And although I'm not gonna fight to get that road paved, as such, out of the \$600,000.00 because I really I'd like to see some of the other areas paved. Uh, I don't want anybody say, "Well because he lives in this area he fought to have to have that road paved," because there are other places in the community that need it just as well as the people who live just in my building. So I'm going to... I'm going to see how much of this \$600,000.00 I can get to come into the black community. I know that much of it needed.... needs to be in other areas of the city, uh, in the white areas. And uh, I won't.... I won't fight that at all. I'll assist in trying to get some of those streets, uh, upgraded. But, generally speaking, the, uh, roadways in the black community are the worst in the city and, uh, so therefore, I think, uh, not because I'm black but because there's a need for it, that I will press to get the majority of this money into the into the black community to get some of these things taken care of.

I: Now I have another questionnaire. Please rate how effective you think you've been in each of the following service areas in terms of benefitting the blacks.

D: ^{OK} O.K. Number one, as I mentioned previously, police protection. I think that, uh, that with uh, the new structuring of the police department and, uh, the city of Delray, I think has had as many blacks on it's police force as anywhere in the South County. Uh, I don't know the total number, uh, but I can venture out and say there's possibly ten. ^{And} But we do have one in which I'm very proud of, and although I had nothing to do with her decision in to becoming a police officer, we do have a black female and she's doing an excellent job. Uh, we have one of the finest police chiefs in the country as I said. Uh, he was rated in the top ten. Uh, so I think our police protection is very good. Uh, it leaves room for improvement as in any other function within the city. But there.... ^{Since} Since I've been on council, I know, uh, there has been a great deal of improvement in.... in police protection. In fact, out..... our crime rate here in the city, uh, at the last estimate had dropped something like... I think the chief said something like 14 per cent. Uh, no I'm not.... I'm sorry, four.... uh, around 4 per cent. So, it's not going up, it's coming down. Uh, since he's been here he's formulated attack squads. Police officers who are in ^{CIVILIAN} serene clothes, driving unmarked police cars who are patrolling the city throughout. Uh, it's made up both black and white officers and they're doing a tremendous job in ... in cutting the dope traffic, the prostitution, and ^{other} everything within the city. He's made uh, interventions into the city that's been helpful, uh, uh, throughout in, in providing adequate police protection to all the citizens. So, I say that, uh, that uh, because of the interest that was stemmed that was basically started by myself, uh, we've been able.... we've been able to really upgrade police protection. For example, when the, uh, the

D: former police chief, uh, retired, it left an opening for a police chief. You wanna shut that down? (noise stops in the background) O.K. ^{from} it left an opening for a police chief. ^{all} Alright, the city manager appointed himself as interim police chief. Well, I didn't agree with him. And, uh, so we started a.... a heck of a rally to come up with a good police chief as soon as possible. Even, uh, so to the extent that I had several conversations with him and then the last one I had I was not satisfied because I felt he was sort of dragging his feet in coming up with a good police chief. And, uh, so myself and the council woman decided that we would go and check with the state attorney, uh, general's office in West Palm Beach, uh, to see if he was legally right. And so, when ^W he took ⁺ his interest, he decided to uh, appoint a chief. So we... we had a chief come in just very shortly after that. So I felt that this was a step in the right direction in getting a good police protection. Uh, the blacks in the community had charged that uh, that ~~he~~ ^{that} was the former chief had his prejudice against blacks and that the.... the.... department was, prior to that time, was based on racial prejudice, uh, that if you were racially prejudiced you could easily become, uh, a member of the police department. But, uh, since that time, we have a black.... two black lieutenants. One who is the key administrative officer to the chief, uh, who happened to graduate from the same college that I did, Florida A&M University. Uh, we have uh, a couple of black lieutenants, and so things have progressed. We have ^{had} no derogatory comments, uh, against police protection, uh, I'd say in the last eight to nine months. So this is a step in the right direction. And I think it was basically brought on,

D: although I don't want to take full credit for it, I do take some credit for it. Because I... I ^{said} ~~say~~ it in my... in my campaign platform that I would see that, uh, the heads in the department were... were, uh, will ^{surveyed} ~~serve~~ ~~you~~ to determine that they were doing adequate jobs and if not, we would see if we could ^{nt} dismiss them for better trained people so that all the citizens in Delray could have a fair ^{shake} ~~chance~~ at a good life here in Delray. So police protection, I rate as very effective.

