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Interview with Mr. Clarence Burris, Jr. in his office, March 10, 1971, by Myron Blackman. Project: Delaware in the Depression.

Q O.K., Mr. Burris, just to start, what was the first thing you remember about the Depression?

A Well, I can remember that we lived in Colonial Heights, along a railroad track, and I can remember to procure coal--at that time trains hauled soft coal--and I can remember that we used to--the men in the neighborhood and I, too, even though I was small--used to hop on a train and throw off these lumps of coal. And of course we'd gather it up in burlap bags and carry it home. That's one of my first remembrances.

Q How old were you? If the Depression started . . .

A I have to guess that maybe this was about 1926, something like that.

Q Well, the Depression that the stock market itself fell about '29.

A Yes. Well, I can remember that in '25, '26--I would say just about that time, my father, who had previously been a farmer, turned to the construction business and he got a job being taught--learnt to be a bricklayer. And I can remember how that he would work during the day and come home at night and work on his house. I can remember that I think the lots he bought--my mother bought three lots. They built one small house first and they later sold it. And even while they was living in that small house. which at first had a dirt floor, they gradually fixed it up, made it very livable, he started a bigger house, much bigger; and every day he went to work, every night he came home and worked on that house. I helped him. We also kept a garden, and it was astonishing the kind of a green thumb he had. He could grow almost anything. I used to take a little wagon and pull it and sell strawberries and corn and things like that.

Q What grade in school were you during the '30s? Were you in high school?

A During the '30s I was--well, I probably got at the end--the elementary school, went into junior high and then on through high. I graduated in '38, I think, so I was in the--you might say the last six, seven years that I was in school was during the Depression. I can remember that after I got strong enough, I worked two days a week with my father and went to school the other three days. Of course I always worked at night when I came home. It was a hard life, we worked hard, but my father was simply industrious and very strong and healthy, and . . .

Q There was a period when he was out of work, out of steady work . . .

A Yes, he was out of steady work in the construction business for some time. I can remember that they used to be able to get groceries and things like that free at times, but I know my father'd never do it. I can remember my mother sometimes arguing about it, but she didn't persist. I can remember he caught me one day when he saw me throwing coal off the train as it went by--they used to have these slow freights in those days, you could

hop on 'em with no trouble. I remember he made me stop that, and my mother didn't like that. So whenever there was any soft coal, he looked at it very suspiciously.

Q I talked with another woman and she described how difficult it was in the family . . .

A Uh huh. One particular summer, my father was out of work and I was on vacation. I was only 14. But my uncle had what was then called a good job, that was just an outside boss, maybe, a foreman. And I worked for six weeks over at the cork plant, unloading bales of cork with a bunch of stevedores. I lied about my name and my age, because if my uncle ever got caught with hiring one of his family, he'd get fired, and I made 28¢ an hour. I was proud--I was glad to get it. I was glad to be helping my family out.

Q Were your friends in school in a similar situation as you?

A Well, it seemed to me that somehow or another most of the--we had a large family, seven children. And it seemed to me that--maybe they seemed just a little bit better off, but at that time I wasn't aware that there was a Depression, even. So I didn't look at--it seemed like maybe they were a little better clothed or something, but. . . . I remember that my mother used to attend a church called Bear Mission in on 2nd and Washington, and sometimes I used to have to go in there with her on Saturdays or somethin' and I pulled a wagon loaded with different things in it--little express wagon--all the way from Colonial Heights, which is only down here about 2500 Lancaster Avenue, all the way into 2nd and back, and my mother walked, too, and she was carrying a couple of bundles. And I remember that this lady would give my mother discarded articles of clothing from this mission, and I can remember one day this lady came to my house to visit my mother and she gave my mother a pair of high-topped shoes, ladies shoes. Well, the shoes wouldn't fit nobody but me, and my mother made me wear 'em. That's true. And I can remember one of the jobs I hated at that time, I guess I maybe I was about 12 then, I wasn't quite big, and I could work in the garden then and sell the vegetables, I used to do that. But they had this hand washing machine that you just turn it by hand; I hated that job. Because I'd be outside, it was outsidewhere I'd be doing it, and I could see the other kids playin', that used to burn me up.

