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This is tape 3 of the interview with Edward Hunvald. We're at 3552 Charleswood Avenue in Memphis, Mr. Hunvald's home. Carol Lynn Yellin interviewing. Joan Beifuss isn't with us for this third of the Hunvald tapes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And, we left off in the last tape, with your statement about James Earl Ray, and...

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes, and the fact that why I think he didn't do it alone. Even though everybody seems to be convinced of it. I also think that those people who are saying the loudest that it was a one-man job, had been cooperating, and I mean I'm in favor of it, with the FBI and the other people who are in the business of solving this thing, in letting those people who might be in back of this James Earl Ray, get careless. The fact that James Earl Ray was given a life sentence so that he could still be there to testify. Now when James Earl Ray -- now before he was caught after the King murder, I remember one of my daughters was living in New Orleans, was (muffled), drove down there in 19...oh, I don't know when it was, but it was during the second trial of Delay Beckwith, who murdered Evers.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Medgar Evers

Edward Hunvald: I say murdered, and if he wants to sue me he can, because he was never found innocent, split (muffled). And, so we always stop at Jackson, Mississippi for lunch on our way down to New Orleans, and it was during the second trial. So I said, "Let's go over and see if we sit in on the trial." I have sat in on (muffled) trials in Nashville. It's from those old days when I traveled with father the salesman. I went to the courtrooms to wile away the time, so I guess that's a habit. And I saw this one trial, the present governor of Mississippi, who was the prosecuting attorney.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Bill Waller.

Edward Hunvald: Bill Waller, and he did a very good job; but I was fascinated with Beckwith's son. His son was a stoutish boy, about 17, 18 maybe, who sat in back of his father. His father was at the table with two attorneys, and he sat in back of his dad, and they were passing notes to each other, chuckling.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Horsing around.

Edward Hunvald: Well (muffled) while the trial is on. It was rather done surreptitiously you might say. So, when the King murder took place, something made me think of this Beckwith boy. Now here his father had kind of fumbled his great contribution to humanity by being caught. His son since that time, I knew because I'd read, in fact I have a file, I have a Beckwith file -- got into jams with the police and wound up in jail. So, it seemed to me that a boy like that could have only one goal in life, and that is to do a better job than his daddy, and get better game than his daddy.

And, so I went to the FBI, and I talked to one of the agents. I have his name. It doesn't come to mind. And I told them my theory, not Beckwith, but his son, whom I'm sure, must hate black people. And here's a chance for him to be a little smarter than his father, at least don't do it himself. And so, when I brought it up to him, and talked about Beckwith he said that they were following up the Beckwith lead, but they hadn't thought of the son. Well, evidently nothing to -- it didn't develop that way. Oh, I wouldn't be surprised some day that it does come to that, because it has to be somebody like that, to, and who would be in a prison and meet a fellow like Ray.

Carol Lynn Yellin: What do you think of this involvement of all of the lawyers like J.B. Stoner?

Edward Hunvald: Well, they each have different purpose, and their purpose I mentioned, their initial purpose is for fame (muffled) publicity.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You mean they personally each have a purpose?

Edward Hunvald: Yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Wanting to be James Earl Ray's lawyer.

Edward Hunvald: Do I think that Stoner would represent the one, the murderers (muffled)?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yeah.

Edward Hunvald: Oh no, no, no. They wouldn't be that stupid. No, they wouldn't be that stupid. In fact I'd bet they wish they'd keep away from him. No.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You don't think that then this is like a Ku Klux Klan plot, or anything?

Edward Hunvald: It would have been caught long before this.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: These are not smart people. This is a...it could be a one-man job, but Ray isn't that man. He doesn't have the motivation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Have you developed any of this because of your clipping files, and because of you say that you've seen one thing leading to another.

Edward Hunvald: I was at that trial, because the clipping file on Beckwith came about long before I went to his trial, see? Because there was a...

Carol Lynn Yellin: That was part of what you were following.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, that's one of the things that I didn't throw away. And, it's not a big file. And I think that...

Carol Lynn Yellin: So, you don't in that have the famous headline that I recall, that was used in the James Silver book about James Silver, *the University of Mississippi*.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, I...

