

Interviewer: "Button Project"
Interveiwee: Frank Hampton
Place: Jacksonville
Date: October 10, 1975
FB67A
mjb
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This tape (orig & dup) is in terrible condition. Nothing you can do will make it better - cheer up! It's only 21 pages long!

?: Going right back to 1965 to help blacks take part in Florida politics.

H: Not only Florida politics, the voting rights of 1964 was one of the best things that ever happened in the United States of America ^{as far as guarenteeing} blacks the opportunity to vote of any party of their own choice. As you know, they used to give examinational tests for voters, mainly only blacks for the last _____ and all of the schools stayed in order to divide the blacks, generally keep the Constitution of the United States up ^{where} they couldn't do the mselves. But the voting rights act of 1964 was one of the best things that ever happened to this country.

I: What year did you first register to vote?

H: My first regis--, I first registered to vote in 1945, thirty years ago.

I: What year were you eligible to vote?

H: Well, I wouldn't have been eligible to vote until that ^{time} because before then, as you know, there ^{was twenty-one, the} ~~age~~ age for voting was twenty-one. I was in the service. I was young at that time and I wouldn't ^{have been able to} vote till I got out of the service.

I: How were you registered -- local ^{registration} ~~register~~ board or federal examiner?

H: Registered the board, I was from the local registration board. Reverend who was the chaplain of our church at time for us in 1944 in order for a negro to have an opportunity to vote the democratic primary, he wrote letters, cause he couldn't do it. It happened if you wanted su in 1944 that every Black in this community helped to register to vote democrat.

I: Did the local registers ever turn you down when you applied to register?

H: No, they never turned us down. They turned him down, they turned everybody down before 1934, before 1944. No Blacks had registered to vote in Duval county.

I: _____ wasn't he the director of _____, That voter registration drive then held and just communicated to our office.

H: Yes, they had a voter registration down at NAACP, voter registration drive, not only

H: in the district I lived in, but throughout the county.

I: Could you name some of the organizations, local and national, that held a registration drive?
Alpha Omega

H: Oh, yes. The NAACP, the ~~the~~ [^]fraternity, the Citizens Committed for Registration -- we had several that held registration drives.

I: When were these ~~board of~~ ^{voter} registration drives held?

H: They had one way back in 1947. You had some in 1951, '59, '61, and even ^{as late as} ~~^~~ this year of '75.

I: How do _____ voter registration drives?

H: They're, the first voter registration drive we had back in 1947 and '51 was right after we heard from the board that we had only 7,000 and we doubled that 7,000 on the first drive. *We've had* all the drives up here have been very successful and I hope they are able to continue.

I: Are there any things which prevent blacks from registering to vote in your district to your knowledge?

H: Just blacks were just not interested and it's something that should be done to motivate the blacks in order to ^{be} a registered voter so that they can take an active part more. For years and years they have said that they would be relevant as to whether or not that blacks were able to vote or not, if it didn't make any difference, but I'm certain that it's coming right at that point now that they realize ^{that} black freedom makes the form of government.

I: Tell me how important you think each of the items are in preventing blacks from registering to vote in ^{your area.} ~~you could not have depended~~ ^{Economic dependence} on whites. Is this very important? Fairly important? Or not important?

H: Well, it is. It is very important because even the ones who are registered to vote, provided if there are certain areas or certain whites in the community would be opposed to something that is going on, all it had to do was get to certain people in the community and they would come out opposed to it. So I would say it's a very, it's a lot of, it's a very, very important point then to ~~registration~~ ^{registering} and voting.

I: Was fear, physical violence and whites very important?

H: No, physical violence has nothing ^{to do} with it. It was economics.

I: Complicated registration forms?

H: It doesn't have nothing to do with it.

I: Poor registration hours?

H: No.

I: Registration not held often enough?

H: No.

I: Indifference of blacks to voting?

H: No.

I: First, this is Section B. The following questions are asked to gather information on the election campaigns of black elected officials in Florida. Were you able to campaign freely; that is, were you threatened in any way in your campaign?

H: Oh, no. I don't think so. _____ but I wasn't threatened by anything. I mean, that's _____.

I: Were you handicapped by a lack of campaign money?

