

Tape 1
Side 1
Interview 1

Q. What is it today? The 22nd or something?

A. The 23rd.

Q. The 23rd? This is the 23rd of August. I'm Mark Friedrich, and I'm speaking with Mr. Manny Goldman and his daughter.

Judy: Judy (Unknown).

Q. Judy (Unknown). This should be working fine. From the interview with your brother, I got the basic information about your growing up, at least, your brother growing in New York City and then coming here to practice law.

A. (Unintelligible) He grew up as a young man in Rome, New York, and did his liberal arts at Syracuse University, and his law at Harvard and did work in New York City for a few years in the big law offices for experience before he came to Rochester in about 1930.

Q. When did you come here?

A. I graduated Syracuse University and the law school in 1924. And, I arrived in Rochester on the 18th day of August, 1924, to be associated with a very old law firm called Myer and Harris and did about four years with them when I created a partnership with Mr. Joseph Goldstein under the name of Goldstein and Goldman which is still existing under the name of Goldstein, Goldman, Kessler, & Underberg. Mr. Goldstein is gone ten years now (unintelligible) he actually retired (unintelligible). Mr. Goldstein and I had very many (unintelligible) in common in addition to being fairly decent general practicing lawyers in the community. Mr. Goldstein for over 60 years, and I for over 50 years. And that is our interest in the community. Both Jewish and non-Jewish. Perhaps the contribution I would like to make to my (unintelligible) is that

A. (Continued) Rochester from the Jewish point of view was in 1924 and until, possibly 1960, was a very different Jewish community than Buffalo or Syracuse, both of which are our next door neighbors. But because Rochester was settled very early by the German-Jews and became very prosperous. Started clothing factories, neck tie factories, sweater mills, all of the textile industry, which they brought from Germany, they came to Rochester (unintelligible). And, they had a very good thing going here before any number of German-Jews or, of Russian or Polish or East-European Jews showed up in any number. We have one of the oldest Reformed Temples in the City of Rochester. Temple B'rith Kodesh was formed, really, in the late '30s. It got to be made more liberal under the direction of its rabbi, a Rabbi Lonsberg who really was a German scholar, and who was (unintelligible) in Isaac Meyer Weiss' Reformed Jewish Movement which settled in Cincinnati. And, there were a handful of congregations in which the service was held on Sunday morning, not Saturday morning. There was no Friday night service. The prayer book was practically all in (Unknown). There was . . . they really could not get along with the Russian-Jews because the Russian-Jews were doing the same thing to them in Rochester that the German-Jews were doing to the (Unknown) Jews in New York City who came here over 300 years ago. They were weakening their social structure. The German-Jews had been here long enough so that they learned how to play golf and how to support the art galleries, and how to build big mansions. This is Mrs. Goldman.

MG: Hi.

Q. How do you do? Mark Friedrich.

A. The big mansions on East Avenue. . . you know where that is, and the temples: it was more difficult for the Russian-Jew or as difficult for a Russian-Jew, to join Temple B'rith Kodesh as it was for him to join any of the non-Jewish eating clubs who did not take Jews. And, this went on under Dr. Lonsberg's

A. (Continued) leadership, and I guess he was a rabbi here for a great many years. I don't know exactly, but more than 30 years, I know that. So, then, a whole generation . . .

Judy: I think it was around the early '20s that . . .

A. Yeah, that he . . . Well, a whole generation of descendants of these German-Jews were reared in his Sunday School and in his temple, and maybe two generations. When he died, then a young rabbi Wolfe became the rabbi, and he was far more liberal, more understanding of Judaism in so far as the average person is concerned. And, he brought in 1926, a Rabbi Bernstein to the temple. Or, he didn't bring him, one of our very devoted members, Amos (Unknown) induced the congregation to employ Rabbi Bernstein as an assistant. And, unfortunately, Rabbi Wolfe did not live but a couple of years after Rabbi Bernstein came. And, Rabbi Bernstein became the chief rabbi at a very, very young age. Rabbi Bernstein was studying in Israel in 1924, '25, when he met Mr. (Unknown), so that Rabbi Bernstein took over the membership of about . . . between 280 and 300 Jews with the total influence of Dr. Lonsberg. Sunday morning services, no Hebrew, no Bar Mitvahs. I don't know if you know what (unintelligible) means or not, and absolutely no . . . none of the Conservative or Orthodox practices. And, it took Rabbi Bernstein a great many years. What happened was the membership was opened to all Jews who wanted to join, and the membership went from 300 to 500 very quickly, most of whom, practically all of whom, were the descendants of East-European Jews. So that Hebrew in the prayer books, Saturday morning service, Friday night service, they knew all about. And, a very long process of possibly five years went on. I became president of the temple, and was president for 12 years, which is the longest term that anybody ever served in the history of the temple. And, under that presidency, we switched to Saturday morning service, and to Friday night service, and we brought back a

A. (Continued) great many of the old customs in the . . . and performed rituals for the temple that . . . Is that wrong?

Judy: Well, I think, they never gave up the Saturday morning services.

A. No. But, the main service . . .

Judy: They just switched the main service to Sunday morning.

A. The main service was Sunday morning, and the rabbi occupied the pulpit with striped pants and a (unintelligible) coat, and reviewed books. And, that is the same type of service that went on in Baltimore, and they were one of the last ones to give it up. And, it went on in many of the big cities, in Chicago. And, of course, Temple Manuel in New York, the one that we were in. But, there was a Saturday morning service attended mainly by widows and elderly people who . . . that was . . . wanted. They might say a prayer for the dead or somebody who had nobody else. That's a part, I think, a very different story of the Reformed Movement in Buffalo or Syracuse. Now Syracuse welcomed the leaders. Syracuse did not have the German-Jewish leadership in numbers for important (unintelligible), and neither did Buffalo . . . as Rochester did. That's very clear. And, Rochester in 1918, built the Irondequoit Country Club. And, I want to tell you: we have a club in town known as the Genesee Valley Club, and they're just falling on hard times, so they're opening up membership to people they would not have taken ten years ago. But, it was about as easy to get into the Genesee Valley Club twenty years ago, as it was to get into the Irondequoit Country Club if you were an East-European Jew. Well, that one phase of the Jewish life in Rochester, but these people also made a great contribution to the entire community. We had a very vital and very large growing JYM&WA, and it did get a lot of support from the whole community. We built that new building in 1926 or '27, which is now abandoned . . .

Q. The one on Andrews Street?

A. On Andrews Street. And, that was really some (unintelligible), and if there

A. (Continued) weren't a lot of people like Mr. Herman Cohen, and Mr. Sol Harmon, and Mr. Mortin . . . er, Mortimer Adler, and Henry Stern, a great number of these German-Jews . . . Mrs. Catherine Wile, the Neisner Brothers (unintelligible) they put in something you never heard of, like, \$40,000.00 in 1926 or '27. That was a lot of money (unintelligible). But that . . . What's that?