Carol Lynn Yellin: When he wrote of the Meredith thing, and he quoted the Jackson, Mississippi headline, the banner headline with they caught Byron De La Beckwith, and it seems that for a few years he had lived in California with his parents as a child. Do you recall that? So when he was finally caught, why the Mississippi papers had been saying, well, surely this is some outsider just trying to cause trouble for Mississippi. It's an outside agitator. So the headline, the banner headline said "Californian Arrested." He had lived from the ages of like 5 to 12.

Edward Hunvald: It was in the Mississippi paper?

Carol Lynn Yellin: And they said, "Californian arrested in Evers' murder."

Edward Hunvald: I missed that. I wouldn't have gotten that.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, this was one of the things that James Silver in his book quoted how the newspapers had affected the climate of thought in Jackson, Mississippi of course, and he felt that they...

Edward Hunvald: Oh, the climate of thought is being influenced here all the time.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: To my mind, it's the propaganda machines from the left and the right. The left when it's in power, they overwhelm you and they get people thinking their way. Now the right. And I think the right now has the upper hand, and has the best techniques because they have their own newspapers, you see?

Carol Lynn Yellin: The left in power, the left has really never been in power in Memphis, you would mean nationally?

Edward Hunvald: I'm talking nationally, yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But, do you think that's ever really had an influence here in Memphis?

Edward Hunvald: Now when I'm saying left, I'm talking even liberals.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, I know. Well, the New Deal.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, that's right. The New Deal wasn't. This was...

Carol Lynn Yellin: By standard.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, well, if you eliminate the black and white thing, liberals...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Economically it was a swing to the left, right.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, and I didn't mean, when I say, these were... But you see, what the right has done has been two things, to influence people with their bias and really untruthful stories, at the same time discrediting the regular newspapers. So they do two things. Believe us, and don't believe them. Now, whereas the left, they can't discredit the newspapers. So, if the newspapers want to tell the truth, if the left or the liberals are in the wrong and all the newspapers (muffled), then the liberals have lost the point, because they haven't trained their cohorts to discount what the newspapers say. So, but the rights have done a terrific job. In my mind (muffled) of course is on the right. But incidentally...

Carol Lynn Yellin: and by right, you mean the ultra, the ultra-right, such as the John Birchers.

Edward Hunvald: Yes, John Birch Society and those sick people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The people that say operated, oh, I remember during the '64 campaign when the books about LBJ and so forth were coming out were -- the ultra-right really was furnishing that kind of...

Edward Hunvald: But, the (muffled). The mayors of this city. Some councilmen from this city. They get under the influence; they become part of them, but...

Carol Lynn Yellin: But wasn't this always true in this city, or do you feel that in Crump days that that kind of ultra-rightism, it...

Edward Hunvald: Crump was good to everybody. You know, if you were good to him, he was good to everybody. He saw that the Negroes got what they wanted; he saw that the whites got their way, what they wanted. He really gave them what they wanted, but in return, they had to give him what someone else wanted. Now (muffled) said, if -- when Crump held the Blind Games.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: You responded, because if you want something from Mr. Crump the next time, you'd better do something for Mr. Crump now.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This was evidently one of the big, big things -- the football game for the benefit of the blind.

Edward Hunvald: Yes, well it was a very good thing and a very nice thing.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now, how did you fit that in? I'd like for you to talk just a little bit about what you saw developing. I know we have your letters written during the time of the sanitation strike, but how did you see this information that was getting through to the community, how did you see it affecting the strike, and in fact the whole build-up during that particular period? I know most of your comments...

Edward Hunvald: I wouldn't know how to answer your question because I -- the community, I think Loeb used it. Every time Loeb spoke he didn't speak what, he wasn't Loeb speaking he was speaking -- he wasn't speaking to the person that addressing. When he talked to Wurf, he didn't talk to Wurf. He was talking to the people, his gang, you see? He wanted to tell Wurf what they wanted to hear, that's all.