H: Oh, yes. I was ^{always} ~~normally~~ ^{handicapped} by a lack of campaign money through my tie in with the ^{power} ~~college~~ structure throughout the community. _____ ^{dictates the policy of} ~~the~~ ^{the community} -- they're the ones who raised funds and in turn contribute funds to campaigns of their choice and they show that they have the money to offer that they use for their own personal self-gain and not for the good of the whole community.

I: Why did you decide to run for office?

H: Well, at the time I ran for office I'd been active in government for a period of ^{around} ~~nigh~~ on to thirty years but I decided to run for office because I felt that there was some things that I wanted to bring out, that I couldn't get going and the people in the community couldn't even help because those many refused to _____
_____ cause the things that I was saying and that was the only way, the only choice, the only chance I had was to seek a public office and ^{fortunately} ~~I~~ ^I was able to

win and for two years I gave them hell and told it just like it was and if they didn't like

H: it so they were able to put someone else there. They _____.

I: To which public, to which political organization do you belong?

H: I'm a member of the Democratic Executive Committee and also a member of the Donkey Club which is an organization which I started, consists of white and black in the community. We meet this afternoon at two.

I: What political party do you belong to?

H: Democrat.

I: What were the two or three most important issues on which you campaigned?

H: Well, one that I felt was very important was the closing of the bar life in the city of Jacksonville ^{where} Prostitution, vice, crime and corruption was going on. Stolen goods and dope was being sold. I take that as one of our major things and now I was also opposed to the increase in sewer and water rates but I know now that they are coming up and they will shut them down as they did before which is really pathetic. They claim that they have to do it for the Environmental Protection Board. They have to do it for various reasons under 92500 which is a federal law, but when they went ahead and passed the \$62 million bond program and then the \$34 million bond program, then they had to do this. When the money came in ^{who had} to Florida it went to Miami and Tampa [^] did nothing for the local citizens here had to pay their full indebtedness while the people in Tampa and Miami reaped the benefits of all the tax dollars. But Jacksonville wanted to be first and they was first, but they paid dear for it.

I: Do you think any issue was the main problem facing blacks in your community?

H: Well, I, I don't really know what was the main problem facing blacks in the community but the problems of blacks in the community should be looked at as crime. Crime is the greatest problem we have. Job oppor^{tunity} is another and I really, ^{of course,} we all, as far as the citizens of Jacksonville, ^{enjoyed} statistical data. ^{coming from the city} ~~some~~ auditors showing that we were still practicing segregation and discrimination as far as job employment in the city of Jacksonville and the administration was doing nothing about it, although we had an affirmative action officer who was black and I was

H: give them one or two in order to say, "Well, it can be done," but you bet your life it's going to be 90% ^{percent} _____, 90% ^{percent} unfair. Forget it! Minority groups, in order to be _____.

I: What about consolidation? Do you think _____.

H: Consolidation ^{was a} ~~is more the~~ good step ⁱⁿ than the right direction ^{provided they} of the body. If they ^{know how to change it,} ~~have to make solid changes,~~ ^{it's what consolidation government confirmed} _____

mainly by having the strong mayor that was real bad in order to have our administration with all ~~that~~ own the entire city which he can not do. I would say if you work the _____ by having your district voted is about the only

way blacks have a real good chance of being elected because running at large they ~~had some~~ ^{have no} chance. We did have, from the ^{whole} home city, when we had nigh, oh, I would say we had ~~44%~~ ^{44%} of the population and ~~46%~~ ^{forty-six} of the vote, but we were able to elect the

two first black _____ to the city-wide election and this what was the main reason for ~~the population~~ ^{consolidation}. Consolidated government came about mainly to dillute the black vote ~~as~~ as far as the city of Jacksonville was concerned and not _____

_____, you hear them talk about it, it wasn't that. It was mainly for the the dilluting of the black folk's control over the heart of the city of Jacksonville.

I: How many people who were in your district _____?

H: Oh, you had some 15,000 registered voters and some 37,000 people that lived there. There was only, they not even half of the number of registrered are eligible voters in the district _____ registered to vote.

I: What percentage of the population in your district is black?

H: Well, you have about 90% ^{percent} of the population of the district is black.

