

SS074.mp3

David Yellin- This is side 2, side 2. Alright fine, well we have come to the end of the meeting of February 11th and it lasted for how long? It started at 8:00 and lasted an hour you think?

Charles Blackburn- It must have been 10:30 I guess.

David Yellin- 2 and a half hours and they as far as you know went back to the union meeting.

Charles Blackburn- Yeah we had an interesting little instance there that you asked me what he was wearing, he was wearing a suit but it was this point somewhere along the line he asked one of his men to get his jail clothes or something to that effect.

David Yellin- He did say what?

Charles Blackburn- He asked one of his men to go get his jail clothes or something to that effect anyways, and the man came back very shortly with a shirt and trousers and he changed his clothes in the reception room in my office there to put on his jail clothes.

Bill Thomas- What were these clothes Charlie?

Charles Blackburn- I remember they were gray work.

David Yellin- Did you ask him about it?

Charles Blackburn- But he said call the Chancellor I am ready to go to jail. Somebody said, I guess I said, I asked him why are you going to jail? He said, I am going to be in violation of the injunction. There was an injunction back in here I go on my dates again. In 19 what, July of 1966 I believe. When they threatened to strike or started to strike and the city got an injunction against the union.

David Yellin- Again, that would hold against Mr. Jones?

Charles Blackburn- That was what he as peaking of, he was involved then too.

David Yellin- Alright now we have him in his jail clothes and then they left?

Charles Blackburn- They drifted out finally, I trying to piece together little bits of our conversation. Somebody said something about tomorrow, I don't know whether we were still talking about the fact that they should see the mayor tomorrow, I am not sure. Somebody mentioned that we aren't going to be there tomorrow. I remember James Jordan the steward saying you are not going to do anything for us. This is it there was a lot of conversation there.

David Yellin- And it didn't seem to go in any direction as far as you were concerned or did it?

Charles Blackburn- Well I think the..

David Yellin- As you recall it then not as you look back.

Charles Blackburn- The threat of a strike was very definitely there.

David Yellin- Do you recall that then?

Charles Blackburn- Yeah. Wouldn't you think so from the jail clothes and the we won't be there tomorrow and new this?

David Yellin- Well now that you mention it and point it out I guess I could but it is so different when you are there you know that is why I say, now as much as I can recall there were some 12 stewards plus Mr. Jones. Were any of them as you can recall as much in the discussion as Mr. Jones or did he carry it all?

Charles Blackburn- He pretty much carried it.

David Yellin- There weren't any there that seemed to..

Charles Blackburn- 1 or 2 of them were fairly vocal but the majority of them.

David Yellin- But he carried the ball as far as, and they knew what they were coming for as fast as you could tell.

Charles Blackburn- I would say definitely.

Bill Thomas- Who was it that he asked to call the police and throw him in jail in his jail clothes?

Charles Blackburn- I don't remember, we were all trying to go home I think (muffled) there was a lot of standing around like it is at your house at night you know when people stand on the door they don't want to go in.

David Yellin- One of those long stairwells. Then when he did leave did you and your associates, then they did leave then?

Charles Blackburn- Yes they did leave.

David Yellin- There wasn't any direct threat or indication, these were all indirect sort of oblique references that they weren't coming tomorrow, did they specifically say so?

Charles Blackburn- No I don't think you could say there was a flat statement that we were going on strike.

David Yellin- The word strike though was never mentioned it was only implied?

Charles Blackburn- David I don't recall that they mentioned it.

David Yellin- Did you stay with your associates after they had left?

Charles Blackburn- We stayed for a short while.

David Yellin- Was there anything there that you recall to share?

Charles Blackburn- As I say really I, I don't think I really believed at that point they would have a strike the next day even after all this. This is something that I would like to get into the record because even now looking back on it, I don't see any great big grievance, any real reason to have caused a strike. It appears to me to have been perhaps an emotional sort of a thing or maybe they had little individual grievances that they had not been able to get handled to their satisfaction. But maybe they were several years old or something like that but really I have given you a pretty complete picture of the thing. The only other thing I can think of is the heat was out one day and the grease rack over at the city shop, Jones called me about that and it was a fairly cold day. Certainly there needed to be heat in there.

