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Eddie Jenkins, Memphis State University BSA, 1969

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SS178.mp3

Joan Beifuss- Ok this is tape 4 Eddie Jenkins and his wife Martha. This is still January the 87th 1969 at the committee offices. When we left off in the riot on Beale Street. (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- Me too.

Joan Beifuss- if that was your reaction.

Eddie Jenkins- well yeah this was the first reaction, these ignorant...

Joan Beifuss- Damn fools.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah you know what I mean high school kids, over emotional people who don't really know anything who don't really think about anything that they are doing, or what they are causing but they are going out and they (muffled) and damaged Dr. King's image in a sense because before then he had (muffled) And here they come, here in Memphis why did it have to be Memphis all of a sudden they got a bunch of guys here too bullheaded to identify with a man who has been recognized universally. (Muffled) for what he has done and for what he is trying to do. And here is the logic here, you got these thugs that come along and just blew the whole thing. On second thought after I thought about it for awhile and I watched these tapes of it. I think it was good, I think it was even good for Dr. King. In that this was one time that he could not, this I think if these men would have done him (muffled) not only to communicate but to include the militant element in any project of any force and I think this is to me this was further I would say coalitions of, yes coalitions of black people, this is just another stage in the organization of black people. This further organized the black people.

Joan Beifuss- Oh course the next day then the SCLC did start with...

Eddie Jenkins- Yes, immediately after that they went in to try to (muffled) and deal with the invaders simply because the invaders were the product of a high school situation around which the thing erupted I do believe. Because you know you got, I think mostly the adults have a tendency to, they realize, adults realize it or aware of it (muffled). They have a tendency in recognizing their dilemma to conduct themselves accordingly. In other words they know that (muffled) and I am not going to reflect the ghetto so readily in this situation. Or what they call, what they say, they call in the ghetto a popular reflection of the ghetto by a ghetto dweller is being a nigger. I am not going to act a nigger so they don't act niggerish and at the same time the high school kids they just project it everywhere they have a tendency to project it because these are their values and they don't realize their dilemma they are not aware of the functioning of the rest of society on the whole and so this is where their parents come in. So they project it and when you look at them you can tell (muffled) the image all together and the culture form which they come and I think many of them can go (muffled) their value lesson is not necessarily always where it is at. Of course they are ghetto products you can't deny that and this is a product of the

ghetto. So I think the invader group, SCLC really had to recognize the invader group as being a spokesman not only for the black ghetto and for the value of the black ghetto but for the young people in the black ghetto the high school students that they were organized, well I don't know if they were organized but they had a lot of members around Carver and they really you know, let's say (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Is it possible to say that the kids who were really (muffled) who are the most militant are the ones that haven't had any actual contact with any white people?

Eddie Jenkins- To me it is hard to say because many of them...well it depends what kind of contact you mean.

Joan Beifuss- I don't mean the insurance man that sort of thing, are the hardcore kids most of the kids that have been confined to the ghetto and had nothing outside of it.

Eddie Jenkins- Well yes.

Joan Beifuss- I mean can you come out and go to Memphis state and sit around in theatre? Why didn't you look forward to (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Say that again.

Joan Beifuss- Why didn't you (muffled) something out of Beal St.

Eddie Jenkins- Because in the first place, I had two reasons.

Joan Beifuss- I mean it was easy enough I could have done it myself.

Eddie Jenkins- Yes, yes, for one thing even in the ghetto you are taught that basically to steal is wrong. But then if stealing betters your situation you know they say one of the things that they say, don't get punished for stealing you get punished for getting caught. If you never get caught you never get punished which is completely irrational and but at the same time maybe I had a by being in a situation having no contact with white people until I got to an integrated university I don't know I wouldn't necessarily say that I detained certain values but maybe my values were not necessarily, all of them were not necessarily so ghetto fabulous. Maybe I might have had some sort of guilt complex about actually going in and stealing. It is because to me I don't recognize actually putting anything over on the white man by doing so and I think this is what, many of the people because there were people who from Memphis state who attend Memphis state who were looting. There were people that work with white people who maintain some kind of communication with white people who probably looted, but at the same time these people projected and reflected ghetto values and this is what has the upper hand.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah I am not really phrasing the question right except that it is struck me when Sweet Willy (muffled) white audience. It appeared to me that (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Well yes this is true, you see the only contact that white pope have in the black community is it is usually business contact. It is the employer, employee relationship, it is the salesmen customer relationship. The great white god coming into him the poor enslaved dum dums you know. In either one of these cases there is never anything that is casual and equal and even with the customer salesmen relationship, whitey has it and you have to buy from whitey.