I: About what percentage of blacks ^{of} of voting age in your district are registered to vote?

H: Oh, I would say, you had some 14, some 14,000 that vote, not eligible to vote, but you have some 26 or 27,000 that are eligible to vote, that are old enough to vote, but ^{have never} ~~haven't ever~~ registered.

I: Do you think you got any votes from whites?

H: Well, I got them -- votes from whites. _____ the white community voted for me, which was kind of new to me, cause blacks voted against me, so.... (Laughter)

I: What percentage of the total vote came from whites? Do you know?

H: I don't know. I only had a very small amount of votes ^{coming} from the white community, the whites that lived in the _____ but I had a majority of the whites that voted _____.

I: In the election in which you won office, how many opponents did you have?

H: Well, the first time I ran, it was five; the second time, it was six.

I: How many were white and how many were black?

H: No whites; all blacks.

I: What per cent of the total vote did you receive?

H: Well, I received ^{percent} 37% in the first primary and say about ^{forty-nine} 49% in the second.

I: _____. These 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?

H: Well, the way that I feel, I got _____ cause we were able to get some of the things that we thought _____ we were able _____ in the two years that I had office than we had been able to get in _____. _____ I was able to bring out many things that I know was an advantage or a disadvantage before I _____ ^{not only for} just blacks. But in my _____ we had several projects that affected blacks only. In _____ one area here we had one \$8 million training program, \$1.4 million, another training program; it was \$87, \$89 million we wouldn't be able to pay for _____ ^{and widen it} the recreation area but to softball lighting field and basketball courts that we had neglected for sometime. All of these _____ regardless of me losing, cause these were things that I would need to do during the time I was there. I was there. No one could change it because we had

H: allowed ~~no~~ our budget and they couldn't take it out and if they had at this point, it would have put a lot of _____ people in our district, and not only in our district, but throughout the whole community and Nattress' district and all _____ committee and _____ committee, they'd benefit from _____ . Now if we ^{could} ~~should~~ get blacks who are interested in doing what they know that practically can be done, regardless of the effect it would take upon them is what other areas are concerned, this is what's going to happen. But if they don't get in there and do what they know is right, then you'll be just paddling along and paddling along until you after you _____ .

I: what do you think ~~it~~, do you think items are from preventing you from doing a better, from doing a good job while you are in office of benefitting blacks? The office, did it have, had no real authority -- very important, fairly important, or not important?

H: Oh, it's very important. Being an elected official of the law-making body is a very important position. Now you can ^{decide} ~~figure~~ and determine and you can work together with other people on the same legislative branch in order to get things done. I couldn't do these things that I was able to ^{accomplish} ~~copy~~ by myself. I had to align myself with some of the whites who was ^{elected,} ~~elect~~, as you know. In ^a ~~any~~ area, in ^a ~~any~~ given area, you have some, the poor whites and the blacks is always the last to get anything, so I aligned myself with other councilmen who represented ^{poor} ~~for~~ whites as well as blacks in order to accomplish so it's a very important position.

I: Were you outvoted by white officials -- was it very important, fairly important, or not important?

H: Well, it was very important. Sometimes I was outvoted by other whites and I had a lot of white people go along with me and I would say that I was able to pass as much or more legislation in two years than any councilman ever did in the history of the city of Jacksonville, so I had to get white support in order to do it, so I cannot say that all of the whites was opposed to me just because I was black, but I would say that they went along with good legislation and I presented ~~them~~ it to them .

I: Not enough revenue available prevented you from doing a better job is very important, fairly important, or not important?

H: Well, it was, the revenue was there, it was just that sometimes we passed certain legislation and was not over, able to hold out a mass veto, and mass veto _____ he got fourteen votes to veto a bills and we just had a whole lot of vetos. Like golf courses, we were able to pass that bill, but I had to _____ but a mass veto, we just didn't have enough votes to override his veto. So that was an asset. That would have been an asset to the community. They said that we didn't have the revenue. That was a lie. We had the revenue to purchase that particular property. If you note, the adjustment now _____ \$250,130,000 in order to do engineering ^{and} architecture ^{al} work for the new state building is concerned -- they had the money to do that. We got, they got the money. They just didn't want to spend it.