David Yellin- This was in January probably.

Charles Blackburn- This was back in January. I remember we got the heat fixed but it took a day, day and half to get it fixed and get the man out there to fix it. Real grievances I never have seen and I have never heard them expressed. Even during and after the strike.

Mrs. Lewis- Charlie did they seem angry?

Charles Blackburn- No.

Mrs. Lewis- Or did you feel, did you have a friendly, were they friendly.

Charles Blackburn- Well anything like that is going to be fairly stiff but yeah I would say it was in a friendly tone.

David Yellin- Ok then I guess the next thing we could say is when did you find out there was a strike?

Charles Blackburn- Well the next morning it was fairly obvious although I think that most of the people actually reported for work. I don't believe that the majority of the employees themselves thought they were going out on strike.

David Yellin- Do they come in and punch a time clock?

Charles Blackburn- No.

David Yellin- How do they come in they just show up to work?

Charles Blackburn- They have a roll call.

David Yellin- So when you say they reported to work had there been a roll call or they were there?

Charles Blackburn- Well some of both, a lot of them were there and were actually checked in on roll call. The majority of them were I suppose uneasy about coming in the gates because they had cars parked at all the entrances of all our installations with people in them.

David Yellin- Do you by any chance have any record of those who did report for roll call as opposed to the normal amount on that day?

Charles Blackburn- Well I can give you a rough idea we operate normally about well I am back thinking about the sanitation department I don't know how many trucks we do operate if you include the other departments. But in the sanitation department say normally we operate about 185 trucks, and I think we hit about 38 trucks that operated that day.

David Yellin- And the average on each truck was 6?

Charles Blackburn- 5. I am under the impression that most of the actually reported to work and were intimidated and didn't actually go into the yards.

David Yellin- But when did you personally find out, when you reported to work or did they call you at home?

Charles Blackburn- I tell you I think I was out riding early the next morning, checking those yards and I don't remember where I went first. I believe I went to the Scottstreet installation off of (muffled).

David Yellin- Is that a normal thing you do on Monday morning? Since you have been in the job now for one month.

Charles Blackburn- I didn't do nearly as much of it as I would have liked to have because it was too much to do and too little time. But almost every morning I will say I will start at 5 and be at one of the installations by 7 because this is about the only time you can see the men because they are out on the street on their trucks.

David Yellin- Do you have to do it tomorrow morning too?

Charles Blackburn- Probably will.

David Yellin- Oh dear, well ok now we are back to February 12th you went to this..

Charles Blackburn- There was quite a number of people there and there were cars parked at the entrances, and quite a few people inside scott street too.

David Yellin- In other words where do they usually park inside?

Charles Blackburn- No I mean the people were inside they normally park outside. But I mean there were cars parked with people preventing them from going in, tell them not to go in.

David Yellin- I see.

Charles Blackburn- I can say that without hesitation because this went on all through the strike se.

David Yellin- Then when you came in on this installation you saw something was amiss. I mean I am trying to kind of pinpoint now exactly when they told you the baby was born. That is an awful analogy and I don't mean it that way.

Charles Blackburn- There wasn't much doubt about it that we had a work stoppage or a strike on our hands.

David Yellin- YOU saw that immediately as you came in.

Charles Blackburn- Yeah.

Bill Thomas- What kind of a reception did you get when you got there Charlie.

Charles Blackburn- I have had a couple of receptions that were not very pleasant, but very infrequently then or since then all during the strike. Again all during the strike I was usually on the job at 6:30 to be sure to get there before the pickets did. I walked the picket line with the pickets each morning. And I think I got a few remarks but basically it was as far as I was concerned it was on fairly friendly terms. We had some pretty nasty remarks and threats directed at our people who were working. I served coffee to the picket line one morning.

