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Interview

with

EDGAR RAY

April 10, 1990

By John Egerton

Transcribed by Jovita Flynn

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START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

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(LeRoy Collins is on Side B of this tape)

JOHN EGERTON: Basically, I think what I'm doing is I'm trying to get some sense of how the South, coming out of World War II, responded to all of the social issues that were then getting to be so prevalent, particularly the racial issue. I've been doing a lot of reading in libraries and old newspapers about the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta. The newspaper people in particular in this period interest me, and since journalism is sort of my field, I was especially interested whenever I come across a name of somebody in journalism who's trying to come to grips with some of these issues, and obviously you were.

EDGAR RAY: Yeah, I was president of the Tampa Urban League.

JE: Could you just tell me first your background, how you got to Tampa and how long you stayed there.

ER: Well, my wife and I were born in Macon, Georgia. And Macon is an unusual city as far as education is concerned. It has Mercer University, where I went. My wife went to Wesleyan. Her father was then vice president of Wesleyan. I had to go to work, I really went to work when I was nine years old. My father was a school teacher and ran a business school. I went to that school and learned to type when I was nine years old. I left home when he married again, and at thirteen I was living at the YMCA.

JE: By yourself?

ER: Yeah, and supporting myself.

JE: In Macon?

ER: The director of the Y knew I could type and asked me to come down and type up his basketball scores and Sunday School League stuff. And I did. I heard newspapers were pretty bad places, and I wouldn't go down at my age. He'd send them down at night to the newspapers, Telegraph, morning paper. At that time, Gordon Allen was his name, was the sports editor. He got the copy regularly, and he started requiring of Petie MacArthur, who was then the head of the YMCA, "Who is the world was doing it?" I was fourteen. He called for me to come see him.

JE: About what year was this?

ER: Let's see. I was born in 1911.

JE: About '25?

ER: '25, yeah. So I went down to see him and he said, "You ought to be in the newspaper business." So he asked me if I'd be the high school correspondent for the newspaper.

JE: Were you going to school during this time?

ER: Yeah, high school for boys.

JE: But you were on your own?

ER: Oh yeah. He put me on the old string basis. The more you wrote, the more money you made. I think ten cents an inch. But I got awfully fascinated with it while going to high school and never got out of it. I was in it from age fourteen until I retired. I grew up, I got off the string list when I was about seventeen to be the assistant sports editor. And when I was twenty, I was sports editor because the sports editor who had been there, a new one, left, and they gambled and let me have the

job. I was still living at the Y. When I was a senior in high school, I met my wife. We were going together. She went to Wesleyan and I went to Mercer. We decided because I had a good job--during the Depression nobody else had good jobs--that we just well as go ahead and get married. So we did, in her father's home, in 1931. In '33, I left there when the Tampa Times was bought by, leased to Dave Smiley and Ralph Nicholson. They wanted a sports editor, and I went down there as a kid.

JE: Was it owned by the Bryan family then?

ER: No.

JE: That was later on they bought it?

ER: It was owned then by D.B. McKay. He leased it out to Dave Smiley and Ralph Nicholson.

JE: Was the Tribune then owned by Bryan or did that come later?

ER: Yes.

JE: They already owned it?

ER: Yeah.

JE: So you all were really rival papers?

ER: Oh yes, very much so.

JE: When was it that the Bryan family bought the Times?

ER: I had left there and gone to Orlando. I think that was in '51 or '52.

ER: Your entire career there this was a real competitive situation.

ER: Very much so. We also had a radio station, WEAH, and I also did--it's funny, I was thinking about it the other day--

Prime Time, 6-6:15, and Sol Fleischman and I did a sports show for Kellogg's Cornflakes, fifteen minutes.

JE: In the evening?

ER: In the evening, yeah. And I just remembered it. We were paid \$25.00 a week to do that job. Lot of money though.

JE: Yes. This was what year, now, you went to Tampa?

ER: I went there in '33. Left there in '49 and went to Orlando.

JE: Did you go to Tampa as the sports editor?

ER: Yeah, but I was made the managing editor in '35, just two years.