Carol Lynn Yellin: He was always aware that they were back there over his shoulder listening.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, and to be a successful politician in Memphis today, that's what you have to be. I hang my head in shame at some of these people that I was proud of recently, and I would like to be proud of now, that have just gone gaga. Well, it's an old story -- you can't do any good if you're not elected, and you can't get elected unless you say you're not going to do any good. So, we're in a terrible (muffled). But talking about these right-wing organizations -- I was fascinated in the Evers' case by a paragraph in the *Commercial Appeal* that Beckwith had written them a number of letters to the editor, just bitterly hating Negroes. Now, they didn't say whether they published those or not. I don't think so because I was keeping that. They used to have a page of letters to the editor, and I just kept those pages, but I never saw one by him. But it did give me the idea that I bet you, I wouldn't bet you, but I believe that in most cases, crimes in this -- assassinations from now on will be perpetrated, or urged on, or contrived, connived by someone who has written a letter to the editor. Now I keep an "RR" file, "radical right" file. Now, I call it "radical right," they're not all "radical rights." If they so much as have a point of view that could be fed upon -- you know you start off as a mild objector we'll say to busing. All right, you've already placed yourself on the side against busing. Well you soon found out that your mild words mean nothing. You'd better get stronger in your language because you're competing with people who use stronger language. So, you don't hesitate because even though you're using stronger language than you had used, you're still milder than the ones, the loud mouths are using. And a person who tries to be reasonable in the beginning could very well develop into a "radial right."

Carol Lynn Yellin: Let me ask you something, I'm making a memo to myself -- what did you think of Gerald Franks' book, "An American Death," in which he definitely states that there is no conspiracy.

Edward Hunvald: Gerald sent me a book, and he autographed it for me.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I knew that he had talked with you while he was here, and that you spoke with -- you were one of (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: I wanted to write him, congratulate him on the book, but I didn't want to write him without saying that I thought his conclusions were wrong. I have not the ability to frame such a letter that wouldn't offend him, so I haven't written to him.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, this is why I made the note to myself to ask. Do you think that possibly he is among those who may be cooperating in the...?

Edward Hunvald: It could be.

Carol Lynn Yellin: In the waiting game that you think...

Edward Hunvald: It could be, it could be, and probably, oh, this is way out in left field, or right field let me put it (muffled).

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, everyone is -- now this is all speculation.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But this is...

Edward Hunvald: That he might have something written protecting him in case his conclusions prove to be erroneous, that he was doing in aiding the government, in...I don't know for sure. That's rather far out. I think maybe I'm all wrong there. He could sincerely believe it because he ran down -- I've never read a more thorough book. Did you read it?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yes.

Edward Hunvald: I think he's a splendid author and a splendid assembler of...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Good research.

Edward Hunvald: He made that very interesting, and it all had to do with facts.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, what it -- yes it did. I am going to say something now on the tape; this is me expressing an opinion. The books that have come out so far, to me what's interesting is that they all have concentrated on the fact, on the assassination and the crime, and the result, and the manhunt, and the assassin. And, I think that most of our material that we now have in the archives, including a lot, a great many, most of your clippings have to do with the climate of the scenery where the crime took place.

Edward Hunvald: Well, the climate in Dallas.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And the climate in Dallas.

Edward Hunvald: The climate in Southern California.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, a lot of people don't see the point in collecting material about a garbage strike, but what -- this is where I was saying earlier that all the material about social conditions in this city have to do with why it was that Martin Luther King was here at the time of his assassination. It all may be coincidental.

Edward Hunvald: Well, he touched on that. I thought he brought that out pretty well. Of course, I think he was too kind to Loeb.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm going to get to Loeb later. I want to say, we went last night to the, the Beifuss and the Yellins, we went to the Martin Luther King memorial birthday party. Last night would have been his 44th birthday, January 15, and there was some unhappiness expressed by most of the black people there that spoke that this had not been declared a national holiday, I mean a city holiday.

Edward Hunvald: Well, now that's too much to hope for.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, it's been done in Georgia.

Edward Hunvald: Atlanta.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, no the state of Georgia now. Jimmy Carter declared a statewide holiday.