Bill Thomas- Did you?

Charles Blackburn- That shook up everybody because it was cold, cold as blazes out there.

Bill Thomas- Then you never did get the feeling that this was a personal type thing, then it was just.

Charles Blackburn- No, toward me directly?

Bill Thomas- Yeah.

Charles Blackburn- No, if so to the extent that I was somebody brand new brought in.

David Yellin- Well now if we can get back to that first day February 12th what did you do?

Charles Blackburn- You are determined on that one and my memory is just not that good on it.

David Yellin- It usually turned out to be very good you got to come back and pick it up it is kind of interesting.

Charles Blackburn- I think I wound up that day if I can remember correctly down at the Driver St. installation which is down on Crump Blvd, trying to piece together as many crews as I could in the sanitation department and I am pretty sure I spent most of the day there.

David Yellin- Did you contact the mayor how did the mayor find out?

Charles Blackburn- Oh I know I called him I don't know when or what time but you can be sure that I called him.

David Yellin- Do you have a phone in your car?

Charles Blackburn- I have a radio, but I don't have a telephone.

Bill Thomas- you call him though from the station there?

Charles Blackburn- Bill I don't know where I called him from. But I was out early that morning and I could have called him from several installations. He is not on my radio frequency, and I don't have a telephone in my car so I had to call him from one of the yards.

David Yellin- But you can say or could you say that your reaction at the time was well this is going to be a work stoppage and you got to get these trucks out and there was never any idea in your mind that it would be of much significance or was it, I don't mean to put words in your mouth I am just giving you a frame of reference to bounce off of. Did you feel there was any indication that this might be a serious thing based on the night before or did you feel.

Charles Blackburn- Well the night before I certainly did not think that it would be really as I mentioned these people had to the best of my knowledge 300 members out of 1300 and this was information that was picked up later on and I have mentioned it before to you, but I have understood since that only 30 of them pay their dues. But no I did not feel it was serious then. The next morning I can't tell you what my reaction was I don't remember, I was probably too busy. Of course we had to keep the trucks rolling to the best of our ability and we took up from there on trying to get the trucks out on the street each day. I don't even remember when we started hiring. Seems to me now it must have been a couple of days later. That we started hiring people to get them on the trucks to get them out.

David Yellin- Whose idea was it or how did come about that you would break the city up into areas and how was that determined what you would cover.

Charles Blackburn- It just evolved actually and I won't take credit for that idea because am sure it wasn't all mine. The trucks were getting considerable harassment on the streets and a little bit of (Muffled) along with it.

David Yellin- Did you ask for police protection or did the police voluntarily come in or how did this work.

I think Mr. Holloman assisted on that if I remember correctly David. On the police protection.

David Yellin- He was alert to the situation immediately. I think he insisted on the police protection and we operated for a few days out of Driver St. down there and there was a little bit too much harassment there and I remember Mr. Holloman did ask that we move our head quarters and we moved it out on democratic road, which was a bit remote and harder to get to. And this was a handicap for us but it did cut down on harassment.

David Yellin- Just again for the record, harassment, what kind of harassment can you?

Charles Blackburn- Of course harassment as they reported for work was the first thing. There would be groups of people in cars shouting at them and so forth.

David Yellin- These people are sanitation workers as far as you know or you wouldn't know?

Charles Blackburn- Some of them were. Later on I think very few of them were?

David Yellin- Were do you think they were from?

Charles Blackburn- Well I have no way of definitely pointing that but they would ride the trucks, they would circle around the trucks in automobiles you see and shout at them and things like this. The situation out on democrat rd. was much better because it is hard for people to get to accept in auto mobiles and we cut down the harassment pretty much except for the riding around and circling of trucks and so forth. They had a lot of harassment at night when they went home. Phone calls and visitors and rocks thrown through their windows, rocks thrown through their wind shields this kind of thing. Really we just gradually evolved a little system out there, we had police protection and never had a problem of new people and completely new routes because we couldn't possibly keep our old routes we didn't have enough people to cover them. I don't know whose idea it was to set the garbage out on the curb it is not a new idea in any event it is not in many cities now.