Judy: (Laughter) I've lived there all my life.

MG: One is giving a footnote to the footnote.

Judy: Yeah. I was born here, and I lived (unintelligible)

A. In any event, Rochester has also, I think, the second oldest Community Chest. It's called by another name in different cities. It's called . . .

Judy: (Unintelligible)

A. No. No.

Q. The United Fund.

Judy: Yeah.

A. Yeah. The United Fund. But, we have one of the most active . . . We raised more money per capita than any city in the country. We have better management in so far as extensive (unintelligible) Our operating expenses are something like 2%. A great number of . . . it represented the whole community. And, a great number of Jews, and the whole population has helped the United Fund. They've organized the workers at Kodak and at other big plants who give "x" percent of their wages, taken out of their wages, to the United Fund. Last year, the United Fund raised \$60,000,000.00. They started really under the support of George Eastman. But, it's a very active and important, vital organization. And, a great number of men (unintelligible) hundreds of men who devote, I think it's almost fair to say, thousands of hours a year for meetings of the United Fund, The Community Chest, and different parts of it who are involved in agencies in the community who get all the their support from the

A. (Continued) United Fund and have a close association. My wife, sitting here, was president and served on the board for some twenty years and is president of the Bayden Street Settlement. The Bayden Street Settlement, you may have heard about it, it was founded by her aunt. One of the founders, Mrs. Jacob Garson. And, it was founded to assist the East-European Jews. Now, of course, it has a different clientele (unintelligible). She was president of it (unintelligible) the Bayden Street Settlement has made, I think, is recognized among social workers and among other people as one of the agencies of its kind that has done an outstanding job. And, it's been a leader in a great many areas of that field. (Unintelligible) When I came to town, there were two Jewish social service agencies. One served the Orthodox Community, and one served the Reformed. And, Rochester had a Jewish Orphan Asylum Association on Genesee Street, and they had a man . . . what was his name, Jane?

Jane: Armond Wile.

A. Armond Wile who was also a very progressive social worker and a pioneer, and under his leadership, he induced the reform. The Jewish Orphan Asylum Association of Western New York, which included Buffalo, the towns in between Rochester, the towns in between Syracuse. And, Armond Wile ran this orphanage; it was run very beautifully. And, he felt, back in the late '20s, every kid belonged in a home. And, orphanages as such are passe, and he induced the three cities to close up the orphanages and to send the children back to Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester where they came from and sold the building and created a fund. And, the income from that fund, which I was president at that time, was divided among the three cities in proportion to the number of children that came from the different cities. My wife's father was president of the fund that had (unintelligible). I succeeded him. At that time, I was not in any way related to my wife or to Mr. Adler. My interest in this whole field

A. (Continued) of social work and activity . . . Well, then, I started, we started, Mr. Adler started the Jewish Placement and Guidance Bureau. And, we had our own board of electors, our own (unintelligible), and we were ostensibly a German-Jewish organization. We had a native Rochesterian (unintelligible) and she was succeeded by Anna Wolfe . . . or Anna . . . Rose. Ann Rose's sister. And, we had very many hassles with the rabbi, and important members of Beth El who objected seriously to our placing a German-Jewish . . . to our placing a Jewish child in a non-Jewish home. We felt that as a social worker, we should place that child in a home that more nearly fitted his needs and his requirements, and whether, if we could find a Jewish home, fine. If we couldn't, we found the next best. And, Rabbi Fischer really . . . and Harry Harris, and Alfred Hart, and a number of very powerful Jews in the city, socially . . . I don't mean socially for dinner parties, but in social organizations, fought us tooth and nail. And, we finally . . . after a long period of time, we finally merged the two organizations into what is now the Jewish Social Service Bureau. The Jewish Social . . . And, I was president of the Jewish Social Service Bureau. I found out early in life that if you did too much talking, and then you had to go to the bathroom, when you came back, you were elected president. You didn't dare leave a meeting if . . . unless you found yourself president. And, we had a very, I think, a very impressive social service agency. We were able to employ a David Crystal; you may have heard of his name. He was then associated with the Family Society, a big Protestant, non-Jewish social service agency. He came over as head of our agency, and the social worker that we had representing the Jewish group, married, and she left. And, the fellow that was assigned the Orthodox group, he went to Washington, D.C. for some other job. And, we were able to hire David Crystal as the first director of the merged agencies. And, at that point . . . at

A. (Continued) that point in the middle '30s, we had gone gun ho . . . (Unintelligible) inspired young man, and we had a very fine staff. We did not employ any social workers without a psychiatric degree from either Columbia, Vassar, or Case. And, carried on (unintelligible) adoption service in addition to our regular service. And then, of course, in 1936 came Hitler. And, Rochester had under Mr. Mortimer Adler, who was my wife's uncle, one of the most active refugee committees in this country. I was able, with the help of Rabbi Bernstein and also with some of the leaders in the community like Mr. Adler, I was able to get the Secretary of State to accept . . . and we were the first community, and as far as I know, not more than two or three did it, a community affidavit. In other words, you could not bring anybody over from a foreign country unless you personally obligated yourself to support them. They would never become a public charity. A lot of people in '36 were not as well off as they are today, wanted to help this program. Rabbi Bernstein, as you know, was a head of the orphan (unintelligible) . . . What is it, Jane? But, what do you call a minister or a priest or . . . He was a head of that Jewish orphan . . . Jewish (Unknown). He represented all phases of Judaism. And, he was stationed in Germany with his family. And, he knew thousands of Jews in Czechoslovakia, in Poland, and other places. (Unintelligible) to the United States, and to Israel, and England, and other places. And, through him and Secretary of War, Patterson, I was able to go to Washington. I was supposed to go abroad as his council, but all kinds of legal problems about the tenure of service cropped up, and I had no idea whether I served four years or six years, or one year. I was willing to take some limited commitment, but I had three young children and no money, and found it very difficult to get into a situation as his council not knowing when I would get out. I was to go in with the rank of . . . just the rank above captain . . .

Q. Colonel?

A. Colonel. But, and Patterson was all with me, but the army is something else again. And, he could not get me and the Secretary of War. He could not get them to consent as to how long I would serve. Actually, the man who did take the job served seven years; he couldn't get out. The poor man was stuck over there in Poland with a wife and a bunch of children in Minneapolis, Minnesota all those years. Rabbi Bernstein got Secretary of War Patterson to approve of community affidavits which I had drawn. So that enabled us to bring into Rochester quite a number of German-Jews, and Morry Adler was the head of that along with this gentlemen, Mr. Arthur Lowenthal was coming down here. Mr. Henry Stern and my partner Mr. Goldstein, Harry Goldman, we had a very active agency. Joe Silverstein. And, we got people to employ these people. We trained them in the clothing industry, the neck tie industry. We opened a German-Jewish Bakery on Monroe Avenue. We . . . and, their social service needs were served by the Jewish Social Service Bureau.

