

SS115.mp3

Bill Thomas- Alrighty this is tape 1, tape 1 with Calvin Taylor. This is August 16th, August 17th. We are in the offices of the Memphis search for meaning committee and present are Jerry Beir, Calvin Taylor and myself.

Bill Thomas- Since this is, there is nothing hard about this you just talk. But since it is for a history library probably will last an awfully long time so somebody that we don't even know about might be listening to the tape 50 or 75 years from now. Well now who it is we are talking to..

Calvin Taylor- I imagine I went to grade school listening to the tape. (Muffled).

Bill Thomas- Your brief biography of Calvin Taylor.

Calvin Taylor- Brief.

Bill Thomas- Yeah well you know where you were born and where you went to school.

Calvin Taylor- Seriously I was born in the 16th of May 1947. And where, I don't have the slightest idea and I am not very interested. (Muffled) is close enough as far as I am concerned. Some people say there some people say here my mother (muffled). I went to St. Augustine 1st through 8th grade, I went to (Muffled) 9th through 12th grade graduated, attended Memphis state for 4 years, presently a senior, also a summer intern reporter for the commercial appeal. I have held any number of jobs and any number of odd filthy, dirty places.

Bill Thomas- So now did you grow up in Memphis?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah I grew up in Memphis.

Bill Thomas- Any tough things happen to you that you remember Calvin? What was life like growing up in Memphis?

Calvin Taylor- What was it like growing up here. I grew up in North Memphis, when I say grew up in Memphis I was from about 1 to 12 years of age I was living on Claybrooke in North Memphis that is what you could call slum area back behind Klondike School back in that part of town. Life wasn't particularly difficult for me, I was a kid, most kids aren't interested in world affairs and don't have any awareness of things around him. I wasn't like any other kid I had played baseball and football and played in a ditch rat infested and thought rats were enemy and shot at them threw rocks at them, did everything else a normal kid would do and thought I was happy. And that is just not the way it was. I never knew that rats caused disease and rabies and that crap just didn't know, wasn't aware of it.

Bill Thomas- Yeah ok, well you have a you actually have a social conscience because at least you knew people that had social consciences so how did this come about,

when did you first become aware that there were people talking about social changes?

Calvin Taylor- When I got educated I started paying attention to what teachers were telling the nuns in particular. Well you have to understand that not being the what would I say, well not having attending a public school, I went to a parochial school, a catholic school and nuns have a tendency to gloss things over. And not let one see them really as reality and some of them put ideals in your head. Most kids if you go to a catholic school I don't know about now but in those days you would find they were living ideals and not living what was going on. I guess I didn't really realize it well it was after we moved, we moved from Claybrooke to Waldorf. It is what is known as Ford Hearse in those days I don't think it is listed that way anymore on city maps. But it was in south Memphis, it was a white neighborhood beginning to go black, and my family was one of the first to move in. Daddy got a little money and so we decided to move and get out of the slums. So next door to us we had living a, well it was a white man I am trying to think of his occupation because I can kind of remember. Second rate mechanic is what I would call him.

Bill Thomas- Shade tree mechanic.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah that kind of a guy. He was the kind of a cat that white people talk about you know (muffled) well this is what he did. One day my sister decided that her, she and his daughter would play together. Now you have to understand that my sister is kind of a person that doesn't give a damn about anything. When I say she doesn't give a damn I mean that she is not particularly worried about what people say about what she does. She just graduated from high school this year and then she moved in. But anyway they got to playing together and the little kid slapped her and called her a nigger. (Tape Break)

Calvin Taylor- I don't know my sister must have been about, well lets see she is two years younger than I am and I was about I guess I would say I was 12 so she was about 9 somewhere in there 8 to 10. It was kind of funny because when she slapped my sister and called her a nigger my sister didn't object to her calling her a nigger that was perfectly alright but the slap was going to far. So they kind of had an entanglement there and that was when we really found out that white people, because up until then we had played with the kids off and on. We noticed that they didn't come over and play with us and we for some reason or another didn't go play with them.

Bill Thomas- But never questioned this.

Calvin Taylor- But no one ever paid any attention to it we just took it to something we did. So when she got slapped that was when my sister and I found out because when my sister got slapped she came running to me. So and so slapped me Calvin. You know, and that was when we kind of found it we were black. Didn't mean very much then though until well when I got into the 9th grade I had to take off and go to Carver High school, which you know Carver high school. Because my mother...

Bill Thomas- And for the record Carver high school was predominantly negro.

Calvin Taylor- Tell me this, why do you people say that schools in black areas are predominantly negro when you know they are all black, why do they say that?

Bill Thomas- I don't know it is just a hang up I guess.

Calvin Taylor- I don't understand it, Melrose, every school is predominantly negro. Now you ain't going to find nothing else there other than black people, you won't find any Jamaicans, Puerto Ricans you won't even find Mexicans, you won't find it.

Bill Thomas- I guess it is probably ignorance and lack of knowledge and it has falling, I am sure it is us falling for the school board line that uses that term.

Calvin Taylor- Oh is that what it is?

Bill Thomas- That is probably what it is because see I have never been over there and when I hear that is predominantly black I probably repeat that.

Calvin Taylor- Well Carver is one of the old predominantly black schools. But my mother was going to Lemoyne and she had decided it was time to go back to school and make a living. You know make a better living, we were doing alright and dad was doing pretty good so she went on ahead and back to school.

Bill Thomas- What did your father do Calvin?

Calvin Taylor- Well my father at the time he was in the Navy stationed in Millington. But at the time my mother started going to Lemoyne he was a non-commissioned officer working out in the Navy and shot (muffled) him in the hospital section. He works out there now, he owns a (muffled) business also. Like I said barbering business can be pretty profitable if you...He was doing alright., So mother felt she would go back to school and maybe we would do better even.

So she went to Lemoyne, started in 1960 and so for the first year we didn't have any money she had to make a couple of very stiff loans to go to school. So to aid matters out they decided I would go to the public school. Which was perfectly alright with me because I was only quack in the neighborhood going to a white operated school catholic. I didn't know very much that went on in public schools and I knew that public school kids had a 50 million different mits about Catholics, let alone about nuns and priests and all this kind of stuff you see. So it was a pretty good experience for me and some of the kids I ran into. We found a catholic kid black and white weren't particularly different from everyone else. That was when I became a little bit more aware that black people just don't have the kind of living standards that white people had they were just different. Went to Carver and got involved in several fights which I didn't understand. Black kids thought they had value judgments that meant if you had cut a brother he was someone big and that to me didn't make sense and I guess I didn't make sense to him. But those are the things I learned at my first and my only year at high school.