I: ^{what} How about unfamiliar with administrative duties -- was it very important, fairly important or not important?

H: Well, you had to be familiar with administrative duty, ~~which I was~~ ^{See} I had been active a long time and I was just as active before I became an elected official as I was when I wasn't an elected official. You've got no one, white or black in this community know any more about government than I do. I don't care who it is. I _____ and I know that I know they _____ I don't care who they coming, where they're coming or where they're going. I know this government.

I: The lack of cooperation from whites prevented you from doing a better job?

H: The lack of cooperation from the press prevented me from doing a better job, because the press was always opposed to me. This is nothing new to me because I've never gotten this cooperation from the press because we don't think alike. I think in the strange stream of little people is what black people and little people ^{are} concerned and not big business. Big business has never been with me and I've never been with big business.

I: Lack of cooperation from blacks is very important, fairly important, not important?

H: I would say cooperation from blacks would have been very important, but I did not get cooperation from the so-called black leaders. They was not in the corner with me because, as you know, they are certain black people have to depend on the whites in order to make a fairly decent living, in order to get the publicity that they'd like to have, ^{we thrive on} ~~so bribe them with~~ publicity you know and not from doing it, not to make, get results but I've always said results _____

I: Lack of cooperation from the state officials -- was it very important, fairly im.....

H: I did not get the cooperation from the state of Florida, from state officials and it ^{would have been vary important} ~~worked in various corners~~ because I tried to let the legislators know that there was certain things I was getting done in this local government like \$800,000 that we mandatory given to the Port because the Port Authority had more money in it, _____ had more money in this account than the city of Jacksonville to operate the city. Then also we had the city funds bond and _____ Port authority out there on the International Airport. That was \$800,000 ^{we} ~~you~~ needed to operate this government with, that ^{even} ~~even~~ this year what I was saying ^{is proven to be true} because _____ Florida State said that they did not want to accept the \$800,000 this year. But the law should be changed and make it acceptable, even though that is not mandatory as in only providing if the city of Jacksonville sees that they need the money in order to use it. That's one of the things, you know. Changing all of the independent agencies and making an autonomy of government, make an autonomy of the people who are elected. We don't have to elect our _____ such is the transportation authorities, the port authorities, the hospital authority, the elected authorities. They can increase or decrease ^{the} ~~jurisdiction~~ and no one has any jurisdiction over them and I think that's worse than ^{that could have happened} ~~one of my~~ real points of being opposed to the ^{consolidated government} ~~lack of cooperation from~~

I: Lack of cooperation from federal officials.

H: Well, we had very good cooperation from federal officials and they sent their ^{guides} ~~eyes~~ down Quite naturally we had to follow them. We were supposed to follow them, although

but I am certain the

H: we shouldn't have to follow them all, A NAACP _____, they is going to file suit challenging the revenue forms that the _____ state and federal government because they are not following the guidelines and this was one of my main reasons for getting, giving certificates out on the job in the equal opportunity in the city of Jacksonville because I know they are not following the guidelines the federal government in reveue sharing,

I: Has criticism or lack of support from the black community hindered you in holding office? What I mean by this is did some blacks not cooperate with you because they believe you are only a token, a token in government and have no real authority?

H: Well, I would say that some blacks in the community didn't cooperate with me because they were so tied to the white power structure that they couldn't afford to cooperate with me. Well, that's irrelevant anyway, but I hope the people of the community, knowing the progress that they have been able to make but not voting against the machinery and voted for someone who would speak out for them. So people have a right to control in the vote who they want and what they like. A lot of them made it important to me because I was outspoken, that I was opposed to advantages being taken of people, but on the other hand, it's hard to beat the power structure. You can't beat people like the Times-Union and Journal and the Chamber of Commerce and various unions like the labor unions, and those old folks _____ and you can't, it's hard to beat all these people. They team up together on you pretty hard to come out from under that.

_____ in office is irrelevant because it means _____

I: _____

H: Well, it helps me from being elected but it isn't _____ in making my decisions.

I: Do you feel that white people treat you differently from other officials or not?

H: Oh, no. They treated me, they treated me actually better than they did any other black elected officials. I demand respect. I gave it and I ^{demand} demand it.