Q. Instead of Bayden Street.

A. Instead of . . . well, this was directly social services. And, then, Bayden Street came along and did what it was supposed to do. It introduced them in the community. Bayden Street did what we didn't do. It taught them how to go to market to buy, it taught them how to . . . taught them English. We had English classes. We had Bob Adler ran a series of classes of getting the kids who had night courses so they could pass Regent's exams . . . examinations and get into college, and all that. And, that was an extremely active agency. And, that was run under the main responsibility of the (unintelligible). Well, that's some of my activities. I was, naturally, I was . . . this involved housing, so I became involved in housing. I became the chairman of the Housing Authority of the City of Rochester, which was, in those days, predominately

A. (Continued) republican, and a few were democrats, and who had all the ph.ds in the world. You couldn't elect a dog catcher in Rochester, but . . . and, the leading, fine citizens in this community were just getting into public housing. They would not . . . impossible. We even built the . . . The Housing Authority's building down on Bayden Street. . . the Hanover Houses was built under the edicts of the State of New York. We did not even have a Housing Authority. When it finally dawned on the republicans in around '58, '59 that they were paying for public housing and not getting any, that they better get off of this high horse . . . And, I was invited to create a Housing Authority.

Q. You met in 1950?

A. '58. Which I did, and we had five men. And, I did it on the theory that it would be non-political, and I could pick the authority. Now, while there were republicans in power, strange to say, I had no interference of any kind. We started moving, and we had a man named Ganor who Rockefeller had brought from Denver, who was a housing authority, and we really started modeling Hanover, doing quite a job. We had a miserable time. Rochester has gone five, or six, or seven thousand blacks historically, to fifty thousand.

Q. This is immediately after the Second World War?

A. Yes. From '46 on. I mean now I understand something like eighty thousand, ninety thousand blacks. But, when all of sudden this problem . . . they decided they better get housing for them . . . Well, I was the first chairman of the Housing Authority. And, until 1962 when the democrats took the city, we had no problem. We started with an innovation, and I had gone to Albany, and I had gotten backing from the governor and from Levitt, who was the Comptroller of the state? And, I got \$50,000.00 . . . I got \$500,000.00. Two and fifty right away. And, I was . . . I bought 25 houses in the name of the Housing Authority in changing areas of the city where old families had

- A. (Continued) lived with coal furnaces, and one toilet, forty years old, and putting about \$10,000.00 in each house, and then putting large families in it. And, we bought 25 houses and everything worked fine. But, then I was dismissed as chairman of the Housing Authority and democrats took it over. And, that program ceased. They never called for the second \$25,000.00. (Unintelligible). And, the Housing Authority was then under the direction of the democrats in Rochester. And, ever since then (unintelligible).
- Q. There has been a change in the . . .
- A. Well . . .
- Q. . . . attitude and approach towards public housing . . .
- A. Well, there's been a change because . . .
- Q. In fact, the high rise . . .
- A. Well, there's been a change because like a sinking man drowning, somebody throws him a straw, he'll grab it. The Housing Authority found it couldn't live this way with all the Puerto Ricans and blacks. People who couldn't hold jobs. No place to put them. It was far more expensive to put them in hotel rooms, which . . . would have really kept this program up. But, that's another subject. Then, I . . . then a great number of changes in Rochester. But, the point that I'm trying to make, that I think Rochester as a city of about a million, with the surrounding territories, Rochester's population is three hundred odd thousand . . . Rochester as a city has been under the domination of what I call the power structure. It's been under the domination of Kodak, Stromberg-Carlson, Bausch & Lomb, Taylor Instruments, all these local industries who on the one hand certainly have made Rochester a very unique city. We have one of the lowest unemployment rates. I think we have one of the highest income brackets (unintelligible) due to our local industry. Kodak picks up 10% of the Community Chest budget automatically every year. I don't believe there's

A. (Continued) another city in the United States that gets a card mailed in the day after the drive is announced for a million and a half dollars; 10% of the drive to start right off. And, of course, that sets the tempo for Xerox and all the rest of them. My son here has been extremely active in the community. When did you come back to Rochester? How many years . . .

Son: In '67.

A. In '67. (Unintelligible) ten years at the temple. (Unintelligible)

Judy: (Unintelligible) Back in time.

A. (Unintelligible)

Judy: Chronological order.

Q. It was twelve years. Planning board, you were on the planning board?

A. Well, yes. I feel uncomfortable about the number of offices I've held, and the presidencies I've held, because I have a feeling that you don't get to be a president incidentally. You must pull some strings some where. And, I can say with my hand on the Bible that I've never sought one of these offices. When I was first approached to become president of the temple, men of great wealth, Jewish men of great wealth and social importance as in president. Morton Randler, Henry Stern, Dr. Sol Appletown. All of a sudden, I was supposed to become president of the temple. I was unmarried to start with. I was a young practicing lawyer. I'd gone through the depression. I didn't know the members who ran the temple were all in their seventies, and I was in my late thirties at . . . But, they were great, good, devoted friends of mine, and they were very helpful to me and to . . . and they loved Rabbi Bernstein. Yes. I served twelve years, and I think some of the things we did and so forth, are still in effect. And, we have a citizen who is a Rochesterian and a University of Rochester graduate, Phi Beta Kappa, who took a few track records way back in those days, a man named Ben Goldstein, who's in Rochester. And,

- A. (Continued) someone hasn't mentioned his name in the . . . as they should, in the new . . . in the new Temple Beth . . . B'rith Kodesh. Have you been in it yet?
- Q. Yes. I've been in it once.
- A. There is the Ben Goldstein room. Ben Goldstein is an university 1907 graduate of Rochester, Phi Beta Kappa who spent the first twenty years of his life in industry, and who was a devoted, religious man. And, he quit his job and became an assistant to Rabbi Bernstein, and he devoted the remaining years of his life as assistant rabbi without any rabbinical training whatsoever. So, he was a better rabbi than 90% of them who had all the degrees in Cincinnati. Ben Goldstein (unintelligible). I think the one little contribution, perhaps this will be repetitious or . . . I was living with a lot of these men, active with them. My view was very often different in that I was more liberal; more perhaps, more in the Reformed Movement than with the Conservative Movement. Although, the rabbi who heads our chair, is a very good friend of mine. A very bright, honorable, wonderful guy. And, I was also the sponsor of Rabbi Mortimer Kaplan . . . is that his name? . . . who had the special movement in New York which is (unintelligible). If there's a Jewish way of (unintelligible). I couldn't go that far and that was to find out what the Jewish way to play basketball. I think there was one way to play it. But, he felt it needed to be more Judaism in the lives of Jews, that the Reformed Movement didn't do it, the Orthodox didn't do it because they were too involved with customs and not with the real day to day Jews. But, I do think that the Reformed Movement went far too far. It became very ineffective, and the net result of Rabbi Lonsberg thirty or thirty-five years in the (unintelligible), and he actually married my wife's father and mother. He was the rabbi that married them. He left two generations of Jews in Rochester who had very Judaism . . . who had very little

