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David Yellin- Good so we can hear our questions if you don't mind. Well we are ready to start I think what we might ask is general question overall and just one other proviso, as much as possible what we are concerned with is to try and go back into those days and instead of through the prism of today making judgments after the fact if at all possible if you can kind of recollect what you are feelings and your points were then. Could you start and kind of give us an indication of when you first heard of the incidents, events in Memphis and how and what your reaction that you got from your.

Dan Kuykendall- Now are you speaking of the instance that led up to the strike itself?

David Yellin- Yes. Anything relating to the strike and all the way through to the end which of course includes the assassination but anything that led up to the strike was very important.

Dan Kuykendall- Well let me remind you that I was part of the drafting committee, the executive committee that of the program of progress that wrote the new form of government that for the first time had a mayor and a council and I was very near to this, In fact the day I was elected to congress this new form of government this same day was accepted and I kind of had a double happiness that day. I think that as a background we have to realize that the previous administration to this administration had made a great to do about not raising taxes in any way and had an awful lot to say about how little money they spent. Now this type locals refusal to raise money to raise taxes where it was absolutely inevitable that they be raise and the fact that the previous administration had made such a political football out of the tax increase resulted in a sharp deficit in the overall budget that had to be made up somewhere because all costs were going up at the same time they were bragging about no tax increase. Now in the payrolls themselves were of course seriously affected. And the least skilled in not only here in Memphis not only in the city government but in our entire society, the least skilled are always hurt worst by rising prices. The fact that no increases in pay were given in the previous administration left this administration not only with the challenge of the future but the challenge of the past. And it is my understanding that some tacit agreements had been reached as to increases in pay for the sanitation workers. Not as much as the sanitation workers wanted certainly and I am not even going to say as much as they deserved but as much as the city council could see its way clear with the financial situation at that time.

David Yellin- Now the agreements were with the new administration.

Dan Kuykendall- That is correct the new administration. Well we, I knew all the time that this was going on because even though I have religiously kept my hands out of government since being elected to congress I have certainly watched it with great interest because I helped write the present form of government, the present charter

and also I am a citizen of this town. So we have a situation here where the present administration couldn't start out even they started out with a deficit and the deficit was that the sanitation workers had not gotten an increase when they should have gotten one two years previously. As far as that is concerned clear across the board, not just sanitation workers, firemen, policemen, and almost all of our rank and file employees of our city. So this is the background that a political football had been made of no tax increase and somebody had to pay for it and the lowest people on the economic scale invariably are hurt relatively worse than anyone else in any political, any fiscal crisis. Inflation was running rampant costs were going up prices were going up and this made the sanitation worker again hurt worse than anybody in society because he was at the least skill level. Now I knew these things were going on. I think it was probably somewhat foreign to the thinking of the local people and for that matter all of us that publicly employee would strike, because I believe I am correct that we do have a no strike clause in our state here. I don't know whether it is in our city government or not but I know it is in the state. So I think the idea that there might even be a strike the idea this crisis would get this far was probably a little foreign to most of us either observing or involved and for that reason maybe the urgency of the situation was not as great as it might have been otherwise. Now in the process of the strike itself, I don't believe that in the beginning there was a trace of any real racial overtones in the situation. There were economic overtones, the fact that most of these people were in a certain economic strata, could not help but be a factor but I think that a level of employees regardless of color or creed that were on the same economic level would have been affected equally in the beginning.

Bill Thomas- You felt it was basically labor motivated?

Dan Kuykendall- Oh yes I think it was basically labor motivated and I think that the situation that it has arisen because of past failure to act, that had created a situation that was perfectly wide open for organized labor to walk into. I don't think there was any doubt this was a situation ready made for their exploitation.

Bill Thomas- The New York garbage strike had just ended too.

Dan Kuykendall- Yes and favorably, and favorably for the strikers. And I had forgotten this context Bill and sure this was true. Ok, now I would have been more willing I believe in observing this situation and I gave no one this advice at all, once the people were out on strike the situation becomes a lot stickier, it becomes you have a legal technicality involved here which I think is important. That is the matter of recognizing an illegal strike. I thought at the time and I still think that there might have been ways to overcome this face saving situation. Overcoming this situation with a face saving device and I think probably part of the failure to really come up with a solution and let's remember that the solution finally arrived that was not greatly different from the solutions offered very early. So we can look back and see that nothing was gained on either side and maybe a great deal lost on both sides by the long delay.

Bill Thomas- I am just going to, yes, I hope this won't interrupt your narrative but you brought a point that I think you becomes very significant and truthfully we have not had too much reflection on this and I think you are at it and maybe you can enlighten us on it. I will put it in the form of a question that is, is there anything in the nature of the people of Memphis, whether the non-strikers and the strikers both ends of it that made people certain of no strike. Cause you say what was initially offered and what was finally accepted was very similar and very little difference and yet there was the interval of 65 days and so on before it was settled. Why was that so, why, and it even goes back further why wasn't there a tax increase. Why didn't the people here see that there was a tax increase?

Dan Kuykendall- Well let me answer your last question first. Remember no public other than a sales tax referendum ever involuntarily increases its own taxes without very carefully planned program of selling and you reflect other than a bond issue for capital improvements for education, you ask yourself how many voluntary tax increases have you ever seen a people take for themselves.

David Yellin- I see.

Dan Kuykendall- The general public simply does not agitate for a tax increase.

David Yellin- Right it is the government who must.

Dan Kuykendall- The public official usually is taking a political risk when he...instead of being willing to take the political risk that this new administration has already taken you see. They have already passed a tax increase. In fact, several different ways already are they raising revenue. Well the past administration was unwilling to even take a step in this direction.

David Yellin- So the charge that there is sometimes a word used called apathy that is sometimes used in the Memphis public.

Dan Kuykendall- Oh in this case, no, do you let me ask you this do you think my mail was running in favor of the recent federal tax increase? Goodness no. You think the male on hardly anyone that voted for it, I didn't vote for it. You think the male of even the people that voted for it was running in favor it, no sir it was not and even though we had a financial crisis and everybody recognized there had to be a tax increase the same people said we don't want one. So you can't accuse a populist for not wanting a tax increase you have to accuse the leadership about not facing up to the fact that to do right by the people we have to have more money.

David Yellin- Right. So that the actual records does indicate that the leadership did not even ask...

Dan Kuykendall- Oh they bragged about the fact that they weren't going to have one, they ran on their ticket. You know this Bill.

Bill Thomas- Even though and your point is even though if it really was a mistake.

Dan Kuykendall- Serious mistake, serious mistake.

