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This is the side 4 of the second taping with Frank Holloman on August 14, 1973.

David Yellin: Okay, on the other side you were commenting, unless you finished on what was happening in Memphis about race relations. I think your statement was a complete one.

Frank Holloman: I think it was.

David Yellin: I would like you to respond almost instantly if you could to something, and perhaps you might be one to make a response to this. There have been some people that we have talked to, both inside and outside of Memphis, who have said that the assassination of Dr. King could not have happened in many cities, and it did happen in Memphis, and Memphis was one of the cities in which it could have happened. What is your response to that?

Frank Holloman: Ridiculous on the very face of it. I have been in police work for 35 years. There is no way to protect an individual from assassination in my opinion, unless you put him into a bulletproof bubble and keep him there the rest of his life. There is no way. I think it has been proven by the assassination of our presidents, by Senator Kennedy and others, that although the Secret Service will have as many as 1000 people trying to protect the president of the United States, and it is impossible to do so. Whoever made a statement of that kind was emotionally motivated, in my opinion, to make it, and are not basing it on facts or with knowledge of the difficulties that you experience in this particular profession of police work. So, I would dub it as a very unthoughtful, or a very ignorant statement that someone would say that you can absolutely protect anybody any place, and I think Dr. King -- as a matter of fact, I am of the opinion that this individual really who assassinated Dr. King didn't really expect to assassinate him in Memphis. I think it was just happenstance that this was the opportunity that he had, and I think he could have had the same opportunity in any other city in the United States, Washington D.C., or any other city in the world and it would have happened whenever the situation arose that would have been appropriate. And so I give no credence whatsoever to this statement which you made.

David Yellin: For the record, I didn't make that statement. I am only being an objective reporter without a twitch of the eyebrow. But I think...

Frank Holloman: I realize that.

David Yellin: Just another step, so perhaps we could get this straight, it was not directed essentially at police work, or the fact that there would be, I think that it was done in the context of the climate within Memphis itself was conducive to this kind of thing. Perhaps your answer is the same thing, but I ...

Frank Holloman: It's the same thing. I don't see where the climate was. I am of the

plausible opinion that this assassinator was seeking publicity and recognition for himself, and I think that Memphis never entered his mind as being the time or place. I think that if Dr. King had been involved in a similar situation in any other city in the country, and this individual knew where he was going to be, then I think he would have assassinated him there, wherever he would have gotten the recognition, the publicity, the celebrity, "celebrity" status that he was going to get as a result of it, and I don't think that the climate in Memphis, frankly I don't see how that even plays a part in it -- the climate in Memphis. I think it could have been done in Detroit or Chicago. I don't think the climate of this city entered into the mind of this individual who came here armed with a gun for the purpose of killing Dr. King.

David Yellin: Yeah. Okay, by -- I think this is a question that aligns itself with what we've been talking about, and that is, and this is absolutely the last one, had you been given the opportunity by Dr. King and his associates to protect him, do you think you might have thwarted this attempt?

Frank Holloman: Yes, definitely I do because then I think that he -- when an individual, and I have been involved in the protection of the Vice President of the United States for instance, when he visited Memphis. When an individual accepts police protection, then he follows the advice and instructions of the police, and I think that if we had had the opportunity to have been in personal contact, personally with Dr. King, that we could have protected him by advising him against overexposure. I think that this whole thing resulted from overexposure, and I think that we -- I won't say definitely that we would have thwarted, no I wouldn't be so presumptuous or egotistical to say that, but I would say that we would have, I believe, cut the odds down considerably if we had had the opportunity to have been in his confidence where we could have advised him, particularly about exposure, and that's what we're talking about. When you're trying to protect a person against assassination, you're trying to cut down the odds of his exposure, and you can't do it absolutely. You can do it only on a percentage basis, and then hope that that percentage is going to work.

David Yellin: So that your response to this is kind of a general overall, there's nothing specific that -- you could not have prevented him going out on the balcony or something (muffled).

Frank Holloman: Right. If we had suggested that he not go out on the balcony, he would have gone out on the balcony, it would have still happened, or vice versa, he could have been killed in some other place. But, the only thing is it's a question of exposure and the control of exposure, and we had no opportunity for that here, whereas possibly, hopefully maybe we could have cut his exposure. But to say that we could have prevented it otherwise, no because I go back to my original statement; I do not believe it is possible to absolutely protect any individual in America against assassination unless you just completely and absolutely restrict his activities to bulletproof, physical protection against a bullet or other instruments of death.

David Yellin: I am going to close with an editorial, labeled editorial comment. The

only way you could have, or anybody could prevent assassination is to get at the source, and where people should not want to kill.

Frank Holloman: True, that I think, and we are not talking about people. And that is a complex subject that I think, even until that time we will have the complexities of people, and what is the answer? Maybe we will slowly but surely get people to thinking in a different attitude about other people, and caring about other people.

David Yellin: And so, of course, when you do that, you would have legislated yourself out of a job.

Frank Holloman: Which was always my philosophy. I always, as a matter of fact I was criticized at times for having certain crime prevention programs, such as our Police Community, or Police Service Centers, that we were getting into an area that we were not. I always advocated to the men and to the department, our job was to work ourselves out of a job, and was to prevent the crime, and not to solve the crime in itself, but to prevent the crime ever occurring in the first place.

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