A. (Continued) to do with it, who aren't members of the temple, who have no religious content in their lives. Why, he would have made a tremendous German professor at the University of Rochester instead of being (unintelligible). But, he literally translated it down to the point that their wasn't a speck of Hebrew in the book, as I told you, all the rest of that. But, and, I think, it's difficult for the Reformed Movement which has been trying to get back to Conservative by having Bas Mitvahs. Do you know what a Bas Mitvah is? That's when a girl gets to be 13. Well, of course, that was absolutely (unintelligible) the German-Jews, no girl ever had a Bas Mitvah until about 1955, something like that. Rabbi (unintelligible). The book has just been rewritten again. But, I think, the point I want to make is that Rochester is a kind of a unique city in that there . . . we have very many fine, outstanding, able citizens among the older generation who are extremely generous with their time and their money. But the one mistake was, they insisted everything be done their way. They were willing to do that as long as they ran the show. My great and good friend T. Carl Nixon was one of the leading lawyers and senior member of one of a law firm over a hundred years, one of the biggest, most powerful law firms, I believe, in the country, and a very good friend of mine. But, you couldn't say 'public housing' to him. You couldn't say 'welfare'. There's no excuse for an able-bodied man to be on relief. Goddamn it, my father got a job, carried a dinner pail, went to work. I didn't get any liberal arts education. I went right into law school right out of East High School. There's no reason if people want to make something of their lives, let them get up and make it. You're spoiling the people with all these social programs. Well, he had the president of Bausch & Lomb . . . what's his name?

Q. Cal Hattof.

A. Cal Hattof (spelling?). Well, these two men literally owned the republican

A. (Continued) party in the palm of their hands for possibly forty-years. So, they took a liking to you, and he supported them . . . there's no question, but . . . you'd get ahead politically. Supreme court judges, and governors, and all the rest of it. But, they were rock-red conservatives. And, of course, as time went on, they got older and both of them . . . they're very fine gentlemen. Both of them are now dead. There is, as you probably know, there isn't any semblance of a republican party in Rochester today. We just don't have anybody. There may be more power in the conservative party (unintelligible). I don't know. Maybe if you shut your machine off at this point. Hanover Houses is a story in and all by itself, and on black and white, and you don't need to take anyone's word for it. They were so opposed to public housing. My (unintelligible) graduated Yale, and he was then (unintelligible) authority (unintelligible). He built Hanover Houses. He had a job with the State of New York, his name just skips me. And, they were going . . . that end of the town was strictly Jewish. As time went on, it became . . . Germans quit at a certain point, and then the Jews started. As the Jews moved from Bayden Street, Ormond, and Joseph Avenue, up to Culver Road, Park Avenue, on Harvard Street, a number of Italians and other East-Europeans . . . whites began moving in. And, the neighborhood changed. But, there still was a substantial number of Jews in the seventies, Orthodox Jews, who had the big synagogue on Ryan Street. There were four or five synagogues down in that neighborhood. And, there was something about the Orthodox Jewish religion, you need ten people to form a congregation. And, it seems to me, the minute you got twelve, you have twelve opinions. So, ten would form a congregation, and two would start getting in, and they would start another congregation. So, they formed all these little congregations, except they had the big shul, shul means congregation. You had the one. There they were, they'd worked in

A. (Continued) the clothing industry, they advanced in the tie industry, there'd been no retirement pensions for anything, and they were generally a husband and a wife, or a wife alone or a husband alone. So, what . . . and the blacks had began to come, so when Hanover Houses was built, the architects who built Hanover Houses (unintelligible) ought to really be disbarred or whatever the word is for losing their license. They laid out on a four or five acres of land . . . Hi, I'm ready for a ten-round fight. I'm trying to see you, because I was so last night . . . Introduce yourself.

Q. I'm Mark Friedrich.

Voice: Hello. And, how are you?

Voice: How do you do Mr. (Unknown)?

Voice: Well! Hello. How do you do?

A. Get Arthur a chair. Mark Friedrich is working at the University of Rochester.

Voice: He's working at the University of Rochester.

A. I guess for a ph.d degree, and he is updating a book you contributed generously to, financially and otherwise.

Voice: The Jews of Rochester.

A. The Jews of Rochester. And, I am being interviewed with a tape recorder.

Arthur: Well, you couldn't possibly interview anyone better suited to give you the dope. (Laughter)

Voice: Absolutely.

A. I've referred to a few dopes already. (Laughter) Get Arthur a medium scotch and water.

Arthur: Very medium please.

A. Now, will you change your mind? Have a drink?

Q. Okay.

A. You can't lose your job. I was . . . what was I just telling? Oh, he wanted

A. (Continued) to know . . . I just finished from my experiences at B'rith Kodesh and the Jewish Social Service Bureau, and the Community Chest, and at the Housing Authority. I haven't gotten to the governor's . . .

Arthur: It's a good prelude to the activities . . .

A. Yeah. Commission. And, he wanted me to enlarge on Hanover Houses. Now, here's a gentlemen who served . . . who has served his community for fifty years that I know of, had the works program here in town during the depression. That involved a tremendous . . .

Arthur: You go ahead with the Hanover Houses.

A. Yeah. I wanted to . . . You ought to put his name down. And, I think you ought to talk to (unintelligible).

Q. Has anyone interviewed you?

Arthur: What?

Q. Has anyone interviewed you?

Arthur: I don't know what this project's name is.

A. Is there a name?

Q. Yes.

Arthur: Isaacs.

Q. Yeah, Tina Isaacs. She's also collecting information.

A. Well, we had a large influx, as I told you before. We had historically about five or six percent of the population black. And, they lived off Park Avenue, they lived right around my father-in-law's house on Buckingham Street. They worked in garages. There was no black problems. There was no ghettos at all until after the Second World War, and large numbers of blacks came to Rochester. The town . . .

Tape 1
Side 11
Interview 1

A. . . . vandectomy operation, a back operation. We were down in Florida and she was miserable. I said, "Well, geez, (unintelligible) in the world." He says, "Manny, you're . . . I talked to Al Millman and other people, and you can do it, and he'll get Howard Woods," who was general council for his bank and was a democratic, and a very nice guy. Well, I said, "Alright." Being, you know, I was interested in housing way back in 1928 with my . . . he wasn't my father-in-law then; my father-in-law was interested with a lady in public housing in 1928 in Rochester under the Church Movement, but they couldn't get enough steam in the church people to keep it going. It fell apart. But, anyway, when I came back, I created the Rochester Housing Authority in which I had, I think, I had three republicans and one liberal, Dr. William Knotts, and Howard Woods. And, I . . . Howard said he would become chairman of it if I would give him (unintelligible); I said I would. He became quite ill; he had a serious operation; he didn't live too long. So, I became chairman. And, that was the Housing Authority. And they took three members from that other committee of ten and put them on my . . . Well, one of them is chairman of the Citizen's Tax Relief (Unintelligible), who is about a 1900, oh, about a 1902 graduate of the University of Rochester who goes around town speaking that you should be against public housing, 'cause why should you pay rent for someone else? Why doesn't he get enough money to pay his own rent?