David Yellin- So that at least what we're doing here coming to the fence of the people because this charge has been made that the climate of Memphis is such that not only did they not want it but they didn't...

Dan Kuykendall- Well alright if you want to check this out how many referendums for tax increases have passed this city in the last 5 years, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> one isn't it? We just passed?

David Yellin- Well I am not quite sure about whether it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> one.

Dan Kuykendall- I believe it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in the last 5 years and all of them have been overwhelming does that sound like a people who are not willing to pay their bills?

David Yellin- Good point, good point.

Dan Kuykendall- And they voluntarily voted 3 tax increases by referendum but it has all been for education and this particular thing was sold to the people. You have to sell the people on an idea on a good thinking and it takes not only that but it takes a lot of political courage on the part of the people that run the government.

David Yellin- Alright then we did leave off on the strike, not yet being arrived to.

Dan Kuykendall- Well you asked me another question and that was let me refer back to you said, you questioned why the people didn't think the strike could become a reality.

David Yellin- Yes is there anything inherent in the nature of this?

Dan Kuykendall- Well there is something inherent in the nature of a region that has had a long period of labor peace, number one. It is inherent in a region that has never had such thing as strike of public employees of any kind and has a law against it. You see, the people didn't just think this could happen because they weren't in tune to it. This wouldn't have been any different in Texas or any different in Arkansas or for that matter Florida because the same laws I believe prevail in each of those states and I have lived in Texas incidentally most of my life, my early life I was born and reared there and this wouldn't have been any different in Dallas Texas as far as the people being unable because of their historical situation to face up to the fact. Also, let's face the fact that in other parts of the United States they have a history of bitter labor disputes and they have a history to be able to recover from them. To throw down the gauntlet and act like the world is coming to an end you know and then 6 months after it is settled everyone is buddy again. That takes a long, lot of attuning to reach that point and usually you have to go through a crisis to get to it. Think about the bitterness of those disputes in the 30's. In some parts of the country, if you look at today's bitter strikes and they are invariably in areas that are not attuned to bitter management disputes. So this is one of the reasons to, but let's

get back to the period immediately after the strike began. You know you have to in this business of human relations there are few absolutes. The law itself is absolute in the sense that it said you legally can't deal with a union during an illegal strike. The law is pretty clear on that but that still doesn't change the fact that we had a serious strike going on and so it would seem to me and I remember thinking this many times during the interim and I know some members of the council were working behind the scenes to try and make this happen. That a face saving device particularly for the strikers and for the government, I mean particularly for the government and the strikers, face saving device be worked out. I would have thought that the early parts of these negotiations I remember quite vividly discussing this with some friends of mine in Washington that if they had not been held in such a fish bowl circumstance that we could have been a lot more successful. In other words, nothing should happen behind closed doors that once you walk out of the room should not be revealed to the public but you can't bring the public behind closed doors in a serious matter of a labor dispute. And certainly not done in public, on, privately on the industry and I don't think it should be done here. So what I am saying is this, if the powers that be in the union and the powers that be in the city government had been willing to tell each other this alright you go back to work, you get on back to work for two weeks. And you have my word at the end of two weeks this will happen but you have got to make it legal for me. You got to get back to work. You make it legal for me we will do it right by you. This would have been a fairly simple give and take process, I don't know whether this was ever tried or not exactly in this way but this was the type of thing that would have to be done in absolute privacy.

Bill Thomas- The agreement would have to have been...

Dan Kuykendall- The agreement would have to strictly be a gentleman's agreement and it would have had to been reached in absolute privacy.

David Yellin- Where did this go off, where was the fish bowl thrown.

Dan Kuykendall- No, the administration, the city government has been one that insists on having reporters in closed meetings and things done some completely out of the open that gentlemen's agreements that will save tragedy are almost impossible to arrive at.

David Yellin- I once made a speech on that about diplomacy in the world being exposed to...

Dan Kuykendall- You can't carry on diplomacy in a fish bowl, you just can't do it and...

David Yellin- Because you talk at a different level.

Dan Kuykendall- Now the results of what you achieve inevitably must be public and I want this to be clearly understood but I now to go a step further, I remember that as the race thing began to creep into the situation, well actually I didn't feel like the race thing got deeply involved until after the strike began.

Bill Thomas- Certainly at one point in the chronology and you were at Washington at the time, right?

Dan Kuykendall- Yes.

Bill Thomas- And so, but at what time did you become aware of the strike here and did you get concerned.

Dan Kuykendall- Well of course I ought to talk to Memphis 2 or 3 times a day. This is Watts line here on my desk, it is a I pay a monthly fee for it so if one of my constituents wants to call anybody in Washington he can come in and use it.

Bill Thomas- So really everything of any importance at all that happens here is of interest to you.

Dan Kuykendall- Sure and I don't remember if there was ever a moment that I wasn't informed. I never issued any public statements what so ever until after actual violence broke out, and never issued any opinions as to what should be done because I don't even plan now to be critical of the city council I am reviewing and bring to mind some thought of what might help us in the future because I don't know, this is interesting here. I don't find any real lack of faith or lack of integrity concerning this situation on either side. I really don't. I don't, I think that that they mayor and the council were rather candid about the thing. And I feel that the particularly the local officers of the sanitation workers were pretty wide open about it.

David Yellin- YOU mean they each had their point of view and they pursued the point of view diligently?

Dan Kuykendall- I think this is pretty generally true here, I just feel like that well to digress, I think the mayor and the council both were penalized by the fact that they knew they were reaping something that they didn't sow. Now this really doesn't absolve anybody of the responsibility and yet you cannot help but feel like I didn't cause this why should I be so much the victim of it. And you know people react this way I think our mayor and city councilors are just humans, they are just human beings. I think they felt like that they were going to try to do everything in the world they could financially for their employees. They didn't sow this crop so why should they have to reap it. Well then of course the reality creeps in realizing that somebody is going to have to reap it and you are the boss so you are going to have to reap it whether you like it or not or whether you sowed it or not. And this takes awhile to come to realize this and the sanitation workers when they look down and see that their prices and costs are going up and therefore their income is going down they are not particularly concerned with who sowed this crop of futility that has been done by the Ingram administration.

David Yellin- Of course you have made another observation that I think is very pungent and that is that very often goodwill is not enough, you can have all the good intentions.

Dan Kuykendall- In this case goodwill was not good enough at all. You know there is no such thing as being released from responsibility. If you are still in the chair, because if a problem sits there unsolved, and you are the boss it is yours regardless of the circumstances.

Bill Thomas- Now I want to ask a question that on the face of it I almost have to apologize for asking it or qualify it. This seems to be a critical one but I think it is a practical one that we have been able to find out, Your point in essence the present administration inherited the past. In order to go to the future they first had to take care of the past and make the connection and they were finding that rather difficult.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right.