Bill Thomas- The tough kid was (muffled)

Calvin Taylor- Tough kid was captain. And after that I went on back to Father Birch and got back into the groove of being a nice old guy. Graduated, what made it so nice was my mother and I graduated the same year. I didn't buy her anything and she didn't buy me anything. And when I started in Memphis state she also enrolled in Memphis state working on her master's degree. We graduated the same time and this go around she beat me by two years. I am still down low but it is just one of those things, going to school.

Bill Thomas- Ok how can you tell us any history about the black organizing project or how you got involved with this.

Calvin Taylor- OH yeah the black organizing project, back in the old days. I a trying to think of a safe place to start. I can say it started with Charles Cabbage and Coby Smith back in Atlanta working. Cabbage is a graduate of Moorehouse, in political science degree holder. Coby was at the time attending Moorehouse he now goes to Southwestern and he also is a political science major and (muffled) all kinds of awards scholarships.

Bill Thomas- This is Coby?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah, and they while there they got to working for SNICK and becoming involved in the whole thing SNICK was involved in. This was before the violent campaign, this was when it was considered a noble deed to let some cat beat you up you know and then you say yeah I beat him.

Bill Thomas- This is a real nonviolence period.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah a real nonviolence period. Just as Coby and Cabbage got involved it evolved into a more militant group. We weren't exactly going to take the beatings now or accept them. It used to be ok we got beat last night I got hit over the head 5 times beautiful thing you know, we are doing it for the brothers. After a few knocks..

Bill Thomas- You get a little tired.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah you get a little tired like I say I got kind of tired also. So anyway they were sort of commissioned I guess by SNICK to work in other areas outside of Atlanta. Cabbage was supposedly to have gone to Baltimore to work. Coby was to have well nobody knows where Coby was supposed to go, I don't even know to this day where Coby was supposed to go and all the talks we had Coby hasn't admitted where he was supposed to go. Cabbage refused to go to Baltimore because he said it didn't make much sense because he could do much more good in Memphis because this is where he grew up, he graduated from Carver high school and he knew everyone here. And he would have...

Bill Thomas- Contacts.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah the organizing the field work would be comparatively easy. I guess Coby since he was from here also and they knew each other he figured it would be a good deal to hang out in Memphis then. But I can say two years ago they hit the streets of Memphis with what was known as this black power bit.

Bill Thomas- That is sort of interesting you know because I think the white community with all this talk about, well I don't think they realized that on one hand when the invaders became the catch phrase or something. The impression was that thing had just popped up but apparently.

Calvin Taylor- From what, I agree with you that with people probably did think that the invaders were the first thing going as far as black power was concerned but...

Bill Thomas- This isn't true.

Calvin Taylor- Even at that Cabbage had, let me say this, Cabbage had two jobs really he was working for SNICK on the one hand and working with the SCLC on the other hand and when I say he was supposed to have gone to Baltimore it was under the direction of SCLC but at the same time SCLC and SNICK had formed a coalition, you remember when they had the little deal together. So this is one of the reasons why Cabbage well this is one of reasons he is mentioned as having refused to go to Baltimore because SNICK felt that if they were to get off the ground in Memphis Coby and Cabbage would have been the better people because they already had the contacts they had attendee school here, Coby was well known. And in the beginning make no mistake about it Coby was the guy, Coby had the voice but the speak making, the personality.

Bill Thomas- To rally.

Calvin Taylor- To rally people you see. Cabbage is, has the same thing but he is just a wee bit reluctant to talk at times. This isn't to say that he doesn't talk when he gets started now it just says that he is reluctant to get started. But when they came here not two years ago I was about to join a fraternity called A Fi A.

Bill Thomas- Down at Memphis state?

Calvin Taylor- Out of Memphis state. Well not out of Memphis state it was on Lemoyne's campus but they had several different representatives on Memphis state's campus. Coby was also pledging A FI A. We were at a meeting one night getting our butts beat for no reason at all and we didn't particularly like it. On top of that we were being pressured into doing things, I mean they called it hazing and schools have rules against hazing. Coby being young and idealistic and me just plain don't like the situation and saying I didn't like it we got into a little trouble that night we got our butts beat. But the next meeting I brought it up, Coby said if you bring it up Calvin I will stand behind you so I brought it up. And we talked and we hashed and consequently we got kicked...well we didn't get kicked out we just sort of left with the permission of everyone else to leave and this is how we got together and since then, Childress, Lorenzo Childress who is a good friend of Coby's also, he was

kicked out. Because he was at home studying one night for an exam and the next day and they wanted him to attend some social event. He just flatly refused to come, he said he had a stiff exam he was going to southwestern and he had a flatfoot stiff exam the next morning and he just told them I am not coming. They called his house several times you know why can't you come later on and this kind of crap. Lorenzo finally broke down and said I am not coming, take whatever actions you want to and that is when we got together.

Bill Thomas- One thing on the hazing and the frat, did, was there a feeling that you were being treated rougher for any reason?

Calvin Taylor- It wasn't a feeling that we were being treated any rougher I think that as I look back on it now I think that maybe Coby and I and Lorenzo were not being really fair about the thing because we were looking at it from our standpoint. But at the same time we had to realize that other fellows were going through the same thing, it was jus the other fellows had accepted it. I think with the training he had with SNICK and the training that my mother and father gave me.

Bill Thomas- It was just unacceptable.

Calvin Taylor- It was unacceptable. Now we were willing to go through anything they came up with that was legitimate to get into the fraternity and we were willing to work very hard to get into the fraternity socially and academically but they gave this party in fact, Coby and I objected to the party being given at the time when another big social event was taking place in the city at a time when final exams were being carried out on all student campuses. They didn't see fit to call it off and I think because we objected to it to them it seemed like we were not really willing to go out and hustle and fight at this time to put over a good program. Which may have been true, personally I was not particularly interested in doing it and I was making too good of grades in school to stop to go to a party and endanger my entire semester of schooling, same for Coby and same for Lorenzo and as I said Lorenzo said he just flatfoot wasn't coming, I have an exam in the morning and I am going to be there and I am going to be in good shape for it. Coby didn't go, I didn't go. I don't know if I was studying that night, I don't know what I was doing I just wasn't particularly interested either I just didn't go. So I still say it may have been a little bit unfair because other fellows had the same exams and other fellows did attend the event and other fellows were working on it and they sort of accepted things, they just took them. They objected to them but they didn't voice an opinion. Really Coby and I were the only two, Lorenzo didn't agree that we should go and argue about the matter before the board and all this kind of stuff it was just Coby and I's idea you know we just weren't taking it. That may have said we were cowards as I look back on it or that we didn't really want to go through everything I don't know what it says, it is a kind of character.