I: ^{very} ~~O.K.~~

D: Streets and roads, I think I've covered this, uh, in the \$600,000.00 bond issue so it's left to be that I think up to me and other citizens in the black community to get behind council and see that the \$600,000.00 is used to it's best advantage to upgrade streets and roads in the community. And I think we'll be effective in doing this so I'm going to rate this very effective also.

I: ^{very} ~~O.K.~~

D: Housing is a problem, as in most communities where you have a pretty good black populus. Right now, uh, the city in conjunction with the community development block grant form application is going through and surveying these houses. I was astonished to find that we had some 200 homes in the black community who did not have hot water. And so this is a health hazard and so we're getting these homes weeded out. We're getting some of them condemned where we can find places for, uh, the tenants to go but this has to be a slow process. We can't go in and and just condemn homes at random and give people thirty or ninety, uh, thirty or sixty days to get

D: out of these homes with no way.... no place to go. So housing, uh, I think, uh, I've been somewhat effective in ... in helping to ... to get this underway.

I: Welfare?

D: Welfare? (chuckle) Not very effective. Uh, I don't think here because, uh, although we've made many attempts to improve welfare, uh, of the citizens, particularly in the black community, that's an extremely slow process. Uh, because just overnight, you just don't change things like this. This has to be accomplished through the education^{al} process that... that I have really been pushing blacks. And I said that the best way to improve your standing within the community is get yourself an education. So we are pushing this very hard. But, as you know, it's uh, it's an individual effort and the only thing that you can do is council^{ed} em, uh, try to guide them in the right direction. But many times it's left up to the person as to what steps, what route, or what pattern they ~~wanna~~^{will} take. So I'd rate this as uh, as not effective also.

I: Okay, um.

D: Parks and, uh, and recreation[?]. Uh, I stand to take a great deal of credit in upgrading this since I've been on council. We have an area which is called uh, the Teen Town Recreational Complex. When I came on council, uh, they had an old World War II army barracks that they were using as the, uh, recreational complex, uh, located in this entire environment for kids to, uh, have their recreational process, uh, dances, and this kind^{of} thing. And it was unsafe, it was unsightly, it was not a structure that I ~~thought~~^{felt} should have been in the black community or any community or any segment of the community here in the city. So, we pressed, uh, with all efforts to get it torn down and it was torn down, it was excavated, and uh.... and so

D: we left it as a blank piece of land. ^{But} ~~That~~ this is where ^{we} you want the new center to go and I think when... when that's built I think it's gonna be something that the whole city of Delray Beach can be proud of. Just as proud as we are of our civic center, which I think is a very good center. Uh, we are going to make, uh, a park area out of it. Right now there was one uh, baseball, softball field out there and right now.... Well, as a result of some of the efforts that I applied to coming up with better recreational complexes in the black community and elsewhere in the community, uh, we have, uh, an official little league softball field now and, uh, yet to be completed there is the lighting, and that's about \$34,000.00, so we didn't have the money in this year's budget but that's something that I'm going to press for in next year's budget, that we get the... the funding available so that we can light that field so that we can have, uh, little league official tournaments, uh, in that community, uh, for all the city. We're going up now with, uh, what we call the southwest, uh, fourth avenue recreational complex and this is located in the southwest section of the city. And it's located in the white community but I'm just as adamant about getting that completed as I am, uh, the one at ^{Town} ~~King~~town.

I: Mm hm.

