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Glenn Clark, 1968

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Dr. Glenn Clark- We have over the last 5 years I have been interested in family planning and I have recently developed statistics to show that of the 7,000 women who deliver each year at the John Gaston hospital that some 60% of them have another baby at the John Gaston hospital within the next two years. And that over a two year period of time there is an 80% turnover. In other words some of these women have more than one child within the two years, so that it takes less than 3 years to double the population of children that are born by the poor people at John Gaston hospital. This is produced a situation in these 20 census tracks from which we primarily draw a population.

David Yellin- Excuse me 20 census tracks? Is that a I am not familiar with that.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I will show you on the map, I can get that map before we leave. Actually the poverty area in Memphis is concentrated in a crescent around the John Gaston which starts in South Memphis and goes down to the river and goes out into North Memphis then spreads out into orange mound and the southern part and into hurt village and along Thomas.

David Yellin- You have a map you can give us with that marked out.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yeah.

David Yellin- Fine, and there are 20 tracks in there is that why...

Dr. Glenn Clark- There are 20 tracks and in essence we have two cities here, one of which has a, is made up of 20 census tracks with less than median income of less than I guess it is up to \$3,000 now. And then we have another 20 census tracks in the eastern part of the city which are primarily Caucasian which have one of the highest median incomes, somewhere around \$13,000 a year. But anyhow we have 18,000 minor children who are now drawing a to dependent children and they are the children of 5,000 and something mothers who delivered all or most of their children at John Gaston. The cost to the community of this is over \$8 million a year. Now it so happens that this is not necessarily local tax money but I would like to point out that the net cost to the broad community, of taking care of these children is more than it costs to operate the whole medical center here.

Unknown Female Interviewer- This is their total welfare? Their total cost of living?

David Yellin- That's right it includes everything.

Unknown Female Interviewer- And do you have any idea what the medical costs?

Dr. Glenn Clark- No, I could find out.

David Yellin- But you say it is less than \$8 million?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Oh yeah the budget of the medical center is \$15 million dollars and the collections from other agencies is more than half of that. More than half of the operation of the city of Memphis...

Unknown Female Interviewer- (Muffled)

Dr. Glenn Clark- From insurance, private patient fees, see we have two fairly private wings in which the people pay their own freight. Anyhow the tax payers themselves don't put as much into the operation of the city of Memphis hospitals as it costs to support these children. It is not, this is not the worst part of it. The worst part of it is that even this \$8 million a year does not furnish an income where by these people in the next generation have any chance of getting out of the cultural pattern they are in now. The mother gets \$90 plus \$30 for the first child and a maximum of a \$150, so it must be \$10 for each of the new children. And this is half of what the local welfare department, the state welfare department stays is the minimum standard of living. So that this \$8 million is going to support half of what it would take to educate these children if the families were limited to four. Second thing so that the school dropouts and other things, there is no opportunity in my opinion for these people at the rate in which they are having children to develop a home environment that is conducive to having anything but 2nd and 3rd and 4th generation. And I would like to point out that with this population doubling every three years that in 20 years we will have some 30,000 mothers over 100,000 children and a \$50 million dollar budget for (muffled)...

David Yellin- Dr. Clark, how significantly different is this from other areas in the country?

Dr. Glenn Clark- It is not too different. Because the ADC laws are about the same. Have you read a book called Tally's corner?

David Yellin- No.

Dr. Glenn Clark- This is a sociologic study of a group of young men all of who are negroes who hang out at a store, sundry store that sells beer in Washington.

David Yellin- Tally's corner?

Dr. Glenn Clark- T-a-l-l-y-s. It is done by a young PHD candidate in sociology from one of the colleges, but the big point this makes here is that this society of the poor people whether they are negro or white under ADC becomes primarily a matriarch. The negro male is excluded from an opportunity to take his normal place as his image for the son to grow.

David Yellin- Because that was (muffled) whole point too and he was slapped down by the president's committee and also by negroes.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well...

David Yellin- Am I correct in there.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I don't know...

David Yellin- Well he was at Harvard and...

Dr. Glenn Clark- I have heard his discussions, but the reason I am laughing is because I am not capable, I mean I don't know enough about his report or what the president said to know whether...