Bill Thomas- Ok then out of that non organization and drifting away form the frat did the other organization come?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah the other came.

Bill Thomas- How did that come about?

Calvin Taylor- Well we just got to hanging out together. Coby was already in the snake bag and he knew what was out and Cabbage was already in the snake bag and he knew what was happening. I had just finished reading the autobiography of Malcolm X. Gung hoe for the black brothers all the way. So it seemed like, we kind of pooled our resources. Coby had the speaking ability ok he would handle that end of it. Cabbage had the field organizing ability he would handle that end of it. I had the administrative and public relations sort of writing talent I handled that end. So the 3 of us just got together and started walking the streets trying to get this thing going. Understand that all of us talked about whenever we met on brother we always try to convince him that he ought not come and join the organization. But whenever we met and were talking in public Coby did the talking. This is the kind of organization we had. Now while Coby was out making his speeches and I was sitting in the office writing letters to people and taking care of other ends of business Cabbage was out organizing people in the field. And this is where one of the problems became because Cabbage was organizing people out in the field and we weren't actually getting to know them When I say we I mean Coby and I weren't actually getting to know these people and they were getting to know Cabbage very well.

Bill Thomas- So he had the contacts.

Calvin Taylor- So he had the contacts and he had the influence over the people. When they met Coby and I for one thing Coby and I talked a little different than them. When I say talk a little different you know the diction and the tone and the phonetics and this sort of thing was just different. Cabbage didn't they could relate to him quicker than they could to us. Coby and I both came from what would have been called a bourgeoisie family. At this point my mother had her degree and was working on another. Coby's mother didn't have a degree I guess she was holding what you could call a domestic type job but she had a home and she had a son who was an intelligent young man, very intelligent. Who grew up in a family whose value judgments were not those of the average low income person.

Bill Thomas- In fact, I have been out to Coby's house, it was very nice.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah you know what it is. What it is like. And when Coby was going to high school at Manassas and making all good grades you see he was liked but there was no way people could relate to him in terms of value judgments. Saying yeah man he comes from the same place I come from down in (muffled) There was no way to say that.

Bill Thomas- But Cabbage was?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah Cabbage was. Cabbage grew up in the slums which were 6 blocks from where I lived. I never got down in the hole really, in the sub is what they called it.

Bill Thomas- The sub?

Calvin Taylor- The sub, Cabbage he lived down there, he walked the streets, he graduated from school with the same fellow that went o (muffled). So it was easier to him to sort of assume the sort of leadership and whatever the people in the group. This looking at it now I ca see where the problems are coming in that we have had since then. Because he does have the influence over these people and because they do come from the same area than they automatically look to Cabbage as the leader even though Coby is the spokesmen they liked him and they also liked me but they don't relate to us, they aren't quick to move for us as they would be for Cabbage. Cabbage picked up a young man who in the army would be called...well if you going to call Cabbage a filed general I guess you would have to say that John would be an...

Bill Thomas- Agitant.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah or a lieutenant or something. He has got the same kind of power that Cabbage has got to relate to these people to talk the same kind of talk that they talk. To think the same way they think, in other words the experiences are pretty much the same.

Bill Thomas- Back ground is the same?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah. So Cabbage and John pretty soon became the people that they looked up to. Now at the same time Coby was in North Memphis. Cabbage live sin South Memphis and that is a pretty good distance in the city of Memphis.

Bill Thomas- Let me ask you one thing. Are the people different?

Calvin Taylor- The people aren't different the people are the same but it is just the two areas. Where Coby lived it was the same sort of slums but it was done on what is called federal housing projects. You noticed that he surrounded by federal housing projects. Whereas Cabbage lived in a slum area but they were either homes of duplexes one for the other. In fact, you maybe could find I bet you down there ten apartments down there today. There is one federal housing project down there but there are so many homes and duplexes down there this federal housing project is overlooked.

Bill Thomas- Kind of lost.

Calvin Taylor- Well it is too, but it is too far apart to amount to anything you see. One right next to Carver school and then one further down. Okay now when you take poor people and you try to get across town that is one thing that they need is transportation. Now the set up was at Coby's house, the office because you have seen Coby, have you seen his garage that has been converted.

Bill Thomas- In fact Bill the only reason I just stopped by one morning in fact really before anything happened to see if I could catch him there because I couldn't get

him on the phone and then he was down at Southwestern so I just knocked and talked to Mrs. Smith briefly and she said he was down there and then I went right on to campus, but I did not even go in. But I do know it was a nice house.

Calvin Taylor- Well anyways the office was Coby's house because he had facilities. Coby had the typewriters, he had the paper, well he didn't have the paper, I was stealing the paper from the commercial appeal.

Bill Thomas- I did too.

Calvin Taylor- We had the paper and we had the carbons. Don't let me say we let me say Coby. Coby had the facilities, he had garage that had been converted into a den which had a restroom, which had a refrigerator in it which had a telephone in it which had a tape recorder in it, a sound system in it, a stereo in it and it was away from the house and there was no need to bother any of his parents if 50 million fellows come trampling in and out every 5 seconds. So headquarters were out there.

Bill Thomas- Calvin did the organization have a name at this point?

Calvin Taylor- No at this point there was no name we were just brothers. We had a particular handshake which we still have which has been, in which the movements have been increased now due to the more organization we had.

Bill Thomas- Can you say what the handshake was?

Calvin Taylor- I can say what the handshake was but nobody would understand it if I said it. It was a handshake that involved several different interlockings of the hand and fingers that is all. It is just a hand shake. As I say now, Coby was living in north Memphis and headquarters were set up there. Now the fellows in south Memphis, now Coby was organizing in his area but because he was the spokesmen because he was making the speeches and beginning to put the black power in Memphis he didn't have much time for organization and I did no organization because I live 6 blocks from Cabbage. Why should I go out and organize when I have the administrative job and Cabbage is right down 6 blocks and he got everybody uptight anyway. SO I never really got to know the fellows as well as they did even tot his point. Coby knew them better than I did because he was organizing anyway he would make the same speech on the corner as he probably would in a church or that he would probably make at a meeting of some club or something like that. So it wasn't difficult to talk tot a few people while making these speeches and attending southwestern. He has his lieutenant Lorenzo in his area because Lorenzo lived fairly close to him., Lorenzo was actually in the center of town. Well not in the center but just about in the center just more to the north, In other words more in Coby's area than anyone else. I was more on Cabbage's end of it and I had too many other things to be doing plus Cabbage had already picked up John, John Smith who was a very good general or lieutenant for whatever.