Q. (Unintelligible)

A. And, he went around and spoke in the high schools, and he was . . . he and I had a debate, one had the Chamber of Commerce and one (unintelligible). In any event, as I told you, the governor had picked Gaynor as chairman of housing the State of New York from Denver. And, he was . . . And, I went to New York

A. (Continued) and Gaynor promised me absolutely a fair shake that our budgets would be understood; if I didn't know anything about the mechanics of state housing, but I didn't want to be told that I couldn't spend \$2.80 a month to get rid of cockroaches, because that's the budget. 'Cause I got 392 units, and the place is crawling with them, and if I could get rid of them for \$5.00 bucks a month, I would consider it a bargain. Well, he really did . . . he did a pretty good job on it. Well, we had a housing survey made in town. It took six months, and . . . The girls . . . what's their good organization here in town?

Q. The Junior League.

A. The Junior League, they assisted me in other organizations. I got the council social agencies, and we made a survey of the housing needs of Rochester, which I think is a classic. Got it printed. Took us nine months, but we showed the complete disappearance of streets. We showed the growth of the population growth. You know, Rochester has one of the oldest populations of any city in the country. We showed streets like Champlain Street and streets off Jefferson Avenue where husband and wife have been living in this house for sixty years, and they had one water toilet with a box up above, and half the time it didn't fill, and the old gentlemen couldn't crawl the ladder any longer. They had a coal furnace. And, I got Governor Rockefeller to come to Rochester. He was here to make a speech on Sunday. And, I got him to get me a date for housing, and I took him around town and showed him the problems, the needs. I showed him that we bought a house for \$10,000.00, we put \$8,000.00 in it, we took a man with ten children. We took six children out of foster homes at \$20.00 a week and put the whole family together in one house.

Voice: It was (Unknown's) house. It was still Ruby's uncle, the guy that ran the city planning (unintelligible).

Voice: Bill Posner.

A. Bill Posner's uncle, Kaminsky. A very nice guy. And, the governor wrote me a letter; I got it upstairs. He was impressed with it. So, he said fine. I said, "I'd like to buy fifty of these houses, and we really can reduce the budget, we can get these families together, we can stop all this thing!" And, as a matter of fact, we're lucky. We have very strong social service agencies. There are men and women living together as husband and wife, having a child every year, or less, where the husband is emotionally sick. He's a neurotic, he's a . . . what's the phrase in your league for people that are . . . go up and down the ladder?

Voice: Manic-depressive.

A. Manic-depressives. They're manic-depressive. And, he . . . this family should be separated. And, I got Howard Woods, who was then head of public service, and we broke up a number of these families and stopped the child every year, and we got going fine. We bought 25 houses, and then, as I told you, I got the money from Levitt and the banks in town were wonderful. They negotiated these bonds for 3% interest rate. Unfortunately, in '62, this fellow Scheer, Sy Scheer, and the gang that took over . . . They were very hungry; they'd been out of power in Rochester for 50 years or more, so they wanted to take over the Housing Authority, because I would not appoint democrats as appraisers. I wouldn't hire democratic contractors to do the remodeling work. I'd lay off bids, and the lowest guy got it. I never met him and didn't know him. So, in any event, we only bought 25 of these houses. But, we still run them. We had fantastic success, because we have the Bayden Street Settlement who were able to take the teenage kids and take them in tutoring classes. We never had a black kid in college before 1958. Before we got through with our movement, we had black kids in Harvard and Yale who passed entrance exams, who went down to Bayden Street and were tutored in English, and Math, and History, and so

A. (Continued) forth. The thing ran fine, but then, I was fired as chairman of the Housing Authority, and they put real democratic pack on there naming (Unknown) as chairman, and his aim was just to take orders. He wanted to get a city court judge (unintelligible). He never did get . . . Although, it's a funny thing. The minute I got off of the Housing Authority, the Housing Authority voted to pay each member \$50.00 to cover their parking charges. (Laughter) But, that was the housing. Well, part of the housing problem is that nothing had been done with the public welfare laws in the State of New York since 1920. I testified before the State Legislature in 1920 to have the law to have nurses put RN after their name if they'd pass certain exams. And, I had several sessions when Al Smith was governor. But, those laws never had been changed. And, there was a big trouble in Newburg, New York. The city manager knocked everybody off of relief who could walk and talk, and unless he took a job, he couldn't get relief. And, they sued the State of New York. So, the governor, being very smart politically, there is a law passed by a state senator from Binghamton in 1898 called the . . . I was the second one, now they've passed a third. Senator Morin. They passed the Morin Commission. The governor has a private pocketbook. The governor has a private book. The governor can spend out of this private pocketbook a certain sum of money if he thinks it's directly needed in the aid of the state without getting involved with the legislature. So, one day I was sitting in my office working, and the phone rang. I had met the governor a few times through my brother Harry who was the great friend of this council. I knew Rocky fairly well. "Hello, Manny. This is Nelson." And I said, "Nelson who?" (Laughter) Well, he's appointing a Morin Commission, and he insists that I go on it. So, I . . . you know, I told him I could get someone better qualified . . . Anyway, I said, "Let me think about it." And he said, "I'll call you tomorrow." So he says, "Here's my number that you call, and I'll

A. (Continued) answer it." But, he says, "I don't want professional social workers. I don't want to make this . . . I want to make this a real practical job. There must be something wrong with the public welfare laws if they hadn't been amended in all these years." Well, he put John Dellis' sister on it, and he put the boy who was head of Golden Saks, a very bright guy in New York.

Voice: Jus . . .

A. Jus what?

Voice: Jus . . . I'm trying to think of his first name. Levie.