D: So uh, I think that we're..... we're doing a good job there and I would have... I would have to rate that as very effective. Uh, water, sewage, and garbage, I think I've covered the garbage aspect. I think that we have one of the best systems now in as much as we're getting it once a week. And I was instrumental in helping along with this since I was on council. Sewage,

D: uh, we had to have this as a joint effort between the city of Delray Beach and the city of Boynton Beach who are our neighbors to the north because Delray didn't have sufficient uh, population^{WS}, neither did Boyntonⁿ, to qualify for a nine million dollar grant from the federal government. So we enjoined each other, we applied for the grant and we were approved. So now the two councils, five members from each council, make up the, uh, the board and we're working now to to build a sewage treatment plant that would serve all of the city.... all of the cities involved, uh, Delray and Boyntonⁿ and then Satellite communities with adequate sewage. Uh, this this plant will cost approximately nine million dollars and will be built out to the west on Congress Avenue on a thirty-four acre track of land that's presently owned by the city of of Delray Beach but we're gonna ask Boyntonⁿ to buy half..... half of this so it'll be a joint effort. So we're in negotiation now as to what price we're gonna settle on. So I think that's also very effective. Helping hospitals. Initially in my campaign plight I had a uh plan I had to build a hospital in the Delray Beach area. But people who advised me in my campaign says no. Says, don't use that as a campaign issue because you have the _____? which is located to the south of you which is very close, that's located right on the.... the Delray-Boyntonⁿ boundary and, uh, uh, the hospital in Boca, you have, uh, John Kennedy Hospital on the _____? area, so all of these hospitals^{cc} within a close realm of this city. So, they said, you don't really need a hospital now because of the expenditure.... the great expenditure of funds uh, we're ... we're having adequate hospital care because of the... ya^{sv} know, with the surrounding

D: hospitals. So I backed off of that one and this maybe, uh, uh, depending on how things are going, it may be an issue of mine in the future. But in talking with hospital officials or hospital boards, I ^{found} find that during the off-season many of the hospitals shut down a wing because all of the beds are not filled. So you can see there that hospitals are not really... really, really necessary. A hospital in Delray, ^{per say} per say. So I would rate that as real..... well really not effective because you really don't need it.

I: Not applicable then?

D: Right. Education, I've touched on it, uh, somewhat, uh, because it's still a matter of... of getting people to get the educations, uh, that they need. I... I speak to many of the... of the juniors and seniors in high school and ^{tell} told them about many of the grants that's available, the scholarships that are available. Many of them are taking advantage ^{of} it, uh, many of them are going into the service. Well, I have no objection to the service but I do think that they should get a college education prior to going in the service and use the benefits that they'll ^{derive} arrive from the service to get an education later. So, I'd say that was somewhat effective as far as education. Now, when I came on council, uh, we had, uh, one of the best fire departments in the, uh, in the in the south..... now I'd say in the southern district of the county. Uh, we had a very fine fire department. We had both blacks and white firemen. So, I saw no reason at that time to attack the fire department in what they were doing. But I feel that I should keep a watchful eye on it. I hadn't had any complaints that.... where a black has desired to become a fireman, went down and applied, and didn't get the job if he

- D: passed the test. So I see no reason to attack the fire department. We have good coverage. One of our things that we're thinking about now is coming up with a piece of property on the beach area to replace the small fire, uh, uh, station that we have there. To come up with a more sophisticated, uh, fire station because there are a few condominiums in that area and uh, we have a... we have one of the the high-rise type fire pieces of equipment in the city and so, uh, we feel that we are adequately protected with fire but I feel that that piece of equipment should, by right, really be stationed on the beach side, because to cross over, uh, to the beach side, cross the intercoastal, there's two bridges and should something happen to those bridges simultaneously, one of condominiums.... there was a fire in one of the condominium, probably get the [?] over there. So it's a problem and so this is something we'll ^{re-}watch. ^{ing} So I'll say somewhat effective but there's room for improvement. Could you shut the tape..... (tape cuts off)
- I: Have you received federal funds from your district? And if so, can you please list some of them and um, the amounts if possible?
- D: Well, most of the federal funds that we ~~would~~ ^{have} receive^o have been in the area of federal revenue sharing funds and, uh, most of this, basically, has gone for capital improvements, uh, within the city, and all areas of the city has benefitted from these funds. And so as far as ... as I know, off hand, uh, and I can't say what the..... what they' annual allotments have been to the, uh, to the, uh, city because I have to check into it, but I do know that we have used most of the federal revenue sharing funds for capital improvement. However, with the..... with the housing problems and what have you, uh, there is authority to use some of the federal revenue sharing funds for, uh, social