David Yellin- Well this is what I recall anyway that he took that same approach and they quickly squelched that they said the main problem is the family structure.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well you see what happens is they have task forces who invade these people's homes at night to be sure there is no father there, and they cut off their ADC if they catch a man trying to live with his family.

David Yellin- I see, so that if the father doesn't live...

Dr. Glenn Clark- The kindest thing economically that a negro man can do if he is trained only as a laborer is to run off and leave his family because they can make more off of ADC than he can make working 8 hours a day.

David Yellin- So this is a perpetuating thing? I mean people say look they have no father?

Dr. Glenn Clark- And it also makes it perfectly normal and reasonable for a young lady that is raised in such a family to become illegitimately pregnant and start a household of her own. And with a perfectly legitimate source of income which is minimal which is ADC. This is bad for the family but it is also bad for the father. If you are a 21 year old young male you can do several things if you live in east Memphis. You can get a book of Byron's poetry and memorize some of it and offer the young lady that you like a cultural treat. You can take her to a moving picture show. You can go to her home which does not have 15 other people trying to use the same living room and sit and watch television and you may be even able to take her for a ride in your automobile, there are a good number of things that a young man can do to impress a girl. There are a good number of things that a young man can do to impress his children such as being a good provider, having the respect of the community in economic, cultural, political and many other ways, but the only thing I can see that is freely available to an uneducated poor man be he white or colored, is either his sexual prowess or his fighting ability. He can say, he is respected by his peers for these two things only and his attractiveness as a partner is primarily based on this. So as far as I can see, one of the biggest social accomplishments in many poor areas is getting into a riot and performing with great efficiency.

David Yellin- Now how do you answer and I am going to try to take the opposite point of view and will probably but why can't he pull himself up by his own boot straps and become like every other man the opportunity in America is there, why can't he come live legitimately take care of his own family and get a good job and so forth, how do you answer this kind of charge?

Dr. Glenn Clark- There are good jobs and good jobs and it has been pointed out that many of the people that participate in riots have good jobs and that some of them had 50, 60, some of them \$200 available. But in Tally's corner it was pointed out that a construction worker might be making \$3, or \$4 an hour but that if he were a negro he would be the last one hired and the first one fired and that even the best of these seasonal occupations are difficult and that they are extremely hard work. I pointed out in Tally's corner something I had never thought of and that is how good a man it takes to get out and make your living putting steel girders up onto a building. They would kill you or me. We couldn't tolerate one of these jobs for two hours at least I am sure I couldn't. And this goes into the fact that there isn't much challenge to most of the jobs that are available for the negro and if he has a little bit of money and he comes by Tally's corner and he is certainly not going to sink in his social position if he decides to get drunk that day instead of go to work on this construction job. The other thing is that the in my opinion, the average poor person and especially the average poor negro has not had the routine education and cultural advantages that are needed to for anybody except the extremely talented to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Now most people who are middle class, comfortable Americans did not pull themselves up by their bootstraps they were born into a middle class society and had all the advantages and either went up a little bit or went down a little bit except for the exceptional people.

David Yellin- Are you also saying too that the guidelines for pulling yourself by your own boot straps are really not known by many of the poor people and we are asking them to go by these guidelines and they really aren't aware of this.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Either that or we are trying to tell them how to do it. I recently had a committee come by and review a federal grant and they are going to give us several hundred thousand dollars a year. But after I had been with these guys 3 or 4 hours and they were merely trying to help me in advising me how to do things I was so mad at all of them I almost told them to take their money.

David Yellin- I am going to use a bad word guidelines didn't I...

Dr. Glenn Clark- And I just wonder if one person or one group of people can give middle class security to another group of people. I think that we are going to have to accept a certain amount of ego flattening from the more militant negroes who want to take things into their own hands and use patience and do not feel that we know all the answers to producing a good society or a good family and if some of them go the wrong way I think even if they make too much noise and disturb us a little bit, that it is going to take some tolerance in letting the negro people have some dignity and self determination even if they don't do what we think is right.