A. Jus Levie, a very bright guy. He put the chief lay Catholic on it. When the Pope came over from the old country, he was the guy that met his plane, kissed his ring, and he put one priest on it who represented 38 agencies in New York City. And, he had a 12 man commission. He had a guy from labor, and he had the assistant president of Syracuse University, he had the head of the Columbia Social Service (unintelligible). It was quite a good commission. And he had a man named Hazzard Gelepsie who was senior partner David Coke, Walsworth, Kendall . . . Kendall just died . . . John W. Davis' Law Firm in New York City. You've heard of John W. Davis? And, John W. Davis' office is general council to the governor. Mr. Gelepsie couldn't say no to the governor, so he was chairman. Well, we spent \$600,000.00 in three years, but we really, I think, we really did a job as far as those jobs are possible to do. Well, they hired a beautiful suite of rooms in that Channing Building on 42nd Street. We hired a man whom you know as head of the . . . of one of these public service agencies that make great studies of huge corporations. He chaired the (unintelligible). In any event, we were . . . we had 66 sessions in New York City, and if you think that the commissioners made any money, they gave us \$16.00 a day plus carfare. That was your hotel room, three meals, to and from

A. (Continued) the airport.

Q. Were you eligible to join the state pension?

A. (Laughter) I should have been. Anyhow, I started by saying: the architect who designed public housing all should lose their licenses. In the city of St. Louis, they're just demolishing the public housing job that cost "x" million dollars.

Q. It'll take \$20,000,000.00 to demolish (unintelligible) when they've done it.

A. Yeah. They demolished it. It cost over \$50,000,000.00, twenty years old.

Q. (Unintelligible) when they take it down.

A. We spent . . .

Q. It's complicated. There's a lot of housing around them, and they blew it up.

A. We spent \$5,000,000.00 to build Hanover, and I wanted . . . I wanted . . . Look it, Angie, give me a little (unknown) kindness, will you?

Angie: Sure will. You bet.

A. I want . . . (Unknown), Arthur would like . . .

Arthur: No. I wouldn't like anything. Thank you.

A. Oh. I have talked with Levitt, who is a really wonderful guy. He's tried locking his double cross (unintelligible) with the State of New York. He wanted one last "hurrah", to be president. He ran three times. His quitting in the middle of the last term and making Wilson president, and becoming vice-president, he . . . he thought that he might move up into the presidency or something. But, in any event, Rocky would not get involved with the right wing of the republican party. We have a man here in town of the right wing of the conservative party . . . Kesselman. He was very opposed to the public housing. They built 392 units. I've got 2,000 people on four acres of land, not an ounce of grass, not an ounce of dirt. And, what were the kids gonna do? When I took over as chairman of the Housing Authority, I spent \$4,400.00

A. (Continued) replacing windows, broken windows. There's a section in the housing law that the tenants can not pick the color of his apartment. Every apartment must be painted gray. And, so forth. Well, when I came in there, I said every tenant . . . I gave them . . . I hired a fellow who did some work for the temple when we did some remodeling . . . interior decorator, to go through there and give us a chart of eight or ten, or whatever you think colors that would liven the place up and make it look like home, and warm it up. And, I was told I couldn't do it. Well, I just did it. I went right ahead and told them to pick their colors and did, and see what happens. And, that's the way it ran for the three or four years that I was chairman of the Housing Authority. Every budget . . . one day a fellow named O'Rourke walked in my office. He was 68. Too bad he lived too early, he'd a been a great football player. He said, he said, "Manny, you're in trouble." I said what's my trouble. He says, "Your budget can not be approved." And, he says, "You're spending illegal money." I said why. Well, he said, "In the first place, these tenants have no right to select different colors. It cost more to paint different colors than to go through with one color gray. And secondly, (he says) you can not, under any circumstances, spend this kind of money for disinfectant. (He said) Thirdly, you've got to put automatic shutoffs on every stove. They're electric stoves. The furnaces are so inadequate when they were put in, the tenants let all the ovens run on the stove in the kitchen, and the electric bill was horrible. So, they're gonna go off automatically at 9:00 o'clock." So, I stood up and I had a key ring. His first name was Steven. I said gee, I said Steve, you know, I'm so damned glad that you came in today. He say, "Why?" I said, I've been offered very attractive jobs at the council of social agencies, and I think I'd rather do that than be chairman of the Housing Authority. The salary's the same, so

A. (Continued) I won't lose money. And, you're now chairman of the Rochester Housing Authority, and here's the key. And, I started to take the key off, you know. He says, "Now, wait a minute. You don't understand." I says, I don't care what you're talking about. I said, every company . . . I said, I can't hold any more meetings down at Hanover, because when I come home, I've got to take a shower and change all my clothes. I have a feeling that I've got a roach running down my back. I mean, I'm getting to be a nervous wreck. Well, he says, you can't do it. Here is the section. Well, I said, will you sit still a couple of minutes? He says, "Yeah." So, I got Gaynor on the phone. I says to Gaynor, I said, now, come clean. So, he got O'Rourke on the phone, and I guess, they said they better not do anything. (Unintelligible). But, that is the way that every Housing Authority in the State of New York is run. It's run by people who retired from industry, who are 65, who aren't gonna fight anybody. They're not gonna get in trouble with Kodak. They know Kodak doesn't want to get into trouble with the governor. The fella who's ahead of the (unknown) Company of Buffalo; the guy who's the head of the . . . they make gears in Syracuse. It's a big plant in Syracuse. It's been around a long time. Yeah. I was about . . . when I went to the Housing Authority meeting, I was the only rebel there that was interested in doing anything on our own. So, and in the meantime, we did plant grass. We did assign little projects where if you wanted to plant a garden ten by ten, you could. And, so forth. We did hold speeches . . . you weren't even supposed to have a tenant's committee. A tenant is not supposed to be able to say who shall occupy any of those apartments. Of course, if you're not married and have children, you can't live in it. I had a third of it filled with unmarried mothers. Where were they going with three, four, five children? I mean, who am I punishing? We had a hell of a time. We carried it on right to the end. But, the point

A. (Continued) of it is it's twenty years old. The heating system is inadequate. The elevators don't work. Seven stories high. Seven stories high. Kids used to pee in the elevators. There were (unintelligible) all over the roof of the elevators. There were broken beer bottles all around the curbs. When any Authority member came down, they would break a beer bottle and put it in the back of the wheel of his car. This was the attitude that . . . We had the police down there. The Bayden Street Settlement hired the Doyle Detective Agency to police the grounds after dark. When we came . . . it was, you know, when I went down there, we had one of the first strikes in the United States in '62 in Rochester when we had the riots here. And, they started to stuff the Chief of Police down one of the man holes. But Jane and I, my wife and I, went down there at 11:00 o'clock at night. And, the cop who knew me says, "Jesus, you're talking your life in your own hands." Unless some guy is berserk, drunk, or crazy, nobody's gonna . . . we wanted to go down there and talk to these people. They're friends of ours. I've had lunch with them; I've had dinner with them; I've raised their rent; I've sued a bunch of them to make them pay their rent on time. They won't touch me. And, I went through there. We spent an hour. Got the group. Said, you know, there's no sense in (unintelligible) it up, why don't you go into your apartments. Why don't you go home. Call me tomorrow; I'll be glad to come down tomorrow. This kind of thing. All these poor people wanted was to be treated like human beings. They were (unintelligible). Well, we had a meeting, and I introduced myself. And, the head of the Doyle Detective Agency was a lawyer, he worked for (Unknown). He lived on Helen Road. The poor guy is dying. Yeah. One of the Doyle's. I've forgotten his name. He came down, he said, "Manny, you and Jane have to be crazy. It's a wonder you didn't get killed." He said, "I've got ten guys here in plain clothes and won't even know them." I said, will you do me a favor