David Yellin- You know it wasn't mayor Ingram's that you know.

Charles Blackburn- Huh.

David Yellin- You know it wasn't mayor Ingram's that you know.

Charles Blackburn- Well if it was he didn't (muffled). We did ask the people to set it out on the curb for us and we got radios and we put them in 3 of our installation. We borrowed every automobile in public works that had a radio in it and we just gradually evolved a convoy system. That is what it was. We put the maps on the wall

and we would chalk off the area that was covered and we were in constant radio contact with them. We gradually got to the point to where we were covering the city almost once a week on garbage.

David Yellin- You mean as the trucks went out you sometimes altered their courses, as to where they were going so that the announcements in the papers or televisions are not followed?

Charles Blackburn- We had to change it from day to day.

David Yellin- And why did you have to change it because of harassment?

Charles Blackburn- Sometimes yes. Sometimes we would go into an area and we would have to pull out of there but again sometimes we wouldn't finish the area and then we would have to come up and papers and news media that day with a location for the following day. After two months it evolved into a pretty good little schedule there, it was never so definite that we could set it up as a schedule.

David Yellin- Did you appoint to someone in your department to handle this, because that was a tough job to get it always to the television station and the papers and the deadlines.

Charles Blackburn- We have a good little welfare organization.

David Yellin- Yes that is the Navy coming in.

Bill Thomas- Did you have a dispatchers system going on?

Charles Blackburn- I have a surveyor, well he was more than a surveyor he was an assistant in charge of our field parties our surveying parties and incidentally I just promoted him to assistant director of the sanitation department because he did such a good job out there.

Bill Thomas- Who is that?

Charles Blackburn- Oh his name is Bob Winslow, he is the most willing fellow I have ever seen in my life. He just scrambling all the time and anything that came up that needed to be done he wanted to be first at it. We had so many hard things hit us there and in just quick sequence. But we had another accident out at Winchester and Airways. Of course it came in over the airwaves we had a radio car with us in this convoy out there. I got up there as fast as I possibly could it wasn't too far maybe half a mile from Democrat Rd. And Bob was there before I got there but when I got there he was scrambling trying to get people out of the truck but anything that came along he was first at it. But he spent all day everyday right there on that radio. And we had another young surveyor right by him and as he got his radio reports he would mark them off on the map. If the area was complete we would pull them out of there and put them in another area, if they were having trouble we would pull someone else in to help them and we marked off the map each day.

David Yellin- Well what determine, and I am just asking you out of, did the police want to do anything about that or did you feel they should or shouldn't, what was your attitude about that? Couldn't you have stopped it if you wanted to?

Charles Blackburn- No, the police department in Memphis is wonderful let me tell you that, I lived with them for two months out there. Whatever you may hear from any source that the police department in Memphis in my money are tops.

David Yellin- Well we want to hear this part that's important.

Charles Blackburn- If you have a specific charge and the person that is injured will swear out a warrant yes you can do something about it otherwise you can't. If you don't know who it is and you don't catch them at it then you can't get a warrant for something.

David Yellin- And you also mentioned that you started recruiting or you didn't start recruiting for a couple of days.

Charles Blackburn- I believe that is correct.

David Yellin- How and where do you recruit?

Charles Blackburn- News media gave us wonderful cooperation all the way through, newspapers, radio , television, just mentioning.

David Yellin- They said if you want a job go down to so and so. The fact that these men were harassed and were certainly subject to neighborhood censure because they were all negroes obviously.

Charles Blackburn- No worry a lot were white.

David Yellin- Oh some of them were white?

Bill Thomas- Oh really.

