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Joan Beifuss- Interviewers are Judy Schultz and Joan Beifuss and just to begin with maybe we can get some general background on where you are from Dean Dimmick and where you went to school and did your seminary work?

Dean Dimmick- Yes well I was born in Paducah Kentucky and I went to the public schools there and to the junior college there and then was in the Navy B-12 program during the second World War, and was sent to Berea College which is in Kentucky about 30 miles south of Lexington, Avery wonderful school. And then I went to Northwestern university to (muffled) school and served overseas as a communications officer aboard a star S-4. When I came back I spent some time at the university of North Carolina and then three years at Yale and then came to Memphis. Later spent some time at Vanderbilt and Peabody and at the University of the South at Sewanee.

Joan Beifuss- Which would be your actual seminary?

Dean Dimmick- Well I spent the longest period of time at Yale 3 years at Yale, 1946 to 1949.

Joan Beifuss- How long have you been in Memphis?

Dean Dimmick- Well I was in Memphis once before when I was the associate minister at St. John's Methodist church, I was there from 1949 to 1953 and then I was away and I came back to the cathedral here and May 1<sup>st</sup> of 1960 and became the dean and I think it was April 4<sup>th</sup> 1962. So I have been in and out of Memphis for almost 20 years now and if during those years I have tried to keep up with what goes on here.

Joan Beifuss- Well, what is the general nature of the congregation here at St. Mary's and what role for the benefit of public information on this cathedral in terms of the other Episcopal churches here in town.

Dean Dimmick- Yes, the center Cathedral which of course is an Episcopal church, has a understanding of about 950 people and baptized members of about 1200 people. Communicans are those who are then confirmed and all the people that have been baptized are kind of just baptized members. Each dioceses has well not every dioceses has a cathedral but the dioceses which have cathedrals there is only one in each Dioceses and Memphis happens to have the cathedral for the diocese of Tennessee, which is also the state of Tennessee it covers the same ground and the cathedral is the Bishop's church and it is in that sense the mother church of the dioceses or it is we refer to Memphis as the "C" city. Therefore, the bishop is the, like you would say the senior minister, executive officer, spiritual pastor, of all of he churches in the Dioceses and the cathedral is his home.

Joan Beifuss- And the Dioceses covers the entire state?

Dean Dimmick- The entire state of Tennessee.

Joan Beifuss- Does that also mean that the primal church functions are held at the cathedral?

Dean Dimmick- Yes we would have liturgical functions and other matters relating to the light of the dioceses. This would be thought of as the center of the dioceses, the cathedral.

Joan Beifuss- Now what does being mean at the cathedral mean?

Dean Dimmick- It means you are the chief minister of the parish under the bishop.

Joan Beifuss- I see, in other words you would not have a dean unless you also had a bishop.

Dean Dimmick- That is right yes, cathedrals have deans and theological seminaries and there are of course some schools that have deans but they are, I think the thing you are talking about is for churches.

Joan Beifuss- Now here in Memphis I know that St. Mar's schools an Episcopal school are there any others?

Dean Dimmick- Well we have a day school, grace-St. Luke's which is a provicial day school and then there is an Episcopal church home where girls live in residence and attend public schools and several churches may have kindergarten or nursery schools but I believe the two schools at St. Mary's school which was for many years here to the (muffled) before it moved out to the church of Holy Communion out on Walnut Grove Rd. and then the Grace St. Luke's school which is been established in fairly recent years.

Joan Beifuss- Do you know how many Episcopalians there are in the city or what percentage of the population is Episcopalian.

Dean Dimmick- Well generally speaking about 2% of the population belongs to the Episcopal church. I am sorry I cannot tell you exactly how many are in Memphis I could look it up.

Joan Beifuss- I just want to kind of get a general..

Dean Dimmick- About 2%.

Joan Beifuss- It would seem that a preponderance, not a preponderance but a large number of community leaders are Episcopalian.

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think.

Joan Beifuss- On the council.

Dean Dimmick- I think this is part of the contribution on the part of the Episcopal church that in a sense, its influence has been greater than its numerical standing might suggest.

Judy Schultz- Well let me ask you following this up does this seem to be true in other cities say in the dioceses of Tennessee in Nashville are a number of the city officials and civic leaders Episcopalian?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think this has been true nationally since the founding of our country that many of the people that had to do with the early history of our nation were Episcopalians and again I think their influence far exceeded the numerical standing of the church might indicate.

Judy Schultz- Do you think the church does any particular thing to encourage its members to be active in civic affairs as oppose to some churches that insist the minister stay out of the pulpit and stay out of city affairs and this kind of attitude.

Dean Dimmick- I think in a sense this is a theological question which is not so easily answered but I believe in a church where you stress the sacramental light where you stress the goodness of god, the love of god and where there is a structures sort of worship, a liturgical kind of worship. That people feel, well I think for one thing they feel a greater sense of at hominess in the universe in which we live, this is god's world that we are god's children and that we are to be involved in the world in which we live and there is nothing wrong with being involved with the world because this is part of god's creation. So I think that part of it is a theological question and then I think we would be rather unrealistic as we look at the churches and I think we have to be very careful about how we say this and what we mean by it, but perhaps in the history the Episcopal church has appealed more to the educated people and therefore, people who by training and background are more aware of and more sensitive to the issues not only within the church but the issues within all of society.

Joan Beifuss- Well let me ask you something about regional history in the south at the time the fundamentalist churches really (muffled) the Methodists from having such a strong hold, what kept that (muffled) last number of years.

Dean Dimmick- Well we said that the church must be divine or it would have disappeared a long time ago as an institution and structure I think. Well I think we have to realize that the Episcopal church came to the United States in 1607, with the chaplain at Jamestown, but that at that time for almost 175 years or so we had no bishops. Therefore, we could not have ordinations and confirmations taking place in this country and as the hinter lands of the United States were being opened up the Episcopalians were strong on the sea coast as well as the Roman Catholics and of course the Roman Catholics were also strong along the Mississippi river, the French Canadian and Spanish missionaries going up and down the rivers, establishing missions. But the Episcopal church having a limited number of clergy and being very dependent upon the church of England and only the rich southern planters for the

most part who sent their sons back to England for occupation and the sons were sometimes confirmed and later ordained in England. But as the people moved into this part of the country we did not have the clergy and having certain sacramental orders and also education requirements and all there were not the people available to come in and therefore, the churches were less structured and had different ways of bestowing Holy Orders and their educational requirements were different why they could move into this area more quickly and establish themselves through their churches.

Joan Beifuss- Is it possible then in the south to make any kind of connection between the Episcopal church and what might be aristocracy or the churches wealth?

Dean Dimmick- Well yes, I think there are many people in the Episcopal church who are poor. And in other countries of the world the Episcopal or the Anglican churches are made up of the poor classes. That in the united states perhaps yes that there is a close connection between the planter class and the Episcopal church.

Joan Beifuss- Well since you have been in Memphis in your times you have served here in churches, were you always a member of the ministerial association?

