

SS045.mp3

Lewis Donelson- I have the view of course I had the view in the first place that we had the obligation to listen to them (muffled), but I had the view too much more strongly than Downing did that we should not flirt with any disorderly conduct or abuse and I found in the first meeting and the subsequent that if you give them an inch the first thing you know it is going to be completely out of hand, and that's what happened to Fred, he was turning over backwards to be fair and the first thing you know why he was getting hiding. So and as I say I was still mad at Zeke Bell for his performance before, so I am sure that helped to enflame. But yeah I think that was the meeting at which I got up and moved to adjourn. They called us white rats and so and so forth. Then they tried to get me to meet with Bell after that.

Anne Trotter- Were you aware during this period of varying points of these three negro councilmen.

Lewis Donelson- Yes quite.

Anne Trotter- You said that you that Fred Davis, how about reverend Netters and (muffled).

Lewis Donelson- I had the feeling that Patterson was after he realized this was going to be a big political national issue he decided he was going to play it to the maximum and he did. His attitude was cynical, it was totally political, that he just did what he thought was the most logical thing and I can't give him any credit for his (muffled), because I didn't see any indication of real concern about the welfare of the community. And I thought that black or white, he would wait to make his statement until he had (muffled) there and all the rest and that was exactly the type of things and he knew when he did it he couldn't possibly win, and he had no responsibility for it and he was careful to never get into the position where he would have to vote for some thing that might win. And have discussions and try to calm the company down. Agreed to in our private sessions, he would agree and then when we got down there he would revert back to the extreme (muffled). In the process he completely undercut Netters and Davis.

Anne Trotter- Do you think he saw a possibility towards Memphis as a whole...

Lewis Donelson- I really far worse than that about (muffled), he had the ability, I don't feel he felt any responsibility to the negro community. I don't even think he was trying to do what he thought was best for them I think he was trying to do what he thought was the most popular thing to do.

Anne Trotter- In that (muffled).

Lewis Donelson- Shelby county democrats back in the beginning that's right.

Anne Trotter- That's right his opponents that had been forgotten.

Lewis Donelson- Right, but you see what he did for them. He is so powerful now that nobody leave money.

Anne Trotter- I was starting to say had (muffled) politically.

Lewis Donelson- Up to date yes, up to date yes.

Anne Trotter- (muffled) legislative interfered.

Lewis Donelson- Well he missed frequent meetings but he missed just as many down in the MacElmore (muffled).

Anne Trotter- Did you really miss him or was he missing.

Lewis Donelson- We didn't miss him but he was missing.

Anne Trotter- What about reverend Netters?

Lewis Donelson- He was fairly dedicated and had much better judgment than Fred Davis. I think he (muffled) more respect in the negro community. I think Fred was really popular in the community but he was young and he was known for being a volatile person, whereas Netters is really not a great deal older but a much more solid, stable person in image. But the same (muffled). He I hate to say this but he lost his spirits. Fred hasn't lost his. (muffled).

Anne Trotter- At this time.

Lewis Donelson- Right now Netters not willing to stand up for what he believes is right if it is unpopular in his committee but Fred isn't. And you can (muffled) on the budget for example, Jim didn't vote the way he called he apologized and so on and so forth and he appreciated what I had done and it was the best we could do and all that.

Anne Trotter- Do you think it may have something to do with the fact that actually already felt that they can't win, you think he is freer to follow his..

.Lewis Donelson- I don't think he, I think he, I think he will run again I think he thinks he might win, maybe he does I don't know. But I do think he realizes now that he has half the (muffled) his only hope is to (muffled).I might be in the same boat. My wife says the greatest thing in the world every time someone is mad at me she says I cant be elected again.

Anne Trotter- That would say a lot about her feelings about what we have all been through here. We will all come work for you.