David Yellin- Half of tolerance is now on the other hand in a sense, they have been tolerant for a good many years.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I believe that his is right.

David Yellin- Now I think we can make somewhat, it might appear to be a leap but not perhaps tie in some of the things you said because I gathered from the direction we were going that you do believe that what happened in Memphis in February did not start in February of course it had its roots way back and we traced some of them.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I have one mild disagreement. I don't know what you mean the riot that was related...

David Yellin- Well the riot and the assassination, seem to be..

Dr. Glenn Clark- I don't believe the assassination had anything to do with Memphis, it was apparently not done by a Memphian. It was the only thing of that disturbs me is the attitude of some of the people following the assassination. I heard people say that whoever did it was a martyr and I believe that the roots of our discord have started a long time ago, that they have been far from uprooted, but I believe that the assassination of Martin Luther King was just an ugly incident in man's inhumanity to man throughout our country.

David Yellin- And this is not our intention here to dissect this as such but as you said the roots was an ugly incident. The fact that the reaction to it kind of exemplifies or describes some of the roots at least it is symptomatic of some of the causes we are talking about and in that way it is related, do you agree?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes.

David Yellin- Now did you have any specific experiences around the strike and following some of the difficulties and disorders, can we talk about that?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, I was in the emergency room throughout eh day and most of the evening. I guess it was around March the 30th.

David Yellin- The 28th?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes that's the march.

David Yellin- The mini-riot the disorder.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, and at that time I saw many negros brought in who had been beaten with clubs, and saw some people who had been sprayed with mace. I talked to some of them. I did not even see the disorder on television so I don not know what the provocation was offered to police. (Tape break) And I saw the, so that I really don't know whether there was excessive force used or not.

David Yellin- What were some of the reactions you had from some of the people brought in, when you talked with them what did you talk about?

Dr. Glenn Clark- I talked to a hysterical lady whose son was killed Larry Payne.

David Yellin- You talked to his mother?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes. She was most, just completely hysterical and was completely of the opinion that her son was not resisting arrest. There was some element of sympathy expressed on the part of the negro employees here. This young man was employed at our hospital and had been a...

David Yellin- Larry Payne was?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, model employee and as far as I know (muffled)

David Yellin- What was he doing here?

Dr. Glenn Clark- He was messenger.

David Yellin- Messenger in what, any particular place?

Dr. Glenn Clark- At the Bold Hospital which is a plush private hospital.

David Yellin- How long had he been working here?

Dr. Glenn Clark- About I would guess a year I am not sure. I tried to know every one of the employees, but I have gotten to where I don't know them as well.

David Yellin- Had he been working here at the time that period?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, and of course there was also another element which might be predictable they felt this was a bad boy and they knew he was going to come in here shot if he kept misbehaving so I don't know which segment of these people were the most accurate. I was impressed during this period of time with the comments of people who came in to see what was going on, it was quite an exciting area, if you can call such a tragic thing exciting. But...

David Yellin- What kind of people now?

Unknown Female Interviewer- Reporters....

Dr. Glenn Clark- There were a few reporters but a lot of people just came to see if there was going to be a conflict between the Caucasian and negro people here at the hospital and of course this has happened in other areas.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Total strangers?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes.

Unknown Female Interviewer- People off the street?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Is the emergency room public enough or open enough that they are allowed to mill without business.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well eventually we had the place blocked off by police escort but when it first started of course it was just like any other day and you could just drive your automobile up and park it and walk up to the emergency room.

David Yellin- I am just curious who would come in?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well there was one employee of the university who is apparently mildly insane but he was shouting the mayor ought to be assassinated and we ought to burn this place down and...

David Yellin- Was he white?

Dr. Glenn Clark- No he was negro.

David Yellin- Negro I see.

Dr. Glenn Clark- He was a post office employee who was stationed at the university.

David Yellin- Do you recall his name or is there any way...

Dr. Glenn Clark- I would rather not, he...

David Yellin- I am going to ask you these questions you understand...

Dr. Glenn Clark- I do not recall his name.

David Yellin- No I mean I hope you don't mind me asking them. I am thinking of a writer who would want to get all details just in a sense or when you look at it in history that the name of the person who saw this at the corner would be that much more historically accurate but it is certainly at your discretion to say it. I am trying to explain why I am asking this.