David Yellin- But by the very same token, the personality or one person was involved in the past as well and that's mayor Lobe. And without the tall impugning humor making, was he or was anyone else aware of Mayor Lobe's position as a person in relation to the sanitation workers the fact that he had been mayor before that had been commission of public works in connection with the sanitation workers. And here he was now mayor again and I just wonder how unconnected he was with the past?

=Well of course you must remember that the present mayor and the past mayor are bitter political enemies, bitter enemies and that the new past mayor Bill Ingram has been an agitating influence behind unrest in the city. You remember he strongly opposed the adoption of the new government. Then he strongly opposed the election of Lobe and it is suspected of course and I think with full confidence of being right that he was certainly not a settling influences behind the activities of the strike itself. Sure it is a known fact, let's not kid ourselves Henry Lobe has had a reputation of being a segregationist. I happen to think that about 90Bill Thomas- of that reputation is undeserved. I am saying this realistically and the mayor is a friend of mine that he knows and everybody in the public knows that I have never been openly associated with Henry Lobe politically and never championed a cause because he has been on one level, I have been on another and he doesn't belong to my political party and so I can look pretty objectively I think at the situation, I don't even know for sure how this reputation was earned or whether it was really earned or not, I have never been able to really trace it. I didn't find while he was, see he was commissioner of sanitation while he was commissioner and then he became mayor and then mayor again. And so he had a, has a long record of relationship with the sanitation department and I had understood and Bill is this true or is it that I don't know that Lobe's relationship with employees when he was commissioner was good.

David Yellin- Right.

Dan Kuykendall- I mean considering the context of that day, not today we are not talking about 1968, we are talking about 1961.

Bill Thomas- In fact we understood that when he, I wasn't here at that time either but I understood, or stand that when he was elected with negro support to the public works commission.

David Yellin- In 56.

Bill Thomas- So at some point yes, I am satisfied this is true. I think that one of the unusual things that we found out (muffled) that it is not always so important, it is important for instance whether Lobe would or would not be a racist. But supposing he was and the negroes didn't think that he was, then it wouldn't be important oddly enough. And yet, maybe he wasn't see but the negroes thought he was.

Dan Kuykendall- We have seen this happen.

Bill Thomas- Sometimes it is what they think.

Dan Kuykendall- Well a perfect example we know this happened in a presidential race in 1964. Viciously so, and sense would have known.

David Yellin- If I may I want to put in my own occupation. In media we have what we call, what we like to call the media reality and when you see a film you know darn well that Carry Grant isn't up there. And yet if you don't believe he is up there the whole thing is lost and this is called the reality of the film. And the reality of the truth, of a public figure, this is something I am sure you have to face, you have to find out what people think you are.,

Bill Thomas- I think Dave's point earlier, originally there that was, I am certain I am just know you are right that the present administration inherited the problems of the immediate past administration. I think our question then there is yeah that is true but then is there a chance that, well mayor Lobe in specific didn't also have a farther back link in which her indeed may have sowed some seeds or at least the black community though he did.

Dan Kuykendall- Well there is not doubt that this reputation which I happen to think is probably an undeserved reputation was there and the reputation was a reality whether the fact that it existed or not the reputation was a reality. And certainly to say the least this didn't help the situation any, however, I would think that this could have been handled because we have so many cases of people with an old reputation that has been overcome in this field, race relations.

David Yellin- Now you mentioned before, that you were in connection certainly in communication with the community back here, it wasn't merely just getting what happened or let's say what appeared in the papers, your I have gathered and I sure don't want to make any inferences that aren't supported by what you say and what I think that is that your connection seemingly was with councilmen or people on that level as oppose to the mayor and so on.



Dan Kuykendall- Oh I even though as you say I am not in the same political party and I have never been allied with the mayor politically doesn't mean that I don't keep an open line of communication with the mayor's office, I do this, Our lines are open for many reasons because I happen to be the congressman for almost this entire city and reasons the congressman's office to have liaison open line of communication every two weeks in normal times. So my seeking information about the status of what is going on in my city from the mayor's office is not unusual in this case of any other. Now I am very close to 5 or 6 members of the city council and I talk to them constantly. You might as well face the fact that here I think in history that my personal attorney, my long time campaign manager is Louis L. Donelson. And my relationship with him is certainly no mystery to this city and Mr. Donelson's information to me came quite regularly in addition to his analysis of what was going on.

David Yellin- Incidentally he gave us a beautiful interview.

Dan Kuykendall- And I would think that his observation of it from his vantage point would be close to it would be, you say you already got it.

David Yellin- Excellent, beautiful.

Dan Kuykendall- Now to go on further down the road a little bit and the actual involvement of the negro groups and the church groups, first let me say I think it is most unfortunate when any, deal of any kind reaches this point. It has already gone too far when it reaches this point but you again want to be philosophical in retrospect.

David Yellin- Now at this point means the involvement of the churches?

Bill Thomas- Of the ministers.

Dan Kuykendall- Of the ministers. I happen to think that his involvement by the ministers is become a symbol of I think some very unwise action in our time. I feel that for the church as such is represented as a minister to get involved in a labor dispute is absolutely out of the question, for this reason I have been asked many times don't you think the church should get involved? I said no the church shouldn't get involved the church should get their Christians or their Jews or their Mohammedans. In other words the church should get religious people involved on both sides, only if you have religious people involved on both sides can a thoroughly spiritual and satisfactory solution ever be reached. You see the tragedy of getting the church involved on the side of labor? It doesn't management, isn't management supposed to have any religious people on their side? You would hope that maybe the same pastor would get to preach top both side son Sunday from the same book.

David Yellin- Can I play devil's advocate for just a minute. In other words what you are saying is the church as an institution should not be involved.

Dan Kuykendall- As an institution should not be involved.

David Yellin- But the religious people in the church does that include or exclude the pastor.

Dan Kuykendall- It excludes the pastor the pastor has no more private life in regard to that church than I have in regard to the congress in the united states.

Bill Thomas- This is the separation of church and state.

Dan Kuykendall- In other words I am not a private person.

David Yellin- Right once you become a congressman.

Dan Kuykendall- Once I become a congressman I cease to be a private person my family makes sacrifices of giving up their private life to a large degree. A pastor cannot be a member of the flock, because he is a pastor. And see in other words his responsibility is just to the working man as oppose to management or the management is opposed to the working man. See they have been false both ways in recent generations, I think for instance there were some of these pastors in this march here that should have been telling their managers in their parishes 20 years ago, instead of sitting down and having a high ball with them and trying to raise money for the annual budget they should have been talking spiritual things with the bosses.