Dean Dimmick- Yes at some time point active than others, and this time since I have been here this last time I have been more active and again some of those years more active than other years.

Joan Beifuss- Well do a majority of ministers in Memphis belong and are superficially active even if it doesn't go much beyond that?

Dean Dimmick- Well there are two minister's groups in Memphis, one is called the Memphis minister's association which is predominantly white, the other I believe is called the interdenominational ministerial alliance which is predominantly negro even though it goes back and forth the races belonging to both groups. The majority of ministers do not belong and are not active in the Memphis minister's association.

Joan Beifuss- What about the Episcopal clergy in Memphis?

Dean Dimmick- I think it would correct to say that the majority of Episcopal clergy in Memphis do belong to the Memphis minister's association.

Joan Beifuss- Are there any negro Episcopalian clergy?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, we have one at Emmanuel church which is on Cynthia Place.

Joan Beifuss- Would you have any idea about the number of negro church members although I am sure you don't keep any kind of record if they are black or white but is there any kind of a sizeable Episcopal population.

Dean Dimmick- Not a rather large population no and I would suppose again maybe 150 or 200 communicans and maybe 300 Baptized people, I could look these figures up for you if you were interested and could give you the exact information.

Judy Schultz- Now that is the church were reverend Starks is?

Dean Dimmick- No. The reverend Jared Adkins is the priest in charge of Emmanuel Church. The reverend Henry Starks is the minister of St. James AME a Methodist church.

Judy Schultz- (Muffled) interdenominational alliance.

Dean Dimmick- Yes the interdenominational alliance.

Joan Beifuss- Well now is this church here integrated for instance in this area?

Dean Dimmick- Yes we say we are integrated. Years ago I suppose well I know that negros attended, negros have always, people of all races have always been free to attend the cathedral and this is how it ought to be. I laugh when you say are we integrated. We have 1 negro communican so I would say we are a predominantly white congregation.

Judy Schultz- Well that is what Father (muffled) says out of St. Louis he has one negro family and he is always saying don't leave me.

Dean Dimmick- Well we would be open to have more negro communicans or communicans of any rights. I personally feel that it would be using them to go out and seek them to become members of this congregation in order that we can have an integrated congregation.

Joan Beifuss- Well now is your congregation made up of people that primarily live around here or is this people that have moved out and come back in?

Dean Dimmick- Well see like all inner city churches the people who belong to the cathedral used to live in this area. Well many of them have moved out and very few people who are actually communicans of the church live in this area. Now with the apartments and the medical center we receive more and more people from the community who come in and are maybe active for awhile or attend church for awhile. They do not necessarily become communicans because as you know in the medical center and the apartments near by for the most part they either younger people or retired people and they do not live there for a long time.

Joan Beifuss- Now are you, I understand over a the medical complex there about there is a very strong ecumenical movement for chaplaincy going on over there?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, the Episcopal church was part of that, the reverend Robert M. Watson is our kind of missionary to the medical center, to the university and the hospitals and the medical center. Yes, and we are building in cooperation with other denominations a chapel, a religious center. And also in the last year or so an

interdenominational interfaith institute of religion in medicine has been established and it is an ecumenical undertaking.

Joan Beifuss- Now as the Dioceses is set up I may be mistaken did I read in the newspaper before last or sometime that the Episcopal dioceses is going to build low income housing?

Dean Dimmick- We will build in the Whitehaven area yes what we be termed low income housing. Now it is not low income in the sense that a public housing project is low income but it is low income considered to, well when you measure this alongside certain high rise apartments and some of the townhouses and so forth that are being built, yes.

Joan Beifuss- Well then does the dioceses then have a big social action committee?

Dean Dimmick- Yes the Dioceses has a social action committee and then in each area of the like of a church now the geographical for instance we had the Shelby county planning commission which is made up of all the Episcopal churches in the Shelby County and they have in their structure there is what would be called a social; action concern group. And as a matter of fact the housing building to which you are referring is a work of the Shelby county planning commission it is not undertaken by any one particular parish but it is an interparochial undertaking.

Joan Beifuss- In other words then the dioceses is set up structurally to say deal with urban problems and..

Dean Dimmick- Yes, each urban area has a commission or council set up, yes.

Joan Beifuss- OK well I guess we can get back to the urban problem of the sanitation strike. When did you get involved with the sanitation strike or how did you get involved with it, or did you see anything leading up to it, for instance reverend Aldridge refers to the rumors of the riot last summer. He says at that point he became very very concerned.

Dean Dimmick- Well my concern dates back for some time, as a matter of fact, it dates back from so many years that I don't remember. I don't think these things well for most of us I just don't think it is any sudden experience but it is a long time of being in the Navy, being at Berea College, University of North Carolina, being at Yale. I think as we become aware of the issues of our day and in the Memphis ministers association and I think it was about 3 years ago I cant be for sure about this but I think so, I was the Vice President which meant I was the first vice president of the vice president which meant I was in charge of programs and I was very much aware that the situation in Memphis was a very precarious one and I personally felt that before things of a destructive nature took place that we ought to make some effort to be creative. So we planned the programs that year in taking a look at Memphis at our city and at the relationship with the church and our city we spent the entire year haggling speakers to come and to tell us about well politics, healthcare, the educational situation in our city, we had a program form the park commission. We

took up all of these things I say this was at least 3 years ago when we arranged programs when were trying to become informed about our city and when were seeing how the church might be more actively related and creatively related to the problems of our city.

Joan Beifuss- Were you hear in 1960 and 1961 when the fairgrounds when the schools were integrated and the zoo and all that stuff?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.

Joan Beifuss- Was there any response on the part of the churches at that time? What the negro community was attempting?

Dean Dimmick- Not that I can remember no, if by that you mean some effort on the part of the churches to endorse that or the Memphis minister's association, no not as far as I can remember. It may have been discussed but I cannot remember that the church took any action at that time. But the immediate thing about the sanitation dispute, we had these programs like I say about three years ago and I think there is always some results that come out of something like that and you are never sure what they are and if they will begin to have any influence, but the immediate thing about the sanitation dispute. I was called and among one of the group invited over to the Lane Ave. Baptist Church to meet with some predominantly Baptist negro ministers, of the interdenominational ministerial alliance and also from the negro Baptist association, I am not sure what that is called and they asked us to come over and discuss the issues concerning the sanitation dispute and the plight of the families involved in this because even though it had only been going on a short amount of time, some were already in financial difficulty and they were already rumors about what would happen and the tensions were beginning to grow and the negro ministers wanted our support and our understanding so they invited us to this meeting.

Joan Beifuss- Now would this be in the first week of the strike?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think it was in about the first week of the strike.

Joan Beifuss- And that was a meeting hosted by the negro...

Dean Dimmick- Negro ministers at Lane Ave. Baptist Church.

Joan Beifuss- Did they invite the entire ministerial association?

Dean Dimmick- No they invited a small group of the white ministers who had expressed some concern and perhaps well they felt that we would be friendly and we were concerned about the situation.