Lewis Donelson- But anyway these meetings were interesting in this respect, This is the comment I wanted to make that we had people there (muffled) supposedly highly influential with Henry who would agree that Henry would agree to this settlement but none of them ever got him to agree to any of them and this went on

and 3 or 4 different cases. On one occasion actually he did agree and the newspapers came out and it said he was going to compromise.

Anne Trotter- Yes I remember this.

Tom Beckner- Compromise headline.

Lewis Donelson- That's right.

Anne Trotter- (muffled).

Lewis Donelson- Well (muffled) and at this point Ned Cook became disgusted and said he couldn't do anything about it he was going to wash his hands of it and...

Anne Trotter- What finally made Henry Lobe agree to the mediation? That Frank Miles would come in as mediator because this to some degree was a...

Lewis Donelson- Frank Miles was named on March the 22nd.

Anne Trotter- Yes this is right, the agreement it seems to me had been made before..

Lewis Donelson- Mediation starts out before they had the first King march but after the scheduling of the first King march.

Anne Trotter- After the snow had canceled.

Lewis Donelson- And my opinion is and I could be wrong about this because at t his point I was totally (muffled) it was really difficult to comment on the situation because he was really very upset with me. Because (muffled) would run and tell the mayor because everything I said...

Anne Trotter- But...

Lewis Donelson- (muffled) I thought my position was much more strong and I am one of these people who advocated the (muffled) and advocated vigorously. I have gotten a very strong conflict with one of the other councilmen. And this was on March the 12th I tried hard to get the check off on that day. When the final resolution finally came out it was Patterson's resolution and it couldn't pas but we had another draft which I had prepared and came within 8 inches of getting an agreement and getting right up to it. I am not saying anything against him and Downing went back out this is what would happen. Everybody was trying to settle it but the thing talking about principals and we just couldn't get up to it and...we had one other, I guess we had one closed session after that but anyway we had a number of sessions in which we discussed it and we tried to come up with a pattern. At that point Blanchard and I were primarily advocating (muffled) I was trying arrive at something. I was trying to act as a mediator even though I was between the two different sides of the councilmen. Blanch was saying that someone is going to get killed, and this thing was much more serious that we realized and (muffled) Of course in the process he took such a strong position that he lost all support from the

council and I tried to ask Downing (muffled). We never came up with that magic 7 to get anything that would be real.

(Tape Break)

Lewis Donelson- Well I was going to say that I think the mediation came about because of increasing pressure from the negro community.

Anne Trotter- The mayor was feeling it?

Lewis Donelson- Yeah the mayor was feeling it.

Anne Trotter- Now you say negro and you say business.

Lewis Donelson- Well I meant to say business excuse me. Then I began to (muffled) people on Main St. were encouraging me and of course by this time my position was well known and this is when my wife was getting a feel of politics and getting horrible calls. My daughter got one. At 4:00 in the morning.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- She got one that said they hoped that she got raped by a negro. Mainly white women.

Anne Trotter- This is what I was looking for. This is what everyone has said.

Tom Beckner- Yeah everyone has mentioned.

Anne Trotter- Do you feel it is one person doing all this calling?

Lewis Donelson- I don't believe so no. And I (muffled) I have been called a dirty so and so by two or three different ones. Yes right and most of them were (muffled).

Anne Trotter- Did you get much mail?

Lewis Donelson- I didn't get anything like the mayor got but I got quite a number of letters and telegrams and telephone calls.

Anne Trotter- Did you get threatening anything you regarded as threatening mail.

Lewis Donelson- Not any, no threatening mail, but I got a number of threatening telephone calls

Anne Trotter- And what kind of threats were they.

Lewis Donelson- Well one that said I was going to be killed there was a plot to kill me.

Anne Trotter- Did they say what means?

Lewis Donelson- No and that came to my mother in the middle of the night and I was out of town, she had a separate telephone and she is 79 years old. But in any event there were a number of, not many 7 or 8.

Anne Trotter- Did you get (muffled).