Bill Thomas- John Smith was sort of Cabbage's right hand man in the field.

Calvin Taylor- Yes in the field. And both of them together formed some thing like a (muffled) they were really together they had their thing uptight man. I say were because they are both busted now for various and stupid reasons and I don't think they are going to beat them, so that is why I say are. Anyway as time went on we got more organization going and all everyone was finding it rather difficult to come out to Coby's house for the meetings, transportation problems. And Cabbage had actually picked up the bulk of the members and all of the people that were involved in it were working or were living in south Memphis, The few people that Coby had, and I really mean few people that Coby had, could have come south more easier than the people from south could go north. There was just too many of them. Cabbage in some thing like two days Cabbage had 50 people, dedicated people. Ok where as Coby only had say 5. It didn't make sense for everybody to travel to Coby's house. So there was an argument brought up then about what, in other words a geographic argument.

Bill Thomas- And where...

Calvin Taylor- Where will the headquarters go now, where will they move now. Well that was hashed over for a pretty long time and then the press picked them up. Two black power people are in town doing this and doing that. You look through all those papers you got in there and go through that war on poverty committee thing you will find out how they got all involved.

Bill Thomas- Who did they get to.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah well that is what I am saying. The police knew they were in town and that they were black power people. Anytime you say black power white people just doesn't understand it and think black power means physical violence being put upon them. So Coby and Cabbage were kind of put in the limelight. Although we were still arguing about where headquarters were going to be everyone was reluctantly and cursing going over to Coby's house everyday, ill be god damned we have to come this far. Kind of funny but anyway...

Bill Thomas- Tell anything that is funny if it helps.

Calvin Taylor- I better not tell that.

*(muffled) go ahead.

Calvin Taylor- No I better not do that. But anyway due to the fear that several so called black leaders in this city namely ministers and I hasten the name my good personal friend reverend Lawson, Jim Lawson, Coby and Cabbage were given jobs working with the war on poverty committee to sort of ease them down (muffled). They weren't making trouble but they were fast showing the potential that they had to make trouble and Coby was a good friend of reverend Lawson's so it was natural that reverend Lawson in order to ease the tension and not show the division in the leadership ask Coby and Cabbage to serve as field (muffled) Which is subsidiary of the war on poverty committee funded by the federal government. Obviously an

economic opportunity. They were given jobs as I say as field coordinators. Coby, well this was pretty. Now they had money coming in and now they had a legitimate reason to be out on the streets organizing. So this is when the actual name of the entire thing came up.

Bill Thomas- And about when would that have been.

Calvin Taylor- That would have been in the summer of, not even in the late summer, but in the summer of this is 68? 67, 66, in the summer of 66.

Bill Thomas- That early?

Calvin Taylor- Yeah it was that early. In fact, there had been some trouble in the city, I am trying to remember exactly what all the trouble was about but there had been some sort of trouble in the city you know and there were rumors of trouble, and these rumors I may as well admit were started by us.

Bill Thomas- I remember a year ago there was one period there when a strange rumor came out and I guess this was probably during a time when I guess there was something going on some where else and it was kind of a riot fever.

Calvin Taylor- Yes, the NAACP was getting ready to have a boycott one of the things that was going on, but this was later that was the sanitation strike. This was earlier than that. Coby, we were in town and we were doing things that only amounted to what I would call disorderly conduct charges, they weren't anything important. I can't remember what any of them are at the movement. But anyway there was some sort of hassle going on just before Coby and him took these jobs and this is one of the reasons that helped influence Lawson to give these people these jobs. Of course the white people got a hold of it and there it was man, SNICK representatives working for the federal government. Because as I say the war on poverty was funding map south. Map south was, is a grassroots organization began by reverend Lawson and several other ministers to work as I say on the grassroots level to touch people, to help them organize. Well as time went on Coby and Cabbage continued and I continued to organize. (Tape Break)

Calvin Taylor- Ok back at the trouble. Well anyway they worked for map south and they are out in the field organizing at the time they are trying to educate and this was their job under the direction of map south. To educate people living in the slum areas in low income conditions in certain ways they had of improving their conditions. Well they were doing this, but there were not doing it the way map south would have wanted it done. And when I say they were not doing it the way I mean they were not making people think the way that map south wanted them to think. They were going about telling people they could organize such things as rent strikes. To do what they wanted to do you know. Or trying to build up a relationship in the community that would make them trust people and in case any violence ever came up, you see this is the one thing they recognized that we recognized because the one thing that any revolutionists recognizes and I don't call us by any means revolutionists but is that if you are going to have a revolution and we were thinking

in terms of having a revolution we knew that we were going to need the people to protect us. And when I say protect us I mean just that protect us, they would be the people that if something happened we could go to their home and live. Lay head for awhile. This is what they were doing because I was still in the offices man giving out them same old letters and putting out them same old sheets. At this time they had decided we would call it the black organizing project, that is where the name came from.

Bill Thomas- Lawson as I understand it was one of the founders of SNICK?

Calvin Taylor- Yes.

Bill Thomas- Is that how he and...

Calvin Taylor- No because Coby came along days after SNICK was founded it so happens...

Bill Thomas- There was no connection between them before?

Calvin Taylor- No no connection, in fact Lawson founded SNICK, he gave it the name SNICK. Student Nun Coordinating Committee. And Marion what is Marion's name. He graduated from Lemoyne when my mother graduated, well just before she did, Marion what is Marion's name. Well anyway I can't think of Marion's last name, he went to Lemoyne and...

Bill Thomas- (Muffled)

Calvin Taylor- And they, he was the first president of SNICK.

Bill Thomas- Oh really.

Calvin Taylor- I think he was the first, he was the first something. I don't want to say the first president because I read the history of SNICK once and when I ran across all the names I thought it was kind of fascinating but I can't remember, and it is not really important but anyway that is how Coby and them all got to know each other and got related to each other. And Stokely Carmichael was president of SNICK at the time that Coby and Cabbage were involved in it and Coby and Cabbage said on several occasions had been with Stokely and several incidents and...