David Yellin- Now you are talking about the white pastors?

Dan Kuykendall- Either one, I don't care which one you are talking about it is completely beside the point as to which one we are talking about. So what happens here you see, all of a sudden after 30 years of irrelevancy the pastor finally wakes up and finds out he is irrelevant. Then he desperately thrashes around and tries to do something about it., And what does he do he starts dictating you think anything spiritual has to be involved. By its very nature it has to be involved. And it takes a while to sell it takes a while to build up. You can't suddenly dictate to a man that he is his brother's keeper, he has to believe he his brother's keeper and this can only come through a spiritual realization. So the sudden thrashing about of clergy, "clergy" I think is a primary result of past failures on their own part. And now they are trying to make up for their past failures by a sudden burst of activity if not accomplishments.

David Yellin- They over reacted.

Dan Kuykendall- They over reacted and you know if a guy, I grew up on a ranch in Texas. Ok, I am given 6 months to train a horse. That is how long it takes to train a horse, 6 months.

Bill Thomas- Quarter horse.

Dan Kuykendall- I don't, so I lay down on my job for 5 months and then all of a sudden I have got to get that job done in a month and instead of using kindness, persuasion, I end up having to use a whip and I end up with a mean horse half

trained or no training at all. Because I wasted the normal time that it would have taken for nature to have help me achieve these things. Now this is just Memphis, it is not just the Memphis sanitation strike this is happening throughout our country because..

David Yellin- This did happen even then at that time.

Dan Kuykendall- Sure. Sure it happened and it is happening here now. Is a pastor justified in creating such a climate in his own parish that he himself has absolutely ignored for the sake of walking down the middle of Main St. in a demonstration to save his own self respect and his own pride? I think that maybe a lot of them were being selfish instead of selfless.

Bill Thomas- And you believe the role of the negro pastor was detrimental in this situation.

Dan Kuykendall- I was talking about primarily the white pastor here, I am talking about primarily the white pastor here, I am not speaking of the negro pastor here. Now the role of the negro pastor I simply am not in a position to discuss. I have negro ministers who are friends of mine but I other than an occasional visitor I simply do not know the relationship of the pastor in the negro community well enough to be critical, either pro or con.

David Yellin- However in what you are saying is that you do imply that there is a difference or there might be a difference between the role of the negro pastor with the negroes and the role of the white pastor with the white people.

Dan Kuykendall- Well I think there probably has but the primary difference here is that the negro pastor's position on the side of the sanitation worker would almost be entirely on the side of the worker by his very nature because he would probably have no member of his parish that was involved in the other side. Of the 3 city councilmen that happened to be negroes, yes one of them is a pastor incidentally and a very fine one. A reverend Neders, but I think the negro pastor by his very nature, I mean by the very nature of his parish would find that his parish would be involved primarily only on one side. And so I think it does create a different situation there. Now let me...

David Yellin- For the record and this is...what religion and what church do you belong to?

Dan Kuykendall- Methodist.

David Yellin- Methodist, right ok.

Dan Kuykendall- I would say you could probably rate me as quite active.

Bill Thomas- Let's see you have been a Sunday school teacher?

Dan Kuykendall- I still am, I still teach a Sunday school here in Memphis every other week when I am in town.

Bill Thomas- Let me toss in one other aside here because since we got into the white churches, was your church in any way as a congregation affected?

Dan Kuykendall- Not at all. In fact, I guess I am the only elected official that belongs to my church, I guess I am don't quote me on that.

David Yellin- I think, which church is yours?

Dan Kuykendall- Mullins Methodist, Mendenhall and Wallenberg.

David Yellin- Oh yes, incidentally that is where I am always picking up my son going to dances or something.

Dan Kuykendall- Probably one of the first congregations in this state or the city to voluntarily integrate. Back in 1957 or 58.

Bill Thomas- Oh really.

Dan Kuykendall- Unanimous vote by our board. Come on in. We at that time there were some certain agitators over at Second Presbyterian do you remember, and wanting to integrate the church. And we just decided to throw our doors wide open and eliminate the problem and we did. Never been a problem from then on. One way or another been open many times, many many times negroes have come there to worship. No one likes a negro who comes to the church to agitate but a lot of negroes come here to worship. That is the difference I think.

David Yellin- Now you are doing so well yourself I hate to intrude but if it will help you to get back. Can you recall or say the reaction of the people in Memphis to you as a congressman of Memphis. What I am getting at is your mail to you, early on if this is at all possible to...

Dan Kuykendall- I got only, I don't suppose I got over 200 letters which is not heavy mail total over a period of two months.

David Yellin- You mean the whole thing?

Dan Kuykendall- That's right on the strike.

David Yellin- Would your explanation be that you don't think they would think of you in relation to a local problem is that correct?

Dan Kuykendall- That's right. See I have publicly stated many times that I felt it, I respected local government, I had to elect local government, I thought they should have as much autonomy as possible. That includes my own finger should be out and not in on local government. This is my, I hope my stature and for this reason I got very little mail on it. Not I think you would very interested in knowing that the mail I got was about 95 Bill Thomas- pro mayor Lobe on the strike itself.

David Yellin- Yeah well, did you get any requests for any city official for any connected or the labor people.

Dan Kuykendall- No, absolutely not.

David Yellin- None whatsoever.

Dan Kuykendall- None whatever.

Bill Thomas- Congressman at some point this the whole thing shifted really to a local situation to a national.

Dan Kuykendall- Well I am going to give you a very interesting little moment of history. Almost an unbelievable little moment in history, in a few minutes that had to do with the shift. Dr. King's entry into the situation was most unfortunate for everyone involved,. I think probably the involvement of people outside the strike itself, outside the sanitation workers and their families. Maybe it was bound to happen but when it had gone this far I think it was quite tragic for the reasons that were maybe not even related to the ultimate assassination. And let me recite a little incident from a...you know probably the only time that Dr. King ever really looked bad was during the short-lived riot here on Main St. in Memphis. The one time where he ever looked bad. And this is the fact that he did and the fact that the knew he did, was a well known fact in some circles. It is quite interesting that Dr, King I believe was killed on a Thursday night, I think this is true.

Bill Thomas- April 4<sup>th</sup> to impress your memory.