JE: Wow, good heavens. And you remained the managing editor until you left, from '35 to '49.

ER: Yeah, '49. I went to Orlando.

JE: To the Sentinel and Star?

ER: Yeah, I was executive editor of both papers.

JE: For the rest of your career?

ER: For three years. Then I went to, I was executive editor of the San Antonio Express and News, and the managing editor of the Houston Press when I joined Scripps Howard. I had worked for families up until then, and you never get very far financially, not with families. But Scripps Howard, when I went to Houston--and last night I was watching the game between Houston and Cincinnati, opening the 25th anniversary of the Astrodome. I saw the Astrodome built from the ground up and wrote a book about the building. I have my book on Roy Hofheinz

after I retired I wrote it. He wanted me to. So the Dome was 25 years old last night.

JE: So a big part of your career was outside of Florida then, wasn't it?

ER: Well, of course, I was in Florida for 20 years and Texas, 12 years. When I joined the Houston Press, we didn't have very much, but Scripps Howard liked me apparently. When they sold the press to the Chronicle, they sent me to Memphis as the managing editor of the Memphis Press Scimitar, and I stayed there fourteen years before I retired. Scripps Howard was awfully good to me.

JE: Let's see, those fourteen years would have been in the '50s and '60s?

ER: No.

JE: Later than that.

ER: I retired in September, '77.

JE: So, from about '65 to '77, or thereabouts, you were in Memphis.

ER: '63, yeah, the Press Scimitar, the afternoon paper. They let me stay an extra year. They have mandatory retirement. I stayed an extra year because I was president of the Tennessee Press Association, and they wanted me to keep that honor and stay with the paper. So I retired a year later. But now, from September, I will have been retired thirteen years.

JE: And you had three long stints in Florida and Texas and Tennessee during your career.

ER: And, of course, I grew up in Georgia from '14 to. . . .

JE: All across the South.

ER: Four states. I had a pretty good view of all that was going on. I grew up in Macon, and this had a great effect on me. Macon was, as far as the educational system was concerned, they had a self-perpetuating board of education that set up the best school system, under the old segregated laws, there was. They lived up to separate and equal.

JE: They really made the black schools equal in terms of their investment.

ER: Yeah. They had fine high schools, grammar schools, separate and equal. In fact, they separated the boys and girls, and the boys and the girls went to separate high schools. Sydney Lanier High School for Boys is where I went.

JE: Famous school, isn't it?

ER: Yeah, where I went, and, of course, they had ROTC and military.

JE: And then also the News and the Telegraph had a really good reputation as good newspapers, too?

ER: That's right. I worked for the Telegraph, morning paper. The Anderson family there owned it.

JE: Owned both those papers?

ER: No, they finally owned it. The News sold out to them.

JE: Who owned the News back then?

ER: I've forgotten who owned the News.

JE: Somebody local?

ER: Yeah, I believe so. The Telegraph discovered Franklin Roosevelt. It was my man who put me in as sports editor, named

Mark Ethridge. Mark was out of Mississippi, and he was the managing editor, and he gave me the job as a kid as sports editor. And he left when they were cutting salaries and had to freeze the wages.

JE: He went to Louisville.

ER: No, he went to Europe, on an Overlander Trust, to Berlin, and then came back and went with the AP, and then Louisville. Of course, he taught me an awful lot. He was a great newspaper man. So I was lucky to be under him, and also lucky to be under Dave Smiley in Tampa. Dave Smiley was a Philadelphia lawyer, you know, and newspaper man, too. He once was editor of Ledger in Philadelphia. He had the chance to take over, worked for Marlowe, Ralph Nicholson, the Tampa papers. And on lease, and they ultimately bought it. And then Smiley bought out Nicholson. And Smiley's two boys, one of whom I trained, Joe, got rich when the old man sold the paper to the Iribune. I left them. I knew that with those two sons there, I never would get very far.

JE: No chance of you really breaking out.

ER: So I went to Orlando, and Martin Anderson promised me the moon, but he was a son-of-a-bitch, and I left him and went to San Antonio and Houston. I had fifty-two years or more.

