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Interviewer: This is a recording of the oral History Program at the University of Delaware. We're interviewing Mr. Abraham Seidel, and the interviewer is Myron Lazarus. Uh, how old are you, Mr. Seidel?

Mr. Seidel: On November the twentieth, I'll be seventy-five..

Interviewer: Seventy-five?

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, on November the twentieth. Born in 1894.

Interviewer: 1894. And you were born in Romania?

Mr. Seidel: No, in Lithuania.

Interviewer: Lithuania. Okay. Where in Lithuania were you born?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: This is a yeshiva you're talking about.

Mr. Seidel: It's a yeshiva (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Now, this is near what city, major city in Lithuania?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) Ponovash (phoenetic).

Interviewer: Uh huh. How many years were you in Lithuania before you came here? To this country?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) about 19 years old.

Interviewer: Oh, I see. So you were actually in Lithuania a long time.

Mr. Seidel: Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. I went to yeshiva there, in Lithuania. Yeshiva in Lithuania.

Interviewer: Uh huh. What occupation were your parents?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: What kind of...

Mr. Seidel: Business.

Interviewer: What kind of business?

Mr. Seidel: Business of a butcher business.

Interviewer: A butcher business.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah.

Interviewer: How about yourself? Were you in that business?

Mr. Seidel: No. No, no. No. I in this country, I come here in 1913.

Interviewer: Yes. But there...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) For a while, I was what you'd call a Hebrew teacher. For a while. Before I come over here.

Interviewer: Okay, you went to the yeshiva...

Mr. Seidel: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now, did you study just Hebrew at the yeshiva, or did you study, did you go to another type...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) the yeshiva was just Hebrew. (unintelligible)

Interviewer: But did you go to, uh, another kind of a school? Like a public school?

Mr. Seidel: No, no. Course not. No public schools. Just private. Private teach lessons, you know. Yeshiva was all about the Talmud.

Interviewer: Uh huh. And your wife said that you were considering being a Rabbi.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) When I was in yeshiva, you know, my father wanted me to do that.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: How large was your family?

Mr. Seidel: When I was born, it was nine. Six boys and three girls.

Interviewer: And you lived in the city?

Mr. Seidel: Yeah. (unintelligible)

Interviewer: And did your father do well as a butcher?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: And how many years did you say you were at the yeshiva now? What age did you start the yeshiva?

Mr. Seidel: Well, I start the yeshiva when I was twelve.

Interviewer: Twelve years old. And you were in Lithuania until you were nineteen.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah. I was in (unintelligible) nineteen. Then I come here at nineteen.

Interviewer: Now, why, uh, why did you come to this country?

Mr. Seidel: Well, uh, (unintelligible), but I wanted to come over here, you know, of course I had a family here. (unintelligible) had some family in (unintelligible) Forrest, but they had no family (unintelligible).

Interviewer: What relation, what relation were they to you?

Mr. Seidel: Well, they were (unintelligible), sisters, (unintelligible), they were a big family (unintelligible) the first place (unintelligible) my hometown.

Interviewer: Why did your father want you to go to, want you to go to (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Why did your father want you...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Why did you come to this country? For a better living, or...?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) I know something about this country (unintelligible) the home (unintelligible). In fact, when I come over here (unintelligible) and I saw my father here (unintelligible) the election. Cause Woodrow was in the middle, you know. (unintelligible) in this country, he asked me questions what I know because I used to think the three Jewish bakers was (unintelligible). And I know exactly when I was here, I come into this country, I knew everything about before, you know? In fact, the Jewish writers, they used to come over here, in this country, and like writers coming from Israel, coming over here, you know, and write about America. And (unintelligible) know a lot about the Jews in this country.

Interviewer: Now, you still haven't really answered my question as to why you came to this country.

Mr. Seidel: Well, of course, I have family here (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: You're saying the butcher business wasn't enough to support you?

Mrs. Seidel: His father was a (unintelligible).

Interviewer: A what?

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: My father went to South Africa. My mother was (unintelligible) and my father went to South Africa.

Interviewer: Why>

Mr. Seidel: Well, because the business wasn't (unintelligible), and he went to South Africa. To Johannesburg. He went to Johannesburg. And the mother (unintelligible) was home.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: And then I thought I better go, I better go to America.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Otherwise, your mother was supporting...

Mr. Seidel: My mother was left in Europe.