Dan Kuykendall- Alright. I remember the date but not exactly what day of the week it was. Let see now on Wednesday and even though I had been quite critical of Dr,. King calling out these school children. Now he actually asked him to come out and join the demonstration, and I have been quite critical of this on the floor of the congress. On Wednesday morning I got a call from the republican national committee that headed the minorities division asking me if I would meet with a man by a certain name, a well known almost first lieutenant of Dr. King's. I said, certainly, what's it all about. He said, they knew full well that they have never looked worse and they liked to discuss with you some person or people that they could get to try to figure out some face saving way out of this situation in Memphis. Any way to come out of it with any dignity at all. I said alright, I was a part of the hearing problem. I was supposed to have heard from them on Friday morning. And this was a name that I am not going to use but any one of you would recognize it was one of King's Lieutenants. He was going to meet with me to try to get me to steer him to certain people that might let them out with a face saving device.

Bill Thomas- And your...

Dan Kuykendall- Now, interestingly enough, I was talking to the night editor of the Commercial Appeal, or was he the metro editor? I have forgotten exactly which one he was, I think it was it was either McCaren or Bill Sorros, either McCaren or Sorros

one or the other. I think it was Bill Sorros, it was Bill Sorros, because I think he would remember this. I was on the phone talking about the possible granting of the permission to have a demonstration on Monday, remember they wanted to have...and they were really just begging for an opportunity to really have a peaceful demonstration and the, I think the ACU local chapter was involved in this, will confirm that they were desperately trying to even accept all the restrictions they wanted to put on but still to have a demonstration to save some face, to prove that they could have nonviolence. I was talking about this and all of a sudden I could hear it he background a lot of noise broke loose. Remember at the flow of the Commercial Appeal, I was on the phone with the commercial appeal.

Bill Thomas- Were you?

Dan Kuykendall- I was in Washington. I was in Washington,.

David Yellin- This is now April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Kuykendall- This was on the night of April 4<sup>th</sup>. I said, what is going on? They hollered back and said Dr., King has been shot. So I was actually on the phone it must have been the moment practically when he got shot. Well we couldn't learn anything so maybe a half a minute later I hung up. I am not going to tell you which TV station because it is kind of embarrassing to them, I was going to call one of my friends at the TV station to just tune me into the police band. So I called the station and get in the newsroom. Somebody answers the newsroom and the first thing I said is he dead. They said, what are you talking about. I said is Dr. King dead. He said, Well we don't know what you are talking about. I said, well he has been shot.

Bill Thomas- They didn't know it.

Dan Kuykendall- They didn't know it, I was in Washington and I told one of the local TV stations that Dr. King had been shot. And well we still could find out nothing.

David Yellin- Interesting, can I tell you why its interesting, well go ahead.

Dan Kuykendall- So we sat there in Washington with the TV turned on, we turned it on to se how long it would be before it got on the screen. It was 25 minutes.

David Yellin- We know what station it is because I heard it and they were the first ones to say and that's all they said.

Dan Kuykendall- It was WMCT. But they got the news from me from Washington, because they happened to have the police band turned on at the commercial appeal. The moment it happened. And you know there were policemen within just a few feet of him when it happened. I suppose I knew within 3 minutes.

David Yellin- And then you called here.

Bill Thomas- Did the TV station try to sign you up?

Dan Kuykendall- All hell broke loose because they realized then (muffled). They had all taken this 30 minute period to all go review t heir film together, and they changed the (muffled) this really happened. I didn't know it for a month. (muffled) But this really...

Bill Thomas- Well can you tell us your reaction when you heard that I mean..

Dan Kuykendall- Well of course obviously horror. I think one of my very first reactions was to hope and pray it wasn't a Memphian or first and not a Tennessean second and not a southerner 3<sup>rd</sup>. These were some of my reactions.

Bill Thomas- Did you anticipate at that time that it would touch off such a horrible...all around the country.

Dan Kuykendall- No I would look a scance at anybody that claimed he anticipated all of this unless he happened to be any part of any conspiracy to have caused it in the first place. I don't think you could of foreseen quite this much , I have a kind of an unusual relationship with the Kennedy assassination. Because my administrative assistant.

David Yellin- Unfortunately I have to ask you, you mean John Kennedy?

Dan Kuykendall- John Kennedy. See my administrative assistant now was administrative assistant to the Dallas Congressman when Kennedy was shot. And that Congressman received so much blackmail, received so much violent calls and so many threats that he actually had to move his family out of Washington.

David Yellin- Did you?

Dan Kuykendall- No. I received none, absolutely none., I took the precaution of putting a policemen outside my door of my Washington office, the next morning to protect my staff. We did the same thing here to protect the staff in case, but we got not a single phone call or threat of any kind. I would have thought that the Memphis congressman...but maybe I am dreaming here, Bill I think maybe you think if maybe my observation is correct here. As a republican even though I was elected with very little negro vote, I do not feel that the negro community has ever considered me a racist. I never have felt any, even though there ahs never been much love, I don't think there is any hatred.

Bill Thomas- I am sure that is right.

Dan Kuykendall- I think probably this was reflected here. I have not antagonized, and built up any hatred or anything like that in the negro community and I don't get on the floor of the congress and make racist speeches and this and this and this that might have caused it to happen in Washington you see. But this I was most conscious of it. My family was very concerned.

David Yellin- Did you know about the previous congressman's difficulty?

Dan Kuykendall- Oh certainly, the previous congressman who was no longer congressman was in fact defeated. Was flat defeated because of it in Washington Dallas. A long time, a 12 year congressman.

David Yellin- So this had a kind of an immediate effect on you, you couldn't help but reflect on it.

Dan Kuykendall- And but I was not in the sense of being concerned about a political defeat because there were no ramifications that would affect me in this politically one way or another. There were absolutely none. So I had no political interest in this thing I was just interested in my city and of course the case of the guards and the safety of my...I know for instance I had someone criticize me for closing my office, here this office during the demonstration the following Monday.

Bill Thomas- More of a march.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right.

David Yellin- You mean...

Dan Kuykendall- Someone criticized me for closing this office.

David Yellin- You mean one of your constituents?

Dan Kuykendall- Yes, here, and I reminded them of this, I said well disregard any thought of respect one way or the other I still have the safety of my staff to think about.

David Yellin- You mean you got phone calls.

Dan Kuykendall- Just one.

Bill Thomas- You know congressman I had never really thought of it, it had never really crossed my mind I guess, because I probably have a local view to a certain extent on this and the council has so much...but it hadn't occurred to me even that you might have gotten calls, you know but not that you mention that you did it does occur to me and it is strange that you didn't mostly because of the speech after the small riot. Why do you think you didn't?

Dan Kuykendall- Well even the tone of my speech after the small riot was not critical of anything but Dr. King's action in this case. Actually I am on record as far back as 1964 of having applauded up to that point the successful and really meaningful part of the nonviolent movement. It was featured in the (muffled) about this and I had to (muffled) back in 1964. Actually by the tone of my speech before congress was one of pretty great disappointment that Martin Luther King would deliberately get these youngsters who were the heart and core of the problem of lack of control in this demonstration that he should have actually made the speech, speech or one or more speeches that brought them out.