I: What services have you provided blacks in your district that they did not have before you took office? Could give ^{you please} give us some examples?

H: Yes, ^{sewage, drainage,} training, recreation, ^{stepped-up} police protection, these were the things they didn't

H: fight was John Lanahan, the city councilman, not the _____, was the same person who was serving on the council back there in 1960 who, in turn, made one of the motions, because it _____ to keep the blacks from having the right to use it. So he is still doing the same game. At that time it was the whites ~~with~~ ^{VERSUS THE} blacks, but now it's the haves versus the have-nots.

I: _____ ?

H: _____ are the things that have been very successful there because they have disenfranchised and that comes from out of our tax basis. They pick up the water, then pick up the sewage and then with the garbage. Of course, I think, they are going too far as far as the sewer and the water is concerned because you know at one time we was getting 1200 cubic feet of water for only four dollars. But they reduced it from 1200 to 800 and now they will reduce it from 800 to 300 and they will charge us \$7.50 for 200 cubic feet of if we are going to keep the water, so I think that they are going too far, in ~~but you and the city government have to save just as many federal~~ ^{I mean the} government as that 92500. We had a federal law in order that we should get that _____ the same thing cause they are due in for an excuse.
It's just enough to make the little man help pay the price for the big man who can afford it.

I: _____ why a lot of people are now starting to dig, build their own well, because _____.

H: This is exactly what's happened and I think that a lot of people should dig their own wells, because they're actively _____ of their _____. They make the little man ^{pay} ~~fall~~ _____. What they're doing about _____ it's -- is not way for a person to live and on a day use 300 cubic feet per house.

I: Health and hospitals?

H: Health and hospitals? Well, I think that's an asset to the community because there are a lot of people who are sick people and they need medical care and they need to be hospitalized because they do not have the money to pay for the insurance in order

Tape starts jacking here and it's progressively worse for next few pages.

H: carry out hospitalization insurance. You have to be making, have a pretty good income in order to buy hospitalization insurance and that _____ I think it is essential that _____.

I: Can you tell me some of the problems that University Hospital has _____ or?

H: Yes, but I will say that ^{I think} one of the main problems of University Hospital is the director of University Hospital, Mike Woods, and Mike Woods has received the _____ for a ten-year contract. I know that _____ and he's got some \$50,000. When you get \$45,000 salary \$5,000 for _____ and I think he gets \$200 and basically I believe that if they had another administrator other than Michael Woods that the hospital would run much better.

I: Education _____ ?

H: Education is a great factor in this community and every big community but you know we have had people here who are qualified for the positions and they've all _____ to go out to _____ but the best thing that happened to us was that time we had our superintendent was elected by the people instead of appointed by the ~~seven~~ ^{seven} of the ~~several~~ board members. But people elect people to have a voice in their government. They say the ^{keeping politics} _____ ~~policy~~ out of _____ when you have an appointed superintendent but you don't take it out until you've really put it in because this is where the controlling factor of the community controls the quality. So education here, I think it has come a long way due to the fact of increase in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~ad valorem taxes, ad valorem taxation that causes us to~~ ^{ad valorem taxes, ad valorem taxation that causes us to} ~~spend, it's for the public~~ concern and not from just _____ the appointed superintendent. We did not have any money that was spent for public school equipment until the tax base, until the ^{re-evaluation} ~~reevaluation~~ of properties in order to give a just tax base throughout the state which became a state law. If the state objected that _____ that makes every county contribute more money toward education than they have in the past and you will find that education in the state of Florida will effectively grow and will be to the norm of all the states throughout the United States.

I: Fire protection?

I think we have very good fire protection. We have a

H: Fire protection? very good rescue squad here, one of the best in the country. We have always _____ as far as fire protection and I am certain that it ^{is} was good.

I: Were you able to get federal funds?

H: Well, we don't get federal funds for a district. It's federal funds for a sole community. Federal funds don't go in to help a district. It constitutes the city of Jacksonville as a whole, as an administrator, always does has the right to say _____ where the money should be sent. The administration, of course, who sends the money, _____, but no councilman has the right to spend any money. We all _____, *The council is the law-making body* but the city of Jacksonville is the administrator of all funds that _____ Jacksonville so she is the one who _____ unless you can get enough councillors to override his veto and _____ is what he wants done.