Dr. Glenn Clark- There was a great deal of cooperation between the leadership for the negro community and the white community at this time. Dr. Reid who was a well qualified negro surgeon who is the honor faculty and he came out and "helped keep things cool." And Mr. Horton who was the negro director of hospitals did a great deal to cut down conflict. I was interested in the discussions from another point of view because it brought out something I had never thought of and that was that in general the white people were distressed at the negroes who had been rioting and felt that anything that happened to them was justified. Whereas the negroes felt there was a great deal of talk of police brutality. At first I thought well this is perfectly obvious you have the white people lining up against the negroes, but I don't believe that this was it. I believe there was a cultural difference between the attitude of middle class people and poor people regarding property. That the man who has property or who owns a little store or who has a vested (muffled) position in the community is willing to defend his property with his life and is willing to tolerate the idea that force, intensive force and even shooting people who are destroying or stealing property is a legitimate function of the police. Since this time I have talked to a lot of people and there is a very close relationship to the middle class Anglo

Saxon between his life and his property, and his wife and his home. Any of these are defensible, any man has a right to go get a pistol and shoot anybody that tries to take any of these things away from him. At least this is considered to be a basic right. Whereas the person who has no property or no family relationship, who is not the father of the family do not consider these things that important and he just can't understand why one group of people would kill and hurt each other over this thing for this. He feels he has been deprived of, he looks upon property is not something that is basically and morally the property of someone else, but the fact that he has been deprived of this property he feels give him a certain moment of justification. I have noticed a different attitude in south Americans who come up here from Columbia Argentina brazil. We tend to feel that when the United States has property taken away from them the telephone companies in Cuba when Castro took the telephone company away, the American Telegraph company this was felt by most south Americans and these I point out are graduate students college graduates. Fairly representative cross section of the population. These people failed to understand why the American people are upset about this. They feel that the property belongs to the people and that the poor man has been deprived of his property rather than have a chance to earn it. But I felt quite a bit of this type of conflict over whether or not a tremendous amount of force was justified in handling these people. This has polarized now into two groups you hear on the radio and on the television all the time. One is law and order on one side and police brutality on the other side, and I think there is just as much emotion involved in both of thee. The other thing that amused me although this is tremendously tragic was the idea of most of the white people that this was not something, the negros all felt that the mayor had caused this, the mayor, the mayor, the mayor, one man., White people to a man said anything look at what those dirty communist are doing, that didn't necessarily meant the negros I feel that the negros are participating in a communist collusion to destroy property. These two points of view have lined up and law and order versus police brutality.

David Yellin- Well then you have answered in a way a question I wanted to know if you felt that the middle class property owner or at least affiliate to property ownership is aware that is what his protest is or has he translated it into indeed a racial issue which is much more respectable as far as he is concerned or is it?

Dr. Glenn Clark- I think that he, I think the racial issue and that I think that the average citizen of Memphis has a fear of loss of his stature and property and he has a fear of the rise of a group of people because of the relative loss of stature. I believe that my greatest fear is that this whole thing is that these people realizing that giving more and more power to law enforcement deprives them of more and more liberty. That if it is alright to search a negro's home you are going to get your won home searched to see if there is a negro there. My greatest fear about this whole thing is not what is going to happen to the negros, I think they are going to be alright. I think there is a possibility that we all might wind up living in a police state unless we can solve this problem of law and order versus police brutality and people

more and more are being willing to accept a great deal of force in the protection of property.

David Yellin- Because this is an immediate need that they see.

Dr. Glenn Clark- They are even willing to accept it as a preventive need. Now I saw this happen in Denver to, I was working there in the police station and I had more direct contact but the average citizen in Denver didn't rise up in arms when it was known all over town that the Denver police would occasionally round up Mexican and Spanish American boys and bring them down to the police station and beat them just to keep them in line. I don't believe that this goes on in Memphis at all but it could happen.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Back to the emergency room on March 28th, were there many police in attendance at that time?

Dr. Glenn Clark- We have 4 policemen on regular duty and there were I guess that we had as many as 25 police there attending.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Did you talk with many of them?

