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Unknown Speaker 001- Ever since the Dutch traders brought the black slaves to America from Africa in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the negro, the negro has been the center of much strife and bloodshed in America. From the civil war to the present day integration problems and the problem of out garbage strikes. Many people I suppose probably wish that the Dutch traders had just left the black man in Africa. But what would America have done without the negro maids. Although their people have been the rather downtrodden servants of the white man I firmly believe that they are the dearest, funniest and most loyal people in the whole world. I have only pleasant memories of the various maids that I have known. They each have very different personalities. First of all, there was Dada who raised my mother. She is about 90 years old now and she never learned to read or write. My Grandmother used to take her to the grocery store and let her sniff the spices and fruits. In this way she bought the things needed to prepare her delicious cuisine. Since my grandmother was the type of person that was afraid to touch a child until it could dress and feed itself, Dada had complete care of my mother and I think she did a fairly good job. Next there was Annie that jolly 280 pound lady who helped bring up my brother and myself. She was very religious and she always told us how she had been saved and she was elected to play St. Elizabeth on Christmas day. She was also very good natured. One day my brother and my friend and I all climbed into her Corset and walked around the house. She just laughed and fixed us pancakes for breakfast. The maid we have now is Catherine. She is pretty and has attractive clothes and is smart. She helps us with our homework sometimes and she taught me how to sew and she never forgets to send us cards on our birthdays. She is very modern but she is still as loyal and as kind as the old plantation mammy. Finally I must not forget the two Stellas here at St. Mary's two of my oldest and dearest friends. They were here long before I entered these doors as a kindergartener. When the school was smaller they used to fix sandwiches and milk for lunch clean us up when we got muddy on the playground, and were always on hand if we were sick or hurt. I really will miss them next year. I am extremely grateful to those Dutch traders who brought such a valuable commodity to America. How could we have prospered without them. Yes I believe in black power the power they have to win our hearts. (Tape Break)

Unknown Speaker 002- Of the two maids of whom I have known the one I remember most is the one who spit tobacco. She didn't remain in our employment very long however because not only did she spit tobacco but she also smelled like she had never heard of such products as ban or right guard or 5 day. She of course did the ironing a couple of shirts in between listening to Honey Boy and WDIA and eating us out of house and home. Considering my experience and luck with maids is practically nill, I have found that it is almost easier for me to do things myself than to rely on a maid. Our first maid was a lot better than the second. In fact, she was a life saver we hired her in 1959 when my little sister was born. Up until that time my mother had no help. We were living in Nashville and there were no relatives to come by to come help with the new baby so Clara which was the maid's name came to our

rescue. I was 9 at the time and going to school most of the day so I saw very little of Clara. My only complaint was that she was such a good house keeper that I could never find anything. Then came the tobacco spitter. I can't remember her name and I don't really care too because like I said all she did was spit and eat. Even when we had a maid my mother made me and my brother and sister clean up our own rooms. She said that it taught us responsibility and discipline. She also didn't want seeing what a Davis pigpen looked like. So I have learned to do my own cleaning and ironing. And although I don't like it now, I hope that when I go to college it will be a big help.