Joan Beifuss- Do you recall which of the white ministers went to that meeting?

Dean Dimmick- I know I was there and Dar. Roy Williams from First Methodist Church, I believe that Dr. Aldridge was there from Idlewild Presbyterian, Rabbi Wax

was invited and I believe it was on a Friday and he was involved in his own services and could not attend. I am trying to think of other ministers.

Joan Beifuss- Did they invite any of the negro?

Dean Dimmick- Oh yes there were other negro ministers there ministers who I suppose who had not been involved in the committee of calling the committee together.

Judy Schultz- Who was the chairman at that meeting do you recall?

Dean Dimmick- I believe the ministers name is the reverend Mr. Williams who is the pastor of the Lane Ave. Baptist church. I may be mistaken about his name but I believe that is the right name.

Joan Beifuss- Did they invite any of the white Baptist ministers?

Dean Dimmick- I believe that the reverend Brooks Ramsey was there, if so, he was the as far as I know the negro, I mean the only Baptist minister there. Dr. Paul Tudor Jones may have been there. (Muffled) Father Joseph, Father Gary, Mark Gary. I believe that Dan Cummings from Central Christian Church was invited. I can't think of any others right now. I believe that list of those people is available perhaps. And I believe that Frank McRay the district superintendant from Methodist church was there.

Joan Beifuss- So the purpose really was tot talk to you and explain what was happening in the sanitation strike?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.

Joan Beifuss- To ask your support.

Judy Schultz- Prior to going to that meeting you were already generally familiar with what was happening?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, I was and I think a group of ministers like Frank McRay and Monsieur Leopard and Father Joseph and Rabbi Wax, we had talked privately about this and as we would meet and going about our work and seeing it each other yes, we had expressed great concern about this and course at that time no one had any idea it would last so long. I think perhaps in the beginning of the strike we were all hopeful that it could be settled rather quickly.

Judy Schultz- So was there any results from this meeting?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, when we at Lane Ave. decided that the white ministers now talking about who had been invited there we decide that we ought to do something about this. In other words a feeling that maybe we ought to just form a committee out of the people that were in attendance at that meeting and make it of course an inter-racial and inter-denominational meeting. On the other hand it was felt that



why form another group when we already had a Memphis ministers association and an interdenominational ministerial alliance, why not work through the groups that were already established. And I think I suggested this it was my feeling that there was no need to organize a new group but rather to work within the groups we had and so we contacted rabbi Wax and a group of about 5 of us, Rabbi Wax and Father Joseph and I believe Monsieur Leopard, myself and I think Dr. William Aldridge, and then the reverend James Jordan the pastor of the First Baptist Church on Beale. Out of this people, all of these people I believe belong to the Memphis minister's association, and we determined that a small group of people determined that we ought to do something about this. Also the reverend Frank McRay the district superintendant of the Methodist church was involved in this and that we ought to take action and so a small committee of I believe 5 people we made appointments with the mayor and his associates and appointments with the labor unions Mr. Champa and later Mr. Worth and his associates and they decided that they would not accept an invitation that is the mayor and his associates would not accept invitation from the labor union and the labor union would not accept an invitation from the mayor and his associates but that both groups would accept an invitation from the minister's association to a meeting at which we might be the moderators and they would come and talk and present their own ideas and side so for questions involved in the sanitation dispute. And so we were able to have the initial meetings with the mayor and his associates and the labor representatives and their associates and determined that they would accept our invitation so an invitation was sent to them to meet at St. Mary's cathedral on a Sunday evening at 7:00. This was a meeting in which they all came. It was an open meeting in that newspaper reporters, television, radio, photographers, news media, these people were all present in that sense it was an open meeting. But it was not open to the public. We felt that this was going to be a good idea but it was a public meeting and it was all recorded, so they came on Sunday evening at 7:00 and we stayed here until 5:00 Monday morning talking about the sanitation dispute.

Joan Beifuss- Were the people that who were there from the ministerial association been those 5 people on that small committee.

Dean Dimmick- The people from the minister's association, the best I can remember Rabbi Wax, Dr. (muffled) Jones, Father Joseph Ecklecamp of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the reverend Frank McRay, the reverend James Jordan and Myself. The best I can remember on this long all night session.

Joan Beifuss- Then the mayor came to several of his associates and to Mr. Champa and so forth.

Dean Dimmick- Yes...Yes.

Judy Schultz- Were any of the city councilmen present?

Dean Dimmick- The mayor came and with him were the two attorneys Mr. Gianatii and Mr. Hallie and the council member was Mr. Todd. The mayor during the evening

called in other people , the budget director, I call him the budget Director I am not sure that is his exact title and I unfortunately cannot remember his name at the time. Mr. Champa and Mr. Epps and well Mr. Jones who is the president of the sanitation union was there. A very Mr. Lucie, these were all union representatives and they had I think as I remember 4 or 5 member of their union and men who worked in the sanitation department.

Joan Beifuss- Oh they had plain sanitation workers with them also?

Dean Dimmick- Yes they came and they were always present in the meetings we had, there would be 4 or 5 or 6 of the men who actually worked.

Joan Beifuss- Do you know were these always the same men, or...

Dean Dimmick- No they were not always the same men, some of the same men came to more than one session. We met at the cathedral and when we first started the sessions the representatives were not speaking to each other. That is Mr. Champa, and Mr. Lobe did not speak to each other but they spoke to the moderator, Rabbi Wax was the moderator a the beginning, and the rabbi would have to repeat what was said and so forth and this went on for a long time.

Judy Schultz- Can you give us a picture of this were they sitting around a table or?

Dean Dimmick- We had the tables in a U shape and the moderators, Rabbi Wax and Father Joseph and the other people I mentioned myself, we were sitting at the head table and the mayor and his associates on the left hand side and the labor union and the people they represented on the right hand side, I can remember this really well.

Judy Schultz- The mayor was on the left and the union was on the right.

Dean Dimmick- Then Mr. Worth came from Washington during the evening he arrived almost about midnight if I remember, and they, he was brought in from the airport and he joined our sessions and then he became you might say the spokesperson for the labor representatives, took Mr. Champa's place. After a while we felt some progress had been made because they began to speak to each other instead of through us. We felt that some progress was being made and that the mayor and Mr. Worth at least came to know each other in a friendly setting and I think came to have some real respect for each other, although they had very strong differences that they did begin to treat each other as individuals and began it seemed to me maybe to hear what the other person was really saying.

Joan Beifuss- This would not have been possible when Mr. Champa was speaking for the union?

Dean Dimmick- Well you know their last session in which the mayor and Mr. Champa, they said they would never talk again. So this was what we determined that at least the ministers could create a friendly open atmosphere where this time we were not taking any sort of sides, we were trying to create an atmosphere where the

se two people are representatives of people could come and talk this over and we felt this was a contribution. The session here was at the cathedral and as I said it was all night and a very wearing session.

Joan Beifuss- I was going to say did you serve midnight snacks or?