Joan Beifuss- Well let me if you can get a bigger view than you get in the ghetto and that term ghetto is (muffled). It is possible that you can become more sophisticated in real life that you can put the shaft to whitey in far better ways that taking stuff from the pawn shop.

Eddie Jenkins- Yes. Yes.

Joan Beifuss- At least more sophisticated.

Eddie Jenkins- Yes because what you do is you acquire a certain amount of whitey's values and they you evaluate them for what they really are. And you recognize that this is why I (muffled) and this is what everybody recognizes. And then you recognize the good of violence such as riots and so on. I mean you recognize the futility of violence toward whitey at the same time and so what you do is you apply it to a situation and try to determine and apply it to a situation of which will be more effective to use more sophisticated means or to resort to violence, which is the best violence in this situation, you know a most sophisticated method in dealing with the situation.

Joan Beifuss- Kind of a quick decision to make when you are standing there on Beal St. and the whole march is going on.

Eddie Jenkins- Well of course when a situation occurs like that all you can do is evaluate afterwards.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah right, did you get caught up in the curfew at all during that weekend?

Eddie Jenkins- No.

Joan Beifuss- Not at all?

Eddie Jenkins- No I was never out really except maybe 10 or 15 minutes after curfew. My old man got caught out once and they asked him where he was going. I fact, they only bothered him once during the curfew and I think he traveled, I think he did a lot of riding around looking. Because I remember the night that Dr. King got killed he and I got in the car and we rode around in the streets they looked like a (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Martha are you still home with the baby during all of this?

Martha- yeah.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- This is about all that I, I could really see it because I wanted to go down to the first march and participate but I was afraid, very much afraid to go down and participate. I wondered, I said well...

Joan Beifuss- Then you did think there likely to be violence.

Eddie Jenkins- Yes. Because you see we knew...

Joan Beifuss- That's funny I didn't (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah we'll see like I said you see if you know the ghetto you are aware of a high school attitude, you remember people in high school their attitudes and so on. And then the first thing that jumped off was the disturbance at Hamilton.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah.

Eddie Jenkins- To me I think they ought to give all the ghetto kids at Hamilton some medals or something. I can't see, I mean here is the situation that affected the whole black community and people in control of the situation are so white oriented, are so brain washed by the situation that they fail to recognize the need for everyone to identify. I think if they had recognized the need to identify, had given the students any way of expressing this, their identification with the strike and so on, you might not have had the disturbance., I can't really give you an example of what they might have really done (muffled) but there might have been some way of identifying with the situation rather than you know actually having to go out and force their way out.

Joan Beifuss- break out.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah top actually break out in other words then you get the pictures like the prison and the educational institution is like a prison . The students are not allowed to express themselves, they could have made signs for the thing and I think this would have given them some sense of involvement.

Joan Beifuss- Well do you think there was a feeling on the part of the COME group that they didn't involve, I mean COME had its youth....

Martha- I think they were having difficulty with the youth group and the adult group identifying and communicating so I think that part of the problem.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah see what you actually had, you had Dr. Millbrooke, not Dr. Millbrooke, Harold Millbrooke, reverend Millbrooke, over the youth group and you had reverend Lawson over the adult group and I think the adult group at this point was acting white , taking on a paternal role.

Joan Beifuss- To the young people?

Eddie Jenkins- For the young people and saying well you got something to say yes, but wait until we say what we have got to say. And you consider what we have got to

say and when we have time we will look at what you have got to say. Instead of realizing as actually being a people who should be very much in this thing and that you should recognize their role and what they think and get together and compromise.

Joan Beifuss- That is kind of interesting isn't because Lawson himself was (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah, yeah, this is the way it evolves and then you got through the power thing where power becomes intoxicating in any situation. Basically in any situation no matter who has the power, power to a certain extent becomes intoxicating and one loses view of the incident and the occurrences and his rise to power. He wants to attain a certain amount of power and I think this is possibly what happened to reverend Lawson. He possibly lost sight of the futility of the (muffled) to actually get into the movement and sort of...