Unknown Speaker 003- One day too young negro girls were walking down the street stark naked except for a string of pearls around their neck. When picked up by a policemen and conveyed to headquarters and questioned about why they didn't where more suitable attire one replied, why don't you know we is perfectly dressed young women. The other replied, Yes Mrs. Kennedy says that to be a perfectly dressed young lady all one needs is basic black and a string of pearls. This joke is just one of many in circulation today about the negro race. The negro race is the one that we point a finger to and laugh because everyone knows that the colored person is just a dumb negro. Especially in the south the negro is looked upon with scorn because they are thought to be inferior, they aren't as good as the white race. For two centuries this concept of the lowliness of the negro has been hammered into all of society especially the colored person themselves. For this reason I think that the relations hip of the maid to her employer is affected by this attitude of society toward the negro race. When I tell you about my experiences with the maid, I must explain that my observations are limited because my experiences were when I was 11 or 12 and I lived in a small town. However, these impressions I gained will stay with me the rest of my life. Bessie was the name of our maid, we loved her dearly. She was just like a sister to everyone of my sisters and me. She would have helped anyone if they got in trouble. When she came to work each day I would quit whatever I was doing and walk around with her, talking with her and helping her with the job she was doing. However when lunch time came she didn't come to the table and eat with us just like the rest of my sisters did but she waited until we finished and then came in and sat at the counter and ate. IO asked my mother why she didn't eat with us but my mother said, she doesn't eat with us because she is a negro and negros don't eat with white people, they are supposed to work for us. I suppose if I had asked Bessie to eat with us she would have replied no honey child, we are not supposed to do that. She would have been slightly embarrassed I know. This just exemplifies that the white people do look upon negros with content and sometimes scorn. They think of them as people not worthy of their friendship. Another situation which shows that the negro person is thought to be inferior is when I asked Bessie a question she would always reply with a yes maam or no maam. I felt slightly uneasy about this because I didn't like to be put into a situation of superiority however, Bessie was accustomed to this. She always replied because this is the way she had been taught since she was a young girl. I suppose a white person in the same position as Bessie would not have treated me with as much respect as Bessie did. When she did go home my mother (muffled) Bessie with

scraps of material, old newspapers, grease, old biscuits and (muffled). This we think of as garbage and usually throw away but the colored person gladly accepts it because they expect it. We treat them more like dogs than people. We certainly wouldn't give these articles of garbage to our friends. When Bessie was taken home she always got in the backseat of the car and never rode up front with my father even though there was room. When she got out even if she had a huge load she didn't ask my father to help her because she expected to do everything by herself and not be helped by a white person. Sometimes when I visited other households, of course I didn't notice this in my own because we treated Bessie with much more respect but other masters would boss around their maids just like they were masters and the slaves were servants, I suppose they felt that the slave was dumb and required commands to enable her to do her work. This attitude is just one left over from the old plantation days in which the white people were the masters of the plantation and the negroes were servants. Society still feels that the negro is on a low plain. Today we don't raise them up and treat them as equals we still think they aren't capable of doing anything on their own. We feel they are not equal and don't treat them as such, therefore I think the relationship between the employer and the maid and the roles of both are greatly influenced by the attitude of society toward the negro race.

Unknown Speaker 004- How would you like to earn \$6.50 a day for only doing a little ironing and giving a little boy his lunch. Sounds easy doesn't it? Well it is, because my maid does it every day,. Whereas she should be doing a lot of ironing taking care of a little boy as well as giving him his lunch, dusting and picking up things our maid does not. I feel that if one is paid for work she should fulfill her obligations but this is not the case for our maid. We conform to her schedule. I have to be get out of bed before she makes her way to my room or I will throw her off her schedule and she will miss part of the edge of night. Her entire day is planned according to what she wants to watch on TV. I don't think that one should have to ask the maid to do some thing that would come in her regular line of work such as dusting or picking up things but mom has to ask our maid to do these tasks. Our maid does not put in a full days work, she takes out two hours for lunch in which time she spends reading the paper front page to back, and watching TV. And when mom is not home she quits at 2:30 even though the bus doesn't leave until 4. Our maid spends the entire afternoon ironing and watching TV. I don't think it is asking too much to expect a little remittance for the pay that we give. I appreciate the fact that some maids do fulfill all their obligations but our maid does not. So remember if you need a good job with lots of money and hardly any work be a maid.

Unknown Speaker 005- How many times have you heard your mother carry on a conversation with a maid to this effect. Peralie May will you please wax the kitchen floor, I will be back in about two hours. Yessum I will have it done for you Mrs. Smith. Most people probably think that carrying on this type of conversation with a maid, however how many times have you thought of a maid's conversation as being really humorous. In my experience with maids I can think of three examples of times when a maid's conversation has provided humor, Although I each example the