Dean Dimmick- Yes we finally had to send out for lots of doughnuts, we made coffee and all sorts of things but I thought that actually a spirit of goodwill began to come into the negotiations, not that any agreements were reached but at least they came to know each other and present their side in the equation.

Joan Beifuss- Well at that point what seemed to be the major bones of contention in that early meeting I know later other things happened later on.

Dean Dimmick- Well I think that I actually that the strike was settled on basically the same, it could have been settled 15 minutes after negotiations started. Had they been willing, had the people been willing to settle the strike. I would say the terms on which the strike was settled did not vary a great deal from what was presented within the first hour at least of our session at that evening. The recognition of the union and the dues check off and of course the matter of what the pay increase will be. These were the three questions that took the longest time, these were the three questions they were discussing towards the time of settlement. Some of the other questions they had about 9 points and they repeated these 9 points about 900 times each side would repeat. And it all seemed at that time very childish almost, but perhaps this was all necessary and I would say they agreed to negotiate all of these points except union recognition and dues check off and even agreed to negotiate the thing of wages but could not agree on the amount of course. And so the strike went on all these weeks and actually these are the things that within one hour after we were underway I would say and even before we started meeting these were the hang-ups we might say.

Joan Beifuss- Did you have a chance to talk to Mr. Champa?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.

Joan Beifuss- Did you feel, I remember the implication that was early that Mr. Champa was coming into a community of which he knew nothing when you came in was an entirely wrong approach to both mayor Lobe and the city, did you get that impression from Champa?

Dean Dimmick- I think Mr. Champa is a man trained to deal with the people who are in the union and trained to represent them to the city or to the company or the people who may be involved. Personally I didn't feel all this antagonism that some people felt coming from and returning to Mr. Champa, I didn't have that, I did not feel that he was antagonistic to me and I felt no antagonism to him. I think he is a man trained to do a job and that he does not have the skill and training and background that man like Mr. Worth has. I would suppose that Mr. Champa does not have the educational background that Mr. Worth had.

Joan Beifuss- I just sort of wondered if you thought Champa might have sort of misjudged his adversary?

Dean Dimmick- I think Mr. Champa shall we say lost his cool but I don't believe this was all Mr. Champa's fault I think there were certain things done by other people who perhaps did something to provoke this. I can understand this we are dealing with two very strong minded factions and people and very strong people in the representatives. Mayor Lobe was a very strong man and I doubt Mayor Lobe was able to keep his cool, I don't think he was throughout the entire time, and Mr. Champa is a very strong man and I think part of this as a matter of fact maybe they really rather enjoyed presenting their views in a very positive, aggressive sort of a manner. I think it was unfortunate that Mr. Champa lost his cool shall we say again in dealing with the mayor. I think it was in a sense unfortunate that the news media picked these matters up and I think it was played up out of all proportion up in court. It is not always possible when you are talking about matters in which you view very intensely to remain cool and calm and collected and I think it is really rather human to think that men in the heat of battle might raise their voice, but I do believe that Mr. Champa got the picture of which the public got of him about this many people might have been led to believe this was his whole nature and character and I don't believe that to be true.

Joan Beifuss- Was the whole session from 7 till 5 in the morning covered the entire time by news people?

Dean Dimmick- Yes they were there the entire time and they took pictures, not the entire time but whenever they wanted to they did. They recorded whatever they wanted to record and the entire meeting was recorded in this way. It is a matter of record.

Joan Beifuss- Was that, that the news media be present that meeting was that a requirement of say Lobe or the union?

Dean Dimmick- I know Mr. Lobe made this request or he would not meet without the news media. I am not certain whether the union, I do not believe they made this request but apparently they went along with it or we wouldn't have had it.

Joan Beifuss- Well by 5:00 in the morning when everyone staggered out..

Dean Dimmick- Oh we didn't stagger out we had coffee to drink.

Judy Schultz- Did they express, did the mayor and the union officials express appreciation to the ministers for having set up this meeting?

Dean Dimmick- Yes they both thanked us and throughout all of our relationship with the mayor and the union representatives, they both thanked us for doing this and at one point in the proceedings not on this evening but on another time, we offered to withdraw because we felt that we were making no progress, or no progress was being made so we offered to withdraw and they requested that we

continue, they said this was a fine public service and they expressed appreciation for this. As a matter of fact when we got through we set another time for a meeting and we did this until such time as the injunction was brought out by the city against the union representatives and then we were told that is the group of ministers that had been moderating these sessions, we were told that it would no longer be possible that this would be contempt in court of the negotiations to continue while an injunction was out against the union representatives.

Joan Beifuss- You were told this by the city's legal advisors?

Dean Dimmick- By the city's will by their representatives yes.

Joan Beifuss- Well how many meetings were held then?

Dean Dimmick- Well we met at the first Methodist church on Monday.

Joan Beifuss- Is Frank McRay at first Methodist church?

Dean Dimmick- No the reverend Frank McRay is a district superintendent in the Methodist church the reverend Dr. Roy Williams is the pastor of the first Methodist church and he was very active in this and I should like to add his name to those that were present, because we moved from the cathedral, to first Methodist church, we went there, we thought as a matter of convenience because at 2:00 the people could walk from the city hall and various places in town to first Methodist church without having to get into automobiles and stuff. Of course each church, one of the reasons that we had to move it was because the programs had been planned for various churches and they couldn't necessarily stop their programs but we could move our place of meeting. Also we thought that this added an ecumenical flavor and influence and impact to it. It certainly belongs just to the Episcopalians and neither did it belong just to the Memphis ministers association but this was a matter of vital concern to all of us. So we had another session at the first Methodist church from well we started meeting at 2:00 and about 4:00 that day Rabbi Wax left and I became the moderator of the sessions, he had to go out of town. We met that time until about 5:30 and then we met again that evening about 10:, 10:30.

Joan Beifuss- Was that at first Methodist church?

Dean Dimmick- At first Methodist church and then during these sessions I became the moderator. Then we met on the next 2 or 3 days or longer at St. Peter's Roman Catholic church where father Mark Gary was very helpful to us. And again these being downtown churches, well being conveniently located and we had and I cannot remember the total number of sessions we had or hours, but we continued and what we said we would be, when both parties could meet, we were not going to meet with just one party, but we wanted both parties to be present and we would always set the time of the next meeting and we continued meeting until the injunction made it impossible for us I suppose to meet.

Joan Beifuss- Now did the mayor and Mr. Worth were they always present for these meetings or did they send representatives?

Dean Dimmick- No the mayor and Mr. Worth were present at these meetings and you know I think it was the meeting we had on Wednesday, the afternoon session we had on Wednesday the mayor extended to Mr. Worth an invitation to go tot eh brotherhood banquet that was sponsored by the round table of national conference of Christians and Jews, and Mr. Worth accepted the mayor's invitation and went to the brotherhood dinner. We felt that was some progress that at leas they had come to accept each other as men.

Joan Beifuss- Did you also go to that dinner?