D: ... uh social improvement for the poor and the aged. Well in... in looking back just the other day on our utilization of these federal funds, uh, I don't see where, and I say in the last three or four years which is as far as I went back, that... that any allocation of funds has been made to these... to this area. But I do feel that, uh, during the next trip around that I'm going to see that some of the funds are allocated for this purpose. Although it may not be used, there may not be a need to use it, uh, but ^{or} ya know in ... in bulk money what I'm talking about something in the neighborhood of I would think.... something in the neighborhood of about \$10,000.00 allocated for this purpose so that when little problems come by, the city could help along this... along this line. Uh, we've gotten other federal grants but, uh, but they've been along the, uh, general lines of, uh, federal revenue sharing. I think that if we get the community development money, then I think this would.... would be a step in the right direction as far as helping blacks because, uh, the area in which these funds would... would be used ^{is} really in the...in the I'd say the low income or or socially deprived areas. And, uh, so that would basically channel right through the minority, uh, section of the community, both blacks and the spanish speaking people, uh, who live in these areas who.... which are... which are substandard or subpar to other areas of the community. So, we're looking forward, uh, with great expectations of coming up with some community block grant money.

I: Now, do you as an elected official or a part of a local community been able to bring industry or retail stores into your area?

D: Well, (chuckle) yeah, I would think so. Uh, the Delray Beach Mall, uh, which was just recently opened, uh, was one of the one the areas in which, uh, I'd say have come into the.... to the area which would help with jobs and

- D: this kinda thing. But as far as industry is concerned within the area, uh, I think it's a general ³ ⁰ consensus of opinion with the locally-elected officials that we don't want this area highly industrialized. But we have things like the Rinker concrete plant and, uh, and necessary, uh, industry. But as far as full-fledged industries, say, maybe factories or these things, we do not basically want to let them into the area. We realize that, uh, bringing industry in the area would also provide for additional jobs, but with the present economy, I don't think that too many people are gonna venture out into new industry now in any area of..... particularly south Florida. So I would think that, uh, that as far as Delray is concerned, I'm not going to press for industry in the area because, like I said, I wanna keep Delray the small quaint city that it is. I wanna see a lot of greenery, and if you bring industry, uh, in... in mass into the area we're gonna.... we're gonna tear up our density, we're going to add pollution to this community, and I don't think that we want it.
- I: Have you been able to see that blacks are hired fairly in local government?
- D: Yes, I think so. Because when the jobs are available, uh, I think that, uh, that / blacks who want to apply, I think they've been given a fair shake at their job based on their qualification and the like. Uh, we don't have that many blacks in... in uh..... Well, ^{WFL} you only have in local government uh, I'm the really elected official but as far asas other facets of local government uh, we take boards, committees, and this kind of things, blacks have a fair representation on these boards. Uh, the housing board of appeal and adjustment, blacks are represented there. On a community appearance board we have blacks. Uh, on other boards in the city we