humor was unintentional, my great aunt's maid once asked her, Mrs. Isaacs have you got your nicadee cut out. My great aunt could not imagine what the maid meant by a nicadee, the only thing she could imagine was that perhaps the maid thought she was going to have an operation in which she would have her nicadee removed. As it turned out the maid was actually referring to a negligee which my great aunt was going to cut out and sew. Another time a maid of ours was describing a new dress she had gotten to my mother. In her description she mentioned that the dress was trimmed in Seagram's as my mother knew Seagram's to be a brand of whiskey she could not imagine what the maid meant but as it turned out what she meant was that the dress was trimmed in sequins. Another maid of ours which had worked for us for about 10 years and was an excellent maid was going to night school because she had never finished high school. I remember my sister and I used to call out spelling words to her as she did her ironing. This maid wanted to be educated and one day when my mother had the radio on she suddenly asked Mrs. Hicks isn't that song by Batch? My mother was a bit taken aback and then she realized that the maid meant Bach and she was able to say yes I believe it was. However now, I think the people pronounce it Bach. These examples show that a maid's conversation can be humorous and can be more than Pearlle May can you please make the beds for me I will be back in a little while. Yessum I will hit done for you Mrs. Smith.

Unknown Speaker 006- Maids play an important part in homes today. They iron they cook, and they clean. But one of their most important roles are babysitting. Maids spend a great deal of time with the children in the homes because one of the reasons they are there is to take care of things so that the mother of the household can go do errands or her other jobs. Maids influence the children in the homes where they work. First a maid can give great prestige to a child. Supposing your maid was a good friend of Rufus Thomas as a girl that I know. Rufus Thomas is an announcer for WDIA a local radio station. This girl told her maid about how they were going to imitate Rufus Thomas' daughter her at school and Rufus Thomas was invited to come to St. Mary's to see the skit which he did. This gives her a great deal of prestige. Another girl here at St. Mary's has a maid who used to be, has a maid who was Big Al. Big Al is another local singer that sings at dances. Another way that maids influence small children is that they let them watch television. When I was small my mother didn't want me to watch the afternoon soap operas general hospital, the doctors, the edge of night things like this. But she would leave and the maid would immediately turn on the television and watch these shows while she was ironed and I was influenced by these and still today when I am home for vacation I will flip on the television just to see what is going on. Another way maids influence small children is in language. One girl I talked to that after hearing her made say ain't it took her mother 6 months to break her of this habit. But then on the other hand another girl I talked to said that her maid had taught her how to dance which she thought was a great asset. So in many ways maids influence the people in the homes they work for, for both good and bad. They can give prestige for the child, they can influence the child by letting them see soap operas or they can influence the child in bad language. These are just several of the ways that maids influence the homes in which they work.

Have you ever had a maid who seems to know everything that you do or think no matter how hard you try to conceal it. I have had to put up with this situation for 14 years and I still don't know where she gets all of her information. For instance at one time I was trying to read a book which was not considered the best of literature at our house. Of course I couldn't read it in the open so I would get into bed at night with a flashlight and the book and read until I got sleepy. Then when I got up in the morning I would hide the book in the back of my closet. This went on for some time until one day when my maid said to me I think you have been staying up too late at night and your aunt and uncle have been saying things about flashing lights. I think you better be careful when you read your book. Another situation which I remember was when I wanted to go to a movie when I was going out on a date. But I was told that I couldn't go there because the movie was immoral. Of course I went to see the movie anyway. But I came home and told them that I went to see a different one. Naturally my maid knew about it and later she took me aside and gave me a private lecture. Although I asked her how she knew she only grinned and she didn't answer me. And then there are all the small things I did that she finds out about such as eating when I shouldn't, or sneaking out of the house to meet friends. She never ceases to amaze me with the remarks that she makes about the things that I had no idea she knew anything about. I always wondered where she gets her information, and I seriously hope that it isn't common knowledge. But whether it is or not is not important I just wonder if there are many other people who have maids that seem to know everything and if there are I think we should get together it must be the same maid.