JE: You had quite an interesting career. At the end, you would have been in Memphis when Martin Luther King was shot.

ER: I was there. We were covering it. I covered it. My staff covered it from one end to the other. The only thing I

hated about it worse was the Ray headline all the time [laughter].

JE: Like he was some relative of ours or something.

ER: I became interested, getting into background, the relationship with the races in Macon was marvelous.

JE: Different than it was in Tampa and Memphis and Houston.

ER: Oh yeah, marvelous, really. They had good schools. They used to bring the old San Carlo opera into Macon, as a boy I remember. They always had the balcony reserved for blacks, and so it was with most everything. I grew up on a street there near Wesleyan College, the old Wesleyan. Right behind it was an alley which used to be slave quarters, and the Negroes lived back there, and I played in the backyard with Negro boys until I went to school. I always had a good relationship with all of them. Still do for that matter.

JE: Now, when you got to Tampa, let me get you to focus a little bit on this. If you were president of the Tampa Urban League in 1937, then you would have been classified as a liberal.

ER: Oh boy!

JE: To put it just politely. Now, a lot of people would say it in a lot worse terms than that.

ER: I was on the Southern Regional Council Board. I was on the Urban League. I was a radical. Oh, they nearly ran me out of town. I ran on the front page of the Tampa Times a picture of Joe Louis when he first won the championship. And boy! did we get a reaction.

JE: Got upset over that.

ER: But I stuck with it. And I debated nationally with the Tampa Urban League. It was a debate with Louis Seitzer, the editor of the Cleveland Press, and he took the side of the end of segregation, and I took the side that separate and equal would work if people would let it work. But I still was a radical. Well, I wasn't, at all. I just thought they ought to have a chance in life, and that's the best I could do.

JE: I found a couple of clippings that you--this is an AP story out of Richmond about a speech you made to the national Urban League meeting in Richmond. And then this was really interesting to me. This was a publication called "Voting Restrictions in the Thirteen Southern States - A Report by the Committee of Editors and Writers of the South." Do you remember that? It had a list of all the people who signed this document saying that a concerted south-wide effort needs to be made to make voting accessible to everybody.

ER: That's correct, right. I did some work on that, too.

JE: The names on the front there read like a Who's Who of southern literary and journalistic liberalism.

ER: There's a man right there, Mark Eldridge.

JE: Yeah, there he is, right. There's the man who hired you.

ER: Put me in the business.

JE: This was 1944. This was pretty radical stuff for people to be doing then, wasn't it?

ER: Yeah, it was. I've been called a nigger-lover, you know. Didn't bother me. Oh, I never will forget, when I was

president of the Tampa Urban League, a national officer of the NAACP came to Memphis [Tampa] and wanted to see me. I didn't have time at the office. I said, "Why don't you come out to the house tonight?" I told him how to get there, and he came and sat. All the neighbors saw him coming and going to my house. Oh boy! They all wanted to know what I was doing entertaining that "nigger". But really, I never was more than verbally cussed out. That's all.

JE: Nobody ever threatened you or anything like that?

ER: No. Of course, in the '30s, you know, Macon and Tampa, my best friend was Rex Farrier who was the state attorney, godfather of my children. Rex is still alive. I was writing a book about him. He had a stroke and I had to give it up. He's still alive over there, paralyzed. Those '30s, big fight. I was amused last night with all the furor going on about 55 million dollars in a lottery. Well, the whole gang killings and everything that went on in Tampa in the '30s.

JE: Yeah, Tampa was a rough town, wasn't it?

ER: Yeah, it was over the numbers game.

JE: Pretty much a wide open town, wasn't it?

ER: But it mostly was the numbers racket. All these numbers, now, is legal and going to the state. Then it was the Italian Americans against the Cuban-Spanish Americans. The white guy in the middle of it was Charlie Wall. He finally got killed, with the gangs over there.

JE: Italians against the Cubans?

ER: Yep, that's what it was.

JE: Where did the blacks fit into all that?

ER: There weren't a lot of blacks there then. They were sort of in the background. There were enough there that we had to recognize. . . . They didn't have the kind of excellent schools I had in Macon.