Interviewer: Why did your father leave? Was the intention (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) the business was a big (unintelligible). My brother was nine and was (unintelligible) was family, you know? And my mother took (unintelligible) to Africa, you know? (Unintelligible) today, ninety percent of the Jewish (unintelligible) through Lithuania.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: What were your father's intentions? (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) My father's intentions was to come back here to Europe, but (unintelligible) near the line of Germany, and the border of the (unintelligible) the general (unintelligible) didn't speak the language and forgot to go away. And my mother...

Interviewer: From Russia?

Mr. Seidel: From the line of Germany. (unintelligible) from the line of Germany. You see, the farmers, you know, we was living (unintelligible)... All the Jewish people in that region, they took them away, they sent them away in box cars...

Interviewer: You're talking about in Lithuania now?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) all the Jewish people from that section from (unintelligible), they put them in boxcars (unintelligible) away and (unintelligible). My mother was a sick woman, and they come in a certain place and time, and she died there. She was about forty-seven years old.

Interviewer: Now, this was after you left.

Mr. Seidel: Of course. (unintelligible). See what it did?

Interviewer: But your father's intention was to make enough money...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) my mother died, and they owed me (unintelligible). I come over here I (unintelligible) sister. Right away. I know that her sister would be in Baltimore. She, she got some work, you know? And I work some (unintelligible) and my father was trying to break (unintelligible) in Baltimore. (Unintelligible) about six thousand dollars (unintelligible) to come through Japan.

Interviewer: These are sisters...

Mr. Seidel: Several. There were several of them. See, seven. But nine of us. Nine. Myself, and my sister who lives in Baltimore. On the seven was all left (unintelligible) about a hundred years old. And he died there, too. God's love, he was (unintelligible), and got no one to take care of her. [10:00] My father was trying to (unintelligible) in Baltimore. (unintelligible) they had to go through Japan.

Interviewer: Wait a minute, now. Your father did come back from Africa.

Mr. Seidel: and Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: All right.

Mr. Seidel: He tried he come back in Baltimore. Yeah, he come back. He come to Baltimore, but not, not in Russia. (unintelligible) came over to Baltimore, you see, (unintelligible) and the son of the farmer who was trying to save the (unintelligible) that everyone should take a woman or a boy or a girl. I come over, I took the train up to Baltimore, and I said (unintelligible) would solve the problem. I say we should pick an apartment and (unintelligible) the house. She'd be take care of the house. Of course, she still (unintelligible) and two boys. They worked for (unintelligible). He keep the family together.

Interviewer: Now let's talk about how you got over here.

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Let's talk about how you got over here.

Mr. Seidel: I got over here, I got here with the (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Did you go from Lithuania to Poland?

Mr. Seidel: I went... I knew exactly what was (unintelligible). And I, I come over through the (unintelligible) I say (unintelligible) a passport. A passport, I should get (unintelligible) from Russia to Germany.

Interviewer: Right.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) I should take the train in front of us, you see, and I should come over in (unintelligible) you see. It's a city. But the (unintelligible). (Unintelligible) belongs to Russia, and

(unintelligible) belongs to Germany. When I came over there, he told me I should go, I should come in the station and get (unintelligible). I paid four cents for that in 1913, you know? And next door, sort of (unintelligible), and come over to me and say (unintelligible).

Interviewer: He what?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) and he says (unintelligible) at least forty. And that was a sign, and I should go (unintelligible). And then...

Interviewer: A password.

Mr. Seidel: It's a password. He told me about the password.

Interviewer: You didn't get a passport then.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) I come over, there was a this and that (unintelligible). And of course it wasn't my real name, you know. (unintelligible) the name on the passport, you see? The people on the line, they have a (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, where did you go then?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Where did you go then?

Mr. Seidel: From Germany? Then, I...I...I...I arranged with (unintelligible). But when I come over there the next day, (unintelligible) boats, about fifty, sixty boats, (unintelligible). Then we took the train (unintelligible). Brenna (phonetic), I took the boat. And it took fifteen days and then the boat landed in Philadelphia and (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, who financed this trip? Who gave you the money...?

Mr. Seidel: My father (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, did your father do this from Africa?

Mr. Seidel: Oh, of course. My father (unintelligible) of Russian money. He used to send thirty-three pounds a month, and we had a lot of money there, you see? We used to go up in the bank and cash it (unintelligible) than Russian rubles.

Interviewer: What occupation was your father in Africa?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Now, let me ask you this. This group that went by way of Japan, they went before you or after you?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) after (unintelligible) started in (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Why did they have to go by way of Japan?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) the war. The war start in 1914(?) (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Okay.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: That means they had to go all the way across Russia.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Did you know the course that they took from Russia to get to Japan?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible).