Bill Thomas- Well we have frankly since found out that quite a lot of organization went into getting the school children out on that particular day.,

Dan Kuykendall- This of course they realized later that this was their biggest mistake. The people around Martin Luther King realized they shouldn't have done this. Now there is no doubt about this.

David Yellin- Did you talk to people in his organization afterwards?

Dan Kuykendall- No I did not.

David Yellin- You never did meet?

Dan Kuykendall- No we certainly didn't. I have always wondered what would have happened.

David Yellin- Did you know the gentlemen that you were supposed to meet?

Dan Kuykendall- I never had met him but his name was easily recognizable. He was one of the well-known members.

Excuse me Bill but as I recall you started out way far back and you were going to tell us chronologically or started to tell us before you got on that assassination, where were we Ben?

Dan Kuykendall- Oh remember we got into the matter of the outside involvement by the ministers and the other groups began to make this a civil rights movement instead of an ordinary labor dispute.

David Yellin- Yeah.

Bill Thomas- Roy Wilkins and Bayer Ruston were both brought in.

Dan Kuykendall- Oh yes.

David Yellin- That is right we got into bringing Dr. King in that's right.

Dan Kuykendall- I think this itself in variably, inevitably led up to the circumstances that produced James Earl Ray because maybe history will prove me wrong but I don't think it will. I have absolutely no doubt that this is a very sophisticated conspiracy on the part of Ray himself.

Dan Kuykendall- On the part of Ray and (muffled) he was in on this conspiracy too, there is nothing about him that would lead to that kind of sophistication. And there is absolutely nothing about him that would lead to that much sophistication or that much zeal. You know political assassin is in some course sort of a zealot, well they have been historically. Well there is nothing about this man that indicates a zealot.

Bill Thomas- No political conscience background at all.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right you have to have some kind of consciousness to even be a good nut.

David Yellin- The poor guys is a failure in every thing he does he isn't even a good nut.

Bill Thomas- So how do you mean?

Dan Kuykendall- In other words, it took 60 days to build up to a national platform and climate. In other words you had to have a climate, a platform, a national consciousness of a situation to congregate the nation's attention, not just the people but the nation's attention was on this thing. It reached the point that more and more everyday the congressman in this cloak room would ask me about the strike. I guess I reached the point I was being asked 50 times a day in congress.

Bill Thomas- Oh really.

David Yellin- Was this, do you recall, was this before the 28<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, this was the day of the mini riot or was this after?

Dan Kuykendall- After the riot, the mini riot, after that the strike it almost wasn't mentioned as much it was whether the city was in disorder or order.

Bill Thomas- At that time too if I could just refresh..

David Yellin- But they did ask you about the strike before the riots?

Dan Kuykendall- Oh yes, before this but not afterwards, very little afterwards...

Bill Thomas- King was going to bring the poor people's march to Washington and I wonder if this, there was quite a lot of interest you know and questioning.

Dan Kuykendall- You know I hadn't remembered that was the times of the formative stages of the appropriated march.

David Yellin- So there would be a relationship in the congressman's mind.

Dan Kuykendall- Surely there would, couldn't help but be.

David Yellin- However would the interest, therefore, we might even pinpoint it more firmly. Dr. King came here the first time March 18<sup>th</sup>, that was the first speech he made following Ruston and Wilkins. That was then about that time that you got these inquiries and they began to take notice in the strike. Because it was a long strike by then, I believe it was in its 8<sup>th</sup> week or something, so on.

Dan Kuykendall- Well most of the people of course were questioning whether or not the garbage was getting picked up and whether or not the place was smelling bad and all that stuff. I will tell you an interesting aside here a lot of people thought it quite amusing in a way that these people would choose the middle of the coldest

winter that the city had in years to have a strike so that the garbage wouldn't stay frozen wouldn't even start smelling.

Bill Thomas- It was really no problem.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right if it had been in the middle of the summer it would have been horrible.

Bill Thomas- Oh yeah well it was this summer even with garbage men.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right with the flies and everything. So there was really a lot of tongue in cheek amusement that, and I know you think this is pretty much symbolic of how unsophisticated the strike began. You know no sophisticated labor organizer would have done that strike in January they would have planned it better than that.

David Yellin- Yeah that speaks something, I think that does say something in retrospect that when you say it wasn't a sophisticated kind of thing.

Dan Kuykendall- Because you certainly wouldn't have had it. Because Memphis could have gone (muffled).

Bill Thomas- Well they were winning undoubtedly as far as the garbage pickups were concerned more and more trucks were...

David Yellin- They were getting more efficient.

Dan Kuykendall- But...

David Yellin- If we can get back to Dr. King's participation in this I think this is the direction you were going.

Dan Kuykendall- I am not a native Memphian, I have lived in several different cities. I happen to think that in any society anytime and any place regardless of the level of either education or economic development, but they are the seeds of discontent. Maybe this isn't a very good, maybe this is an indictment of my opinion of human nature here. But I think the seeds of discontent are here. Anytime I can't help but believe and certainly their political overtones in what I am fixing to say but I won't apologize for them. That our economic plight in this country which is one of inflation created by continuing deficits has tended to punish the unproductive, the unskilled throughout our society not just in Tennessee but throughout our society and the lower you are on the economic scale and the under-employed and the unemployed and the retired, those three. The more you have been damaged in the past three years, I would say the last 6 years, by these fantastically rising costs and the poverty level of course has gotten higher and higher. We picked a figure of 3 or 4 thousand dollars four or five years ago and it is probably higher than that today because the 3 thousand dollars will buy a lot less. So I happen to believe and I believe very strongly that at this moment and in this spot in this country we happen to have some people at the very lowest level of the employment scales as far as

scales and income are concerned who were hurt the worst by rising prices and rising costs. Who had missed a raise because of the political maneuvering and playing political football with the tax structure of our city. They have missed a raise that is all there is to it.

Bill Thomas- Things were going up and they should have had one...

Dan Kuykendall- Just to break even and they didn't get it. Because mayor Ingram was bragging about not raising taxes and therefore could not raise any costs. And so we end up with a situation here that was a made to order powder keg. I don't think there is anything in the world that the new administration did to cause it possibly, I was going to say you can be very wise in retrospect.

David Yellin- Yeah, we all know what they should have done.

Dan Kuykendall- Well, I don't think of anything except that I think both sides should have been more conscious in journey days of saving the face of the other party to reach an agreement.

David Yellin- Instead of their own?