Bill Thomas- So they were an influence.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah so they were influenced by Stokely, this is where their thinking came and this is why they weren't the nonviolent students that SNICK would have, simply because Stokely just wasn't.

Bill Thomas- He wasn't bent that way.

Calvin Taylor- He wasn't that kind of cat. But anyway getting back to map south. Several authorities got wind of the fact they were talking about organizing such thing as rent strikes. Now slum lords and I don't call them land lords, slum lords...

Bill Thomas- Slum lords.

Calvin Taylor- They just don't dig going on about rent that is their living you know. Ok so when that was found out it was brought to the attention of Washington (muffled) who was in charge of the war on poverty committee that he had several persons working for him who could be classified as members, who were named on this great thing the united states got out about this subversive group list that got. This listing they group everybody as being subversives and snakes on that organization.

Bill Thomas- This is part of the , they call it the communist civil rights conspiracy that jazz, which we are beginning to wonder if we fall under that category too.

Calvin Taylor- Yes so some persons, I am not calling any names and Kyles if you hear this tape remember I got your name in this bag in my mind as, you know Kyles. I won't call his first name I won't even bother with that. Some persons, black people were beginning to get fidgety an they were going to say several things about Kyles I am going to take your name back I got somebody worse than you know in stall it. What was his name again? Well anyway a good friend of Lawson's.

Bill Thomas- You will think of it later.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah I will think of it later. Anyway. We are beginning to wonder you know what kind of reflection this would have on the whole map south incorporated project. So they were thinking that it would be best if we could dismiss Coby and Cabbage for whatever reasons. In other words pressure was being brought on reverend Lawson and his other workers for some other reason other than just Coby and Cabbage because everyone that has ever worked for map south will tell you this today and Lawson will stand up and tell you this. The best two people he ever had working for him were Coby Smith and Charles Cabbage. They were the people that were on the job 24 hours a day and....

Bill Thomas- They got things done.

Calvin Taylor- They got things done and map south wouldn't have done (muffled). But people were becoming fearful that these black power militants now are about to make trouble because the cops are running t hem down keeping tracks on them this that and the other. I remember one night we lost the cops. Cabbage was driving off. I don't know if he works for the Memphis police department anymore because I haven't seen him, but he was driving a little light blue Malibu one night and they were supposed to be watching Coby. My mother and father owned 2 or 3 cars and I just happened to be in one of them that night. I picked Coby up some place and we headed over to his house. We noticed the blue car and Coby said that car has been following me all day Calvin. I says well ok we will get rid of them. So we take off speeding off to see if he is going to come and make a stop. Well he speeded up and he still followed us. So we said ok we won't make any trouble we will drive a t a safe speed and let him follow us. Well we drove by Coby's house and got out and went in. We noticed, we had Coby's mother now, she was watching out the window to make

sure the guys was still sitting down the street watching . Ok we dressed Coby's sister.

Bill Thomas- Like a boy?

Calvin Taylor- In some of Coby's clothes and Lorenzo was over Coby's house so they went and got in my car and as soon as they took off the little car took off right behind him. So Coby and I came out and got in his mother's car and drove to my house and got in my mother's other car and went on to where we had to go. We left that little dude hung up all night following Lorenzo and Coby's sister. The cops are so dumb. So anyway where was I. Back in the (muffled) people were becoming fearful they were going to make trouble so they had to get rid of them some sort of way. So this business about being members of SNICK which was on the subversive list organization was brought up. Under some other act entitled so and so paragraph 4 of the Washington war on poverty committee so and so constitution of some sort, legalized paperwork. They were to have a hearing. Coby and them were dismissed. Because...

Bill Thomas- By whom?

Calvin Taylor- They were dismissed by Washington Butler on the grounds that they were members of SNICK which was on the subversive groups list.

Bill Thomas- Even though that had never been proven?

Calvin Taylor- Although that had never been proven. Pressure was being brought on the administration and the administration had for some reason or another complied. I don't know quite the full workings of it because we talked about it every day but we knew what it was. We knew there were several black ministers in town who were really causing the trouble and they were having the help of several white people and we didn't particularly care who these particular people were. But Coby and Cabbage were dismissed but they continued to work. Heck so we don't get paid for working for map south any more, we still got our thing to go through, let's keep on working on it. Since they were known in the community they were still using the sham of being people of map south. And the day that they were, well when they were dismissed...we arranged to have a rally at Lawson's church to have well it would be beautiful in this sense. we would have the people that worked in Coby's area Lemoyne Gardens which had the bulk of people in one concentration area, density, concentration area. To walk up Austin tot eh corner of Austin and Mississippi and Lawson's church and demand that our project worker who has done so much for our community be reinstated without question or else there will be trouble. Coby had him a nice meeting that night. Everybody came up and they talked to Lawson and police were all out in force then because we had several of the other brothers call up and made the rumor that there was going to be some trouble if something wasn't done about this illegal dismissal. So what was done was Coby and Cabbage were given hearing. (muffled) in charge of this so called hearing. And Lucius Birch who I think is the finest attorney in this lousy city was defending

attorney. So there wasn't no way we could lose. It was terrible. We filled the place up with our people.

Bill Thomas- Lucius Birch is quite a guy.

Calvin Taylor- I know he is, that is what I am saying he is the finest lawyer in the city if you ask me. I think a lot of Houston Jr. And Sr. But Lucius Birch.

*He is some fellow, he really is.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah so we had Lucius Birch along with Mike McCovey. Remember we had the hearing we filled the hearing up with our people you know. People from our area People from Coby's area people from Cabbage's area and we just attended the hearing. Now at the hearing certain things were established, Jesse Turner then was who was serving on that (muffled) committee board and several other ministers in this city were there and they were serving on the board. (Muffled) was there, Butler was there, oh what's his name chickenshit down at map south.'

Bill Thomas- Oh you mean, well you don't mean Jerry?

Calvin Taylor- Not Jerry no.

Bill Thomas- You mean a minister?

Calvin Taylor- No not a minister, he was a director.

Bill Thomas- Of map south.

Calvin Taylor- What's his name.

Bill Thomas- We got his name. Well I don't know anyway the director of map south.