Joan Beifuss- Do you think it was (muffled) so hung up on nonviolence that he was (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- Well, maybe partially so but then I think he, back to the paternalistic thing, he says you know he goes into this same thing the white community does, it is youth. It says we are the elders we have been here the longest and we know. So you listen to us, we tell you. Experience has told us and now we can tell you. And you, and I realize that these are the people who are subjective, it is like the King's subject. The king makes the law and the people are subjected to the laws, the people are the ones who are actually affected by them,. So to me what reverend Lawson failed to recognize was that some of these same people would probably be garbage men in the future. I hope not many of them but some of hem will probably be garbage men of the future and these are the guys who want to take part of the thing, they are the guys who are ultimately going to be affected by it and surely the immediate situation is actually of very little value. You would have to, this is one thing that would have to be proven over time and so we want to get in on the picture now, because we want to get it right now, so we are going to have to do t his again. The only place we can go from here is forward and not recognize oh we are going to do it this way and it to me is that we are going to lead the thing. Of course the money comes from the top so, from the elders usually so basically this is where the power starts to (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Well then you knew that Dr. King was going to come back in and lead a second march, were you planning to be in that second march?

Eddie Jenkins- Yes very much. Very much in fact we planned to be more committed than to the first march. Because we were determined, I think at this point the black community was determined to show him that we respected his leader ship this time. I think it was very much determined and I think t hat even the high school element at this point, even the criminal element would have been ready to come in and to conduct a peaceful march and an uneventful one under the leadership of Dr., King

just to let the white community know. That we were together, that all (muffled) all people of the community were together.

Joan Beifuss- You weren't afraid that the second march would also be broken up.

Eddie Jenkins- No. I thought the second march would have been quite peaceful and much bigger than his first.

Joan Beifuss- Then that Thursday evening where were you when you found out that Dr., King had been shot?

Eddie Jenkins- At work.

Joan Beifuss- How did you find out?

Eddie Jenkins- A customer told me, in fact, it was a customer. He said, for some reason I don't know it was like, an air of solitude sort of....things slowed down and people were saying, something happened and we don't know what it is. I think people felt it immediately people felt it very much and you know we knew something that happened, something that should not have happened happened but what, what. Because another riot broke loose, nobody knew, I think this was felt. People said it was a (muffled) Dr. King is hurt, so the first thing(muffled). I think I said well somebody has thrown a rock, or something. I can almost anything but him really being shot, but if he is shot he is probably not shot bad. This was, this could happen to Dr. King, they wouldn't let it happen to Dr. King why did (muffled) not go out and kill the man. This was my immediate thought. And then somebody say he had gotten shot, and that he had gotten shot I the head. And still I refused to believe it and this was everybody, everybody was saying (muffled) Dr. King is hurt but we accepted the fact that he might have been hurt but not dead. Not fatally wounded.

Joan Beifuss- Did anyone have a radio or anything?

Eddie Jenkins- Well no I don't think so, I don't think we did.

Martha- It wouldn't have done any good because I mean if the black people have had it they would have had it on two stations WDIA or WLOK and WDIA did not get the news until way after he was day, and they were announcing that he was just fatally wounded.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah it was very insistent all of a sudden communications everywhere broke out and I don't know about the white community but (muffled) in the black communities. Many (muffled) in the white community?

Joan Beifuss- Well then did they, did some of them think he was dead in the store?

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah we started hearing he was dead.

Joan Beifuss- And did they close the store or what?

Eddie Jenkins- Oh yes well se then the confirmation came by the fact that you see they maintained some kind of communication with all retail outlets and I work at the Pickpack you see, and being as big as it is they said they knew they were automatically under curfew. They immediately put the city under curfew national guard was supposed to be coming in. And the next thing we knew national guard was already at the door, they were there. They were in the lot before we left.

Joan Beifuss- Before you were leaving they told you officially he was dead?

Eddie Jenkins- Right, they were on the lot and we were closed and then we had this man rushing to get people out because the stores were crowded and many people were leaving home when they found out the curfew was put on the city. Many people were leaving home rushing to the store to get their last minute items for the night you see and we had this great influx of customers and they had (muffled) now and we had to try to get...the store was packed almost and we had to get as many out, we had a menial work force there that night because we didn't expect all this. (Muffled) buying as little as possible.

Martha- (muffled) because the station over here are stations that are not (muffled) and it was quite a shock and I could believe it for some days. And I knowing that he is dead I just couldn't accept the fact that he was dead.