D: have a fair representation of blacks. So uh, many of these are by.... by appointments from the city that I... that I have provided the names as to people who, uh, were willing to take the job and I would like to see in the job. So, I can think of no... of no time that I've recommended a black for any board and a commission in the city that, uh, that they have not. For example, one of the key boards in the city that, if it gets off the ground, and this is uh, uh, public, uh, really, uh, they call it "perk" which has to do with labor relations. That was gonna be a three-member board and, uh, I got a black on that board. But right now the board has not gone because, uh, we, uh, we don't know which..... really which way we're gonna.... gonna go on this thing because labor relation's is.... uh, it's a highly controversial area and we don't which way we're we're going to turn. Uh, we want to have our own local "perk" here in the city but we're ... we're experiencing a great deal of problems both from the... from state because we didn't want to follow their ordinance, uh, so we went out on a.... on a limb and, uh, and, uh, made our own ordinance, we constructed our own ordinance. And this, uh, we felt that maybe was not a wise move because the city of Lakeland was battling, uh, the state uh, "perk", uh, in court and they had spent, uh, I guess in about nine or ten months somewhere around \$60,000.00 in legal battles. So we really don't want to spend this kind of money so we backed off and, uh, and taylored our ordinance to the... to the state ordinance. So right now we're waiting on a decision on that. And so if this gets off the ground then this board will become effective in this city and uh, it's represented. So, I see from no boards or commissions in the city that does not have black representation on it.

- D: Even the charter review - board has black representation on it. So, we have not, uh, we have not left blacks out or given a feeling that we didn't want them on the boards and commission in any boards or commissions within the city.
- I: Now I believe we've touched on the subject and if you'd like to explain further or we can just pass it over, but has federal revenue sharing helped your district or not?
- D: I think it has because, uh, much of the money that we have used to upgrade the, uh, the various parks and recreational, uh, area, uh, the drainage and this particular type of problem, uh, has been, uh, through basically out of revenue sharing and the like and, uh, so I think a good view utilization of federal revenue sharing has been a pretty good likes. So I see no... no ... no vast problem that..... I think we could do more and I'm I'm going to have a special watchful eye on it and, uh, see that the revenue sharing funds are used to the best advantage of all the city and particularly with.... particular emphasis on.... on some of the areas that are.... that are deprived. And uh, so that would fall in the category of your minority groups, blacks, uh, mexican-americans, and what have you and we have a fairly good mexican-american, uh, population here because of the migrant labor forces that's in this area.
- I: Have there been any black protests, sit-ins, boycotts, or riots in this city in the last ten years?
- D: Uh, not within.... within our city as such. Uh, the last, uh, what I like to call as a...a disturbance was actually at the local.... at the high school down in Boca where I think the blacks who were bussed in came into the school

D: police officers down to be on the campus in uniforms that the kids could relate to and help cool it down, which we did and we havn't had anymore problems with them.

I: Now the following questions are asked to enable an assessment to black politics in Florida, ~~a~~ very general ^{questions} ~~impression~~.

D: Mm hm.

I: _____, ^{as such}. What is your opinion of Governor Ruben Askew. That is, do you think he's been favorable in attitude and policies towards blacks in Florida or not?

D: I have to give him a nod on that, uh, with his appointments, uh, particularly recent appointment of the of the black judge. Uh, I like Askew as a governor. Uh, I think he's.... I think he's one of our fairest and I think that, uh, that uh, that he's a man of great intellect and I think he's a a man that could be as fair as any governor that we've had. Uh, I like, uh, uh, his financial disclosure, uh, effort. I do think there should be an open policy as far as elected officials are concerned to, uh, dispell, uh, any doubts as to what elected officials are doing behind closed doors as far as their finances, as far as getting into.... getting involved into, uh, ^{unheralded} ~~unheralded~~-type activities that uh, lead to things like the burning incident now and uh, uh, Floyd Christian and other uh, uh, high level officials in the state that we have uh, been indicted. However, I think that Askew's full disclosure of his finances is a step in the right direction although, many local officals, uh, here and around the state, don't, uh, particularly agree with this. Uh, they think it's an invasion of privacy. Uh, I feel that if I'm a public server, the public should know, uh, uh, much of what I'm doing. And right now with the financial disclosure, I think

D: it's too watered down. Uh, I think it.... if it's gonna be law but I think it should be uh, an open~~A~~-door policy for all elected officials and, uh, and those that are not elected who.... who must..... who falls within the category of the... of the bounds of the law, uh, that we should say, ^{ou}ya know, that this is our network, uh, this is what we're, uh, what we.... what we're doing. Because I think, uh, uh, the citizens of.... around the country have lost some respect for.... for their leaders and I don't want^{to} see this under any circumstances. I want uh, I want people to believe in and believe that I'm honest and I want to, uh, I want to show them that I am, and I know of no better way than uh, uh, disclose my.... my.... my financial ^{status} ~~product~~, uh, which is not much but uh, if if it has to be disclosed, then fine, let's disclose it. But I think that Askew is uh, uh, Governor Askew is a fair governor.