Calvin Taylor- I can't think of his name now but he is the guy who is always afraid to talk. Or was, I won't say he is anymore because he changed his mind. Anyway, everyone got up who were from map south, Washington Butler, all. And they decided that they didn't decide they were basically arguing on this that if Coby and Cabbage refused to deny whether or not they were members of map south I mean of SNICK rather than they obviously were as far as we are concerned and we are dismissing them on the grounds that the federal government says that anyone who is a member of subversive groups can not hold a federal position. Or a position fronted by the federal government. Well that was fine, pretty good argument if you want to use a bunch of nothing for argument. And Washington and Butler got up and defended their position and all this kind of stuff and (muffled) got up and reiterated it and all this riot. Then Coby and Cabbage took the stand. Coby took the stand first and sort of laid the groundwork. Coby told, Lucius asked him what was his job. He explained that he was supposed to be out aiding and educating these people and giving them self help projects you know. To better their living conditions and possibly to obtain some jobs or something. And Pete Lucius asked him if he was or ever was a member of SNICK and Coby didn't answer the question but rather asked

him another question, how important is it if I am or if I am not. If I am getting the job done, you are getting more response than you have ever had and this sort of thing. And Birch went into a little background on Coby to sort of define the man's character. He was the first black man to attend Southwestern University, kind of funny though, got to back up. He asked Coby to sit down and he started talking and he was getting ready to get into this background and he said now I ask the members of the board if they know anything about this young man who they say, who they dismiss rather on these frivolous, ridiculous (muffled). The board of directors sort of heed and hawed, maybe did maybe didn't. Lucius started out by saying do you know that he was the first white man to attend Southwestern university and Coby was sitting back there looking like a monkey black and all. (Laughs) He had to back it up and say I mean the first black man to attend Southwestern University and anyway...

Bill Thomas- Coby was the first?

Calvin Taylor- And he was the first black man to attend and he went on a scholarship basis and not rinky dink scholarship either. He sort of, well he went on to Coby's high school career, Coby had one several mathematics contests some of these college tests they give to tell whether or not you...

Bill Thomas- Are a genius?

Calvin Taylor- Yes something like that. Things that didn't even really interest Coby. Awards that he got when he was lieutenant colonel for the NDCC. Another one of the federal military training camps and all this kind of riot. Coby said yes to all of it naturally because naturally he had won all these honors and was quite the distinguished person. So you know the kind of (muffled) you are going to take a guy like this now who is doing this kind of work and say that since he was or may be a member of this organization that he is not good enough to work here. Ok he left them hanging from there and he put Cabbage on the stand and this is where we almost lost out because Cabbage almost blew it. According to the war on poverty committee you cannot be organizing people for rent strikes and this is the other argument they were centering it around was the fact that they were organizing rent strikes. Coby denied he was organizing rent strikes he didn't know what Cabbage was doing. Cabbage may be organizing them to sell booze there I no way to know. Cabbage is the kind of person that will not talk but if you get him started he is as honest as anyone on earth when it comes to what he is doing. This is where we hung. We really got hung, we came out character wise good and reference wise great, but we got hung because Cabbage admitted that he was organizing people for rent strikes and he admitted it on the basis that these people needed this material and help in order to get their living conditions upgraded. Cat cannot live in a house with no plumbing, no running hot and cold water.

Bill Thomas- Clothes in the floor and this kind of thing.

Calvin Taylor- And rats everywhere. And he admitted that he was organizing the rent strikes. So on that the war and poverty committee saw fit to leave them dismissed.

Bill Thomas- Both.

Calvin Taylor- Yes leave them both dismissed.

Bill Thomas- And when would this have been Calvin?

Calvin Taylor- A year ago or more than that?

Calvin Taylor- Well this whole thing was about, oh I would say it was in September of 66 getting close to 67.

Bill Thomas- Couple of years ago.

Calvin Taylor- September 66, it would have been around this time August or September somewhere in there as far as I can remember now, you may look it up in the newspaper and may find out different.

Bill Thomas- So that really put those two fellows out of the organization.

Calvin Taylor- It put them out on the job and all this. Well the only thing that (muffled) really demanded out of the whole thing was that they got there back pay, because they were dismissed illegally to start with and they were not being paid and they were something like 2 weeks out of work. You know they were working on all kinds of stuff. I think war and poverty did see fit to give them the money and I don't know if they did or not and it is just not important. So with that, black organizing project was founded and Coby and Cabbage had gotten a stronghold on several key areas, high density low income areas in the city. Access to the people and the people behind them and the black organizing project was well off and on its way. So they continued to work in their respective neighborhoods and they continued as we say to do their thing about organizing people for the black organizing project. Primarily Youngsters but at the same time still using some of the methods of map south to get these people to see what they could do to improve their own living conditions.

Bill Thomas- How did they live? How did they...

Calvin Taylor- Oh man shucks, well you, it wasn't difficult Coby had lived in Atlanta to live off of nothing and Cabbage knew before he even got to Atlanta to live off of nothing. I had a job I was working for the Commercial, so a lot of the financial responsibility fell upon me. Now when I say it fell upon me, I am not saying I was carrying out, in other words if gas money was needed to get from one place or another and the car was available, usually it was my car my gas. So money was actually mine I was spending it for what I was wanting to spend it for. If somebody wanted to borrow a buck to buy a sandwich or use a dime to use the telephone, these are the kind of responsibilities we had because we had no office, no nothing.

We were still arguing about going over to Coby's house every night and people in fact they slacked up on going to Coby's and it started meeting just wherever they could, just whoever's house was available at the time. So then they continued to work on the black organizing project and we continued to put out our sheets and everything and we just sort of rolled along. John and, well John had gathered in two fellows that were quite good. Izzy and G. Izzy's name is Charles Herrington and G's name was Grail Brooks. They were working now and the whole set up was beginning to move to south Memphis because this is where anything if it was going to blow it was going to blow in south Memphis. Because this is where the people are organized. And about this time Willis started running for mayor. Now you must understand that while before Willis started running for mayor we will still doing our thing. I mean we were printing our sheets taking care of our people and working at the grassroots level and every other day having some sort of publicity gimmick to let people know that the black power was still here and will still let it burn Memphis if Memphis didn't get down to business and that was the business of dealing with the black and white problem here in the city. So you must remember that this atmosphere has always been around. We just sort of kept up this sort of nonchalant type movement in this direction every day. We were becoming more organized really in terms of departments and department heads and who was to put out what and who was to handle what. And who was to appear at what meeting because now we had millions of meetings to go to for some reason, everybody was trying to get us in on something, In other words I think it is a sort of way of doing it, if you want to control something you got to know what they are doing so at least get them working for you or something like that. Well they thought they were controlling us and they were (muffled). Willis announced that he was going to run for mayor so we decided that this would be a good time to have a black man at the top. I went to Willis, he knew who we were. He knew exactly, let me say this now. This is when the name the invaders had come up, Now the name invaders came from and as I say we were organizing and became more organized and we had just had departments and department heads.