Eddie Jenkins- Well my reaction first is no, no no that means all hell is going to break loose and I want to be there when it does. (Muffled) even if criminal (muffled).

Martha- Everybody knew that there would be some sort of riot or something.

Eddie Jenkins- Some retaliation and everything, then this is the one time that I had the wish to be (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Where did you go?

Eddie Jenkins- Well my father came and picked me up, in fact my whole family came and picked me up I was with my father then. We went home and listened to the radio and then I started trying to get into contact with people. Some of them my friends and some other people. I found out I couldn't use the phone and so we said well I was trying to think were could I got to organize?

Joan Beifuss- Was the phone dead or you couldn't get a dial tone?

Eddie Jenkins- Yes it had no dial tone. You could dial and then nothing. They were like that all over. I started thinking where could I go to get into contact with some people, where might I go and I couldn't figure out anywhere I might go to and start to even organize to rally around the (muffled) because you see we live out of the area, we live in an area, a residential area and there are very few stores in these specific areas. So there was very little, we I guess the whole while of the curfew we saw three cop cars the whole while. The cops were all over the place.

Martha- The first time I saw a cop car was when they came to pick up garbage during the strike, I never saw one before then and during the curfew I didn't see any.

Eddie Jenkins- They came to our street once. One time that I can remember the cops came by one time and I saw him go down, I was standing up in the street and saw him go by the corner once but they were not in the residential area and I guess this is what people, what the whites have moved out and the blacks have moved in and bought their old homes you know. And the people are basically home owners and (muffled) of the community at that point is that they would be more concerned with not destroying their homes so they would not be prone towards violence. Where as the people in the ghetto have nothing to lose. So they (muffled) and I think this is where police was concentrating and at the same time I don't think they were really going in.

Martha- Because they didn't want to get caught in.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah they didn't want to get caught in because in some situations they did get caught in and some almost didn't get out.

Joan Beifuss- They probably waited until they got reinforced by the guard too?

Eddie Jenkins- Well I will tell you what, out at Douglas I don't know how many cop cars they had pinned down up there but I knew one of the policemen that was out there. he was a black guy, he was out there and he said they were shooting kids and he said they couldn't move. They radioed for enforcements and enforcements couldn't get in. Reinforcements couldn't get in. And when they dispersed it into (muffled) But the people that were (muffled) on them were well fortified, they were prepared and this was organized and this is what the retaliation. I think the reaction of all is retaliation. Maybe I thought well they got the phones off we can't get into contact with anybody come. So my old man and I got in the car and rode around, we just rode around a little bit and there was little skirmishes all over, you could hear. (Muffled) You could hear shots sporadic shots, we went over there to south Memphis. Over on Florida street we were right over there.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah (muffled) in fact I laid down in our car, I was afraid almost. The police were riding by and I laid down for two reasons to stay out of the way of the cops and if anybody shot through the window I didn't want to be there. But there was firing, there was gun fire, I guess I sat there about 10 minutes. I could hear rifle fire, pistol fire, and shotgun fire because you can recognize, you can recognize rifle fire from (muffled) so much more powerful than a pistol it is louder you know and the shotgun is you know, the shotgun has a broad sound. I don't know who was firing but somewhere in the area I knew they were firing and running off.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- Well yes I was afraid and I don't guess my father was and of course guardsmen were moving in and we went on back home and we stayed there. And then my second reaction was that when I get back to school this is the time to really run it down, this is the time to really rep and then I was infuriated because they closed schools. Yeah I really dig that going to school.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Well I don't know but I think that this is one time when black students would have been established charter or no charter on this campus and it is for demonstrations is concerned. I think this is one time that the sediment of the white community would have really been welcome and then we really would have known where their hearts really were and this is what I was coming back to university to find where their hearts really were.

Joan Beifuss- Did the black students go march or anything?

Eddie Jenkins- No.

Joan Beifuss- Did you march in the memorial march?

Eddie Jenkins- Yes.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- (Muffled).

Joan Beifuss- (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- Well no for the entire thing in fact, many black students went down and many people in the black student association we, by maintaining some dedication and I didn't really grow up with Harold but I knew Harold while we was in high school. Harold Middlebrooke, so I didn't have any problem and he knew that we were a black student association and we didn't have any problem getting our man, we said we will pass sides to the people.