Lewis Donelson- Not that I recall. I got so many that I don't count.

Anne Trotter- (muffled) crosshairs of a sniper scope portrayed on the back of his neck.

Lewis Donelson- No I don't remember anything like that. I don't pay very much attention to it,

Anne Trotter- I will have you on tape saying did save any of the mail, because one of the things we are asking is for contributions for our archive.

Lewis Donelson- Well when Sherry gets here I will ask here and see what we have.

Anne Trotter- If we could even Xerox it and put it into the archives and officially...

Lewis Donelson- (muffled) Jan wants to get all this people to work against me when I run again. Jan being my wife.

Anne Trotter- Oh. What was your reaction when you heard that Martin Luther King was coming into town the first time.

Lewis Donelson- Well I was perturbed and very much concerned and it confirmed what they had been saying. Now during this period I had serious doubts as to what was the right thing to do, perhaps I would have taken a stronger viewpoint if I had (muffled) what was the right thing to do I was, I hated the idea of union check off form the city but I was willing to do it to get the thing settled but it concerned me. Now the coming of Wilkins and Ruston didn't concern me at all. It didn't make that much impact on it. But the coming of King and the statement of a march that gave me a bit of concern because I felt like something would probably happen. And actually. (Tape Break)

Anne Trotter- What would happen here within the negro community or the attention it would bring here to the problem in a way of national attention. Did you regard Martin Luther King as a national figure?

Lewis Donelson- Yes, well I really, it would be nice to say that I visualized that it was going to give us some national attention I was just concerned about the immediate effect of it. We already had the national attention to get right down to it that just meant more. I don't think that entered my mind. Actually the announcement that he was going to invite Dr. King was probably the reason why we had that long argument about the dues check off which at that point I came out openly advocating that in the council but we agreed to it. And it was at this point to that I had presented the week before I had presented my resolutions on manpower (muffled)

as you know and I had another one of those sessions from Henry where he showed me 600 letters that were against my resolution. (muffled) He said now I know how you feel about lying. But I just want you to see some of these, but in any effect. I can only say that I was concerned about the prospect of (muffled) They were probably coming and so then I sat up here and watched the march. Watched them gather.

Anne Trotter- This is on Thursday? Now did you plan to do this?

Lewis Donelson- On the 18th.

Anne Trotter- Oh on the 18th oh yes. 28th.

Lewis Donelson- 28th you are right.

Tom Beckner- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- Oh yeah (muffled) of course this is part of a I guess...but I have a fairly demanding law practice and I used to the position that I didn't give any more time than I absolutely had to and I was in the office and tried to work (muffled). There wasn't any reason for me to be down there looking at this thing and I was right here and now actually they had people in other windows with binoculars looking at people but I did watch the gathering and watch them march down (muffled). Come running back and of course when I saw them all running back I knew something had happened.

Anne Trotter- Did you get on the phone to anyone?

Lewis Donelson- No.

Anne Trotter- Did you, you thought this was beyond your, at this point.

Lewis Donelson- (muffled) curiosity. I am sure somebody got on the phone with me but I didn't call anybody. I did not call the mayor on any occasions I can think of during this whole thing nor did I call Frank Holloman. I called many council men I figured it was my responsibility with the councilmen and I was probably the one (muffled) to discuss it but as fast as, I don't recall calling anybody. I call on him a few times but I didn't call him.

Anne Trotter- I want to backtrack just before in that week between the big snow and during the mediation. Did you feel the least that when the snow prevented the first march..

Lewis Donelson- Very much.

Anne Trotter- Did you feel as if it was a second chance being given.

Lewis Donelson- Very much now let me see.

Anne Trotter- This is March 22nd the, when Dr. King couldn't get..

Lewis Donelson- We met on Saturday.

Anne Trotter- After the snow?

Lewis Donelson- After the snow.

Anne Trotter- You came through the snow to the city hall?

Lewis Donelson- At that point.