I: _____?

H: _____ that's coming from the federal government. I believe we got more _____ than they realized before, because I asked the 1974-75 budget, I was able to get a _____ and they were _____ we were able to get that far _____

I: Have you as an elected official been able to bring industrial or retail into the community?

H: Well, no. we have not been able to bring a lot of the stores into our community. I've tried on several occasions _____ the shopping mall. But you just cannot open a retail store by get these chains of creditors for they are ~~a~~ ^{afraid} of crime. You had race trouble here when they _____ destroy people's property and you _____ burned down. So _____ change with his attitude. These businesses feel like they've got to be better protected throughout the black areas, not only in Jacksonville, but throughout this country, you will find a _____ national chain going into a black _____

I: Do you think it's a related problem -- I know with something like the system going -- crime is mostly concentrated in black areas and _____

H: Well, in the _____ but they come in _____ area and the black people, they call black leaders ^{they} jump on and say _____ advantage of black people. Why don't you do this to white people? But on the other hand you don't have the crime _____ you have in black _____ and black people _____ those who are doing are the ones who were hollering about _____ they're doing it because _____ tells me, go into a black area crime and corruption and tell the blacks in that area _____

I: Have you been able to see that blacks are hired fairly, have you been able to see that blacks are hired fairly in local government?

H: _____ when I served on the council, Blacks were not being hired _____ for blacks to be hired and _____ held the position and he'd have to do whatever _____ do because he was hired by the man _____
_____ you don't have someone there who is economically _____ you'll always have this problem _____

I: _____
H: _____

I: Have there been any black protests, sit-ins, boycotts or riots in your city in the last ten years.

H: Yes. There have been riots in the last ten years and I think the ^{rioters} ~~riots~~ are very foolish because they are attacking their _____

H: _____

_____ and not be harrassed and not by others _____

Cheer up!
A lot
better
here!

I: What about cases where black women are being raped by policemen?

H: Well, I've heard that to be a fact. I know of one, there was two to be a fact, and they discharged those men from the police force, which is what they should have done, but I don't tell that often, not in this community. *I hear it happens around the country, a very scary thing, they then you*
have to look at a man who commits a crim regardless of whether he is a policeman or a ^{sudge} ~~juror~~ or whoever he may be. If he commits a crime then he should be punished by the crime. No man is safe from the law, no man, regardless.

I: The following questions are asked for an assessment of black politics in Florida in general. Briefly, what is your opinion of Governor Reuban Askew? Do you think he has a favorable attitude and policy towards blacks in Florida or not? And what is your opinion of other state officials and state representatives?

H: I would say Askew has been a very, very dynamic man. I think he has been very fair in making his decisions. I think ^{he} made decisions from the dictates of the cards and not for the whims and _____ of the people throughout the state who might have been prejudiced or who might have had bigoted ^{been} and ^{in their hearts} _____ towards blacks. I think he is one of the most fairest governors that we have ever had in the history of the state of Florida. I think that Shevin is a very fine man. I think that Shevin have made very, very fair decisions as far as opinions all he can give. The court makes the

H: final decisions, but I think Shevin has been very successful. Well, I hope he's successful in running for governor, if he should run in 1978, but I think he is the caliber of man that we need in government, the caliber of man we need to run this state after Governor Reuben Askew comes out. Shevin, I think is a very fine man. I think we've had some ups and downs with other elected officials and they came out and resigned some of them did, but you'll find this in government. You'll find men in government who believe in honesty, decency and integrity and you'll find men in government who believe in their own personal ~~self~~^{self gain.} gain. And this can happen. It happened with the president of the United States, like straight on down the line. But this is left entirely up to individual people. You cannot elect the man because of his speech and say whether or not he's going to be good or bad. You must turn around and look at his background to see whether this man intends _____ fair performance, whether he has been honest to himself, to his family, to his community, before he^{was} elected to office. But we seem to elect people to office who are willing to do wrong things and not right. This is just America. Why? I don't know.

I: What do you think about Governor Askew's possibilities of a presidential candidate race?