Unknown Speaker 007- Ever since the beginning of time someone has had to be the top man on the totem pole. Those who were under this chief or leader were at his beck and call. As time passed man became more fluent and eventually the idea of slavery became rather popular. In today's affluent society many men are able to afford servants to do their menial tasks. In a recent class survey I found that every girl on this room had contact with a maid at some time or another. It would be impossible for me to say how many maids have been in my home in the past 16 years. But there is one whom I will always remember. It was through my contact with this maid that I came to realize that maids are not only servants but can also be close friends. Ruth McKinney a young girl from Denver Colorado worked in our home for 3 years. In this 3 years I found that she became a close friend and was almost like a member of the family. Why was Ruth so different and why was it so easy to get along with her? When Ruth first began working for us she was 25 years old and I was 13. This put us more or less in the same generation and it was easy for us to talk to each other. Ruth was truly the first intelligent maid, the first and only intelligent maid that I have ever known. She attended the university of Colorado for one year on a scholarship before marrying a Memphis man. Those who talk to her on the phone often ask the members of the family if she was my father's secretary. Or even if she were a member of the family. Ruth was more than just a cleaning or laundry woman. Her other talents included cooking sewing, typing and being able to help us with our homework. In the 3 years that she worked for my family, my friends family and I came to realize that she was one of the closest friends that we

have and that it was impossible to look over her great talents. My family often asked Ruth's opinion before making final decisions and I shudder to think what would happen if she ever disclosed some of the secrets that some of my friends and I shared with her. Today Ruth is working as a dental hygienist. She stopped working with us to return to school. She calls us about twice a month and comes to see us just as often. Yes, no matter how many maids I come in contact with in the future I will always remember Ruth and be thankful for having had such a close friend.

Unknown Speaker 008- Listen to this conversation. Would you like a can of beer? I have plenty in the ice box and I really don't mind you having one at all? No thanks I don't think I better, well I guess your mother wouldn't exactly like me giving it to you anyway would she. No I don't think she would. This was my introduction to Earnie May the maid that my aunt and uncle have had for almost 2 years now. Despite the opinion that you may have come to now, Earnie May is a very friendly different and unique maid. I must admit that when I first met her I was somewhat shocked because even being with her for a few minutes you find that she is a very outgoing and straightforward person. She does not hesitate to tell her opinion of anyone to anybody at any time or any place. For example, after only working for a few weeks for my aunt she had the nerve to tell her that she was fat and should lose weight. By some miracle Earnie May was not fired because as a rule my aunt is a very historical person, but this advice must have done some good because now my aunt has lost 43 pounds. During a recent trip to the Bahamas with my aunt and uncle Earnie May became attached to a young man named Leroy. And ever since then they have been writing each other steadily. But when my uncle found this out he vetoed it saying that he was too far away for her to become involved with him. So now Leroy keeps writing her letters but he mails them to me and I in turn give them to Earnie May. So far out little game has not been discovered because I somehow always manage to get to the mailbox before my mother does. Another strange thing about Earnie May is her fondness for weird and psychedelic objects. In her small house she has posters that you could not imagine in your most wildest psychedelic dreams. I believe that no one else has a maid quite like Earnie May. She is a very different and unique one and I will always remember her.

Unknown Speaker 009- If I were to say that I was going to give a speech on maids many people would immediately close their ears and think of more interesting subjects to ponder. I am going to prove with this little story that maids do not lead the homedrawn life of house cleaning ironing, and cooking that one would suppose them to do. My family once had a maid whose name was Cora. She was a very good maid but she had two problems. One she drank excessively, and two she ran around with other men. One night, as she usually went out she didn't come home until late, Richard her husband was waiting on her. He then began to beat on her and she used to this ran in the house and grabbed a pistol that she had stolen from us as we later found out. She shot him twice in the head and one in the near the heart but fortunately it did not kill him. That night as we were accustomed to do we did not lock our doors and living not far from us he came in our house while we were asleep and was stumbling around in the kitchen. Mother asleep in bed called to my father

and say Buddy somebody is in the house, but daddy was asleep and he said nobody is in the house. SO finally he got scared after awhile and called out who is there. Richard answered it is me Mr. Buddy Cora's done shot me. He said oh me and so he called the police and the ambulance and later Cora came running in the house and said Richard I am sorry I didn't mean to do this. He says that is alright honey don't let those police hurt you I will be alright. Cora was put in jail and she was not kept there very long because Richard decided not to press charges. I hope that I have proved with that little story that maids do not lead the humdrum life that you would expect them to do they actually lead a very interesting life.