Interviewer: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) They come over in Japan and (unintelligible) sister had an operation (unintelligible) had a lot of trouble from the (unintelligible) before they'd gotten over here.

Interviewer: In Japan.

Mr. Seidel: In Japan, yeah. Had the operation and (unintelligible).

Interviewer: From Japan, they took a boat.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Would they land in California?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: And then they came...

Mr. Seidel: They come to Baltimore. Baltimore.

Interviewer: Right.

Mr. Seidel: She come (unintelligible). I come to Baltimore with a big farmer in Baltimore and that's the way the old farmer is (unintelligible) probably in Philadelphia, too, they got farms, but Baltimore there was (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Once you were in Baltimore, you're nineteen, what did you, what did you do in Baltimore?

Mr. Seidel: Well, first thing is I got a job as a sodden grower. It was a (unintelligible). And I got a job there. Made a hundred dollars a week.

Interviewer: Doing what?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: You were sewing? Did you sew?

Mr. Seidel: No, I (unintelligible) I worked in the shop.

Interviewer: What did you do?

Mr. Seidel: I did some work (unintelligible). I wasn't paid that much. I remember that I needed to help out something there.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Now, where did you live in Baltimore?

Mr. Seidel: I lived with my aunt.

Interviewer: In other words...

Mr. Seidel: She was (unintelligible) with two sisters. And (unintelligible). My mother's father and my mother and (unintelligible) and sister and my father had a brother with two daughters and two sisters. And that (unintelligible) was home to (unintelligible) this place.

Interviewer: How many years did you work for this clothing company?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) I didn't like that job and then I got a chance to go to South Carolina, you know, to work in a store. And I went down to South Carolina for (unintelligible) he had a big, big store. That store sold everything. From...

Interviewer: What city in South Carolina?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) about seven miles from Charleston. It sits along (unintelligible) junction. A junction, you know. A, what do you call it, (unintelligible) Carolina. And I worked there for a little while.

Interviewer: What did you do? Did you sell merchandise?

Mr. Seidel: Yeah. Oh yeah.

Interviewer: You were a salesman.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, a salesman (unintelligible). We sell everything. From a suit to a coffin. You see? (laughter) Everything.

Interviewer: A general store.

Mr. Seidel: General. General merchandise. Everything, we sold.

Interviewer: How, how old were you now when you...

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: How old were you when you worked there?

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) twenty. About twenty. (unintelligible) comes down to nothing. (unintelligible), you know? And they all start with (unintelligible) to nothing. See, the trouble that you see in the south used to be a business like that if a fellow worked for him, then the colored fellow, the nigger, you know? He had done a (unintelligible) ten fingers, and he had nothing. The other thing is that he finished the (unintelligible) Jewish (unintelligible), and he give him the receipt, and he feed them up to the time, you know, (unintelligible). He signed the paper (unintelligible) and he would finish up (unintelligible). Then out on the farm, he used to (unintelligible) the cop, but then the cop comes down with five dollars (unintelligible). [20:20]

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: That's all right. Don't worry about it.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: If you mean that's the way the company made a living by being paid in cotton.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah (unintelligible) cotton.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Right.

Mrs. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible) all of the time.

Interviewer: And this, this is the way that company...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: ...by credit for many...

Mr. Seidel: Many years.

Interviewer: (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: And then when the cotton went down in value...

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: (unintelligible) when cotton went down, though, this retail (unintelligible) went out.

Mr. Seidel: (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Now, what did you do when you came back to Baltimore?

Mr. Seidel: Well, I come (unintelligible) and learned a trade (unintelligible) a cousin in Philadelphia (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Interviewer: You went to Philadelphia?

Mr. Seidel: Yeah. When I come to Baltimore, I come to Philadelphia.

Interviewer: You went from South Carolina to Baltimore...

Mr. Seidel: From South Carolina to Baltimore.

Interviewer: And then on to Philadelphia.

Mr. Seidel: And then come to Philadelphia.

Interviewer: Okay. What were you doing in Philadelphia?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: And then...

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: When I come, when I stopped to look at my papers, I find (unintelligible).

Interviewer: You knew her in Europe...

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) in Philadelphia. And I said that my Uncle (unintelligible) farmer there. (Unintelligible) and I asked for (unintelligible) and then she was (unintelligible) and she would stay and work on the machine (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Okay. What did you do now in, in Philadelphia?

Mr. Seidel: I learned a trade.

Interviewer: What was the trade, now?

Mr. Seidel: Paper hanging.

Interviewer: Paper hanging?