Edward Hunvald: School holiday, too?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. And, so there was much reference there to the fact that Martin Luther King had to die, that there is the feeling in the black community that, and I think there is a sharing of your feeling that a conspiracy or a plot was involved.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, when you say, "had to die," that he was...

Carol Lynn Yellin: That he had challenged the establishment.

Edward Hunvald: Well no, I -- now wait a minute. The establishment can mean a lot of things to, different things to different people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I guess the...well all right, go ahead.

Edward Hunvald: The establishment, they speak of downtown business as being the

establishment. They speak of the government as the establishment. People (muffled). No, it's not the establishment. I don't think anybody is connected with the establishment as I think of what the establishment is has anything to do with it. No, this was just hatred for a man and that hatred was generated among the middle class and the lower middle class.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Let me rephrase what I think was the sense of what they were saying last night, that racism is the established mores in this country.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So he was too much of a challenge to established racism in our society is what the tenor of the thing was. I want to -- we're going to skip around on this part of the tape because I am going to ask you some questions that are unrelated in a way. I wanted to ask you before we concluded the interview about the downtown stores, and what contact you had with people during that period that you had known over your 17 years at Goldsmith's. First of all, did you get any information, specific information on how the boycotts affected downtown business, other than what was in the papers, which was very little?

Edward Hunvald: Well now, we went through boycotts while I was there.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh, yes.

Edward Hunvald: And because I was in charge of the basement that had the biggest percentage of Negro trade, I suffered most.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now what were these boycotts (muffled)?

Edward Hunvald: For hiring people. They wanted to hire more people. Now I remember at Goldsmith's, and this was true of other stores, when the Negroes lined up at the restaurant.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was that in the basement?

Edward Hunvald: No, no. We had a very elegant restaurant those days.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The lunch counter sit-ins.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, but this was a restaurant that we had lines where you were 1-4-2. And they, about 11:00 the Negroes would take their positions. I often wondered if we let them in, what they would order. They didn't have any money, the ones that they'd sent up there. So, the minute that they showed up, they would close the curtains, and a group of us, and I was one of them, now I plead guilty to this, because it hadn't -- the law hadn't been passed yet that, they could...

Carol Lynn Yellin: The state law still required segregation...

Edward Hunvald: That's right -- segregation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: ...of the eating facilities.

Edward Hunvald: So we went among the white people who came up, we could spot them. They looked and they saw the curtains drawn. We knew who they were. We told them to go down to the 4th floor, and then there'd be a man on the 4th floor who'd show them where the freight elevators were. And then the freight elevator would take them up through the kitchen. And while those curtains were drawn, the white people were still eating in the dining room. The Negroes never knew that, see. And as I look back on it, I feel ashamed of myself. And I'm sure the Goldsmiths do, too.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. Well, now...

Edward Hunvald: But they had no other choice they said.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Were there any eating facilities in town that were desegregated?

Edward Hunvald: None. When they desegregated, they all did it together.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now (muffled) the boycotts feel about hiring policies? Were they successful? Eventually did Goldsmith's hire more clerks?

Edward Hunvald: Oh yes, yes. Goldsmith's I think has been commended for -- not only did they hire more, but they have many junior executives. Now for instance, in the basement they have one Negro buyer, and two Negro assistants, assistant buyers. And they have Negro buyers throughout the store.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was this in response to the boycotts do you think?

Edward Hunvald: No, no. this was when...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Had it -- were there any before the boycotts?

Edward Hunvald: No, they were porters and maids. Porters and maids.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I guess what I'm getting at -- was the boycott called off as Negroes were hired as sales clerks, or did it continue?

Edward Hunvald: It was called off after a conference with the Negroes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. That's what I'm getting at.

Edward Hunvald: And the promise of the firm to hire more. Now what the first hiring

was done was promoting some of the more intelligent and the better maids to sales people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Advancing within the firm.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, that's right.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was this done in concert with other department stores? Was there some sort of...?

Edward Hunvald: No, no, but the law had already been passed. No, it wasn't in concert. I think Goldsmith's was the first. And I think Gerber's was the last. So, I am almost sure of that.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, so would you say that the boycotts at that time when you were at the store, were they effective? Did they hurt your business?