Q Well, the vegetable garden served the purpose of feeding your family and also you would sell it?

A Yeah, also we'd sell the vegetables. See, my father and I dug that garden up with a shovel, with a hoe and whatnot. We never had such thing as a tractor or plow or anything like that. Dug it up with a shovel. I can remember that the last three years I worked with him, my last three years of school I worked with him at that time, and my pay then was I think was 25 or 30¢ an hour. I think by the time I graduated I was gettin' 40¢. My father also employed--he started in business himself that way, he employed my uncle, one of my cousins, and we mixed all our concrete and mortar and everything by hand. There was no--at that particular time, horses and wagons dug the basements. Power shovels were just comin' in, but we couldn't afford anything like that. So I remember . . .

Q This was building your house?

A I'm getting into about '38 now. '36 to '38.

Q Yeah. Your father was in business?

A My father had built his house--well, he'd completed that house. It took him one year to build that second house. Sometimes he had fellows help him, some of my relatives once in a while, some of the people he worked with, and like that. I remember he got one of the first radios and everybody in the neighborhood came to our house to hear the Dempsey-Tunney fight.

Q Your sister mentioned that.

A Did she mention that? That's about--unless you can ask me some questions to provoke my memory, that's about as much as I can remember.

Q Well, you mentioned people helping each other. Did it seem that people were really helping?

A Very much so. Oh, yes, yes, yes. Very much so. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Yes, my father would go here and there helping people out. And, oh, I'm gonna say from '35 or '36 when he started to do these jobs on his own, a lot of it, how the people couldn't pay, and he just waited until they had it, or if they had a--you know, got lucky and got an extra sack of potatoes or whatever it was, they just gave it to him. And he did the same thing. He went to work for other people sometimes, he'd get him to help him with his house, and like that.

Q It's interesting that--I guess you don't remember what it was like before the Depression, so the Depression is sort of . . .

A Right. I was born to it, you might say. My memories were born to it. In '38, when I left high school, I went in business with him, and for some reason or other we--apparently after '38 things got a little bit better, and we started to get a little more work, and I sort of got the job of runnin' it. My father loved to work with his hands, but he didn't want to organize or like that, so . . . I worked, too. It took a lot of work. But I can remember--today, you know, when you build something, you borrow money to do it and then when you get it done you put it--like the construction workers or something. Well, at that time banks didn't have any money to loan you. And nearly everybody that worked on a house would go on and give their labor, and the supply people would give their lumber, or the plumbing materials, roof materials, whatever, and when that house was done and it got sold, when a man finally sold it and settled the--then you got paid. Now, he had no way of keeping--you know what I mean, the man could have--most men at that time--I mean, men these days, probably, if they had, you know, a thing like that, they would be dishonest and not pay you because lawfully he didn't have to. But never have I--very rarely have I ever seen it fail that a man in business then was dishonest. He was so glad to get the help of the people helping him, on credit, he would be a fool. There were no jobs that were gonna pay you by the day or hour, every week--there weren't many, I'll put it that way--so if you came out and put your time in

and did it, at least at a certain time when that house was sold and the man was reimbursed for it, he was gonna pay you out of some of that house.

Q Your mother mentioned--while we were talking, I asked her about Franklin Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover, and she said that she admired Hoover and didn't think much of Roosevelt. Do you remember . . .

A Well, my mother and I are very independent, always have been. We always hated a heavy, big government. We always thought social security was against the law. We always thought that nobody had the right to make you pay anything out of your wage that you didn't want to. And there were many people in the country that felt that way then. The same way, when we changed our income tax so that it had to be taken out of your pay every week. We didn't feel that the federal government had a right to do that. I won't argue about it now because I know with the type of people today, if you didn't take it out of their envelope, they wouldn't have it. So I won't argue now. But I can remember Franklin Roosevelt saying that that social security would never go above four points, and today I think it's 8.2. He said not by the wildest stretch of your imagination--I could remember my mother and father talking about it. But . . .