Bill Thomas- Alright now, excuse me...

Calvin Taylor- Alright now the invaders, were the well now some people, some of the members will object to me saying that this was the military, this was the firepower end o f...

Bill Thomas- The black organizing power?

Calvin Taylor- The black organizing power. These were the people that would be responsible for security, these were the people that would be responsible for any sort of physical you know, it is like a military group of people this was their thing, but at the same time they were responsible for putting out any and all sheets on guerrilla warfare on training people for, in liberation tactics and this sort of thing.

Bill Thomas- The sheet that came out on the, how to put together a Molotov cocktail.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah a Molotov cocktail this is what the invaders published and they were sort of the military end of the group and they were the first, because we needed this people to begin with. We needed some sort of identification with the fact that we did have some sort of fire power or some sort of thing to retaliate with if ever the police got out of hand. And consequently, and the name invaders was brought up quite simply. Now I am going to let out a trade secret, not a trade secret but I am going to let out a thing that was ours but since (muffled). How the name really came about. At this time John was..

Bill Thomas- Before we do anything with this, you are going to get a transcript of this whole thing and you know if there is anything that you wish we wouldn't use.

Calvin Taylor- No what I am going to say you can use. John Smith was working at the army depot a the time. He had just gotten out of the army and was working a the army depot and wasn't getting too swell a deal and he was rather mad about it rather angry. This is how Cabbage picked him up so easily ands this is why he became sort of unofficial head of the invaders. He had he military training and he knew what the tactical know how and he was great at organizing young fellows. So we decided that black people when they are 14 years of age, a black boy when he is 14 isn't really a boy he is a man because he knows what is the world is all about. So we decided we would go a step further we would get people in high school who would be 17, 18 , and 29 and people who were freshmen and sophomores in college to make up this invader group to become the members of the invaders. Ok the name came up, the idea behind everything now was for the black organizing project to take on the form of a great TV program that was on at the time known as the invaders.

Bill Thomas- Oh I see.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah and the invaders breaked on this premise that we looked talked and act and carry ourselves in the manner that ordinary everyday people act. So if you saw me downtown acting like any other shopper downtown then you wouldn't know if I was really a black man getting ready to bomb your place, or a black man in the city. And this was the tactics we were going to use. We were going to get people in legitimate positions, get people doing legitimate things and if they believe in our sort of philosophy then ok. And this is the way the name invaders came up. We went to high school and hi school kids at the time were hip on Stokely Carmichael;. And once we told them that the men and Cabbage and Coby had been speaking with Stokely and all this crap they were ready to go for it. Using people in a sense but some thing had been needed to be done. Now you can go out there and find these same cats today and they will tell you now that they believe in what they started out to be just a great chance to be a black power cat. So we took the name invaders for this group and the whole philosophy was based that anyone who was a member of the black organizing project or any of its other departments would automatically be an invader. So consequently people just started calling everybody invaders.

Bill Thomas- I see yeah.

Calvin Taylor- And they didn't know that you were a member of the black organizing project probably working in the political department putting out propaganda sheets or that you were probably working in the peace department you know taking care of well that is the same thing as propaganda I guess. They just thought that everybody was an invader. And the black organizing project to them didn't mean anything and this was and still is the official name of the group, the black organizing project. And under the black organizing project you have such people as the invaders, the military arm, you have got such people as the black student association on Memphis state's campus, you have got the Lemoyne NAACP, you have got well on no longer its version but you have the Lemoyne Owen NAACP Afro American Brotherhood.

Bill Thomas- At Lemoyne?

Calvin Taylor- It is at Lemoyne now. Owen had the Afro-American brother hood. When they merged and when they put the NAACP and Afro-American Brother hood together. Nobody decided to change the name why change it we know who we are. And then you got on Southwestern Campus you had Coby's group you know people that would come over to his thing to try (muffled). People don't know that all these groups existed and now these groups have subsidiary groups which do other things. IN other words we have a highly organized group of people with one specific purpose. That is organizing black people, the black organizing project.

Bill Thomas- Well that is where I think the newspaper fell short and traded it to the (muffled)

Calvin Taylor- which was fine by us. Because as long as the military end was getting blamed for it the other people weren't being bothered and the other people were invaders because we all worked under that type of philosophy if you watch the television show you will know what it is all about. I worked at the Commercial Appeal I was a copy boy. If the Commercial Appeal had found out that I ran around with the people they knew as the invaders then consequently I was automatically tagged an invader, but I had nothing to do with the military arm. I have never been arrested, they have files on me but I have never been arrested for disorderly. That just wasn't my duty that just wasn't my responsibility, and the first thing is everyone's responsibility was to the organization. Consequently we got people like John going to jail everyday because he is in charge of the invaders and it is their position to take these sorts of stands. If I didn't want to be picked up fro disorderly conduct it had better be a member of that particular arm because that particular arm is in the public and we decided since the white press decided to use that particular arm for a tag line then let them have it. Let them eat it up everyday. They acted like they were shocked as hell when the black student association all of a sudden jumped up on Memphis state's campus and now they don't know who these people are. Well you know you know that Ron Ivey came. So the invaders got the tag name and Coby got well that was it that is how the invaders came about and then like I said Willis was beginning to run for mayor. So we figured if this was a good time for black people to ever unite. And our motto is black people everywhere unite and here would be a good rallying point. So we pooled our resources and got down

to Willis' office and told him look you got you some campaign workers right here. You can pay us if you want top pay us or don't pay us if you don't want to pay us. Don't care. Now all this, now during all this time remember now that Cabbage has really got the strong hold and everything because he has all the people located in South Memphis and everybody is organizing. John has come along and put these high school kids together into a tightly knit and highly capable efficient organization. Coby wasn't sure of it al and was over there in North Memphis doing the thing, making the speeches and keeping us in the limelight and all this kind of stuff. So we went down to Willis and we told him we are ready to work for you. We will pass out your sheets and all this kind of stuff and we will help you get to be mayor. We will go out and ask black people to do this for you. In return, that you work for black people.