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes. Well, you see a boycott keeps the white people away as well as the black.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, because they have pickets outside.

Edward Hunvald: That's right.

Carol Lynn Yellin: There was no violence, or no disruption was there? Or any arrests connected with those?

Edward Hunvald: Not that I know of.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: I think there was up in the dining room one time, and they couldn't hush it up. But it was a minor thing.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now how did you feel about the newspaper's coverage of those events then, do you recall?

Edward Hunvald: To tell you the truth, I don't recall at all.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Or maybe it never (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: I don't whether -- I can't recall whether they were commenting or were ignored. I don't know.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Because I know it's been interesting the coverage of some of the desegregation of faculty and so forth, we were here at that time, and often they just went

ahead and let it happen, and it was never reported in the paper until...

Edward Hunvald: Well no, that's the way it was here with the dining rooms. One morning anyone could eat, black person -- but the black people were smart. They didn't through the dining rooms. They sent up two or three of their finest looking, best dressed, nicest members of the community. Oh yeah. I always got a laugh out of the -- long before the, years ago -- the cotton people would bring the Indians, you know from India, up to our dining room. They'd eat with them there, brown people. But they're cotton buyers from India, see?

Carol Lynn Yellin: And would they warn you in advance?

Edward Hunvald: No, no, no, no, no.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You just -- you knew the customers.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, you knew that those people weren't going to bring plain ordinary niggers there, you know?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh my. Well, of course this is all already so changed that it's difficult to realize it was so recently.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That all this happened. Well, now I want to go back to the other question though, did you hear any specific news or any -- do you remember conversations during that period? Did anyone say that downtown boycotts were really effective now during the sanitation strike?

Edward Hunvald: During the sanitation strike, were they effective?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yes.

Edward Hunvald: Oh certainly they were.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was there consternation -- I mean were you aware?

Edward Hunvald: There was consternation, believe me. A boycott is a terrific weapon.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yeah.

Edward Hunvald: Terrific weapon. I hate to see it, because they hurt their friends first.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's what -- yeah. That's what I'm trying to get at.

Edward Hunvald: They hurt their friends first. They always go after their friends first.

Now I don't know whether if I were commanding we'll say their campaign, whether I also wouldn't do that. Because usually their friends are the biggest people in town. Bigots don't get big.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's an interesting observation. Bigots are the little town person.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, they're the little guys. So -- it's the natural thing. Yes, you scream. Because everybody's a chain now. You know, all (muffled). And they don't take you alibis. They don't want to know what the weather was, they don't want to know that you're having a boycott -- why are you going behind. Do something about it. That's what you're getting paid for. Oh, you can -- it can drive you mad.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's the out of town management?

Edward Hunvald: That's right, yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But now Goldsmith's was still owned locally at that, or was it?

Edward Hunvald: No, Goldsmith's has been owned by Federated since 1959. That's 15 years, or 10 years.

Carol Lynn Yellin: When you first came here, it was still owned locally?

Edward Hunvald: Oh yes, well I vowed -- incidentally in going over my associations, I vowed that after I got through with Breeze that I would never work for a chain store in my life. I would always work for a home-owned store, and I did, and that's what made me choose the outlet, made me choose Pizitz, and made me choose Goldsmith's. Now, I say made me choose -- I didn't have too many choices, you know, you go -- jobs on that level, they're not in the want-ad pages. So, but -- and I would never have gone to work for Federated, except Federated took the store over. But if I had to work for a chain, Federated certainly would be the best to work for. They're very fine people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The man who was the head of Goldsmith's at that time, he's no longer.

Edward Hunvald: Jack Goldsmith.

Carol Lynn Yellin: No, but the manager, the general manager. He's no longer here now.

Edward Hunvald: Jack.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Jack Goldsmith was -- well. Why am I thinking of Sears? What is the -- wasn't there some. He had a name, you know, like W. Maxwell something, or something. I should have clippings at hand.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah. No, I'm not familiar with. Well, Sears makes changes in management quite frequently. Why, what were you going to say?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, no I was thinking that there was someone who -- isn't there someone besides people in the Goldsmith family who are high in management.