Bill Thomas- A lot what would you say percentage?

Charles Blackburn- There you go with figures again, one third.

David Yellin- As many as one third?

Bill Thomas- Are these on the fringe area of negro areas or what? Or just any where?

Charles Blackburn- I don't know what you mean Bill?

Bill Thomas- I am surprised by white harassment.

Charles Blackburn- Oh I am talking about the people we hired.

Bill Thomas- Oh I see.

David Yellin- Now the drivers are still the same drivers in most cases?

Charles Blackburn- No we didn't have enough drivers to go around.

David Yellin- Oh I see.

Charles Blackburn- When the strike was settled I think we had about 104 trucks operating.

David Yellin- Out of 185? And you didn't have enough drivers to go around.

Charles Blackburn- No we had to hire drivers.

David Yellin- Who were these people? They were just people in Memphis, were they from out of town?

Charles Blackburn- Some of them may have come in from out of town but they have to have a Memphis address before we can hire them and they all had Memphis addresses now how long they had been here I have no idea.

David Yellin- Now I think that we must do something for the record, I know that you want to comment on it and I think you should there were all I can say is that there are rumors that early on you had some people from the penal farm, care to make a comment on that.

Charles Blackburn- I would like very much to because there is only one way I can account for this rumor and again this gets me back to the police department. Spread along walk if you had to walk in to this substation on Democrat Rd. and on any number of occasions I have seen the police cars stop and pick up one of these people and give him a ride. That is the only places I can see where...again if they were out on a route and man would be hanging on the step on the side of the truck, it may be raining or something like that, police would call him and say hey get in the back and take him out on a run or something.

David Yellin- And this would be the same thing because just let me tell you what we are doing because we have people part of our committee's work is to write up incidents and rumors and mark them as such, We have gotten some rumors that trucks have come in with tarps and then tarps are opened up and the sanitation workers get out. That could be leading to thinking that they came from the penal farm too, don't you think? Is there any explanation to this?

Charles Blackburn- This happened everyday I don't know why they connected it with the penal farm. See we have 5 sanitation yards. The men call them barns because they used to be mule barns.

David Yellin- Car barns that's what I remember.

Charles Blackburn- But people who work in the sanitation department normally live somewhere in the area of the barns, and remember a lot of people were still

working and they had no means of transportation to way down there to the substation on Democrat Rd. So what we would do is each morning we would have a truck at each of the substations. The people would come there, we would put them in a truck drive them down to democrat. In the evening we would take them back to their home yard you se.

David Yellin- I see, so they...

Charles Blackburn- So they did come out with trucks with tarps over them.

David Yellin- And so there is not truth to the rumor allegation that there were?

Charles Blackburn- No no convicts. Might have been a good idea.

David Yellin- Well now the strike has started and you are recruiting and you are getting up at 5:00 oh my golly. You are probably so busy this time your concern was to get the job done.

Charles Blackburn- Right.

David Yellin- Were you involved in any of the negotiations and any of the consultations regarding the settlement or the potential settlement?

Charles Blackburn- David I was involved only in negotiations for the first two days and I sat in on most of the meetings in the mayor's office for the first two days.

David Yellin- Were there several meetings in the first two days meaning the 14th and 15th?

Charles Blackburn- 12th...

David Yellin- Excuse me 12th and 13th.

Charles Blackburn- The strike started on the 12th. And Mr. Champa came in town on the 13th I think.

David Yellin- I believe too it was an Wednesday.

Bill Thomas- He got here awfully fast.

David Yellin- Yes I think he got here the 14th possibly, 13th the state people were involved. I am not sure it seems to me like he was here the following day, I could be wrong on that.

David Yellin- Yes may very well.

Charles Blackburn- I sat in on most of the meetings for the first couple of days and as for them I spent all my time at the sanitation facilities.

David Yellin- So that at all times negotiations was in the mayor's hands or the councilor or whoever was involved the district attorney. Well now Is there anything

else you were involved in that you feel like you would like to comment on. I mean any questions you would like to discuss or make a comment on?