Anne Trotter- It was gone by Saturday.

Lewis Donelson- Yeah it just lasted a day. It was gone. And we talked and I tried then to tell them that we had to get this thing settled before the march was held. And we had another big discussion with the same thing of trying to get him to step up to it and the mayor saying we have got it beat and so on and so forth the whole thing over again at the same time. And the mediation deal really prevented us from getting down to the best of the question. Downing had been instrumental into persuading the mayor to go to the mediation and I don't remember who (muffled). They felt that this would solve the problem, it was a big step. I pointed out to them that the mediation team of Mike Hallie and Tome (muffled) was not going to settle the strike. (muffled). Just that much difference of opinion between them. And Downing had to admit that he was dismayed at the mayor's appointments to represent him on the (muffled). But he had great faith in Frank Miles who I did not know at the time very well. Who I now have great admiration for too and he had me talk to Frank and he had me tell Frank about the resolutions about the (muffled) which we had almost gotten passed and which I had discussed with Worth and all that kind of thing. I gave that to Frank on Sunday and I met with Frank and I talked to Frank, actually I talked to him on the phone for about an hour bringing him up to date on what I was doing and what I thought the problems would be and so on. We started to talk and Tuesday we did nothing because mediation was under way. We got through to (muffled) on Tuesday night they were going to break off negotiations the next day in order to have (muffled) the march and of course they did. They broke it off just as predicted.

Anne Trotter- Did you feel there was a desire to go ahead and (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- Absolutely there is no doubt in the world I don't think anyone who was present and this was one thing I am sure of that we have an accurate account. Frank Miles said it was obvious that they would not negotiate and they were looking for something to break it off and they timed the break off exactly how they wanted to and (muffled).

Anne Trotter- Had there been a more (muffled) from the mayor's office do you think that still would have been the desire on the part of the union team..

Lewis Donelson- At that point the (muffled) was available.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- I think he will tell you it was too late, it had to be, they were going to have it and I don't think anything could be done. Of course they had the riot and to me the most interesting thing (muffled) during the whole thing. We met (muffled) the next morning bright and early and before everybody arrived I tried to (muffled) because one of them said yesterday was a great day for men and a excellent day at that.

Anne Trotter- After the riot?

Tom Beckner- After the riot?

Lewis Donelson- And when I was saying we showed them we weren't going to put up with any battles. (muffled) that I had ever heard in my life.

Anne Trotter- This was either Wyatt Chandler or Tom Todd.

Lewis Donelson- Or Bob James, they all three said the same thing but I don't know which one making this remark about it being a great day for Memphis, all their remarks were the same but one of them made this remark about a great day from Memphis. I said it will be the blackest day in our history and it is going to be trouble from now on and I went on a tirade about how we could have settled this the previous week, came within inches of it and made a big mistake, Blanchard took it up and we met from 9:00 until 5:00 in the afternoon arguing and arguing and we would get right up to it and we would actually have 7 folks but when we got the thing down in writing why we just (muffled).

Anne Trotter- Well what is the word.

Lewis Donelson- And I just really when I came home that night I was so upset and I was so depressed I couldn't stand it. And had been confident that I could get settled. (muffled) I just couldn't believe and actually we started out with 6 and when we got through we had 5 because Downing didn't vote for it.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- But in any event that was the most discouraging day I was there. I just couldn't believe it that they didn't realize that we were sitting on a powder keg and this thing was going to be unbelievably bad if we didn't get it settled.

Anne Trotter- Now before you go on have any of those people since expressed to you that they were wrong?

Lewis Donelson- Not one.

Anne Trotter- Have any of them to your knowledge changed as a result of this or from your observation rather than from actually saying so. You say that you feel nervous of what has emerged from this rather than change.

Lewis Donelson- Yes.

Anne Trotter- Among the (muffled).