Dean Dimmick- No I was unable to go to the dinner I had a previous engagement and was not able to go to the meeting. There was one day and maybe it was the day following that when the union representatives were unable to come to the meeting and the mayor and his associates arrived the meetings in the afternoons usually started at 2:00 and the mayor and his associates arrived and the union leaders called us and told us that they will be unable to attend. That was the day I believe that they were at the committee that the city council was having an open hearing and it became a sort of volatile open hearing but the labor representatives were unable to come but they did call us.

Joan Beifuss- But they did not call you until after the mayor had already arrived.

Dean Dimmick- No I suppose they called us before the mayor arrived but there was no way, the timing was so close there was no way for us to notify the mayor that they would be unable to attend. So we adjourned that meeting, because our purpose was to create this atmosphere for both parties.

Joan Beifuss- In this type of thing where the minister association is hosting such an event, for instance do you always start the meeting with a prayer or do you try to set any kind of..

Dean Dimmick- Yes we always opened these sessions with prayer and the different ministers would have the prayers at the beginning.

Joan Beifuss- So then these meetings stopped not because the meetings themselves had broken down but because of the injunction the court injunction?

Dean Dimmick- Yes we were perfectly willing to go forward and have these sessions although we felt no great progress would be made in the reaching of agreement shall we say but never the less we felt if the two parties were talking together that there was some hope of reaching an agreement, and I did think it did help finally to create the atmosphere where they could come to some agreement. Also I think that it had the contribution to make that at least something was being done, because here the city of more than a half million, 600,00, 750,00 people all concerned about this. And what if nothing have been done, at least something was being done and

this reporting was being made to the public. So I think it was reassuring to the community that efforts were being made to settle the strike and that both sides having honest and equal opportunity to present views. Also I think that during this time certain trust relationships were built among the ministers and among the churches that made it possible after the breakdown of these sessions, for the ministers to continue to be in communication together they trusted each other, they felt that they, the ministers and the churches were concerned about what was going on.

Joan Beifuss- Are you talking about white and black ministers?

Dean Dimmick- Yes white and black ministers.

Joan Beifuss- Can you name and names of people you felt you could trust (muffled) with white and black community?

Dean Dimmick- Yes well I think first of all that the ministers who invited us to the meeting at lane avenue Baptist church we responded to their requests so this I think helped to assure them of our concern. Then I think the interdenominational ministerial alliance then and the reverend Henry Starks and the reverend James Jordan at the Beale St. First Baptist church, we had some conversation with the reverend James Lawson at the Centenary Methodist church. We also had some conversation with the reverend Ezekiel Bell at the Parkway Presbyterian Church. So and we had at this time also some conversations with reverend Dr. Ralph Jackson who is with the minimum salary Memphis church.

Joan Beifuss- Do you yourself know reverend Malcolm Blackburn.

Dean Dimmick- Yes I have met Mr. Blackburn.

Joan Beifuss- Was he a member of the ministers association? Was there any kind of relationship?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think that he is a member of the minister's association and yes there were people in communication with Mr. Blackburn. He is a white minister at the Methodist church.

Judy Schultz- Well during this time and the fact that there were some 6 or 7 of you acting as hosts, did you have any meetings of the ministerial association and talk to the rest of the membership and talk about how more ministers might be involved in some attempt to reconcile these differences.

Dean Dimmick- During this time of course there was at least one and maybe two regular meetings of the minister's association and out of these regular meetings came the request that we have special meetings and we have a joint meeting with the interdenominational ministerial alliance. Unfortunately this joint meeting was delayed for some time.

Joan Beifuss- Now well is that fairly early in the strike? Is that like still in February when the initial move was made to try and get together?

Dean Dimmick- I would think that this was later, that the proposal was made, although it was made on two different occasion and first proposal of it may have been made of it in February. The records of the Memphis ministers association would reflect this. It was brought up again and finally it was acted upon, there were certain delays. I was not on the committee to work out the joint meeting and I cannot speak about he details, why the delay existed. And also of course we met in the group the ministers who met, who are those you would say are host to this meeting, we met from time to time and tried to include other ministers in my group and of course we had a great deal or many conversations shall we say, among ourselves about the situation and we visited with other ministers and finally as you know there were ministers who visited with members of the city council.

Judy Schultz- Excuse me just a minute let me try and get this straight chronologically. Had the talks that ministers association was mediating or hosting or whatever had they broken down? Had they stopped by the time that they mace was used on Main St. in that march?

Joan Beifuss- That was March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Judy Schultz- Not March 28<sup>th</sup> but February, (muffled).

Dean Dimmick- I...I am very sorry I cannot answer that, I am not avoiding or evading answering it but because I cannot remember.

Judy Schultz- That's alright we have it written down I was just trying to place it myself right now.

Dean Dimmick- I would be very happy to answer it if I had you know the dates in mind but I am sorry I don't have that information.

Joan Beifuss- Ok then when these talks between the mayor and the union that the ministers were hosting stopped what was the next, was there any course of action taken by the ministers?

Dean Dimmick- Yes. By this time we had at least one or maybe two regular meetings and we had several proposals made such as, a joint meeting with the ministerial alliance, so a resolution, a group of people drew up a resolution and proposed that this be presented but it was felt that this would not be the most helpful thing to do at that time. So I would say that the next action that a group of ministers took was to go to individual members of the city council and try to persuade them to look at the issues and act because we felt that action was being delayed and the entire situation was becoming a dangerous one, so I would say chronologically after the conversations broke down or we were no longer able to have those conversations, that the next thing we did was to go to members of the city council.



Joan Beifuss- Did you go to all members of city council?

Dean Dimmick- I think we did not go to all member of the city council. I think that the public record, shall we say, was such that well always we were working under the pressure of time and working that while you started out to do something that the ground you were standing on was constantly shifting beneath you. We didn't always have time to do everything that we wanted to do and we had sometimes to move quickly. Also it was very difficult at times to get in touch with various people, but as best as we could we went to those members of the city council that we thought would give a hearing to us.

Judy Schultz- Did you go on any of those?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.

Judy Schultz- To whom did you go?

Dean Dimmick- I talked with Mr. Downing Pryor. Mr., Pryor received us very graciously.

Joan Beifuss- Did you go by yourself or were these committees?

Dean Dimmick- They were usually three members went together and I talked, we tried to choose the people carefully and we did not ask these people to make any commitment to us, we thought this would be unfair to them. We did not ask them to say to us that they would do this and so but we did try to present to them the urgency of the matter and that we felt that it was time to settle the strike and we did. This was, I would say the purpose of our visit was to persuade them to act.

Judy Schultz- I was just going to ask if you and the people, whom else did you say went to see Mr. Pryor?

Dean Dimmick- Rabbi Wax, and I believe father Joseph.

Judy Schultz- That do you feel that it helped Mr. Pryor to come to some kind of conclusion or at least see what he needed to do in order to set up, or did some of the other ministers feel in talking to the other council members that they had helped?