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, paper hanging. I learned paper hanging from my cousin. Paper hanging. And then, then in 1915, got married in Philadelphia. (Unintelligible) in Philadelphia (unintelligible) and I wish I had (unintelligible) I didn't like Baltimore and I didn't like Philadelphia (unintelligible) small town. Apart from that, well, I worked (unintelligible) Philadelphia, he bought the business (unintelligible), bought the business, but the former boss (unintelligible), and then he decided to (unintelligible) and he went to the (unintelligible) business, and he bought the stores across the street from the shoe man (unintelligible) and he's come right off the need for the (unintelligible) I've got a good business in (unintelligible), come to work for me, I say, and you've got enough work here from New Town (?). I say yeah, (unintelligible) he says give me two and a half dollars a day. (unintelligible)

Interviewer: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: It was 1916 (unintelligible) and so...

Interviewer: 1916.

Mr. Seidel: 1916. (unintelligible)

Interviewer: Two dollars a day.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible), I moved to Wilmington. When I (unintelligible), I find out the fella hasn't got enough working (unintelligible). He was a (unintelligible) fella. (Unintelligible) and any job (unintelligible). I went up there, and...

Interviewer: (Unintelligible) this fellow had a grocery business.

Mr. Seidel: No, no. I mean, I doubt the grocery (unintelligible). You see, that fellow that I worked with (unintelligible) we both had business with that grocer there.

Interviewer: Oh, I see. But you also did paper hanging.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, the paper hanging, (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Yeah, but you did a lot of the business...

Mr. Seidel: Well, that's (unintelligible), he (unintelligible), I said I used to go out there and ask for a job and then (unintelligible) go in business for myself and think about why I got to work for him. I could do it for myself. And I...

Interviewer: I thought, I thought you learned paper hanging in Philadelphia.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, I learned paper hanging, but the (unintelligible) worked together, you see. He was a (unintelligible) he worked for (unintelligible).

Interviewer: So, you started your own business.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) the business in 1917, I started the business for myself.

Interviewer: Where was your business?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Where was it?

Mr. Seidel: On (unintelligible).

Interviewer: East (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) East Broad Street. That's the twelfth place (unintelligible).

Interviewer: And how many years were you there?

Mr. Seidel: Well, I was there for several years, and then I moved over to another place (unintelligible) place was too small (unintelligible) on Madison Street.

Interviewer: On Madison?

Mr. Seidel: On Madison Street. There was (unintelligible) for twenty-five years.

Interviewer: Wow.

Interviewer: and Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Three boys and a girl.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: And now you're retired.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) eight years.

Interviewer: Now, what organizations did you belong to?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Besides the...

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) forty years.

Interviewer: How many...?

Mr. Seidel: Over forty.

Interviewer: Forty.

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, yeah (unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Okay. Were you active in (unintelligible)?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) I was active in (unintelligible) was in '40s. In '48, I was the (unintelligible) didn't too good of a job to run that Hebrew school. I thought it was for (unintelligible) take over the job (unintelligible) but you come over to the meetings and (unintelligible) nice gentleman. (Unintelligible) got the word that Mr. Slansky (phonetic), Mr. Slansky should be the, be the president of (unintelligible) education.

Interviewer: I see. How many years did you do that?

Mr. Seidel: About forty years (unintelligible).

Interviewer: How many years were you involved with the education?

Mr. Seidel: Oh, I was only active about (unintelligible) and that was for me from oh, about thirty years (unintelligible). I was secretary for about the last seven or eight years. **[30:12]**

Interviewer: Now, what's the name is...?

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible). You remember (unintelligible)?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: This is the Laborers Zionist Order...

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible)

Interviewer: (Unintelligible) the Laborers Zionists Order...

Mr. Seidel: Oh yeah?

Interviewer: Is this an organization also in Wilmington?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: How old is it in Wilmington?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) we got here in '29. And our (unintelligible) is '34, '33 (unintelligible). We come here in '29.

Interviewer: What did they do?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: What do they do?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) I said that last week (unintelligible) I sent a check for five hundred dollars from the (unintelligible).

Interviewer: I know. But you're saying that they raise money for, for Israel?

Mrs. Seidel: For Israel and for occasional (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Seidel: You see, what he worked for is the (unintelligible) Jewish National Fund (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Jewish National Fund. What's the difference between...

Mr. Seidel: Now, see (unintelligible) for the last twenty-six years (unintelligible).

Interviewer: What's the difference between this and the UJA?

Mr. Seidel: UJA is only (unintelligible) to raise money, you know. But (unintelligible) organization is educational. Educational and question every (unintelligible) do some help. They help the UJA.