=Probably at least some moderation in Chandler I didn't see before. Now you want to understand that the council's opposition was not racial. Hyman, is pretty liberal on the racial question also conservative on many other things but he is not strongly anti negro and neither is Chandler and neither is James really. Todd is, he just has this sweet and nice person but he has the plantation psychology and nothing is going to change that. And James (muffled) Downing is quite liberal on the racial question and very much so, their opposition, Downing's opposition was primarily a strong conviction he had that we should not (muffled) with the mayor. And Gwynn's opposition and Billy Hyman's opposition strongly anti-union. (muffled) actually this was an interesting time because he was gone.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- Yeah at this point and he really has been (muffled) to the council.

Anne Trotter- He almost wasn't involved.

Lewis Donelson- He wasn't involved he was sort of on the fringes of this and he wasn't there at a crucial time so and so forth and so I couldn't think of reaction to that question and I couldn't think why (muffled). He wasn't there.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- He is extremely conservative, extremely so and perhaps, I really can't evaluate his racial attitude but he is extremely conservative and his people, from Frayser are not only conservative but racially oriented. And he gets all that pressure up there but at one point I thought I had a resolution drafted (muffled) get right down to it, we did get close and it was just one of those things. Of course for listening it was wrong that day it really was the settlement they were ultimately going to get.

Anne Trotter- That was the Saturday march 30th?

Lewis Donelson- Friday March 29th.

Anne Trotter- Right the day after the first march broke out. After the mini riot.

Lewis Donelson- Friday March 29th and that (muffled). Frank Miles he used as the basis for the other settlement. Of course Henry blames me for the settlement because that draft talked about the you know check off and so on and so forth. (muffled). (Tape Break)

Tom Beckner- This is reel 2 of the interview with Lewis Donelson, (muffled), Anne Trotter, Tom Beckner.

Lewis Donelson- horribly disturbed and upset, signed about the whole situation. And I, then we started again I guess it was after Sunday we met at Lemoyne, do you remember?

Anne Trotter- I think so.

Lewis Donelson- And had these, the union they came and both the (muffled)m reached an agreement but it never did go through, I don't know exactly why, no communication within either side at this point.

Anne Trotter- It really helped (muffled) that it must be settled between the mayor and the union at that point.

Lewis Donelson- That's right. I explained to them that we couldn't get through the council that the council would do it unless the mayor agreed to it that this was the situation. (muffled)

Anne Trotter- Where did you go for comfort during this period? Did you find any comfort anywhere?

Lewis Donelson- I didn't find much, no.

Anne Trotter- Did you find among your personal friends who weren't involved did you find any compassion or comprehension for your personal situation?

Lewis Donelson- I found yes, some from that but not much sympathy with my views I should say.

Anne Trotter- Do you thin that was because you saw it in a more serious light than they did?

Lewis Donelson- Yes. Almost entirely that and the fact that they didn't know the whole situation and really I was so busy I didn't have time to explain it.

Anne Trotter- Yes, you were keeping your law practice.

Lewis Donelson- I really didn't see much.

Anne Trotter- How about Mr. Blanchard did you?

Lewis Donelson- We didn't talk about it a great deal.

Anne Trotter- you found that...

Lewis Donelson- We didn't talk about it very much and really and truly except for discussing it with the councilmen and at home I didn't really discuss it so often.

Anne Trotter- one other question at one point as I recall there was mention that father Grappe might be called in if the King march failed, do you recall that?

Lewis Donelson- I think I do remember that.

Anne Trotter- Well I was just mentioning that as a if that is your personal reaction to father Grappe as to Martin Luther King did you feel more alarmed or did you take this less, or did you feel that King was the most serious? Makes the situation most serious?

Lewis Donelson- Oh yes, Grappe and Wilkins, and Ruston were all minor (muffled) compare dot King. This was a negro thing with negro people and (muffled) they had probably never even heard of Grappe. I don't think Wilkins and Ruston even knew him.