Dean Dimmick- This is a very hard thing to evaluate because as I said we had no commitment from them, I would like to think that anytime that an appeal is made from reasonable people to a reasonable man, that this would have some influence, I would like to think that an personally I think the fact hat the ministers and people form other professions and by this time businessmen were going to these various people presenting shall we say the urgency of the matter that yes, I can help with the deed but certainly this has some influence.

Judy Schultz- The business men who were also seeing members of the council, are you talking about guys like John Fisher?

Dean Dimmick- Now exactly, I do not know, I cannot say.

Judy Schultz- I mean the ministers did not confer with the business people?

Dean Dimmick- Well there was some conversation back and forth always but as to whether or not Mr. Fisher went to see anyone or not I don't know, I cannot say. I have reason to believe yes, that business people, men were in communication with members of city council but I did not know any of the details about this.

Judy Schultz- I was just wondering if some kind of pressure was being put on the council at that point by people like (muffled) top echelon business people.

Dean Dimmick- I am sorry I would be unable to answer that I have reason to believe that yes the top leaders in our business world in Memphis had by this time become very concerned about the matter and that they were pleading for some kind of settlement of the strike.

Judy Schultz- Was any kind of committee sent from the ministers to see Mr. Lobe himself or Mr. Worth himself?

Dean Dimmick- Various member of our group talked with Mr. Lobe and Mr. Worth from time to time. At this particular time I think if you are talking about the visitation to the members of council and all, no at that particular time we did not ask any certain group of people to go and talk with mayor Lobe or with Mr. Worth, but we had talked with these people from time to time.

Judy Schultz- Did these small committees that were going to the council members, did you ever get back in a general meeting to compare what kind of results you were getting?

Dean Dimmick- Not in a notational way, this was shall we say really basically unstructured and it almost had to be. I like to think that at least it made some communications possible, that people did know there were people in our community here that were deeply distressed and concerned about the matter.

Judy Schultz- Now at this point as I understand the ministers were really not taking sides they were not urging a dues check off, were you staying out of the issues and just saying settle, or try to settle without saying what is the right way to settle?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think when we first started, when we first invited them we invited them and we did our very best in good faith to make it an open fair honest above board, everything was out and we didn't, we took no sides about the matter. We did not propose that we knew how to settle the strike, but we knew that the strike would not be settled if the major parties in it did not talk together and we also felt that for the sake of our community that some action ought to be taken to bring these two people together.

Judy Schultz- Do you remember what Dick Moon, or reverend Moon started marching in the garbage strike?

Dean Dimmick- Generally speaking I do yes,.

Judy Schultz- Did you have any kind of reaction to that? The only reason I ask was because at that time it seemed he was so terribly much alone and that it seemed there was no support for what he was doing for his fellow ministers?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, do you mean did I have some personal reaction to that or the group?

Judy Schultz- Or did you or did the group?

Dean Dimmick- I think that I was certainly perfectly willing for Mr. Moon to do this. We never took any sort of official poll about this and therefore I do not want to say that something of an official nature was done about it no. I think that well there was some people that thought Mr. Moon should not have done that.

Joan Beifuss- Oh yes regardless of whether it was right thing or not..

Dean Dimmick- And there were many other people that thanked god that at least one white man could be seen in the midst of this great difficulty. I think that there were people that saw their roles in different ways. Some ministers as I am sure there were many other people thought they could work behind the scenes, well they could accomplish more good let's say behind the scenes and dealing shall we say with the power structure of the city that this was their role and that was fine. There were other ministers and surely Mr. Moon was among them who felt that this was his role, was to go out and march with the strikers. There must have been other ministers who saw their role was perhaps maybe to do nothing, because some of them from all public record did nothing about this, but there was no, there was an acceptance on the part of the people I knew of Mr. Moon's role in marching. Now I am sure he was not, that this was not acceptable to many ministers and certainly not to many members of the church.

Joan Beifuss- Now the only thing I would say and I hadn't even thought of this for awhile. But I can remember at the time how terribly alone Dick Moon looked because he really didn't (muffled). I can't recall anyone saying, any fellow minister saying, fine Dick we don't agree with you but we support your right to do this, I can't even recall anyone saying that publicly, that was why I wondered.

Dean Dimmick- Well there was a good many meetings and one of them took place where Mr. Moon is chaplain, the Presbyterian center out at Memphis state. There were many, I went to so many meetings during the time of the sanitation dispute, constantly these various groups wanted to get together and talk about this, I think you are right I cannot think of anyone who praised Mr. Moon for his...

Judy Schultz- For his guts if nothing else.

Dean Dimmick- I think that there were many of us who appreciated Mr. Moon's efforts and although maybe we did not see that as our role, I think there were many of us that were grateful that there was at least one white man and one white minister who put his feet where his words were.

Joan Beifuss- I just wondered if anyone told him to do this?

Dean Dimmick- I am not sure.

Judy Schultz- I would like to ask you something, during this time as you say Dick Moon begins to take an active part in the marching, it would seem obvious to various groups around town and various denominations that possibly some of their ministers might be in sympathy and might wish to participate in this and some denominations obviously like the Episcopal church and the Roman Catholic church would be more closely guided by the administrators. Talking with the bishop, did Bishop Ben Gillis ever comment in any way about what he felt the clergy should or should not do, or could or could not do.

Dean Dimmick- Well when I think about that Mr. Moon was alone, I think that when I invited the conversations to begin at the cathedral I was very much alone because all of our bishops were out of the city and Bishop Andross was even out of the state and I could not get in touch with him. Our bishop Warden was out of town and I could not reach our chapter board and those are the lay leaders of our congregation. So I had on my own in a sense to decide this was a fitting and right thing to do for the church, for a place of worship. After all I think the church is certainly ought to be a house of reconciliation and if it is not that then I really do not know what our business is. That this would be a proper thing to do and so I extended this invitation. Bishop Andross was out of town for some time about this and a few days before Bishop Gates returned I reported to him what I had done and he supported me in this.

Joan Beifuss- I am a little confused, how many Episcopal bishops are there?

Dean Dimmick- We have three.

Joan Beifuss- Three right here?

Dean Dimmick- No we have one in Knoxville, Bishop Sanders is in Knoxville and two here in Memphis, Bishop Gates the (muffled) bishop and Bishop Andross who is the chief Bishop of our Dioceses.

Joan Beifuss- And the bishop in Knoxville he is a kind of..

Dean Dimmick- He is a bishop (muffled). And so I could not confer with Bishop Andross for maybe 2 or 3 weeks during the first part of this I could not. When he came back I did talk with him and he was supportive of me and the stand that I had taken. And as you know as time went on Bishop Andross and Bishop Durrick and Bishop Durrick being the Roman Catholic bishop, and Bishop Finger the Methodist

bishop, I believe I am right about the two men, who issued a joint statement asking for an end to the strike.

Joan Beifuss- Then in March, in the middle of March then ministerial committees where then seeing members of the council. Did Baxton Bryant, in relations commission, was he working at the ministerial association at all?