Joan Beifuss- Can you explain at all why Memphis is relatively quiet after Dr. King was killed in comparison to Chicago, and Washington? What held it down here?

Eddie Jenkins- It is kind of hard to say? I think it would have been as quiet if the little disturbance on Beale Street hadn't occurred before. Of course and I think that people recognized the general signs of attendees on the police force and national guard and so on. I recall an incident where black students, not black students but black people were confronted by the guards which means the guards expected some racist attitudes and the fact that they walked by them in Mississippi or Kentucky, areas that we know, we know that these are racist areas, these are the (muffled) racist or apathetic areas. These people express racist views and the guards (muffled) to these people so we suspect the guards to be racist. We conclude

that they to some extent you will have the racist element in the guard and this is one time that they can really express their sentiments.

Joan Beifuss- You (muffled) any ideas that people (muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- No this is true. I think this was very (muffled) and that the leasers were asking that the people not participate in any sort of violence. I think this is in itself, even for the criminal element the element who would have a tendency to really go out and do something because in the ghetto of course power, physical power is the most realistic power of all. Excuse me. So I think these people feeling that the owed Dr. King, Identifying with King would refrain from going out and over reacting or becoming you know, readily violent. IU think they refrained along these lines to, out of respect for Dr. King and this is not what he would have wanted. And then too then there was the ever prone element of physical force, pure physical force in the black community and people knew that of course they could go out and they could react but the reaction of the cops tot heir actions I think that they knew the cops would overreact.

Joan Beifuss- So it was practically fear?

Eddie Jenkins- Well I don't think a real fear of the police because I think at this point, personally I wasn't concerned about personal safety and I think many people were. For days I don't think many people were. I think I walked around mad for a long time afterwards.

Joan Beifuss- When did you quit being mad?

Eddie Jenkins- Well I don't know, I really don't know I think it sort of wore itself out and turned to work ethics more than being mad. Trying to belly the situation, trying to carry out being devoted to carry out what Dr. King would have liked to have seen and would like to have started carry unto finish up the reasons he was here in the first place and to carry forth that more than anything else.

Joan Beifuss- Who do you think killed him?

Eddie Jenkins- What do you mean? Do you mean what community killed him or?

Joan Beifuss- (Muffled) your own personal opinion?

Eddie Jenkins- It is kind of hard to express. I think it was an organized thing I think many, I think there were people here in Memphis very much involved, possibly people in the chamber of commerce. Because one thing about one view going back one view that I held and I still hold is that the first march the cops never intended for that march to go through. I think that they, that following Brother Lobe's, (muffled) anyway, father Lobe's statement to be fair and fair. I think that he white establishment here in Memphis and the police were and Lobe meant to show Dr, King that he couldn't come in here and do nothing that they had the niggers underhand. And that march was not intended to go forward because somebody at

the front of the march testified that the cops were lined up across the street, and I kept seeing this (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Of what?

Eddie Jenkins- Of police being lined across the street in a peaceful march and disorder only broke out afterwards. They were in full view evidently and they were well armed. So I suppose that they meant to turn the march.

Joan Beifuss- If it, if it comes out that James Earl Ray (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- No, no. For a number of reasons. In the first place being enough on his own I don't think anybody could explain I don't think it could come out of the trial that he being on his own killed Dr. King because in the first place he would have to have contacts to do all that he did. He would have to have, there would have to be some organization behind him. And I think there was some organization.

Martha- He had plenty money.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah. He had plenty money and he had plenty help, he had plenty of contacts.

Joan Beifuss- That is what I am really asking is whether you think that people were involved.

Eddie Jenkins- Yes, I think very much so. He had to have had some contacts to get out of Memphis because everybody knows that this town prides on its police force and I think it has got a beautiful police force in (muffled) They prove themselves over het years. You know they say if you don't want to get caught then don't go to Memphis. And it is true it seems to be true.

Joan Beifuss- They say that?

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah, if you don't want to get caught don't go to Memphis if you have done something, and you don't want to get caught don't go to Memphis.

Joan Beifuss- Are you, you belong to a church?

Eddie Jenkins- Yes, I am in the Temple Church of God in Christ.

Joan Beifuss- (Muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah it falls under his directions as the pastor.

Joan Beifuss- The pastor (muffled). The big pastor.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah the big pastor.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled).