Dan Kuykendall- Instead of their own and of course we all know looking back what we would have done. I don't think the mayor could condone an illegal strike, but I also know and he would agree he couldn't ignore an illegal strike.

David Yellin- That was a real confusion wasn't it.

Dan Kuykendall- So half in between there had to be an answer and maybe if we had given them a way to get legal and then settle it would have been the answer.,

David Yellin- Since we are going to be interrupted anyways I am going to be polite.  
(Tape break)

Bill Thomas- Well there is probably several areas we can touch on and anything that you have congressman is good, but at one point in the whole thing you became very concerned about what was going on.

Dan Kuykendall- I can't think, I can't remember that there was any one point, I think it was a constantly growing concern that, well maybe I had a belief that the strike would end and that almost immediately after the strike would end that pretty much the same offer that was finally given would be given. Of course, I knew about this offer from the beginning. I knew about the conditions and the terms of the offer from the beginning. I knew about the credit union procedure for...

Bill Thomas- Check off?

Dan Kuykendall- Check off. Probably before it was ever committed to the council. The, maybe the time that I really began to get concerned was when I saw the simple

labor dispute get into something bigger than a labor dispute. It couldn't realize that any settlement on simple terms between the two parties was now beyond...

Bill Thomas- Beyond them.

Dan Kuykendall- Beyond them, beyond either party.

David Yellin- Do you think and this I am...(Tape break)

Dan Kuykendall- So my concern really got great when it reached the point that both the mayor and the council and the strikers had almost been locked in by their surroundings. I sometimes think that maybe the mayor had too much support for his own good. Because...

David Yellin- Too much support from whom?

Dan Kuykendall- Well I am talking about numbers of his citizens. For instance, I happened to have run a political poll for another purpose right in the midst of this thing. Right in the midst of it. Part of the poll was taken before Dr. King was killed and part of the poll was taken after Dr. King was killed. And the white support of the mayor for his position was above 80Bill Thomas- for the mayor.

David Yellin- Would this hold all the way through?

Dan Kuykendall- Well it dropped slightly after the assassination but not a great deal. And you see now to a degree this support locked him in just as the, in other words when a political person, I am a political person, when a political person is locked in by public opinion he is not very flexible, because he knows that the vast I mean 80Bill Thomas- of, 80Bill Thomas- of 2/3 of his constituency doesn't want him to do something different.

Bill Thomas- The people who put him in office.

Dan Kuykendall- That's right.

David Yellin- Of course if I may and we won't get into it o much of course senator McCarthy has just been locked in the same way. Even if he wanted to he couldn't because what it would mean to the people that supported him and that goes back to what you said that they had been concerned about saving face for t he other guy maybe some of that would have helped out. But as you said it is an interesting statement.

Dan Kuykendall- See the negro had reached the point that he was locked in against Lobe. And there is no negro that could have at that moment compromised with Lobe and saved any face at all in his own community.

David Yellin- And Lobe was locked in to the telegrams and the letters he had gotten..

Dan Kuykendall- And Lobe was locked in by over 80 Bill Thomas- of his people saying don't give in at all don't move.

Bill Thomas- So they were both at an impasse.

Dan Kuykendall- And I don't think this really happened until the outside influences came in.

David Yellin- And the outside influences you include Dr. King in all this?

Dan Kuykendall- Oh yes.

David Yellin- Is there any reason you know of that the outside influences were brought in, I mean why do you think they were brought in for instance.

Dan Kuykendall- This type movement, the civil rights movement is a series of climaxes. They have to have centers of attention, in fact you can almost trace the civil rights movement and its successful legislation by tragedy.

Bill Thomas- After each one..

Dan Kuykendall- After each one in the series. It is almost like tracing legislation of a airline safety from crash to crash.

David Yellin- Now congressman I don't want history to judge you incorrectly, it seems to me that somebody listening to this might say the tragedy was planned.

Dan Kuykendall- Oh no, I wouldn't say that at all. I think part of it was planned. I think the assassination was planned.

David Yellin- But not by the same..

Dan Kuykendall- But not by the same people that brought him in here. I don't think this was a black power or ku klux klan, black power or white power assassination. I happen to think that plainly and simply that it is a communist assassination. They are the only ones that have got enough international sophistication to pull something off like this. There is no way in the world you can explain aliases taken from local action Canada unless you have got a conspiracy.

Bill Thomas- What would be their purpose you think?

Dan Kuykendall- Why, could you think of a more perfect one?

Bill Thomas- You mean the blow up what happened afterwards? The division, the further division of this country?

Dan Kuykendall- Wouldn't you have anticipated, maybe not quite tot hat degree, but wouldn't you have said this would happen?

Bill Thomas- Oh yeah I thought there would be a reaction an even bigger reaction than I thought there would be.

Dan Kuykendall- No wonder we give the communists credit for having as much brains as we have.

David Yellin- You better give them credit for more if you want to be safe.

Dan Kuykendall- Somebody says well how, do you mean to tell you I don't think they are stupid, I don't think they are stupid at all. I can't imagine a more likely person to assassinate to create national disorder in this country at this moment in our history than Dr. King. And there is no doubt in my mind that it happened and it happened for that purpose and the very fact that Ray of course had this map in his apartment in Atlanta, with spots over there marked. He planned to assassinate Dr. King, where he assassinated him was brought about by events.

Bill Thomas- Would have happened anywhere.

Dan Kuykendall- It would have happened.

Bill Thomas- It would have happened someplace.

David Yellin- I see. So that the two don't necessarily, the conspiracy didn't happen, didn't say we will do it in Memphis because of what's happening in Memphis and so on.

Dan Kuykendall- In the first place this man was building up his alias 6 months before that in other parts of the country. There is no record of the man ever having been in Memphis maybe even once before I don't even know they had a record of the man ever being in Memphis before. The man was at an apartment in Atlanta with maps in the apartment showing the location of Dr. King's church and his office and the SCLC office encircled on the map. He buys a gun in Birmingham. And didn't even try to cover up.

Bill Thomas- Car in California.

Dan Kuykendall- Doesn't even try and cover up the identification of the alias that he built up. You cannot look over this case, and I am fairly familiar with the case and come to any conclusion except the fact that Ray was assigned and determined to kill King. Where was...

David Yellin- Alright well now to, if we can get back just for the few minutes, how did you feel indifference to Bill who we will first say the broadcasting industry. How did the broadcasting industry and the newspapers handle in this city, because you were privy to information, how do you think they are not involved. That is not the word I mean how do they handle the situation as newspapers and as broadcasters?

Dan Kuykendall- Well...

David Yellin- And I realize I may be putting you on the spot and if you want..