Dr. Glenn Clark- No not that day, but I have had some mild discord with Mr. Holloman for passing a rule that mace could not be used within the hospital confines. This was a medical problem and they in general...

David Yellin- You mean you had the rule passed that mace could not be used....

Dr. Glenn Clark- Within the hospital complex.

David Yellin- And that is within your jurisdiction you can superseded Mr. Holloman, even if he felt it was for the safety and welfare of the people, he could not use mace?

Unknown Female Interviewer- Does this have anything to do with your own medical opinion of the chemical mace.

Dr. Glenn Clark- That is all it had to do.

Unknown Female Interviewer- And what is that.

Dr. Glenn Clark- My medical opinion is there is some discussion about whether or not mace is the safest law enforcement agent but using it in an area where people are short of breath and have heart trouble and are laying on stretchers in shock it does cut off temporary ability to breathe, it is like choking somebody. It is obvious that a sick person can not tolerate this no matter what a well person might do.

David Yellin- Can we also get back to Mrs. Payne, can I ask your opinion, would she be one that we might speak with relating her experience, you say she was hysterical at the time?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes and I have not talked to her since, I am sure she would be delighted to talk to you. She and some 30 other people testified at human rights.

David Yellin- Yes did you testify there?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes I did.

David Yellin- Larry Payne was brought in to John Gaston?

Dr. Glenn Clark- He was brought in dead.

David Yellin- He was dead on arrival. So any information you have on that incident that we can talk about even up to his we will get the testimony I understand in relation.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I don't know what happened, other than that he was shot in the abdomen and for this reason I feel that those that testified he was coming towards the policemen were correct rather than those who stated he had his back to them and had his arms in the air.

David Yellin- You mean the trajectory of the bullet, what is your reason for thinking that?

Dr. Glenn Clark- abdomen is covered with blood. Actually I don't know anything about the, these are matters in what the facts are available.

David Yellin- Ok fine. Where there any other we understand there were 4 or so others shot that day were any others brought in or wounded in some way.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes there were only minor wounds on that particular day and I don't believe that it was established that all of them were produced by the police. No the young man shot on Danny Thomas Blvd. by the grocer. Was he brought in here?

Dr. Glenn Clark- No, I don't believe so. Most of the injuries were not from conflict with the police they were from broken glass, falling timbers, falling down in the crowd and of course that morning there had been fights and injuries between negroes up at the high school. The other thing that I think the thing that concerned me most about race relations in a derogatory way occurred after reverend King was assassinated and when the national guard was here and it was during this period of time that it became necessary to higher busses and taxis because of reports that there are so many of the reports that there must have been some truth that the negro nurses were molested by national guardsmen, were searched and pinched and I don't believe that any of them were assaulted or raped but they were subjected at least according to their testimony to a great deal of indignity. There was also a big problem with the negro males who would try to bring their wives back and forth to work at the hospital being stopped and searched and in some cases molested by police and national guardsmen. I feel that it was in this area that most of the animosity was generated rather than the actual riot itself. I got the opinion both from talking to friends who were negroes and hearing testimony from hospital

employees requesting help that the curfew was not formally enforced, that the it was not fairly enforced and that negroes were not allowed to engage in their usually activities in the same way that people in my neighborhood were treated. This is mostly hearsay.

David Yellin- There was no medical evidence that you saw or heard?

Dr. Glenn Clark- This was merely in my relationship of trying to see to it that our hospital staff got back and forth.

David Yellin- And you had to hire taxis and busses in order that they were assured, even though they would wear uniforms.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, that's right.

David Yellin- Now that white policeman who was reported to have been beaten on the 28th, was he brought here.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes there was one policeman who was injured with a cut on his scalp. There was a great deal of feeling on the part of the police that they were unprotected and they of course were scared too and I don't want to sit here and be passing judgment on the police. Many of them of course fine people and they frankly, feared for their lives and felt that it was unfair for them to be out facing an unruly crowd without having overwhelming force to stop these actions. So there are two sides.

David Yellin- Sure that is why I wondered about some of the policemen was it from thrown glass, or how did this scalp come.