Edward Hunvald: Oh now they are.

Carol Lynn Yellin: What's the name of the man now?

Edward Hunvald: Mr. Cummings, Cummings.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Cummings.

Edward Hunvald: And before him was, it began with a "B." Brick, Breckworth, Breckwitz, Breckwitz.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's the name I was thinking.

Edward Hunvald: Well, he was transferred to another store. He got a bigger job.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. But wasn't he here during the period of the sanitation strike? It seems to that...

Edward Hunvald: It could be. It could be. I wasn't with the store then.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's why I'm -- that's what I'm asking about, is during that period it seemed...

Edward Hunvald: Breckwirth, Breckwitz.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And he was trying -- it seems to me that he was one who was trying to calm things.

Edward Hunvald: Yes, he was. Well, anybody who's the head of Goldsmith's -- in the first place he'd have to be a big man to bet that. His effort would be in the right direction.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. Did you hear -- well I remember in one of your letters you spoke about the day of the macing in February, early on when they broke some windows at Goldsmith's or when...

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Do you recall any incidents about that other than...?

Edward Hunvald: I wasn't there.

Carol Lynn Yellin: No, but I mean that you checked with people at the store, I believe you called someone to find out. I'm just -- I'm asking you for gossip now I guess.

Edward Hunvald: Yes. I don't recall. No, I don't recall that, anything in connection with it. Of course, they were appalled. They didn't like it, and they may not have expressed it, but I'm sure they thought ill of the whole Negro community because of it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But still it would have led them to -- well no actually what I'm talking about is when the February 23, when the police broke up the march and there was mace first used, and some people tried to get into Goldsmith's. It seemed to me a window was broken at that time, but maybe I'm confused. It seems to me they locked the store doors at Goldsmith's.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: While the marchers were all trying to come in and the mace was being used outside, and then they couldn't get in.

Edward Hunvald: No, they didn't try to come in. No, they didn't try to come in.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, they were trying to get away from the mace.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm reaching really, just to see, trying to get back to the memory of that period.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I'd have to refer to my notes, and of course, you've got copies of all of them...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: ...there, so.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And, if nothing springs to mind, why obviously I'm not (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: Among the files I think will make a terrific story some day if it's ever settled, and it may not be settled the right way, is the busing, the school situation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's going on now.

Edward Hunvald: That's a desperate thing. And one day I feel that the majority of the people are good and wise and they will cooperate with the law, and then I see these maniacs and hear about them, hear them, and I just wonder. Because the calm people,

they mobilized you know.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. I have two other areas that I want to (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: Were you solicited for the signs, (muffled) when they made signs yesterday, or Sunday?

Carol Lynn Yellin: What was that?

Edward Hunvald: They were selling signs for the CAB, you know?

Carol Lynn Yellin: No, I don't know about that.

Edward Hunvald: A man came through the door.

Carol Lynn Yellin: For the Citizens Against Busing.

Edward Hunvald: And I simply shook my head and smiled at them. I (muffled). And he accepted it very (muffled).

Carol Lynn Yellin: I should say for the record that just because this may not be, people will not be aware of the date, the court ordered busing ordered by the federal court is scheduled to begin next week in Memphis.

Edward Hunvald: The 24th, yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: At mid term, January 24, and as you can see there's some uncertainty as to what the public reaction will be.

Edward Hunvald: And it became more uncertain today.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, because the city council has dug up the law that says...

Edward Hunvald: No, that's the mayor and his attorney.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh, I guess -- but the city council did pass, or was it just the city administration.

Edward Hunvald: No, this is an old law. It's probably a valid law, but they wouldn't be the first law that they turned their back on, or winked at.

Carol Lynn Yellin: To have all bus drivers must have (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: No, that they have to have a permit, a city permit.

Carol Lynn Yellin: From the city, and it takes 10 days.

Edward Hunvald: Ten days, but they could be appealed. Even if it was allowed, they could appeal the allowance of it. So, these people, they're cutie pies. They're cutie pies. There isn't an ounce of brains in all of them, but there's a lot of cunning, a lot of cunning.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This fits with the kind of thing you were clipping through the years of the delaying tactics, and the...