Q I imagine this whole area was sort of--well, Republican and anti-Roosevelt.

A Well, I would guess that the state through the Depression had a Republican form of government. I'm gonna guess that. I can't remember very much because at that time I wasn't interested in politics, although my grandfather was a prominent politician. But I think after about--in the '30s, I think it kind of started to change to be Democratic. And it stayed that way 'til well, almost 'til the last state election.

Q Do you remember learning in school about the things that were going on in Europe, about Hitler's rise and Mussolini's rise?

A Yes, we remember. I remember. I remember very clearly an awful lot of it. And I remember my mother and father talkin' about the Monroe Doctrine and how we never permitted our ships to be interfered with or sunk or anything else. And of course we apparently kept those beliefs, because when we were torpedoed that precipitated World War II and World War III, for that matter, or World War II, I mean, and World War I.

Q Was there much concern about what was going on in Europe? In some places, there wasn't--they just wanted to keep away from European troubles.

A Well, we were concerned. In '39 it became evident that there was a need and there were more jobs for people and so forth, and a lot of it was because our defense industries were starting to organize to sell war materials to our allies. Well, then they were--they weren't our allies then, they were just friendly nations, England, France. Of course as it turned out we wound up in the war, too.

Q What else did you listen to on radio? Do you remember?

A Oh, I can remember--of course, being a child, I wouldn't remember anything

of any academic nature or very cultural. But I would remember that Amos and Andy, I guess that would be it, maybe--I think George Burns and Gracie Allen were on then quite a bit. And we really listened to all those ball games and like that, the football games, then the fights, of course. We were always interested in that.

Q Was the radio sort of like a gathering place?

A Um hmm. Oh, very much so, yes, very much so. We weren't allowed to sit in the evenings very much, we had to do our lessons. I can remember Father Coughlin and . . .

Q Oh, you can? What can you remember about him?

A Well, I remember the terrific discussion about the church getting into politics and so forth. I can remember that. Of course I can remember Lindbergh flying the ocean. I suppose anybody 10 years old on up at the time he flew over would remember. I remember he landed in this little field out here across the road. Oh yeah, he came in here on one of his usual tours, you know, and landed in that field and we all walked out and there was quite a mob there, and saw him get out of his plane, and . . .

Q Did you by any chance hear the Hindenburg disaster?

A Yes, we heard that. That's the one over in New Jersey? Yes, we heard that. Um hmm.

Q What was it like hearing something like that?

A Well, the radio come on at the very time--apparently somebody was right on the spot. And they just described it and it was just--it just made you horror stricken.

Q I can imagine. Do you think that the Depression has taught the country anything?

A Well, no, I don't think so. I think the business part of the nation has had too much influence on government, too much influence on it, each way. And I think competitively, the spirit of competition and for every man doing his best and the best man more or less winning, has pretty nearly gone. I think one of the things that brought us through the Depression was the ability of men--my father's told me about many of 'em--who could adjust and do other things and somehow hold on and they wound up changing occupations, many times far more successfully than when they'd been in their own. I think today, against the times of then, the--a person's initiative is blunted terribly by rules from our government, rules from our unions, and yet I feel that big business is given a green light to do what they wish. My little stream down here--the mushroom plant up here empties grease and oil and tar into it, and I can't even get the ecology people to do anything about it. We would have never stood for stuff like that as neighbors before. And our families have certainly changed. In my house lived my father, mother, my brother, my sisters, and my grandmother and sometimes my uncle and whoever else happened to be uncared for or needed a home at that time. My great-grandmother--my grandmother, rather, my mother always kept with her

and took care of her because she wasn't too well, and she lived there for about eight years until she died. Other people, lots of in-laws lived with each other and things like that, because it was necessary. I feel in raising children at that time, the reason we didn't have crime rate and so forth, because a child had a whole series of adults and elders to answer to, not just one. And of course these families would live next to each other and get to talking and you know, it was pretty difficult for a child, unless he was really terribly unbalanced emotionally, to do something wrong. A normal child didn't get much of an opportunity to do things that weren't right.