Dr. Glenn Clark- He was hit with a stick or club and I saw a white bus driver who was stabbed and his bus was turned over.

David Yellin- That same day.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes.

David Yellin- Would their names be available to us.

Dr. Glenn Clark- They are in the paper.

David Yellin- Yes, right, ok.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Now I...to whom is this information available?

David Yellin- You mean how we would want to sue it?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Now but I mean what, will there be any legal implications but let me because maybe I haven't made myself clear in other words when we get the record for history the oral history record and turn it over so that 100 years from now there are...

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well I would like to make my position very clear I mean I am not concerned about the legality except that it is not legal for me to give the names and the extent of injury of specific people. I would, I have photographed copies of the medical reports on everybody that was brought in here and I would be willing to cut the names and addresses off and give you this stack of 100 medical reports that describe the injuries of the people and what they said happened.

David Yellin- Well can you do that?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well they are out in my car in fact..

David Yellin- Well, I think we understand each other.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I am not allowed to give except under legal permission.

David Yellin- How do you get legal permission or how do we get legal permission?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well, you theoretically have to have the permission of each patient to have his medical record examined.

David Yellin- Of course now I ask a real cofta question, how do we get each patients permission if we don't have their name. No I am not trying to be smart alecy.

Dr. Glenn Clark- I think you can get the information if I take the head sheets off of each of these and most of them have very little information on them but there are some very graphic descriptions.

David Yellin- Just the nature of them would be splendid.

Dr. Glenn Clark- There are several things such as there were several young men who were injured in the morning rioting and were patched up and were back in the afternoon. And I must say that the repeaters showed excellent evidence of preventive being if the police caught someone who had been brought to the emergency room once, still wanted to fight well then they really got them when they came back.

Unknown Female Interviewer- The second round was much more brutal. I don't want to stop your discussion about his but back to the problem about birth control again, this population explosion. Would you talk a little about this what is happening at John Gaston and what you feel are the real attitudes of the individuals are. The attitude of some black militants that this is a white man's trick, that this in an essence is genocide.

Dr. Glenn Clark- These are male militants, and I know one or two people negro ladies that feel this. But the overwhelming percentage of negro women have no desire to have a child every year. Now there are some interesting cultural events on the other side of the fence here, whether he is married or not a negro male wants to be pointed to as the father of children. It is known that his girlfriend has not been pregnant for 3 or 4 years, he considers this highly insulting to his vanity. I think that

one reason that this Tally's corner is such an effective book is that it goes into some of the reasons for this. A man not want to have dependence but he doesn't want anyone thinking he is sterile or not fertile. Then they in general most of the attitude of the community depends on what the course of the impotence is and we went to not leaders but people that we knew who were negroes and lived in depressed areas and the committee that got this thing going and really sold it to the negro community was made up of several ministers. And just interested people who lived in communities. One of the periods of my life when I felt like going into some other profession however I had my picture in the paper being called an abortionist in the Baltimore Sun.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Where was this program, this was not in Memphis?

Dr. Glenn Clark- It was in Memphis.

Unknown Female Interviewer- When?

Dr. Glenn Clark- This was about 5 years ago.

David Yellin- Oh really, because when you came here there was no planned parenthood.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Is it your opinion that there is at the present how would you evaluate the effectiveness of the present birth control in the city?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Number one it is accepted by the community I think as being a good thing, criticism has died down. The company Ortho that gave us, oh I guess a couple hundred thousand dollars of birth control pills to get the thing started. Got into real bad trouble because they are a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson and all of the catholic hospitals in this region boycotted Johnson and Johnson and of course there big source of income is baby powder and plastic adhesive tape and they took a tremendous economic wallop. Of course they have also forgiven me now because the income from birth control pills is now several times that of all the baby powder and tape put together. But General Johnson who is the head of this company is a catholic, and he was most distressed.

David Yellin- Sorry help yourself on the cigarette bin. Anymore that you want to talk about.

Unknown Female Interviewer- Yeah well back to the present program, what is being done for these women?