Dan Kuykendall- No you are not putting me on the spot in fact I want to try to not sound patronizing because I think most of the people know that I am pretty plain spoken. My judgment of the media in Memphis is always been one of way above average. And I don't suppose that there is anybody in Memphis that has been in the news much more than I have in the past few years. So I feel that they are quite objective and I think they did a good job in this case I think they did a good job of trying to keep down hysteria. I know, funny thing I got on the airplane in Washington on the afternoon of the mini riot which was on a Friday, wasn't it?

Bill Thomas- Yes sir, the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Kuykendall- I thought it was Friday because I was going back to Memphis. When the plane stopped in Nashville I was told about the so called riot and one of the local negro leaders A.W. Willis, who I have known for a very long time got off the plane in Nashville, would that have been a session with state legislature I guess it would be.

Bill Thomas- Yes it would in fact.

Dan Kuykendall- So he and I go on the plane together and sat and talked on the way back about what very common concern about our city and what was going on and praying the thing wouldn't be totally out of hand when we got here. Of course, I had a car meet me and I would say at that time the media was doing everything in their means possible good judgment to keep down hysteria and they were doing a good job of it I thought. So the media here has been very responsible in the sense of keeping down hysteria both printed and vocal, but of course we are all familiar with the episode in Time magazine, I think really the most disgraceful of the outside statements in Time magazine. I won't even dignify calling Esquire media. But I will Time, is when they left hanging this indictment of this so-called Memphis business man who was supposed over heard offering the killer \$5,000 and telling him where to pick up his money. And I called the FBI here and asked what there was to this and they said they named the name of a man who was from Nashville and I think we have to lay some of the problems here, some of the bad reputation at his doorstep I don't think there is any way you can get away from saying to a degree Baxton Bryant was part of this. This rumor was begun by him and they were never able to trace it at all, and we will have to just conclude it is a fabrication, and yet they printed it without clarifying the fact that it was nothing but a rumor which left hanging an indictment, this left totally hanging.

Bill Thomas- Over Memphis.

Dan Kuykendall- Over the Memphis business community. So it said a Memphis businessman was overheard offering \$5,000 to be picked up in New Orleans, that's what it said. Now in my answers to my letters to Time magazine and this is the place I have been most critical of the media. They openly admitted editorializing in their news columns, and they admit this.



David Yellin- In their replies to you?

Dan Kuykendall- Yes. In their replies to me. Now I happen to think that the editorial page of the newspaper is a private property. If they want to slander that is their business, because that is what it is, it is an editorial. But a news column is supposed to be the truth, the unvarnished truth objectively presented. And the disturbing thing to me, was that after I sent my second letter, first where they call us (muffled)

Bill Thomas- Crumbling.

Dan Kuykendall- Crumbling backwater talent. Even that was explainable if not excusable.

David Yellin- From their point of view.

Dan Kuykendall- From their point of view. But when you leave an indictment hanging.

David Yellin- An accusation.

Dan Kuykendall- An accusation, hanging. Without any further explanation further of it that is not excusable not in any way shape form (muffled).

David Yellin- Did they in any account for it in any other way than they got this fact from a source.

Dan Kuykendall- They didn't even explain the source. They said a Memphis business man was overheard. Nobody could even find the man that overheard him. Baxton Bryant reported that it was overhear and got one of the members of the Memphis law enforcement family to come down to some place at midnight and report it to him.

Bill Thomas- Well in fairness to you congressman we have talked to Baxton Bryant and we also were unable to find out who it was, who supposedly over heard this on the phone.

Dan Kuykendall- You see, nobody, nobody. And here is something else. In the answers to the on the letter to the editor. Who in the world should they choose as their one if any length letter to publish but the most avid opponent of the program progress charter which for the first time in history gave negroes representation in the Memphis city government it is reverend Basin.

Bill Thomas- Who?

Dan Kuykendall- Reverend Basin.

Bill Thomas- Oh yeah.

Dan Kuykendall- He opposed the Memphis city charter which for he first time gave the negro representation, three members of the city council and they had been a

powerful block, a powerful minority in the city council. And yet the same person that Time magazine chose to print was the one guy that opposed negro representation on the Memphis city council, a minister. He said I didn't oppose negro representation I opposed the charter. Well you sure as heck weren't going to get negro representation on our old form of government. And he knew it and everyone else knew it. Now this was interesting that this was the one letter that they printed. I started to write them another letter to remind them of who they had quoted but I didn't bother.

David Yellin- Now I am going to make one more request while I think of it what we are doing for the Mississippi Valley of collection is collecting material that we can turn over to history. Would you. Particularly your letters for instance, to Time, wouldn't you think that would be appropriate?

Bill Thomas- Yes I think so.

Dan Kuykendall- Bill write me in Washington asking me for copies of letters.

David Yellin- You will get a letter from (muffled).

Dan Kuykendall- I will be glad to...

David Yellin- Wonderful, just very quickly there is a report by the international police chiefs that was sent to the attorney general's office last week which included Memphis. Number one if you hadn't heard about it, I would like to suggest that you might and number 2 we would like to get a copy. I don't know if it is a confidential or restricted report.

Dan Kuykendall- I don't know about that.

David Yellin- A report that the international police chiefs about how to handle riots and so on and it used 6 to 8 cities and Memphis was one of them.

Bill Thomas- Memphis was supposed to be good.

Dan Kuykendall- Well you have to consider that the handling of the situation down here was good.

David Yellin- So I wonder, we thought I mean if you don't know about it we will have to go to the attorney general.

Dan Kuykendall- No I don't know about it.

David Yellin- Is there any way that your office can get access to?

Dan Kuykendall- I am sure we can.

(Muffled)

Bill Thomas- Can we cover one area that might be applicable and it might not and you quickly say now. After the assassination and towards the end of the strike we have understood that Hubert Humphrey was involved and he made a couple calls, can you tell us anything about this?

Dan Kuykendall- I don't know about it,. I think I would know, but I don't know. I can't promise you, I can't say there was not.

David Yellin- After the assassination there was...

Dan Kuykendall- After the assassination...I don't know. I think that the overall combined determination to settle that thing after the assassination that they would take no outside influence, no outside (muffled).

David Yellin- That was my last question, did the federal government get involved at any time?

Dan Kuykendall- I don't know. I don't think so.

David Yellin- Other than sending Mr. Reynolds down there.

Dan Kuykendall- Yes this was of course we had an attempted mediation before.

David Yellin- Yes, with Frank Miles.

Dan Kuykendall- Yes that is right. So having another mediator was nothing new.

David Yellin- Well thank you congressman if there is...

(Tape Break)