Dean Dimmick- I think he worked directly with the Memphis minister association, he of course is not a member of the local association. I think he attended some meetings and that perhaps ministers conferred with him privately. I do not think he took any official action because of course he is not a member of the local ministers association.

Joan Beifuss- Were there attempts made to hold large public meetings as were finally held at St. Louis church, I know there were two there in March middle of March.

Dean Dimmick- Well of course there were large public meetings going on often constantly at Clayborne Temple among the negro people, and so we should say that the negro churches, no among the white churches there were no large public meetings going on at that time. Now I think a good many ministers addressed themselves to these issues in the pulpit from time to time and we as you know there were at least, well they sent Louis and the other churches I am not sure. Dialogue groups of an unofficial nature, where people met people of a like mind and a common concern. Got together in homes and churches, also there was a meeting sponsored at Southwestern Adult Education Center. Some of these meetings you are talking about we had hoped to have them but violence took place and the curfew came on and we had though in terms of having several meetings and had made some arrangements along those lines and they had to be cancelled because.

Joan Beifuss- Those were large public meetings?

Dean Dimmick- Yes large public meetings.

Joan Beifuss- Like at Southwestern?

Dean Dimmick- Like at the Southwestern Adult Education Center, yes,.

Joan Beifuss- Was that the minister's association that was sort of planning these?

Dean Dimmick- I would say one of the people, one of the groups were cooperating in this yes.

Joan Beifuss- Did you yourself ever go down to Mason Temple or Clayborne temple for those meetings.

Dean Dimmick- No I felt that was not a felt of my robe or that would not be the greatest contribution I could have made. I may or may be mistaken about that, very difficult to know. I did see many of the ministers who did attend those meetings and

I did talk during that time with many of the negro ministers. I did have more than one conversation with the Reverend James Lawson during the weeks of the sanitation.

Joan Beifuss- Did you ever go to the union hall?

Dean Dimmick- No I never went to the union hall and I never went to the city council meetings.

Joan Beifuss- In other words you felt your major contribution would be to keep communications going and if you took sides this would cut any value you had in that area?

Dean Dimmick- Yes. I thought that if for instance I went to the union hall or to Mason temple, or Clayborne temple, that I should also go to the city council and if I went to the city council I should have felt that I should that I should have gone to the other places and frankly there wasn't enough time and I considered I would say, I considered that my major part in it was to be one of the links of communication and it would be so that at least a small group of us could go to any part of the city and they would like to hear us. I would like to think that this was, you know, a worthwhile contribution.

Judy Schultz- Did it seem to you that communications were bring down all around your (muffled)?

Dean Dimmick- Well both things I think communications from one group to another seemed to be breaking down and maybe a real distrust building up. On the other hand in the midst of this a tremendous amount of communication really began for the first time.

Judy Schultz- Wit the ministers primarily?

Dean Dimmick- Well not just the ministers I think negro and white professional business people, negro and white church members. I think that for the first time many people began talking with each other in a very honest way and in knowing that something had to be done. Yes I think that we always, that communications, it was a precarious situation and I think it still is but I also think in the midst of all of the pain and anguish that there also grew up and still growing up. We have yet to seize hold of this and to be as creative about it as we ought to be. But a great promise really of building the sort of city of good abode that we talked about.

Judy Schultz- Let me try to pin you back chronologically, you felt this was also happening in March?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.

Judy Schultz- There were white and negro business leaders to meet together in March?

Dean Dimmick- I think that is right, yes, small groups. Of course you know they later had meetings at the first national bank sponsored by I think the chamber of commerce. I do not know that this took place in March, I can't remember the dates.

Judy Schultz- Before, what I was trying to pin point was before Dr. King's assassination or before, because I know after Dr. King was assassinated there were.

Dean Dimmick- I would say that at least there were small groups meeting before Dr. King's assassination, yes.

Joan Beifuss- Did you know Dr. King, had you ever met Dr. King personally.

Dean Dimmick- No I am very sorry to say I never met Dr. King.

Joan Beifuss- When you found out that Dr. King was coming to Memphis, or when he came and spoke and said he was going to come back and lead a march, what was your reaction tot hat?

Dean Dimmick- Well it was one of great concern. I thought Dr. King had the right to come back to Memphis and lead this march. I thought Dr. King had the right to do this and I thought the city officials and also his own people in planning the march had the responsibility to make this as safe as possible. I must say in all honestly I had great concern that it might end in some disaster but not necessarily the assassination of Dr. King but some sort of violence because I knew that the events were very tense and I was not at all certain that proper precautions would be taken because I don't that really anyone was wise enough to know exactly what to do.

Joan Beifuss- Well the day that Dr. King did leave the march, were you in town that day?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I was in town.

Joan Beifuss- Did you know what was happening soon after it happened?

Dean Dimmick- Oh yes and I was not in the vicinity of the violence, but I knew very shortly that this had taken place.

Joan Beifuss- Did you feel then that any kind of mediation was still possible?

Dean Dimmick- I thought not only possible but even more urgent than it had ever been before and that it was long past the time when we or any of our elected representatives or the representatives of the union ought to refuse to negotiate.

Judy Schultz- Well did the ministerial association or any of you concerned make some renewed attempt to you know point out the urgency of settling this strike?

Dean Dimmick- Yes I think again there were people who made efforts to communicate this to our leaders and I am now talking about our politically elected officials and it was the day before, well earlier in the week or the week preceding I should say, plans were made for the meeting with the interdenominational

ministerial alliance the joint meeting. We met again at the cathedral and discussed that and there was some resistance to his idea of meeting with them.

Joan Beifuss- Could I ask why there was resistance?

Dean Dimmick- Well I think that, well I think that there are just some people that feel the church should not be involved in this matter, that ministers shouldn't be involved in this matter and I think there are ministers who have a very conservative orientation and outlook and they just didn't see that this ought to take place. There were also some very concerned people and very forward looking people who felt this was really not accomplish any good and therefore we shouldn't do this. But the day before Dr. King's assassination we did have a joint meeting over at the Mississippi Blvd. Christian church where I believe where Elder Blair Hunt is the minister.

Joan Beifuss- Was there a good attendance on both groups?

Dean Dimmick- Pretty good attendance I think. There was no, the church was certainly not filled to overflowing as it very well might have been had all the people been there. Yes, there was a representative group present, often as the time approached and issues had to be voted on all of these meetings I think for about 10 or 12 weeks I spent 40 or 50 hours in addition to my own regular work in these meetings because we were always meeting with some group or individual or someone we thought could tell us something and could help us that we might again keep the communications open. So I would say that 30, 40, 50 hours every week for about 12 weeks of my time were spent in this way. Well sometimes the , well always the meetings would last longer than you anticipated. Also we know this that sometimes when we got ready to vote on certain issues there were those present that absented themselves, they left the meeting before the time to vote. For what reason I am sure some of them had very good reasons, others of them perhaps did not wish to vote on the matter and so they left the meeting. You would sometimes start out with a pretty good crowd and when you got ready to vote there were not so many people there. But we did vote prior to Dr. King's assassination to go to march to the city hall and to present a resolution which had been jointly adopted by both associations to the mayor and through the mayor to the council asking that the matters of dues check off and union recognition be dealt with and the strike be settled.