Anne Trotter- Everybody, do you think that is because of the negro church and the church..

Lewis Donelson- The church has such a tremendous response and this is the staying alive of community leadership. It was a stunning surprise there was no doubt about that.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- Well the NAACP up until this, (muffled) had great influence but they had it working through the ministers. They lost the ministers last fall.

Anne Trotter- Because they did not....

Lewis Donelson- Because of the Willis fiasco and not supporting him and all of that.

Anne Trotter- They had really supported they had gone out for A.W. Willis to be mayor?

Lewis Donelson- Well actually you know that was really a (muffled) to elect Bill Morris before but that's what it was and I tried to tell A.W. that he wasn't going to do it.

Anne Trotter- He couldn't swing his votes?

Lewis Donelson- That's right.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- His votes even if he had gotten it to 1/3 which was the most he could have got chances are he still would have missed the run off. But A.W. I don't know what his (muffled). We met and this is not a political thing but we met (muffled) Augustine and Jan Morris and Bill Ferris and Harry Wilkin and myself, A.W> and Russell (muffled). Henry sprang up last year and in the summer trying to see if we couldn't come up with a candidate that they could back and some of us could back. (muffled) The result was Bill Morris (muffled). And so that is where they met.

Anne Trotter- Did you feel if Morris had been in and this is (muffled) if Morris had been in do you feel this would have gone just the same had Morris been mayor?

Lewis Donelson- Yes, I do. I think it would have gone (muffled). I really and I could be wrong and this is not so much to Bill's credit I just think that it might never have happened. I think the antagonist of Lobe really made (muffled) these poor men off of their jobs. Because the whole atmosphere (muffled) during the election and all the rest (muffled). Made no effort which Morris wouldn't have done and all that sort of thing. I think (muffled).

Anne Trotter- So that you had the thing of Lobe and...

Lewis Donelson- I don't think it is so much the skill of (muffled) as it is that it just wouldn't have been the basic antagonism. (muffled) Henry is just pretty well once he gets (muffled) he moves it. He made the absolute basic mistake of letting negotiations (muffled). The very first time he sat down. You have got to have something left to give. And from now on he was really dead, he just wanted that thing.

Tom Beckner- He was just backed into a corner.

Lewis Donelson- Yeah and this is before he got Windetrodd's reaction and it is unfortunate this man didn't get in until after they had this first confrontation because I think Sam would have prevented this one.

Anne Trotter- We want to take more of your time in fact before we finish if we could have in as much detail as possible what happened to you personally on the day of the assassination starting in the morning and particularly the hours around the assassination, how you heard of it and what your actions and reactions were.

Lewis Donelson- Well, we had a meeting that was in council on Thursday afternoon, I don't know about the morning of the assassination I don't remember anything particular about that, if I was working or not but we had a meeting in the afternoon. I don't know what the purpose of it was, if it was in connection to the strike or whatever it was but anyway we did. The council met. And at the end of the meeting Fred Davis, Jim Netters and I and Tom Todd and Jared, or maybe it was just Jared not Tom Todd. One of t hey was Downing, that was what it was. Went over to meeting with Frank Miles, to be brought up to date on the situation with the mediations. (muffled) And we left the council meeting and walked (muffled). And we discussed the situation and talked about what could be done and Fred Davis (muffled) we discussed the credit union yet again and what progress was being made. Frank was hopeful although I was not. And then we got ready to leave, we had the television on, I guess someone said the 6:00 news is on let's turn it on. Turn on the news and (muffled). We were all terribly upset and I went straight home and by the time I got home (muffled).

Anne Trotter- What was response (muffled) can you recall were you listening to the news?

Lewis Donelson- Yes I was listening to the news and I listened all the way home and I heard (muffled) about changing his heart and all that stuff. Not on a police radio but....

Anne Trotter- It was on national news. Did you notice the people on the streets as you drove.