Q Do you think that growing up in a depression was better for you than if you grew up in let's say good times?

A Yes, I think so.

Q Why?

A Well, I think the Depression more than anything else taught me a great degree of honesty. It was the greatest revelation to me when I was through school. I didn't care if I--I was making some 35, 40¢ an hour, somewhere in there. Man, I wanted enough work to take me three or four hours--twelve hours didn't bother me. Twelve hours at 40¢ an hour was gonna give me another \$5.00 almost--or another \$1.60, I mean. You know what I mean? That looked big to me. That looked big. Even as late as 19--in 1939, my father and I made \$32,000. We were then just about full-fledged partners. I was running the thing, more or less. Well, for two people to make that much, that's sixteen apiece, but really we were making a lot of money. It was a lot--there was no taxes out of it. There was social security. If there were taxes, they were awful insignificant. And of course you practically to a great extent had to pay cash for anything you bought, but if the man knew you, I mean knew you, he trusted you. You didn't have to sign anything or anything, he trusted you.

Q This is the honesty that you mean?

A That's right, that's right. I felt that that was a world where people cared for each other, a lot more than they do here. I mean, the neighbors of my apartment have lived there years next to each other and they don't even know each other. They don't even know each other. And it even gets to be with me. I don't know the neighbors that I used to, even though I live in a home. But nevertheless, when I'm out in my back yard, I see them in theirs and I say good morning and probably the women say you got a cup of sugar or something, you know what I mean, how they do.

Q You lived near a railroad track, do you remember seeing a lot of people coming off and maybe asking for food?

A Yes, quite a bit. Um hmm. Yes. I don't think a day went by that two or three people didn't knock on your door, at least one.

Q Did you ever talk to them any?

A Well, no. My parents had told me not to bother 'em, to leave 'em alone, that's what my parents had told me. However, I've seen my father talk to

'em, and my mother.

Q Did you ever get to the movies? Your sister mentioned that she could remember once.

A Well, the movies was right up at 4th and Union Streets, it's still up there. And I used to go there--very seldom, once in a while. I'll give you an example of how tight money was, I can remember it now. At the age of 10, I got a job with the milkman, early in the morning, he'd come around at 4:00 and get me. I'd go around and help him deliver the milk. The first day, it was a Saturday. So he was through with me about 10:00. I had a quarter, a whole quarter. And I went and bought a kite and two balls of string, that cost me I think 15¢. So I came home and my mother says, "Where's the money?" I said, "Well, I bought this kite and the string," I said, "I got 10¢ here." She got so mad she took the kite and broke it. I can remember another instance. I don't remember how I got this 18¢, but I got 18¢, and I was in the 6th grade. And I don't know whether my mother made a mistake or I don't know how I got it, but I had 18¢. And I never had enough candy. So I went in a candy store on Union Street on the way home from school. Well, I bought so much candy for 18¢, it made me sick. That's how much candy you could buy--it made me sick, I couldn't eat it. I had licorice and oh, I had everything in there.

Q It seems that the whole attitude toward work is so different now.

A Yes, it is. It is different. A man doesn't want, it appears to me, to train himself, and if he trains himself, he doesn't recognize that there is no such thing as hours for a man who wants to use his strength and his brains and so forth. There is no such thing as hours, 'cause I mean, your body can get tired, but your mind never stops thinking. But a man seems to want to go through the motions of working through that day and then stopping. Well, and then in the evening having some fun or something, I guess. But that doesn't happen to be so, because there are many social aspects of our world that we should look after after we get home at night, particularly when we don't have to work as hard as we did.