Dr. Glenn Clark- We have about 7,000 women who are taking the pills. But of course this program will be phased out and we hope to sell the city government on the idea that it would be economical to dispense these pills through the John Gaston hospital through the outpatient department. This, we are not able to do now primarily because of the technical difficulty, the therapeutics committee which is charged with the economic responsibility for the use of our drugs and treatments. This is not

really drug therapy but it is social therapy. And that it is not the legitimate purpose of the hospital pharmacy to be purchasing birth control pills when they need the money for penicillin and other things. The planned parenthood league has been re-activated.

David Yellin- We were quite amazed when we came here 4 years ago, there wasn't one, and of course we had a personal confrontation with it. We did have a housekeeper and she was great and she had 14 children of whom were living and she left those 10 children to help take care of our 4 children and her daughter married at `16 or 17 in the space of 4 years had 4 children. Of course planned parenthood when it was operating in Memphis which I guess was 15 to 10 years ago was operated with a diaphragm clinic. This may work alright in a middle class culture but a diaphragm is not really a good answer to a poor colored ladies sex problem. And then the catholic clergy took a very positive stand and the...

David Yellin- Catholic clergy in Memphis?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes. And it got into the newspapers and a lot of this was the newspapers fault they come out and get an interview with me and go show it to some catholic official and say now what do you think of this you SOB.

David Yellin- Dr. Clark I would like to ask your comment on some thing to clarify. The business of birth control is so vital, I personally think that it is one of the certain hearts of the matter, but I am trying to recall our primary mission in the time allotted and we would like to talk to some other time further about this if possible. So I am going to take the prerogative if I may and sort of switch back. We did have some information and this is why we so appreciate anything you can do to tell us about. On March 23rd there came a directive that from then on there were to be no free patients at John Gaston that from now on there was to be a charge This was then issued as a directive.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes.

David Yellin- Why was it never in the paper, the fact that you mentioned the papers brings this to mind? What was the story around that?

Dr. Glenn Clark- The directive came out from Mr. Horton who is a negro, who feels that free medical care is undignified and that people don't want anything that they don't have to pay for. The fee was a nominal charge I believe it was a dollar. He felt that everybody who really needed a dollar could get it. But the directive created such a storm in the white medical board that he wouldn't do it.

David Yellin- Oh, you mean it was never issued or never been enforced?

Dr. Glenn Clark- It has never been enforced. Now everybody is charged a dollar but it is charge to them if they can't pay. Of course the medical staff that I mentioned before I always in conflict with the administration and what the doctors do is just

declare everybody that walks in the door an emergency and then they can't do anything about it.

David Yellin- That is interesting because you say the medical staff because I suspect there is somebody involved with this, whose name may be Dr. Clark I am not sure?

Dr. Glenn Clark- No doctors when they get old are conservative and punitive and some of the m are mercenary. The average young intern or medical student is full of or possessed of saving people's lives and giving them good medical care and he is not making his living doing this anyhow, so that you get a group of young doctors, there are some that are rock grip conservative and some that mistreat the patients, even hit them but thee are mostly the exception, The average medical student is a liberal person with a still, fired with the tremendous responsibility and challenge he is going to have in meeting these responsibilities and challenges. It is unfortunate that perhaps the acquisition of property and a big income have something to do with the fact that old doctors are the most conservative people in the world.

David Yellin- So it was the staff here e the young people who objected to this charge?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well it was primarily the university faculty, now there is another group of doctors that tend to be much, when you think of a doctor you usually think organized medicine of medical society but a university faculty of medicine or for instance a the university of Mississippi the faculty of the medical school, about 90% of them marched and got in the kneel ins and were much in the favor of...of course down there they live in a fairly separate community. They are a very cosmopolitan people they are from all over the world so that there is a lot of difference between an academic faculty of medicine and people who have been born and raised in a given community and have gone to medical school and are making their living practicing medicine. Well one of our faculty, Jason Starr is the one who has been writing all the letters to the editor complaining about the commercial appeal's editorials.

David Yellin- Yes.

Dr. Glenn Clark- He says that even by publishing these things they are contributing to fascism even though they don't necessarily agree with his editorial.

Dr. Glenn Clark- What is the status now or the future possibilities of this institution?

Dr. Glenn Clark- The hospital?