Edward Hunvald: That's right, and that's exactly what would make up that book. Now to us it's so fresh in our mind that we don't think that it would be interesting but its -- it really.

Carol Lynn Yellin: A cumulative effect when you put all of these together.

Edward Hunvald: That's right.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Say, this is what they did this week, and last week they did something else, and 2 years ago they did something else.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, one other area that I want to talk about, and you've touched on it several times, but I want you to just talk about Henry Loeb. Just say why -- when you first were aware of him. Given a quick rundown on him.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I was first aware of Henry Loeb shortly after I arrived here in 1949. The American Legion headquarters was in the basement of the Gayoso Hotel, and it was a very nice club. And it wasn't air conditioned, unfortunately, but they had a rule that men in the room where ladies were, had to keep their jackets on. Railroads have similar rules. You couldn't go in a dining car without a jacket, which I protested one time myself and lost. Henry Loeb wasn't used to putting his jacket on. He was too hot, and he was going to come in in his shirtsleeves, and they told him he couldn't. They had rules. So, he campaigned for president of the commander, I don't know what they call him, of the American Legion. That was his first adventure, and he won. I imagine the election wasn't held on a hot summer day, because it must have been very hot down there. But he won on that sort of a platform. Nothing constructive, for his own comfort, you see, and leading a bunch of people whose prime interest was themselves. And that has been his policy all the way through -- what will it do for me? We have the people in the back of the room -- what will it do for us. Everything he's gone into, every stand he's taken, and he's taken some -- and he thinks he's a man with convictions and unafraid. He pictures himself as the only honest man. I've never heard him mention anybody else as being an honest man, and he also believes, now for instance he says he's for fluoridation, but he believes it should come to a referendum. Well, he knows that the agitation of fluoridation would be -- the result would be to defeat fluoridation. Because the people who were for it, they didn't care. They lived without it before. They're not

going to hit the Negro over the head, but the people who were against it would hit anybody over the head.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This is interesting because one of the suggestions to settle the strike in the midst of it was someone came up with the bright idea -- why don't you have a referendum on the dues check off, if that's all that's holding it up.

Edward Hunvald: You mean among the people?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yeah, and democracy will decide whether the union should have a dues check off.

Edward Hunvald: Well, that's the biggest fallacy in the world, that majority rules. It doesn't rule.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, this was one of the points everybody said don't tell Henry -- or not everybody. One of the tapes, I have forgotten which one, someone who was in on some of those conferences said, "We said don't tell Henry, he'll really go for that."

Edward Hunvald: Good.

Carol Lynn Yellin: People who wanted to get it settled.

Edward Hunvald: And the same way with -- what is the other thing he. Oh, Whitehaven coming into the city. Hold the referendum, let the Whitehaven people want it. If they want to come in, let them come in. Well, Whitehaven wasn't going to come in. Whitehaven will benefit greatly from all this, but it's easy to rile people up. Against change -- anybody will vote against change, unless they have thought it through. You know, changes are created by a limited number of people. Change don't come about because of revolutions. Not changes for the better. And take this Crump Stadium. We would never have had this coliseum out here if it hadn't been for Jimmy Moore. Crump wanted to make that old trap of Crump Stadium that could hold only about 20,000. He wanted to expand it to 30,000. There's no parking there for 15,000 people around there. You used to have to park on the sidewalks or on the curb for miles around there if you drove there. But that's him, he's a backward man. I'm sure -- now this I don't know for a fact.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Crump, you mean? Or Loeb?

Edward Hunvald: No, did I say Crump. No, Crump Stadium, Loeb.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yeah, Loeb is a backward man, right.

Edward Hunvald: Is a backward man. But he thinks he is a progressive. You couldn't sell him on the idea. You couldn't convince him of it. Oh, what was I going to say?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now after the American Legion thing, I'll.

Edward Hunvald: Oh yeah. Then after the American Legion, he ran for commissioner of public works, and he won. And, he immediately -- gee, my memory. I may have my chronology wrong.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, it won't be the first time.