Interviewer: Yeah. Tell me what they do. What do they do? Is it educational, or...?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Somewhat, yeah.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible) the seminar...

Mr. Seidel: Seminar... The Jewish seminar in New York. (Unintelligible). And the first big idea I went to push was (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now this is Hebrew schools all over the country...

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) schools (unintelligible) all over the country.

Interviewer: What did they believe in? They believe they're Zionists.

Mr. Seidel: Sure they're Zionists.

Interviewer: What is their connection with labor? (Unintelligible) a union...

Mr. Seidel: In the Zionist Ishbana (phonetic)... You know what an Ishbana is? (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: There is Zionist, there is (unintelligible).

Interviewer: How many belonged to this organization (unintelligible)

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, let me ask you, how many people in Delaware belonged to the (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible). Of course now our children belong to the organization (unintelligible). He's got insurance, you know. He's got life insurance.

Interviewer: Right. Now, this isn't a political organization too, though.

Mr. Seidel: The, the (unintelligible) organization is a (unintelligible).

Interviewer: What is it in English?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: Yeah. See, that's what the (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) we are not political. We are a (unintelligible).

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Seidel: But our group is to be organized (unintelligible) gentiles. But our organization is pure Jewish and the first (unintelligible) the Zionist. (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Mainly, this organization is made up of people in the trades, members of unions.

Mr. Seidel: Oh, of course. Now, you (unintelligible) do a lot of work in the (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, it's kind of dying out now, though isn't it?

Mr. Seidel: What?

Interviewer: This. It's sort of... There are fewer jobs in the trade and (unintelligible) labor.

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: In the whole country.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) cigar roller or (unintelligible).

Interviewer: But is it (unintelligible) now as it used to be?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Is it as important now as it used to be?

Mr. Seidel: Oh, yeah. Sure enough. Sure. Of course, we (unintelligible) we organize (unintelligible) with the UT, UTA. See, we come over to the people (unintelligible) to the organization in America (unintelligible) more than five thousand dollars extra (unintelligible).

Interviewer: You're... And now, you're still active in this. You say you're secretary...

Mr. Seidel: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sure, that's what (unintelligible) that's what we do (unintelligible) that's our way, you know. (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Do you belong to any paper hanging organizations?

Mr. Seidel: No, no no.

Interviewer: No unions or...

Mr. Seidel: No, no. Course I'm not, uh, I wasn't (unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: I worked for myself, see.

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) I was sympathetic with the union, but I don't, ah, I was with myself, you know.

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: I always worked for myself.

Interviewer: Did you (unintelligible) the Workman's Council?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Have you heard of the Workman's Council?

Mr. Seidel: Workman's Council?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Well, they often could be self-employed, and many Jews were active in them.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) see, our organization (unintelligible) 1940, and then I got to the (unintelligible) devotion, and Doctor Gold, uh, Goldstein, you know, and he (unintelligible) around. And he goes (unintelligible) for me. (Unintelligible) to come over to the (unintelligible) a hundred thousand dollars for the Jewish National fund to build (unintelligible).

Interviewer: What's your copy of this (unintelligible)?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) and of course we cannot (unintelligible) send the check for a hundred thousand dollars without first (unintelligible) but what they did was (unintelligible) thirteen thousand dollars (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Is this an important group in Israel, too?

Mr. Seidel: Huh?

Interviewer: Is this an important group in Israel, also?

Mr. Seidel: Oh, oh, yeah. (Unintelligible) the Pentagon. One boy (unintelligible) works for the Pentagon. He's a big, a big, a bigshot there. What (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: And then he (unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) was Isaac (unintelligible). He was one of the (unintelligible) for fifty years (unintelligible) he was the first (unintelligible) from America, from Canada, from (unintelligible).

[40:30]

Interviewer: Well, that's very interesting. (Unintelligible). Are there any other organizations beside this that you're active in? This is (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: What's that?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) got with the kids. From five til twelve.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Mr. Seidel: I help out with the (unintelligible) for them. (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible) there.

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Seidel: That's my job there for (unintelligible). Now, Sunday morning, we got (unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: I have been in it.

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Can you tell us what the (unintelligible) is?

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible), you see, what they do, we take a boy (unintelligible). Now, my job was to wear him out (unintelligible) twenty-four years ago. (Unintelligible) worst year on the (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Uh huh (unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mrs. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Seidel: I come up in the office and begin (unintelligible). They give me (unintelligible). I had to fight with the (unintelligible) to send the kids there.

Interviewer: (Laughter).

Mr. Seidel: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Well, that's very fine. I don't want to take any more of your time. Would you like to hear yourself?

[End 42:23]