I: What is your opinion of other state officials and state representatives?

D: Well generally speaking, I can say that, uh, that most of our state officials, until it's proven that uh, they are involved in wrong doings, ^{all} ~~or~~ doing a fair job around the state. Uh, I know many of the people who represent us in this area uh, are very amenable to many of the things that we're doing. When we go to them with problems they, uh, very few of them have not agreed with them that it is a problem. Uh, Bill ^{James [House of Representatives, Delray Beach]} ~~Jenkins~~ who, uh, is with the Florida House of Representatives uh, has been most helpful to us on most things that we wanted to do. And so I can't uh, I can't say that they have not helped us. Uh, I'm I'm I'm sure there's room for improvement in all of us. But it's... it's ... it's... it's local officials, who, and state officials uh, do not do things to help benefit their areas are at fault because we have to let them know our resolutions by letters and by other means, telephones or what have

D: you, uh, how we want them to react to certain things that they're involved and to help us. I know all of the time they may not agree with us but we have to let them know, uh, uh, what we are thinking so that they know how the people in Delray or the people in Boynton or the people in Boca feel about certain things that they're working on. Uh, I think we would never have gotten, uh, the the state legislators to, uh, vote to help us in annexing the county pockets or helping us to dispell some of the problems that we had in the county pockets ^{that} we hadn't let the legislative delegation that comes in this area know how we felt about it. So, I think when you work closely with them, you get good results. But it's when you sit back and allow them to go uh, uh, un.... unwatched is when you get into problems. And so I think they, uh.... they react, uh, to peer pressure just as well as we have to. And by peer pressure I mean, the pressures from the, uh, the communities to which they... they represent. So you've got to keep a watchful eye on ^{em} to get things done.

I: Do you think that ^{winning and} ~~women~~ in holding office in Florida has been worth the effort?

D: (chuckle) That's a good question.

I: Mm hm.

D: Uh, would you like to for me to attack this on a local level or a state level?

I: Um, local, ^{since you were elected,}

D: O.K. Local. I've many times, uh, because of my involvment in local, uh, in self-government, uh, I become dejected because many times uh, I don't spend as much time with my family as **I** did before I was elected. But you.... you fall in the.... ^{into these} for just a short period of time, and then when you see some of the results at some of the efforts that you have put forward, it it ^{is}

..... ~~it leads you the next year.~~ ^{it rejuvenates you.} It says well, maybe the things that I've been doing is worthwhile. Uh, I'd say a couple of times that ^{you} know, boy I...I don't know, I'm gonna think about running next time. But I know deep down within me that unless health or some other reason prevents me from running again that I'm going to run. Because I feel that uh, I have helped, uh, the city and I feel that, uh, that I'm in a position to help. I feel that, uh, that although there may be others just as well qualified as I am, and I'm speaking of blacks now, that they would be ~~hard~~ ^{harder} pressed to beat me in fact if I ran again. Because, uh, when I go at thing, I go at it whole heart. I...I..I don't like to say, well, I'll attack just 75 per cent of it and leave the other 25 per cent lay dormant. No, I won't attack it that way. I'll attack ^{it} in full force, ~~And~~, uh, with all the energy and effort that I... that I can muster. So uh, it gets to be a problem that, uh, your family don't see you many times, uh, like they'd like to. Many times you'd like to take you family out on a weekend but, uh, you have things to to study, you have things to do, you have things to see, and I usually try to involve my family, like if there's a zoning problem, uh, that I have not gone out and, and, and looked at the area myself personally, I'll take the family out for a ride on the weekend and we'll go see a lot of these things and they learn to appreciate some of the problems that I'm faced with and they learn how to support me a little ... a little better. So, you have to..... you have to use tact in this because, uh, you don't want your family to become dejected in what you're doing. Because there is no way, and I stated this publicly, there's no way that I could do what I'm doing now if I didn't have a good wife who was backing me, a good wife who knows the business and doesn't mind staying there the extra hours

D: when I have to be away.