Edward Hunvald: Because he was mayor twice, and he was the sanitation, the public works I think once. And, when he was up there as one of the five commissioners, the other four just hated his guts, because he's a horse's ass. I don't know of anything better. I repeat -- I keep repeating it. I don't think there's a better description of him. Oh, here's the thing I was going to remember -- I have a feeling and I'm going to do it now regardless, that the reason his brother bought him out of the laundry is because he must have stood in the way of every progressive move that his brother wanted to make, Bill Loeb. I don't know if the progressive moves his brother made were wise, or unwise, but if they were the wisest in the world, Henry Loeb would be against it, because he is against change.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Why do you think that it is?

Edward Hunvald: Well, there are many people. I, very often -- I tell you, I have been against things, change, that I regretted I was against. I was against this changing city commission to the council, and I was very wrong.

Carol Lynn Yellin: When we changed to the council, we got Loeb as mayor.

Edward Hunvald: Well, that's all right, but you trimmed the sales some. No, no, well yeah, you can't worry about Loeb. He's only -- like all of us, we're just a second in the face of time. So.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The move was the right one to change.

Edward Hunvald: The move was the right one, but I was against it. No, I think we all resist change. The only thing is, there are some changes that -- you shouldn't be against every change. I don't know of one progressive thing that Loeb has done. He will call progressive this putting (muffled). That's what he calls progress, but that's not progress, that's your spite, that's just showing everybody I'm a bigger (muffled) than you are.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, did you start keeping the file on Loeb? You had started that before he was -- before he was mayor, or during his campaign for mayor and so forth?

Edward Hunvald: No, I think it was when he was -- I think the first time he was mayor. And he quit, you know, before his term was over to go into the laundry because his man at the laundry, which is the financial man looking out for his interest, died. So Henry had to run there, he couldn't trust his own brother, and I'm sure the feeling was mutual.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm not -- I think that...

Edward Hunvald: You think I can expect any crosses on lawn?

Carol Lynn Yellin: I don't think so.

Edward Hunvald: Oh incidentally, talking about the majority rules, you could, it's entirely within the realm of possibility that you could have a referendum in this country, shall this be a protestant country, shall it be definitely a protestant country, or a Christian country would be easier to put over. Well you could win a majority conceivably on that. I'm sure there's enough Christians who had common sense to see that that wasn't the best thing in the world, that's turning backwards, but majority can't rule there. That's why we have a Supreme Court, so the majority shouldn't rule against the rights of the minority.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, there's hardly anyone who's not a member of some minority.

Edward Hunvald: Well, that's true, but...

Carol Lynn Yellin: But what I'm saying is that -- and once the majority overrules the minority, you know, say you drive Chevrolet. Well, not everybody in the world drives a Chevrolet, and so you could argue to people like this. This is why I wonder why Henry Loeb didn't think of himself as a member of a minority group, as a Jew, when he was a Jew.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I don't know for sure. I know some very good friends of mine, who are very good friends of Loeb, they were raised with him, and people whom I respect their judgment. They think he's a fine fellow.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I know a lot of people do, and I really don't (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: And so he must be a very charming person. But if I were the editor of a newspaper, incidentally, and had anything to do with having to write things objectively, I would not belong to any country club, I wouldn't permit any of my reporters to belong to the country club, or the American Legion, or any organization that they could, that they would feel difficult to write a story about that would be detrimental to the organization. And, so I can judge Loeb without being charmed by him. We all a veneer of decency, and I know if I ever met Henry Loeb I wouldn't punch him in the jaw. In the first point I couldn't reach his jaw, he's too big for me, but it wouldn't be anything like that. So, he's evidently a very charming person, and well he was Jewish, or really, while he hadn't made up his mind what he was going to be, he evidently thought that people called him an exceptional type of Jew. Some of the -- he's one of the some of the Jews that are their best friends.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yes. I think that's a good thing.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm going to shut off the tape now, and we might just see if there's anything else you want to say we can turn it back on, but if not why we'll say this is the end of the interview unless we come up with something else.

Edward Hunvald: All right. You can leave it here.

END OF RECORDING