David Yellin- Yeah.

Dr. Glenn Clark- The hospital has, is at a cross roads and I am much concerned about it and again I would not like to be quoted to certain authorities, in essence in the last 10 years the John Gaston hospital has been kept out of politics. In fact the whole medical staff resigned is more than 10 years ago and walked out until Mr. Crump who was the political here at this time agreed to keep his hands off of hospital

personnel policies and professional policies and admissions and discharges and during this period of time a board of trustees was developed and they had the commission to form a government in which the board of trustees met with the commissioner and made their proposals and he functioned as a liaison man and set the budget from a political point of view, I mean from a political science point of view probably the commission form of government in which they commissioned in both sets of policies and runs for election and as an administrative function is not right. But from a practical point of view the hospital operated pretty well with the power allying with the board of trustees who are non paid, and many of them wealthy businessmen., They were hard headed but they would listen. When they put the new charter in the mayor was made the executive officer and as such has almost autonomy through his delegated director as far as the functioning.

David Yellin- The other was more direct you could get at the commissioner and knew he was responsible and you did not re elect him if he weren't doing a good job in your area.

Dr. Glenn Clark- Well this isn't the way it operated. The medical staff never had any contact with the commissioner. They reported to the board of trustees. The board of trustees took evidence and they listened both to the administration and to the medical staff and in general relied heavily on these two groups on determining policy. The commissioner and they had good ones most of the time when I was here although Mr. Irwin who was lame duck commissioner he was not affected, he wasn't interested. The thing was that the power and decision making authority was through the board that was, had only this interest. Now the board proposed a budget they didn't set it. Until this year the budget was always cut but it was cut by the board of trustees and not the people downtown. The board of trustees would get everybody in there and make him defend what he wanted to spend but the decisions was making locally and it was left up to us to do a good job of stewardship with the city's funds. But now the board of trustees have become figureheads. The mayor engages in direct negotiation, also there are three steps beyond the administration in getting the decision I have to go to Mr. Horton and then to Mr. Moore who is the executive administrative assistant and then the mayor has the final power of decision over everything that is done. They, we have had some conflict. The mayor incidentally is also a friend of mine, and this makes it difficult I mean he and I drink a beer together and have lunch occasionally. He doesn't have in my opinion the concept of what the community's responsibility for medical care of people who can't afford it. He says that we should do as well as can afford, I say we can't afford not to have good medical care no matter what it takes. So he considered me a wild eyed liberal. He often points out areas of inefficiencies of operation in the hospital and of course there are. And this is increasing development of conflict and unionism has produced some good but it also has created a situation in which in the operating room knowing the mayor has passed an order that you can't replace anybody the employees do just like they (muffled) if they have some money and they are supposed to be at work at 11:00 and they don't show up, and they know that they

can be fired but they know if they are fired that it takes an act of Congress to replace them and thus...

David Yellin- So you are caught in a bind. Now what do you think about the hospital? Do you think it is in trouble?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yes, I believe that we are at a cross roads in which the old concept of a city hospital is going out the window. I don't believe that in 10 years there will be such thing as a charity patient the only difference between patients will be in what organization or authority picks up the 3rd party payments for the care.

David Yellin- Somebody will pay it for the patients?

Dr. Glenn Clark- Yeah I believe that when this time comes and people have free choice of where they go to the hospital that the city hospital is going to have to compete with everybody else (muffled) and if we are to survive as a teaching institution and as a portion of the medical communities care that we have to go forward with a capitals improvement program and we have to develop the personnel. We have to become an attractive place for nurses to work, we have to get the university to participate in automation and the development of pharmacies and perhaps administration but above all nursing and social services. Our present regiment, regime I have forgotten which is the correct word is throttling the hospital in many ways. One of them is our social work is going down and down and down, both in numbers and in quality. I am constantly faced with having to go down to the business office and get them back off of some poor person who has come here and gotten a hernia fixed and got a bill for \$150 or \$200 dollars and he couldn't pay it and the account was turned over to a collection agency which in my idea is sordid and then he gets his wages garnished and he can get a job after all this and everybody points to the fact that we are...(Tape End)