H: I doubt seriously if Governor Askew would be president of the United States at this particular hour in the 1974-75 presidential elections, but I think he has good possibilities of someday being the president of the United States ~~because~~^{but} I think at the present time he would be a good man to be elected as vice-president at present time now. He's the kind of king of a man that you need. He ~~have~~^{has} the mentality, the ability, and he ~~have~~^{has} the character most of all, in order to carry out what he feel is right. He'd be just fine.

I: Do you think that winning and holding office in Florida has been worth the effort?

H: Yes, in some instances it is and some it's not. I think that you will have to have, people going to be elected to office whether or not that you or I want them there. Someone is going to be elected, but I think when neglect their rights to go to the polls and vote for the ones that they feel is trustworthy of holding that office, then the only way for the other person get there who I feel should hold office, but the ones

H: who just sit idly by and say, oh, well, they going to do what they want to do anyway, they're making a big mistake. We should be more interested in government.

I: Let me ask you something, _____ about the possibility of counseling jobs and going from there in the city. What do you think _____?

H: I haven't the slightest idea. I told her Earl _____
~~she~~ ^{they} might, they might go along with him. I don't know. You can't tell those _____
_____. People like him because maybe he might do what they want done and and he ~~have~~ ^{has} a very good time _____ power structure.

I: These questions are asked to compile an overall ~~person~~ ^{personnel} profile of black elected officials in Florida. No individual answers will be recorded. Type of office held?

H: Say what, now?

I: Type of office held? Other than councilman, have you ever held another office?

H: Public office?

I: Right.

H: No. That's all.

I: The date first elected?

H: That was November, '71.

I: The date that you took office.

H: ^{S/A} 04/10/72, I think it was.

I: The number of times that you ran ^{for office.}

H: _____

I: Your age?

H: Fifty-two.

I: Your occupation before the election.

H: I owned Hampton Service Station, Hampton Fuel Oil, _____ and Advertizing, and I owned Hampton Rental Properties.

I: Your education?

H: I have three-and-a-half years of political science at A & M college.

I: Are you going to finish?

H: No, I wouldn't need ^{it.} I would only be ashamed _____.

(Laughter.)

I: Here you've done so much. It would be a shame not to have the diploma after all these....

H: Well, I realize that, you know, it would be good for a lot of people, and I'll say rather than having it and don't need is need and don't have it. But I think I've reached ~~nearly~~ the mature age where I don't give a shit.

I: Alright. That is not a personal -- we're glad to have that.

H: Well, I was saying that it would be a prize for a lot of people who are depending on it, for a lot of people and I think everyone should in turn go to school and finish -- I mean this is, I think that everyone should do it. But, no, I would say that as long as _____ I don't really see.

(GAP) ~~PeopTe~~ going to try again.

I: The salary that you received from you elected position?

H: ^{About} \$8,400.

I: Were you active in the Civil Rights movement of 1960-1966.

H: In 1950, I filed suit against the city of Jacksonville to desegregate its ~~coliseum~~ ^{coliseum}. In 1960, I filed suit against the city of Jacksonville and ~~desegregated~~ ^{desegregated} the ~~coliseum~~ ^{coliseum}, the Gator Bowl, the auditorium, the baseball park -- everything ~~that they~~ ^{the city} owned in the city of Jacksonville. So I've been active in city work since I came out of the service in 1945 to _____.

I: I didn't live here in 1960. You mean that those covered facilities in the 1950s were just like _____.

H: Sure. I found that through 1960, the police segregated everything that they owned because they were all recreational facilities _____ they would build segregated.

I: To which church do you belong?

H: I am the chairman of the trustee board at Mt. Ararat Baptist church?

I: I was just going to ask if if you were an official in the church.

H: Yes.

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

H: I am president of the Duval county Citizens for Cooperation; the first vice-president of the W Club; I am chairman of the Youth Environment Committee of the American Red Cross; I am _____ of the Northeast Council -- hell! I can't remember it all ^{of it} -- I'll have to give you a resume here _____.

I: I think that pretty much finishes up what we wanted to ask you and this has been a real terrific interview.

H: Well, I'm glad I was of some service.

I: Yeah.