Bill Thomas- Politically.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah not we want him to, and I want to be particularly fair about this because this is some thing that is going to be important to somebody in the future. I don't want anybody to think we are jiving. I don't want anybody thinking we are idealistic. We didn't give a shit about any honky this side of heaven. Memphis mayor, Memphis councilmen, Memphis automobile men, if he was white we didn't give a doggone. Now we told Willis if you want to make all those fines speeches I want you to do it for the people of Memphis that is great but you just remember who put you in office, because we would have made that margin that would have gotten him over if he would have won, well Willis didn't win but we can get around all that. But anyway we were particularly interested in things for black people. If he got to be mayor he better be doggone sure that when it came to the black community a black man was in leadership. Don't give me this crap about a white man who knows about the business. Because the only thing he knew about the business was he had been trained and we wanted our people to be trained in it. So if this is all we wanted and the NAACP is talking about percentages now, we were tailing about percentages then. We were saying that we were 40% of Memphis, we want our 40% of leadership and our 40% represented. You got a police force that doesn't have 50 negros on it and it has got 50 negros on it I think. 40% of the city. We got something like 800 policemen. That is a long way form being 40%. Too many honkies riding around in black communities busting cats just for the hell of it. So we want4ed some, there was going to be some black policemen you know.

Bill Thomas- That was part of the request.

Calvin Taylor- We even were going to have some black lieutenants and some black captains, we were going to have this stuff if he were to become mayor. We were going to have black people sitting in proportion I everything that was going on in thee city. But I mean it is funny we didn't even ask for half and half just give us our percentage. That is all we wanted and white people still had the edge. We wanted fair representation you see in all areas. Ok this is what we asked of Willis in return for doing all t his for him but at the same time we were asking him to be sure if he helped our organization at its grassroots level and when we said help we meant two things. Financial and administrative assistance and I don't care about anybody

knowing, we needed the money then. We were down. We had two or three cats working and that won't cut it. We got to get to some people. You got to buy carbon paper, notebook paper you got to buy phones, you got to keep files.

Bill Thomas- I know it is expensive.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah, ok, plus these people got their own they don't like to work 40 hours a week and then give it all to an organization you know. I mean it is just people we don't deny anything people just aren't like that, nobody wants to work for nothing. So that is the way it was, we went to Willis and we campaigned for Willis.

Bill Thomas- What was Willis' reaction?

Calvin Taylor- Now Willis' reaction tot his was great. He felt that we could really do some good because everyone in this city recognized that we did have some influence over the community.

Bill Thomas- The black community you mean, recognized that.

Calvin Taylor- Yeah.

Bill Thomas- Because a lot of the community didn't at that time. I mean you know.

Calvin Taylor- He thought the idea was great and he had campaign workers and he had them in a highly organized group of people who knew what they were doing. He didn't have to do much work to get them organized and get them to tell them what to do and when they went out because we knew what we were after. He didn't have to tell us now that you go talk to black people and you try to get them to see that this is going to be a black mayor this will be something. We knew that already we were just going to make sure he remembered he did that if he got into office, or when he got in office. We were pretty confident he was going to win. Well, fate didn't have it that way, pretty soon it was through a politician named Willie B. Ingram started his rumors about A.W. By telling them that A.W. (muffled) saying that Lobe gave him a pay off. On top of that Willis was in cahoots with the black power boys, it is kind of cute that they call us black power boys. But anyway these things were beginning to hurt, the trouble is we didn't realize how much they were beginning to hurt and Willis was still taking a very militant stand because he had us behind him and he had the group behind him. Now this is when we found out that we hadn't done a great job on convincing the community that we were there for their good as we thought we had. Now in the areas where we worked these people were sold uptight but in the areas where we didn't work like Lakeview Gardens, where these middle class bourgeois black people live. We just didn't have them and there is no need in saying that we did because we didn't. When they started the business that black people, they don't understand politics like us white men, it is totally a white man's game, black people don't know anything about politics, we have a lot to learn in that section. And when they started that stuff, politics to black people is based on personalities. Now I know you are going to tell me that politics to white people is based on personality but you see I didn't add anything after that but politics and

white people is based on personality, qualifications and who you know and going up a the line and name them. But as far as we are concerned.

Bill Thomas- It is strictly personality.

Calvin Taylor- It is strictly personality deal. Nothing but a popularity contest from the start. Now A.W. was fine until he found out that bastard had took some money from Lobe and this is the way black people were beginning to think. And then it became our responsibility to convince these people before and Ingram played it smart. Ingram didn't put it out early when it could have been fought and dragged out and rebuffed he brought it out just a couple of days before the election was getting started you know before the actual voting day. On top of that we had made a mistake. We had decide not to incur the wrath of the white community by slandering one of their idols Lobe by saying he is a bigot and just really harping on Lobe, but rather to call immoral just white politicians. So consequently Willis didn't have speeches lined up for Lobe, I mean we just sort of left it at this is Lobe you all know what he stands for. This wouldn't have the white community mad at something that Willis said and he could have possibly gotten some votes from the white community to help win you see. So you know he would not have had them mad. Because we weren't worried about the other people anyway. We knew they had good character but they couldn't go any further than where they were. I don't know how we knew it, just one of those things that we knew. Is the tape running?

Bill Thomas- We are ok.

Calvin Taylor- Ok. So Willis didn't have any set speeches made for Lobe, He had said that Lobe was a bigot and this that and another, Like he went on and said things about Morris and his sheriff's department and all this kind of stuff. So we missed it and when Ingram started the rumor about he took the money the older black people in the community that was all they needed, here it is another Uncle Tom at a time when Uncle Tom's are not favorable.

Bill Thomas- Yeah.

Calvin Taylor- So Ingram shook the campaign up he threw all the black people back in the corner but he didn't get as many as he thought he would need to get them back because a lot of us, like the people in our areas that were behind us. The election will show that these people in these particular areas voted for Willis there was no question about it but Ingram split the vote and Lobe possibly too. That was maybe why he didn't deny the rumors, he knew that this would cut Ingram and this was the two biggest people Ingram and Willis. This split them and he had it made and coming in the runoff he was sure to take Ingram because al the white people wouldn't vote for Ingram anymore and that would be all they needed to win and that was really what happened. Willis got cut by rumors that we just weren't ready for and because we had not worked in any of the areas where in these black areas where it was considered an in thing to say I am from black power but an impractical

thing to act and sort of make the sacrifices that come from being a black power advocate, we lost. Because he...(Tape End)