A. (Continued) and not let them in here? I want to talk to these people. I had 300 hundred people in a room, it was 120. I introduced myself, I said, "Who do you think you are?" You know, they looked at me. I said, "You're a member of the society and a citizen of the State of New York. Who do you think owns Hanover Houses? The State of New York. On the one hand, you're a tenant. On the other hand, you're the landlord. You got some grievances, tell me what they are, we'll straighten them out." Well, we were there from about 9:00 o'clock 'till 2:00 in the morning. Geez, the complaints they had of (Unknown). They charged them \$1.50 every time they lost their key. They would go through and make an inspection. If a shade was torn, they sent Harry Suskind down and put in a new shade and added it to their rent. If the rent wasn't paid by the tenth of the month, they sued them in city court. George Ralph was council suing them for the rent, getting \$3,000.00 a year. I said, "Look this is all very simple." You go in the store and you buy a pound of sugar, you know you got to pay for it. You know, when the first of the month comes, you got to pay your rent. You have them make plans. I'm not gonna tell you how to live. I'm gonna tell you, I can't afford \$60.00 a week for a secretary to collect the rent. This month I'll take it to the 20th. Next month to the 15th. The next month to the 10th. And the next month to the 5th. Thereafter, any rent not paid by the 5th, you will pay a \$5.00 fine. You pay court costs plus the \$5.00 fine." It took me about three months (unintelligible). They would come to my office and tell me, "Manny, you better watch out. So and so is stuffing plug nickels in the washing machine." I put in a whole new laundry. And, slug nickels . . . I didn't know . . . He said, "Now, he knows I know, so you gotta be very careful, because I don't want to get into trouble." They would tell me that what they were doing, they were hooking two electric meters onto one. They were doing

A. (Continued) all kinds of things, you know. But, no, we had no problem whatsoever. Hanover was run fine. I used to go through there three or four times a week. But, unfortunately, now, they have not maintained the place. I still think, see, that's how smart they are. They didn't know they had to have a state law. They can't demolish it without a state law. The council passed to demolish it. Now, they found out legally they can't. They got to get a state law through next year to demolish it.

Voice: That's quite a problem, too.

A. Well, I hoped they would knock off the top three or four stories, see. And, we would . . . instead of having 392 apartments, you know, let's have a 100 apartments, 110.

Arthur: Would you have to take down the three stories?

A. Yes. I'm gonna take 'em down.

Arthur: (Unintelligible)

A. I'm gonna take them down. Well, I was talking with a fella, and it's possible under a certain work program.

Voice: (Unintelligible)

A. Oh. Hello Harry.

Arthur: How are you?

A. How are you? How are you?

Voice: Hello Harry. How do you do? Good to see you.

A. This is Mark Friedrich.

Voice: What?

A. Mark Friedrich.

Voice: (Unintelligible) what the hell to say to him.

A. Mark Friedrich is at the University of Rochester studying for his ph.d (unintelligible). Dr. Segal is the head of the Segal Watson Chair of Medicine at the University, etc. Like a (unintelligible). And, he . . .

Voice: If I were you, I wouldn't say anything good about me. (Laughter) Why don't you sit still. We can leave, and I can sit . . .

A. No, we can walk into the living room.

Voice: Okay.

A. Alright. We won't be long. A couple of minutes. Arthur. I'm glad to see you because last night Cobart Lerner came to see me. And, he told me that you were ill.

Arthur: Well, I had been, but I'm not.

A. I can see the reports of your illness have been exaggerated.

Voice: He wants to stay well. Go ahead.

A. Well, I don't care. I'll sit down here.

Voice: (Unintelligible)

Q. Perfectly alright. Yes sir.

A. The last point . . .

Q. I mean, you were saying about people . . .

A. Well . . .

Q. And, all the jobs . . .

A. Well, the thing that has disturbed and concerned me here that we have very adequate proof that minority groups in this country have performed (unintelligible) past great successes. A man like Dr. William J. Knox who is a graduate of Harvard and who has a ph.d degree from MIT, who is black, who's taught in the black school system, who served under Uppenheimer on the atomic bomb, and has a presidential citation, who in '46 was induced by Kodak to come to Kodak and has spent . . . and has just been retired a couple of years ago, who is a thoroughly, completely, emancipated person. He has two brothers, they're . . . both of whom are graduates of Williams. One has just been retired by the State Department and the other one, unfortunately had an accident

A. (Continued) was killed and was with a huge company in Mexico in chemistry making some great discoveries. His father was a postman who was born and lived in New Bedford, Connecticut. I know so many of these people. I know Dr. Walter Cooper who's a young man at Kodak. He's in his middle forties who came here and got a job at Kodak, and rode a bicycle to the University of Rochester to get his ph.d degree, and who's been with Kodak ever since, who has served on this original program that . . . what's the gentleman's name who's a head of it, for blacks getting more jobs in the community . . . what's that program called in town? You might have heard of it.

Q. The only one that I can think of is FIGHT, but that's not it.

A. No. It's not FIGHT, but I'll get the name from my wife. But, Dr. Cooper has two sons, they bought a home . . . they live out in Irondequoit, both of whom have graduated from Irondequoit High School with top honors. One is at Princeton. The other is going to Williams. The only difference between these people and us is that by whatever you want to call it, we're white and they're black. We . . . we are great platitudes that all men are created free and equal, but it's a big job for the average person to admit and live his life that all men are created free and equal. I've been around the world, I've seen what goes on in the Carribean, and I've seen what goes on in other countries. It's a crime in South America that people should live this kind of life after fifty years of, so called, emancipation. No man knows what he can do 'till he's challenged. And, I have a complete, thorough understanding that there's a certain amount of ego in all of us. Those of us who can live with our ego are luckier than those who can't. Even the Bible says, all the rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full thereof. I doubt that the average person yet (unintelligible) that he really thinks that he deserves all he gets. And, this creates great numbers of problems. I've been ill, and I've been

A. (Continued) home for quite awhile. And, I had been listening to a lot of news on the radio. And, I hear a program for the underprivileged for these (unintelligible) children where the lady says, 'We just can't take it for granted that they can't do it unless they try. We must give them tasks to do. And, when they find out that they can do one, then they will try to do another. But, if they never get a chance to do, they never know, and they never will know.' And, I just think it . . . that we can not, in this society today with the competition being what it is in every area of life, in the professions, the competition at the universities. It used to be, when I went to college in 1920, a very lovely, easy going thing. You go to liberal arts. The profs had a nice little light house, and he'd been at the university a great many years. And, two or three sometimes a semester, you would be invited on a Sunday afternoon. He would either . . . if it was German, Dr. Holdsworth would talk German. The minute you walked into the house, you couldn't speak any language but German. He would read German poetry. We would have German pancakes. We would have brockwurst. When you went back to your room, you felt you had experience. I think it is an experience that is lost today by the size of things, by the impersonality, by the computers, by all of the various new trends that have come in in the last century . . . the Second World War. And, I think it's great to send men to the moon, and I think it's great to get certain advantages in electronics or whatever the field may be, that you learn something. So, I think, personally, it would be so much better if we sent men down on Joseph Avenue at Bayden Street. If we sent men to Rio Di Janero. If we sent men to the Carribbean and saw how some people live, never in a complete house. Never with a bed for himself. The society that lives with tremendous numbers of children in one or two rooms. It's impossible to rear, what we consider, normal, healthy children. It's a strange thing. I'm interested.