Q How did your schoolmates feel towards going out in the world and working? How did you feel about it? Were you looking forward to it?

A I wanted to. I wanted so bad. My parents wanted me to go to college, but there simply was no money available to go to college. Other men have done it. I guess had I the foresight or maybe the determination or something, but my father being in the construction business, all I could see was building, and I just didn't want to fool around with college, much to my sorrow.

Q If you had the chance to go to college, what would you have done?

A Well, then I couldn't understand what college was, you know what I mean?

Q But I'm sure you had some sort of other goal.

A Well, I had a goal out in the field, building, that's where I had it. I mean, for me, well I learned my trade of bricklaying. I was the fastest

bricklayer, and I learned it in a hurry. It didn't take me no four years. And I was the fastest bricklayer there. If I wasn't, I wouldn't have commanded the respect of the men. In those days, we used to be--my employees, and my father's employees, too, of course, used to bring bricklayers from all over to try to either beat he or I. That's the truth. That's the truth, I mean it. I mean it. Time and time again, and you can still hear men . . . of course, my father's dead. Many of the men who knew him have died. But you'll still find one once in a while to remember the intelligence--it takes intelligence to lay brick, I mean if you're gonna do it efficiently and right. It isn't a thing--there's a certain rhythm your body follows as an athlete does, and there's a certain continuity that you have to keep. And my father was never what you would call a picture of an athlete, but every motion with him counted. I mean it, he didn't look like the fastest man, and I know that for some time I really really had to go before I ever got near him. I mean it, I had to go. And I was a picture of health, you know, I was young--16, 17. I could stay up half the night if I wanted to, and it didn't bother me--not that I ever did, I mostly slept.

Q When you got the business going, did you ever run into union trouble?

A Yes, yes, many times. I avoided it. And I've tried all my life to take jobs where I didn't have to be agreeable to and under a union's domination. And I have never felt sorry for it. While I probably am not the largest mason contractor--I guess I am and have been, probably, one of the largest for ten, 15 years. But some of the jobs I've taken have been small because the unions all go for the big ones. But I managed to find a way of getting all these small--I got some big ones, too, once in a while.

Q Well, what do you think is--oh, it's a bad word, but, you know, bad about the union?

A Well, there never was anything bad about them, in my opinion, until the last--well, I think in the last 10 years their power has been abused. Many of their officers have criminal backgrounds, and so forth. There's a lot of threat and terrorism and so forth.

Q What I was specifically thinking was, during the '30s the C.I.O. was just organizing the skilled workers . . .

A Well, then I think that at that particular time, I think, we were watching Henry Ford and we saw what he did, and he didn't have too much trouble, although later on I guess he did. My recollection's not so clear. But I know when he started producing this automobile, everybody was amazed at the money he could pay. But I feel that unions have done our country a lot of good, and with the exception of the last ten years. In the last ten years, many things have been their enemies. They simply become bureaucrats entrenched in their jobs and getting their dues from members, and the business climates change, and with many trades, they're on their way out. We're one that's on the way out. Ten years ago we had 12 stonemasons. Today we got one. One. Other materials have taken their place--yeah, I don't say that they can ever--there isn't any wall that can be duplicated in a factory that looks like a brick wall or a stone wall, it's impossible. There's a certain sense of permanence there in architecture that can't be reached by any other mate-

rial.