E: 1 _____ (chuckle)

D: Yeah.

I: Um..... the following questions are asked to compile an overall group profile of black elected officials in Florida. No individual answers will be recorded.

Type of office held on this commission ? _____ ?

D: Yes. We call it council members of council in here.

I: Uh, date first elected?

D: Uh, December, '73.

I: And date you took office?

D: January, '74.

I: Number of times that you've run for office?

D: This is my first.

I; Um, your age?

D: I'm 39.

I: Your occupation before election?

D: Uh, ~~still~~ ^{store} manager in grocery.... grocery store.

I: What is.....

D: It's a family-owned business.

I: Your father's occupation?

D: Uh, my father, uh, is in Tampa and he's retired, railroad.

I: He was in the railroad business?

D: Yes. He was a railroad worker for some thirty-seven years.

I: Now the um, education?

D: Uh, I have a college degree.

I: Uh, salary received from your elected position?

D: Uh, we're paid \$200.00 a month.

I: Were you active in the Civil Rights Movement of, uh '60 to '66?

D: Not as much as I should have been, uh, I guess because, uh, I was in the service at the time and ya^{DA} know there are certain..... there are certain things you can and certain things you can't do in the service while ~~we wear our uniforms~~^{wearing a}.

I: Mm hm.

D: So I say that the service uh, elim.... uh, prohibited me from doing as much as I would have been doing, I guess, if I'd been on the outside.

I: Mm hm.

D: And particularly being a commission officer.

I: Oh well. (chuckle) Church to which you belong?

D: Uh, I'm, uh, a member of the, uh, Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church here in Delray. So, I'm Baptist _____.

I: Um, are you an official in the church?

D: Um, no I'm not.

I: Are there other community organizations or activities that you are involved in?

D: Uh, yes.

I: Do you wanna list em? (Chuckle)

D: O, ^{key}K.

I: Kiwanis?

D: Yeah, Kiwanis International. Uh, I'm a a member of the.... a board member of the..... a board member and uh, and vice-president of the Palm Beach County Municipal League, and a board member of the West Palm Beach Urban Area Transportation Study Committee.

I: (chuckle) O.K.

D: I'm also a member and an officer to the Delray Beach Civic Association. Uh, I'm a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and an officer.

I: [^] _____ or something? (chuckle)

D: Yeah. That's K-E-Psi uh, a Y with a..... Yeah, [^] K-E-Psi, that's uh, good. Uh, I'm a member of let's see, trying to think of the appropriate title for it. The Young Men's Progressive Club of Delray and an officer in that organization. This is an organization that we, uh, uh, thought of to help upgrade the, uh, the young men in the community, try to give them something to look forward to and try to help them with their morals and health, education, and welfare. And, uh, I guess that's about it. I'm a member of a few other organizations but, uh.....

I: ~~Okay~~, that's enough. Uh, you also talked about this a little. What effects have running..... for and holding office had on you personally and on your family?

D: I... I'm sorry, I didn't catch it.

I: What effects have running for and holding office had on you personally and on your family?

D: Well, like I said, that it's something that your family have to give you the support because if you don't [^] _____, if you don't get that support uh, it could make life very miserable for ya^{on} because uh, it's a.... it's sort of a change of... of ... of lifestyle. Uh, you.... Suddenly you go from a person who is just a person in the community to a person of extreme importance to the... in the public eye. Uh, because many people come to you with problems that they feel just because you're an elected official, you should be able to help them with. And so I do a lot of of help within the community, uh, uh, with people who

D: have problems that may or may not involve uh.....

End of tape and end of interview.....