Lewis Donelson- Yes I guess you could say I did you could feel the tension of course we had just gone through the first curfew and you could feel the tension again and people seemed to be going home and getting off the streets. There was you know a vacancy (muffled) . I felt mostly extreme depression and concern for the welfare of (muffled) . Useless but perhaps an inevitable thing that had to come. Then I began to think about what could be done of course. Rebuild the situation. I guess that's about it.

Anne Trotter- (muffled) .

Lewis Donelson- Yes I did.

Anne Trotter- When did you do that back home or?

Lewis Donelson- I don't remember. I don't remember. I remember calling up Downing and suggesting that someone should go to the funeral representing the council. That we should prepare the resolution and address, and we ought to send a telegram to Mrs. King from the council. It seems like to me that that night I went over Jared's house, no I went to Gwynn's house and Jared came over and we all talked about this the three of us talking about the situation. And what could be done. Of course at that point why the mediation began to really take on some meaning. But let me say one thing about the mediations and that is the hard thing about the mediations before and after the assassination that Jerry Manila was added to the team after the assassination. And Jimmy Manila actually worked out the agreement, Jimmy Manila actually got the mayor to agree to it.

Anne Trotter- Well who is he?

Lewis Donelson- He is the first (muffled) guy and they had to do something. He is a lawyer.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- (muffled)

Anne Trotter- It was his presence or did the mayor feel..

Lewis Donelson- He felt a great deal more pressure but I honestly feel and I would be interested to hear what Frank Mile said but I honestly believe he would say that it

still would have been difficult if not impossible without Manila's presence. Because dealing with, I can't Tom Todd and Mike Hallie are all good friends of mine but they just had absolutely no intentions of agreeing to the thing.

Anne Trotter- Do you think that Jim Manila was (muffled) with a different set of instructions or...

Lewis Donelson- Well I think he was of course chosen but I don't know that he (muffled) before the assassination now I am not saying that he couldn't but I am not saying that he could. But I don't think he was given particular instructions he was just added to the team and this was a suggestion that I think came from Ned. (muffled) from a discussion that Downing and I had about it that we had to have someone else on the negotiating team that (muffled).

Anne Trotter- (muffled).

Lewis Donelson- Ned is a good guy. Good man.

Anne Trotter- (muffled) personal assessment. Did your opinion or martin Luther King ever undergo any change? Before he had come here during the period he was here or since the assassination of him as a man and a leader?

Lewis Donelson- Well, (muffled) than I did before. I am more aware of how influential he was than I was before. To the extent that I have more knowledge I think my opinion has changed but not, I don't think it was changed by the event it was changed more by the increase in knowledge that I had. I can't say that I was or am a great admirer of Martin Luther King. I really felt like that he had lost his dream on the way. That what started out as a dream had become a project or whatever(muffled). This didn't change my opinion on that. Perhaps I could, well I know (muffled) on the previous occasion that Dr. King was coming to Memphis, big rally and (muffled) he was going to stay in Memphis. (muffled) Dr. King left the next morning.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Lewis Donelson- But so I can't say that you know yes King has undoubtedly changed because I know a lot more about him than when he came in and he had all this stuff fin the community (muffled). And I would guess that I wasn't aware of what a tremendous (muffled) he was. (muffled) but I wasn't aware of that, I found that out. I wasn't aware of the tremendous following he had in the community. I mean I understood but I didn't know he was (muffled) as much as he did, but as far as changing my opinion of him, it didn't change. What he did really confirmed my opinion that I had.

Anne Trotter- how about internationally? Were you aware of international implications in the, what I mean that his reputation was international.

Lewis Donelson- Well I mean of course yes, you know he won the Nobel peace prize and I was aware of it. (muffled) I think his international reputation was made right here.

Anne Trotter- You think it is greater now?

Lewis Donelson- April the 4th.

Anne Trotter- you think that his was (muffled) any other questions? We appreciate you taking so much time...(Tape End