- Q Do you think it was sort of hard to get started in construction during the '30s, in the Depression?
- A No, it was about the same as it is now. I don't consider ourselves that we are--we live a better life, we have more of the material things of life, certainly. But I don't see what we lacked particularly at that particular time. I don't see what we lacked to live in a fairly good life that we have not now. Maybe we're better cared for, we have better health care and many other services are better. But many of these things came about through advanced technology, too. There isn't any question that man keeps improving himself and his products all the time. Now I guess we're getting where we may do away with ourselves if we're not careful.
- Q Someone--another student, someone in New Jersey--interviewed factory workers who were working--not quite a factory [inaudible]--but they look on the Depression, they grew up during that period, and they looked on it as a kind of adventure, as a challenge. I'm also interested in the honesty that you mentioned. Could you think of anything specific about . . .
- A Well, I think a robbery in a neighborhood was practically unheard of. About the only thing they ever stole, everybody--or not everybody, but lots of people--had their own little chicken coop and whatnot, and sometimes they'd lose their chickens, but other than that, I can't remember a house being burglarized. I can't remember anybody in a residential area being beaten unless it was some small slum district downtown or something, assault and battery or something like that. I can't remember anything of that nature. And to steal as a child was just something you do not do. It was just something that--I don't know what would ever happened if a teacher caught you stealing. I don't know. And for my teacher to slap my fingers with that ruler was something, boy that was it. That was it. I couldn't go home and tell my father 'cause he'd give me one, too.
- Q I remember my father telling me that.
- A The honesty really--you know, you can be honest in lots of ways. It's just like there's a time to be that way and there's maybe once in a while for somebody's good, maybe, you have to conceal something. But today you really have to search and search and search to make sure that you're on the right ground. And it wasn't that way then. I can name dozens and dozens people who worked--we worked for, and who worked for us, and my father didn't have money to pay 'em that week, he didn't get it. They said, "All right, we'll keep on working." And it just went on like that.
- Q It was important to have a steady job.
- A Right, it was important to have something, a steady job. And like I'm telling you, when that particular house or that building was sold and everything, everybody got paid. They paid the contractor, the contractor paid my father for his trade or work, and he paid his men.
- Q How did you feel about--your mother told me about the pride or feeling that

they didn't want to go on assistance . . .

A Right, right. There were many people with us then on that. Many people with us. I'm not saying all of them, but there were many people with us like that. They just didn't want that.

Q Do you know why?

A Sure, you felt that you didn't want something for nothing. You didn't want it. You didn't want it. You had a good body and a good pair of hands and a head and you wanted to make your own, that's all. I mean, I would lie--it's funny about lies, there's certain kinds--and I'd lie about my age, I couldn't even give my right name to get that job with my uncle, but I didn't consider it as such. But I did, in a sense. I said, "Oh, boy, suppose I get caught, I'll go to jail or something." My uncle would have got fired. He couldn't hire relatives, that was terrible, he just couldn't do that.

Q You mentioned going down to the mission, and your mother also mentioned it, that she had a soup kitchen down there at that time.

A Um hmm, that's right.

Q Do you remember seeing the people down there?

A Um hmm. Yes, I remember seeing them.

Q What kind of condition were they in? They must have been pretty . . .

A They didn't look any worse than us. I mean, we weren't dressed to the height of fashion by a long shot either. We weren't dressed in the height of fashion.

Q This is sort of a--I guess it's a guessing, it's also an opinion question. If there was a depression now, how do you think the people, my generation, the people [inaudible] . . . how can they do compared to--how would they make out compared to people in the '30s?

A Well, I don't know. [Interrupted by telephone.] You know, we had the hunger march on Washington--well, we didn't call it the hunger march; I forgot what we called it then . . .

Q The Bonus March?

A Yeah, and so forth. But that was an early thing, it wasn't--I fear very much for violence if we have a depression. That's the reason I'm trying--this stream of mine, it's been polluted, I've been used to it. But the children have been raisin'--I have a boy 13 and a boy 15, been raisin' the devil about it for the past two years. So I decided to do something. Well, I'm hoping and praying that something does get done to show them peaceably that something can be done about something that's wrong. I don't know how far I'm gonna get.