Joan Beifuss- Now was that resolution actually voted on in the meeting the day before Dr. King was killed?

Dean Dimmick- It was voted on by the interdenominational ministerial association that day. And they approved it.

Joan Beifuss- The day before?

Dean Dimmick- Yes.



Joan Beifuss- And they brought it to the joint meeting?

Dean Dimmick- Let me say now, the resolution was presented and I think that we then were on the next day to meet here at the cathedral again and the resolution would be adopted at that time by members of both associations that cared to attend, so let me back up to correct myself to say the motion was adopted after Dr. King was assassinated by both groups here at the cathedral, they met in the parish hall. We had a memorial service in the cathedral for Dr. King.

Joan Beifuss- We just will have to get to that memorial service, but I am still a little bit confused, the day before Dr. King was killed which would be Wednesday, then the negro and white ministers associations met jointly?

Dean Dimmick- That is right.

Joan Beifuss- And at that time it was voted on, a resolution was voted on?

Dean Dimmick- It was voted that we would have representatives from both ministerial associations to word a resolution which would be adopted or which would be voted on at the cathedral and then we would proceed from the cathedral to the mayor's office.

Judy Schultz- Who was appointed to that group toward the..

Dean Dimmick- To word the resolution yes, the reverend Dr. William Aldridge of Idlewild Presbyterian church, the reverend Robert M. Watson the Episcopal chaplain to the medical center, the reverend Henry Starks from the interdenominational ministerial alliance, those are the three that I remember, there were perhaps others, but those were the ones I can remember. Anyway it was a committee of both groups.

Joan Beifuss- Was there any attempt on the part of the negro ministers to pressure, well not pressure, but to urge the ministerial association to participate in Dr. King's upcoming march?

Dean Dimmick- No I do not remember any...

Joan Beifuss- Or had they asked for the participation of the white ministers?

Dean Dimmick- Yes they had asked for the participation of white ministers in the marches, yes.

Joan Beifuss- But with Dr. King's was coming up I was speaking specifically.

Dean Dimmick- I don't know that should we say any additional pressure , the invitation was extended and it was presented as being an urgent matter.

Joan Beifuss- Sorry I choose my words badly pressure is rather (muffled). Now maybe you can fill us in on one point. Father Greenspun mentioned at the Wednesday afternoon meeting both groups had been held and he mentioned a

meeting the next morning, Thursday morning which would have been the morning of the day King was killed that afternoon of white and negro ministers that he attended. We were not clear whether that was (muffled).

Dean Dimmick- Well...yes and as I remember this and it is very difficult, if I had known exactly the information which you wanted I would have written all this down, because I want to be accurate about it. Perhaps I may have been mistaken in say that maybe the evening that Dr. King was assassinated that it was that morning that we met at the Mississippi Blvd. Church and it was the day before that we had met at the cathedral. That would have been on a Wednesday I think, yes. Maybe my chronology is a little mixed up here and I think this is accurate as I remember it.

Joan Beifuss- I just (muffled) what church he was at.

Dean Dimmick- He has been very active and helpful in this and he is at St. Patrick's roman catholic church. Yes we had the meeting as I remember it on the afternoon a Wednesday. And then we had the joint meeting on a Thursday. Well actually, yes then it was on Friday that we voted, adopted the resolution and went tot the mayor's office.

Joan Beifuss- Now how did you hear that Dr. King had been shot.

Dean Dimmick- Yes, I was on my way to see a family and when I walked in the door , I had barely gotten in and the neighbor next door came rushing in and we knew that something of a very drastic nature had happened and he said Dr. King has just been shot and of course at that time they did not know he was dead. So we immediately turned on the radio and televisions and I stayed just for a few minutes to have this confirmed and I left and I left from there to go over to Dr. Aldridge's house because I knew that Dr. Aldridge was going and I think to see Robert Watson and also Dr. Carl Walters from Southwestern was also helping to word the resolution and they were going out to meet the representatives from the interdenominational ministerial alliance, so of course I was very grieved and very shocked to hear about this and felt that it was a very urgent matter. I wanted to talk to someone about this and so I went immediately over to Dr. Aldridge's house and I got there before he left and again we turned on the television trying to get some report and while we were there they said Dr. King was dead. And then I was supposed to meet with another group of people that night about the sanitation matter we were trying to get some laypeople involved about doing something about this. I already had this other meeting set up and I was not a part of the committee drawing up the resolution so Dr. Aldridge left to meet with the representatives of interdenominational ministerial alliance. I heard it immediately after it happened or shortly there after and was in the, when I say were involved in the sanitation dispute that evening of course.

Joan Beifuss- Then did you go home?

Dean Dimmick- I went out to the other meeting and of course to say that it certainly, well our feelings had vastly changed from what they might have been.

Joan Beifuss- Where was this meeting?

Dean Dimmick- It was in a private home. I do not even remember this time exactly the people who were there but we didn't stay too long and I went home and tried to call a friend of mine, a very long standing, the reverend Will Campbell, Will B. Campbell in Nashville. I think mostly I went home to weep and to pray because by this time it was almost impossible to get out on the telephone and there was no reason, I felt there was nothing I could do by going to any particular place and well we were being asked, everyone was being asked to stay in so I tried to do that. The next meeting the next day we had the meeting here at the cathedral as planned.

Joan Beifuss- Could you tell us a little bit about the memorial service held that morning for Dr. King?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, that was at 10:00 on Friday morning and we had several participated in the service, I participated in it and the Bishop Gates and the reverend Jared Atkins who is a negro priest in our church, and the reverend James Lawson. It was basically the pre-service for the burial of the dead with certain change that we would make for his occasion. I would say that there were perhaps 300 people that met in the cathedral. They did not, so there was no way of having any public notice about this very much except the release that had already gone out that we were to meet at the cathedral but it was of not at course that time scheduled as a memorial service, so I was very surprised by the amount of people that came, of course most of them were ministers who came to the meeting but there were a good many people who were not ministers who came because of their concern and so we had a service and we had hymns and the service of basically scripture and prayer.

Joan Beifuss- Is that set scripture?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, the one change that we made in it the reverend Lawson did read from the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah, the other scriptures are basically yes set scriptures and the prayers we did make certain changes in them that would make it fitting for a memorial service. We did have it in the cathedral and at the end of the service Bishop Yates gave his benediction and blessing, bishop Andross was then out of town came back in town while the meeting, the memorial service was under way and he came into the cathedral for the service. There was people of course of both races and of all denominations were present for the memorial service and many of the people were moved and were in tears. And certainly all of us were crying inside ourselves.

Joan Beifuss- Did you talk to reverend Lawson that morning?

Dean Dimmick- Yes, reverend James Lawson and I walked in the procession together to lead...(Tape End)