Charles Blackburn- David I think that we covered it pretty thoroughly. Of course this thing was quite complex over a period of 2 full months there. I think it was a well planned union move actually, as I say I have never even to this day come up with any real grievances, oh I am sure there is one but nothing sufficient to cause that strike. Our employees are generally a good hard working bunch of people.

Bill Thomas- There was some talk real early some speculation as to whether the New York garbage strike had any psychological effect on setting the thing off or not.

Charles Blackburn- I am sure that it did. I think I should say this too. It developed during the strike and strong racial overtones. If there was any of this before the strike I would say it had to be an individual feeling. I don't think you could say there was any real discrimination. (Muffled) There could be an individual feeling within a person but I don't think there was anything that would have caused the strike.

David Yellin- When is payday for the workers.

Charles Blackburn- Twice monthly.

David Yellin- Twice, first and 15th and something like this?

Charles Blackburn- Yeah except your checks come out after there is not three four days something like that.

David Yellin- You mentioned that, and you obviously before you came what you would call the rainy day rule of just two hours for reporting. Was there ever a department directive on this or this was kind of by common law it started somewhere and do you remember when?

Charles Blackburn- No I don't know when and I don't think it was anything written on it.

David Yellin- And to this day you have never gotten Mr. Champa's letter of explanation?

Charles Blackburn- Yes I did, yeah I got a letter from him as I said it didn't contain what I expected it to contain and I don't remember now what it did contain. But it was no explanation of what happened in other cities or what existed in other cities.

David Yellin- Just a few speculations just as a thought. Would you have acted the same way had the strike been called in June or July, would that have made any difference?

Charles Blackburn- This is all speculation, well as long as you let me answer in a speculative way I don't think it would have made any difference.

David Yellin- I am just thinking in terms of the union's own thrust in this that in February collective garbage doesn't add much of a hazard but in June and July and August it could be a real health hazard.

Charles Blackburn- That is true but at the same time you have a much bigger and better strike going on in New York at that time.

David Yellin- Was there ever any indication that the health department was concerned or were they going to step in or could they step in all three questions. Where was the health department in all this, did that ever come to your attention?

Charles Blackburn- Nothing definite Dave the health department is the enforcing authority on sanitary and health conditions of course and I am sure they were concerned that some locations we were too because we were dependent upon people to set their garbage out on the curb. We wouldn't have had time to pick it up with the people that we had on any other basis and some places they wouldn't do that, they wouldn't set it out.

David Yellin- Can we talk about that for a little bit, were there neighborhoods, probably obviously negro neighborhoods where they didn't put their garbage at all.

Charles Blackburn- Again what do you mean by at all?

David Yellin- They wouldn't put it out.

Charles Blackburn- A large number of them did not put it out and one of the problems we have right now is that we are still cleaning up some of that accumulation now.

David Yellin- I see there were blocks and probably not 100 Bill Thomas- but enough to make a difference.

Charles Blackburn- There were areas where that the people did not cooperate entirely in setting their garbage out on the curb.

Bill Thomas- There were areas to where they just dumped it in the street.

Charles Blackburn- And on private lots or anywhere else.

David Yellin- Were there any areas conversely that you didn't cover for any reason whatever.

Charles Blackburn- I think we mentioned if we had harassment we would pull out of that area.

David Yellin- Would you go back to it again?

Charles Blackburn- Yes we would.

Bill Thomas- There were some negroes at that point that some of the negro neighborhoods weren't being serviced.

Charles Blackburn- Well if they were not it was because the trucks were harassed when they went in there. We might not have been able to schedule that same area the immediately following day. It was carried out on as regular a schedule as we could accomplish to cover the whole city.

David Yellin- Now how have you found the returning men, seemingly it is miraculous to me, I thought there would be much more trouble with men returning and those who worked, how has that come about ?