- Q Do you think that people--well, that younger people could make it through something like that?
- A I think so. I hope so. Gee, I hate to make a prediction. All I can say is I hope so, because when I think of the terrible violence that we've had in a prosperous period--this is still a prosperous period, we're having a little recession now, but I don't think it will last. But I think the biggest--I really don't think that men's talents are being developed like they used to. And I guess it's terrible to say, but there seems to be no reason for them, in their minds, to develop their talents. They're restricted almost everywhere they go. And it used to be we'd pay our tradesmen--if one carpenter made \$2.00 an hour and he was the very best one, the one that wasn't quite as good, he got \$1.90. Well, that kept the pride of that one up that was good and that other dime and hour kept the others trying to reach him, you know what I mean? And that things seems to be lost. If a man does more than another man now, in a given group, he's looked on as an oddball by the rest of them. That seems to be prevalent. I always thought the strength of our country was made by the use of the talents of all our people. That's how I always felt. But it seems to me that with our socialism and our strong powerful federal government has suffocated an awful lot of our outlets that would be useful.
- Q Do you think that the growth of the federal government comes from the Depression, began in that period?
- A Yes, yes, it began there.
- Q What with social security and W.P.A. . . .
- A Right, they were the first indications of the socialism, if you want to call it that. I still think it's--well, it's the freest nation there is, so you can't turn around and, you know, damn it, you can't do it. But it seems to me that all of our children, all of our relatives, have gained so much. Yet the time that they try to participate in their government is nil, practically, they just let somebody else do it. If they'd give an hour a week or something to some social or political aspect or something, I bet it'd be a different government. If they write a letter a week, each of them, to their congressman, it'd be different. But they don't seem to care. The apathy has apparently pretty well set in. They figure somebody else can do the job, and if they don't get any work, they'll be kept anyway, with unemployment. Then after unemployment, they can go on welfare. We have employees here that are married. In the summer, good weather, the man works six months and the wife, she doesn't work very much, or at all. Then in the winter, the woman goes to the work and the man, he don't work too much. Of course he can't on account of the weather. But we have situations like that--there's quite a few of them.
- Q Is honesty the only thing that you learned, growing up in the Depression?
- A Well, the other was of course hard work, however you put it, whether you're at a desk or . . .
- Q A lot of people came out of that time that feel that they needed security,

and that may have been the rise of our materialism.

- A Right. That's quite true. We--people my age, have made the mistake for 20 years--I did it to--by thinking an awful lot of the material things of life. But when you have a youth like ours, I mean, naturally you want those. Well, you hope that the youth today, who practically have these things--not given to 'em, they still gotta go to work to earn 'em, but they're there for the--if you got a credit card, they're there. So maybe that--sometimes I think maybe that's the reason so much criticism is put on our government as far as racism and crime and everything else, I don't know.
- Q That was sort of what I was trying to get at. The idea that for a long time people wanted security and then suddenly there's a new generation, that's what I was asking about, if there was a depression, what would this new generation do. How would they react?
- A Well, I don't know. I would assume that they would have to--for one--on one hand, start lovin' their neighbor, that's for sure, because even that was prevalent in the days when we were cavemen. That was prevalent. You loved your neighbor, you stayed together for protection, and care. I guess that instinct for survival is in everybody. But since we have all these material things, I guess nobody cares very much what happens to his neighbor today, and it's kind of a dog eat dog thing, I guess. I don't know. I don't know. How the young people would react, it's hard to say, because you can't do without these material things of life now. They're here, and without 'em, you can't even get to your job. You need a car to get to your job. Almost everybody's job is four or five miles away, maybe more. How you gonna get there? There are no buses, or there are not enough. I mean, so these things that have become necessities and you really can't do without 'em. How you gonna transmit news as well as you can with television? You just can't transmit it any better.
- Q President Roosevelt was the first one to use the radio, making broadcasts, do you remember those at all? Did you listen to them?
- A No, I don't remember that. No, I don't remember that.
- Q Well, can you think of anything else about that period that maybe I haven't asked you?
- A No, you've asked me pretty well. No doubt, if you had more questions you could provoke me into something, but I can't remember much else. I can't remember.
- Q O.K. Thank you.

[END OF INTERVIEW]