Unknown Speaker 010- When I was 5 years old I had a live in maid, a full time maid, and ironing girl, and a Sunday morning cook. This may have seemed like quite a few servants for a family of 4 but we felt that everyone of them was just a part of the household. For this reason perhaps I feel that along time employed reliable maid can often do more than a mother to discipline children. She can supervise the children's play, serve as a playmate for the child when perhaps there are no children within miles and immediately correct any behavior problems that might arise. I can remember many times when my old negro mammy would spank me because of some little thing that I did. My mother never would have had the time or the patience to look after me quite as closely as she did. Any maid that stays with a young child for more than 6 or 8 months usually becomes a friend even more than an employed servant and this is the way that I feel that a maid can do more than a mother. She can show a young child that elders do not have to always be frightful or somebody that you must always look up to. Another advantage of having a maid for the young child is that racial prejudice is not learned or either it is not quite as strong because anyone who has known an old negro woman as her second mother will feel that the race is full of wonderful people. For these reasons I feel that a mother should not be required to stay home because society feels that it is good for their children. There are so many things that they have to do today that a maid can ease the burden and if the mother can afford it I see no reason why she should hesitate in hiring one., After all, if you want some examples of someone who was raised by a maid here I am living proof that maids sometimes can do well in raising children.

Unknown Speaker 011- Who changed your diapers, fixed, your lunch, combed your hair, and kissed your heart when your mother wasn't at home? Most likely you maid. At least mine did, my maid was just like a mother to me, to the point that sometimes I almost got them confused. Her name was Charlie May Morgan but at 4 years old I couldn't quite get out the whole name Charlie May so I simply called her by a man's name Charles. My mother comforted me when I was scared and so did my maid one time when the lights went in and I was left in the bathtub with only a covering of suds. Charles quickly ran in and got me out and took me out of the darkness and put me in some warm clothes. One time when I fell off my bicycle and was left in a pool of blood Charles was the first to run out of the house and pick me up and carry me into the house. She even asked me if I thought I needed stitches. My mother attempted to teach me a bit of religion but it is Charles' religion I will remember. I

bet that I was one of the first children in the first grade that could sing all of swing low sweet chariot. When Charles thought that she couldn't watch me all the time or that I might not mind she always said, always though even I ain't watching god always is. Charles showed me the patience that I just normally expected of my mother, The countless times I ran away she didn't call back to me but she just understood that all children have a tendency to run away once in awhile. One time in the presence of my mother I called Charles a nigger, my mother got very upset and said Charles said its ok Mrs. Winemann, she don't know no better don't worry about it. Many times I fired Charles because I was mad at her but she understood that I was just angry and didn't really want her to leave. Charles comforted me just like my mother, she showed me patience and taught me some religion. I have heard the old saying that two heads are better than one and I sometimes wonder if two mothers aren't better than one.

Unknown Speaker 012- Since the day I was born until just a few weeks ago my family has always had a full time maid and in many respects this has been wonderful but I have found that constant dependence on a maid has rendered me incapable of performing for myself the everyday domestic duties such as cooking, washing and ironing. Now that Dorothy, who had been our maid since I was 4, is no longer with us I have found it necessary on several occasions to prepare a meal for my family. I had never considered the timing one must use in cooking if each dish is to be done at approximately the same time. When I watched Dorothy bustling about in the kitchen cooking appeared to be a simple task. A little salt here and a little pepper here. Even when you don't have a maid your clothes get dirty and must be washed. When I started doing my own ironing I discovered that it was not as simple as Dorothy said it was. It is a burdensome task that can leave a person who is a poor ironer with burned hands and wrinkled blouses. Now I realized how much attention a house requires if it is to be kept spotlessly clean. Dusting furniture vacuuming rugs and washing windows had never been in my part of the world. Those jobs were something that a maid always took care of. Although I am sorry that Dorothy is no longer with us I feel that I will benefit by being forced to depend on myself. I now must learn to perform the...(Tape End)