Charles Blackburn- Some friction still. Again I say I think generally speaking they are good people and I think most of them are working now but there is some little friction and some little reluctance I am sure.

David Yellin- Friction between the returning men and those who worked, they have not excused those who worked for...

Charles Blackburn- There is still some friction there but really not a great deal. As I say I think most of them have done a pretty good job.

David Yellin- Do you feel that this was something the men really wanted to do, were they aware of what they were doing?

Charles Blackburn- Like I said I don't think they did.

David Yellin- Then why did they do it?

Charles Blackburn- A matter of saving face, being out of step with your people, with the churches. This is a connection that is a little bit hard to draw but as you remember it was definitely there.

David Yellin- Do you think there will be any difficulty, do you envision any or would have done anything differently?

Charles Blackburn- Well I have to admit to you I have thought about that several times and wondered if there was anything that I might have done, or we might have done to prevent it. I would rather think there was not, I don't know what it would have been.

David Yellin- If it was an error it was a human error it was never anything that you intentionally, you didn't say in conscious....

Charles Blackburn- Absolutely. I don't think there was anything we could have done to prevent it actually.

David Yellin- With hindsight even. The thing I think that strikes me and I, that February 11th confrontation was a very critical confrontation and maybe we should know about that some how.

Charles Blackburn- I think it was set before the meeting ever took place frankly.

Mr. Lewis- You think the strike was set you mean before the meeting took place?

David Yellin- Did they given you any indication...

Charles Blackburn- A meeting at night with the membership being kept waiting down there with demands that obviously could not have been granted that night.

David Yellin- They never gave you any indication before hand that some of these other demands they had in mind? Or had this been a long standing thing, the raise in pay, the dues check off the other things that came at you that night.

Charles Blackburn- Well David any time you have got 2100 employees they all want more pay, I don't care where you are they all want more pay. Individual requests, lots of them. Any organized request before this, no.

David Yellin- But how do you justify and this is asking you to do something that is maybe unfair, but how do you justify a group of people coming to you and asking you to make these changes when they have known for years that it is not within your province not within your authority to grant these.

Charles Blackburn- Well David as I understand the old form of government it could have been done by the commissioner at that point.

David Yellin- You mean if..

Charles Blackburn- No there is more to it than that now contracts had to be signed by the city commissioner.

David Yellin- But the old commissioner out of hand could have said alright I will do it for you give me a couple of days or something he could have indicated?

Charles Blackburn- On the pays, if he did the budget, yes I think he could do it.

David Yellin- So could the men have been unaware or uneducated about the change because just as it has only been a month since the new government has been in perhaps they were just unaware that you couldn't do this and they didn't believe it.

Charles Blackburn- It is possible but I don't know these, this is a tremendous increase that they asked for here and I don't know, I think this was really in my own opinion, I think it was pretty well set and I would not think that they would have really expected me to give them answers on it there at 10:30 on Sunday night, I don't believe they would have expected that of the previous commission.

David Yellin- Yet they asked you to come and explain this to the membership. Again , now this is the devil's advocate, I am trying to search every corner because I feel we are coming close tot the end of it. Your contribution tonight and you are getting tired and I certainly appreciate this. Do you think that Champa and even Worth who are

even more sophisticated in this thing than the people locally had anything to do with this?

Charles Blackburn- I am sure they are aware of it right along, I have no way of proving that but I am sure that they were.

David Yellin- So that your indication is that they knew what they were doing, they were advised by people who were pretty sophisticated and knowledgeable in this area.

Charles Blackburn- Oh yes I would think so.

David Yellin- Because Mr. Jones had been going on for years the old way and if he weren't at least.

Charles Blackburn- For several years yeah.

David Yellin- Ok well as far as I am..

Charles Blackburn- How are we doing.

David Yellin- We are doing beautifully, I, as far as I am concerned I think you have done wonderfully and I am deeply appreciative of your contribution.

(Tape End)