A. (Continued) I've been very interested. I've studied Freud. I've read Freud. I have had something to do with R Wing at Strong in the early days with Dr. Pelman and Dr. Engel, who's my next door neighbor, and other men there. I just think it's time that society does to people things that necessitates their being incarcerated in R Wing, that they need shock treatment or they need . . . And, I'm hoping . . . I'm hoping that you take a, kind of, a oral history of Rochester. I think Rochester, maybe in summation, has been extremely fortunate. A great many people in Rochester have lived a much better life by having been associated with Kodak and the other corporations all their lives, who own houses with 150 or 200 feet of land. With a garden. With retirement, and profit sharing. A corporation on the one hand, is concerned with their welfare. Kodak has proven that it can do for its employees what a great many unions can not do, because of the dishonesty that creeps into various regulations. The only . . . the only disagreement that I have with big business . . . with big industry is that it gets too impersonal. It's too impersonal. I think we have to rear a whole new generation of people who can work in a school system that has hundreds of thousands of employees or students who can go to a college with 20, 30, 40,000 students. When I entered Syracuse University, it was the largest freshman class in its history, 2,000 students. And, we thought it was tremendous. But, fortunately, it was broken up between pre-med, pre-law, pre-engineering, and straight liberal arts, and everybody knew everybody. And, it was just a wonderful experience to go to college. I understand, I've been back many times, I support their (unintelligible) at the U. of R. and other . . . But, I understand that the (unintelligible) equation (unintelligible) to the extent that we know it. Kids pass each other and never speak to each other. They're all after the same common good. My . . . my desire has been, I've worked hard in this community outside of the law office. What I've done in the law office, I've done

A. (Continued) because I wanted to be a half-way decent lawyer. I have supported a family on it. But, I wanted to improve the quality of living in the community. And if I would leave on a critical note, I think there is, and I'm perfectly . . . I know I'll be misunderstood by this statement but I think it's great to have a wonderful Memorial Art Gallery. I think it's fantastic to have this music. And, the CMA or (unintelligible). I think it's . . . but I think too many people have spent generations, two, three generations sponsoring the Art Gallery, sponsoring the Music Association, sponsoring the social country clubs, eating clubs, other things. And that the large proportion of the population have left and went to other (unintelligible). There ought to be more intimacy. There ought to be more intimacy. I just think that my house is open house. There isn't any person who has a problem . . . Weinstein will call me or someone else who has a problem that I can make a contribution to or my wife, or my law office. I couldn't care less whether we get paid for fee or whether we don't. If I've got someone who's got a personal problem that needs a lawyer, he can't raise a thousand dollars, "x" dollars, you know that you can come in and get the same kind of treatment you get when you pay for it. And that's . . .

Voice: Can you take time to say hello.

A. Hello.

Voice: How are you?

A. I'm fine. I'm coming along fine Mr. Cohen. I appreciate your coming. Thank you very much. Pop over some time.

Voice: Okay.

A. Will you? Okay.

Voice: I didn't know what you were up to.

A. Well, pop over and we'll talk. We'll settle the world. Alright. (Unintelligible). This is what . . . the point I'm trying to make is that in Rochester,

A. (Continued) we have two very distinct societies severed and apart. And, the Country Club of Rochester, the Genesee Valley Club, the University Club of which I'm member; that's one group. You got the Council of Social Agencies which is, I think, needs a total overhauling. I think it needs a total overhauling. It needs to open its base. The Community Chest. The president of Sybron, the president of Gleason Works, the president of Taylor Instruments, these are all fine people. They're friends of mine, but when you go to a board of directors meeting of the Community Chest, you see a certain strata of society that represents, maybe, ten percent of the population. I don't think that's right. I just don't think that's right. If you really want the people to take their citizenship seriously, they've got to be given an opportunity to take it seriously. Some people get called in . . . when the whites want to show how liberal they are, they invite the most attractive black they can find from Kodak or some other . . . to be on the Chest vice-president, to be at Xerox. Why not just invite an ordinary, every-day citizen who's worked twenty-five years, who's got a family, who's a high school graduate? My slogan is participation. It's participation. I have a twenty man law office. Every man is as important as every other man in that office. I'm not saying their abilities are all equal. I don't say they all carry the same case load, but they all have the same level of respect and the same level of responsibility. When they take a matter, it's their matter. They're young, they're married, they've got children, they've got a great opportunity. But, nobody's gonna supervise them. They're lawyers. And, if they can't cut the mustard, they don't stay. I think that that's what should be in the community. I think that . . . I think that there is too much politics in government, locally. Why? What's the sense of, you know, I'm a democrat, I'm a republican? I'm a Rochesterian. I know the problems of Rochester. I have (unintelligible) for twenty years. I've

A. (Continued) tried to save the inner city. The inner cities across the country have gone to pot. There are people who could have done something and won't. They won't be interested. There's no reason for us to lose the whole inner city of Rochester. They were laid out beautifully, there are wide streets. They're marvelous. And, we can afford it. And, we can save . . . we can save. But, you have . . . I don't know, (unintelligible) 80,000 blacks. There isn't any question as you look at things. Look where the Italians are today in Rochester as against twenty years ago, thirty years ago. Nobody would dream you'd have Italians as Supreme Court Judges. There's Italian judges, Italian (unintelligible). Cadillac automobiles. My brother Harry Goldman is the first Supreme Court Judge of Jewish faith elected in Rochester. What a big break for the community. My father-in-law graduated from Harvard law school in 1890. We've had them around here long enough . . . What is so fantastic about a Supreme Court Judge? But, as you get population, as you get (unintelligible), you get recognized. The Italians are growing. The blacks are going to do the same thing. They're going to get recognition as they're able to break a market and join the builder's union, and join the other unions, and get steady jobs where the poor guy isn't the last hired and the first guy fired. Where his wife doesn't have to get up and work as a maid in somebody's . . .

END OF TAPE I, SIDE II, INTERVIEW I