Martha- (Muffled)

Joan Beifuss- Was there any reaction in the church that Sunday after Dr. King was killed and if there was reaction what kind of reaction?

Eddie Jenkins- Well, I think the church (muffled) I think it goes back to the old days of the church, sins of the world and iniquities of man and so on. And they express a deep regret and the only thing that he church did at this point was talk about the community of people, they discouraged violence or actions that might result in some violence. Either from the police or the citizens.

Martha- (muffled)

Joan Beifuss- (Muffled).

Eddie Jenkins- Well I tell you it is kind of hard for me, I haven't really concluded, I haven't really come to any conclusions where I stand because I see the necessity and the good involved and I think I understand the necessity and good involved. And being a part of the ghetto I am very much aware of the violent tendency and frankly I don't want to rid my self in that violent tendency. Because I think if I rid myself of that violent tendency then I put myself to unnecessary, I might subject myself to unnecessary violence by the white establishment. So I hold that violence is good in some situations but our whole philosophy is not the answer. I am aware that violence is not the answer rationally violence is not the answer and recognizing the fact that nothing is accomplished doing violence. That all is ever accomplished in which violence is a part of accomplish after the violence has occurred. IO think that is basically nonviolence.

Martha- Well I feel it is wrong in some cases and in some cases it is not. But, and I am (muffled) I see the good in violence you know.

Joan Beifuss- Do you see anything that seems to be changing in the city since Dr. King has been killed.

Eddie Jenkins- You mean real change?

Joan Beifuss- Real changes.

Eddie Jenkins- No. Especially in the white community no. You know I will tell you one of the things that really infuriated me was the Sunday afterwards the Memphis Cares thing. I think that was the biggest farce.

Joan Beifuss- You went to it?

Eddie Jenkins- I wouldn't have goner to that thing for all the money, fro all the rice in china , all the money in America. Because to me this was a real farce. I mean people were running out there and even at the meeting they were expressing racist views if you really looked at it they were expressing racist views.

Joan Beifuss- Only part of it.

Eddie Jenkins- Well yes only part of it. Some people may have been genuinely concerned and genuinely sorry.

Martha- At that time.

Eddie Jenkins- yes, well, I don't some people change as a result of that but I don't think...basically I think that Memphis is still a racist conservative apathetic sorry town.

Joan Beifuss- Are you going to stay in Memphis after you graduate?

Eddie Jenkins- Yes, very much so.

I feel like...

Martha- (muffled)

Eddie Jenkins- I feel like my father told me he said you know (muffled) when I graduate I would blow this town I am thinking about leaving now., I said no, I am not going to leave. I am not going to run out on the situation I am going to stay here and see what I can do to help that situation. But as far as the black community is concerned I think there have been some changes in that we maintained, we have been able to maintain in the black community, we have been able to maintain organization. We have been able to maintain identification and communication. The ghetto with the so called black middle class. I think the black middle class was shaken into the realization of this possibly out of fear they begun to communicate. I think even bale to maintain, not maintain but to establish through the socio political efforts of the black community some respect form the white community. This is the only change that (muffled) I think if they had the chance to change and go back tomorrow they would go right back to what they were. I think they recognize the black and the white people can recognize the strength of the jail and the power of the ghetto to institute social change that effects all.

Joan Beifuss- Ok I am about out of questions do you have any final statement.

Eddie Jenkins- No not really.

Joan Beifuss- you have talked for so long.

Eddie Jenkins- Yeah when you start talking about making glorious statements.

Joan Beifuss- Asked that at the beginning at of the first tape.

Eddie Jenkins- I don't know if I could have even made one then. Only thing I can say is that what we need is that black people cannot fight white racism. And what we need is that all we can do is educate black people in facets of white racism. Educate black people how to combat white racism, how they can effectively combat white racism and that white people would have to come forth to work into their situation and we would deal with our problems in connection with the, in connection with the

white people and white people would have to deal with their problems in relation with themselves as far as white racism is concerned because this is some thing that black people cannot remedy, this is something that black people cannot change, we can only show them the roads and all we can do is we can show them that we can educate the white community in the ways that they can remedy the situation but as far as the psychological and the mental change that has to take place this will have to be from in within the white community it self and from the people who are really concerned and not that Memphis Cares thing because they are scared the niggers are going to march on 3rd.

Joan Beifuss- Ok thank you very very much. (Tape End)