JE: I know that for a fact.

ER: They say, you know, [laughter] segregation was pretty rough there in Tampa for a long time. I never will forget. They had in one school there a Cuban. He was just black as the ace of spades, but he was a Cuban. They let him go to white schools. [Laughter]

JE: Yeah, those kind of things happen. The number of blacks by our definition in the Cuban population is really fairly substantial, and yet they're Cubans first. They speak Spanish and all the rest. How long were you president of the Urban League?

ER: Oh, two or three years. I'd have to go and look it up.

JE: In the '40s during the War?

ER: Yeah.

JE: Would that have been the time? You were not in the service?

ER: No, I was thirty-four years old and had a commission in the Navy, a Reserve commission. I'd had my physical, and I sort of did some checking to find out what I might do at that age in the Navy. They said, "Well, you'll wind up, after your training, in the seventh floor of some office building in a port counting ships." Well, that didn't appeal to me at all. My boss, he went

to bat--I didn't ask for it--but he went to bat and said I was an essential man in an essential industry. I was really essential the whole war as the managing editor. The rule was you don't print anything that would be a comfort to the enemy. () Of course, I was also thinking about the days back there in the '40s when the shipyards were so busy, and we were all puzzled by those concrete ships they were building. "What in the hell are they building concrete ships for?" Of course, they knew what they were doing, the Navy did, because they used those concrete ships built in Tampa for breakwater on Normandy. That's why they were built.

JE: I'll be.

ER: We finally found out what they were for. A bunch of Russians in there, too.

JE: What would have been the make-up of the Urban League in those years?

ER: There were a few white people that were interested, but the blacks, too. We'd speak out about various things.

JE: Did you get any Cubans or Italians involved in that?

ER: No, no. They sort of stayed away from that. It was the black community and interested whites who made it up. I also served on the state Committee on Race Relations.

JE: That was part of the Southern Regional Council?

ER: Yeah.

JE: And you were involved in those early meetings of the Southern Regional Council?

ER: Yeah.

JE: You remember Virginius Dabney?

ER: Yeah, oh sure.

JE: I saw him a week or two ago up in Richmond. He's ninety-two years old.

ER: Yeah, I made a lot of speeches about giving the Negro equal opportunity.

JE: Just to kind of characterize some of that, you would have been against the poll tax?

ER: Oh yeah.

JE: And for an open primary?

ER: Oh sure.

JE: Access to the vote was part of what you were after?

ER: Yeah.

JE: Equal pay for equal work?

ER: Right.

JE: Like school teachers and whatnot?

ER: Our paper, editorially, fought for that in the state.

JE: And the right to serve on juries and equal justice before the law and fair share of funding for things like public housing and schools and hospitals?

ER: Oh yeah, our paper was for giving the blacks an equal opportunity in everything.

JE: In the defense industry, serving in the military? What about when it got to what really amounted to desegregation, like riding on the bus, not having the back of the bus thing? Did you take a position on that?

ER: Well, it didn't come up in Tampa. I don't remember any controversy about that at all. That came a little later after I was gone.

JE: What about the Fair Employment Practices Committee of the federal government?

ER: Well, in Tampa that wasn't in effect in the '40s.

JE: There was a temporary one that was installed by executive order of President Roosevelt.

ER: Oh yeah, during the war.

JE: Then there was the question during Truman's time of whether or not it ought to be made permanent.

ER: Yeah.

JE: Did you ever end up taking a position on that one, editorially?

ER: I don't really recall because I was so busy as the managing editor, that I left those things to the editor. And I don't remember really.

JE: And finally, as all this unfolded and the years went by and we got into the '40s and the '50s and there were court decisions coming out the Supreme Court, particularly on higher education in the '40s and early '50s, before the Brown decision, and then, of course, finally Brown in '54. What happened to your own personal views about race? Did you end up deciding that you thought Brown was a good decision? Or did you end up being against it?

ER: No, I think Brown was always a good decision. I got to straighten it out in my mind. The thing out of it, the Supreme Court upholding bussing upset me no end.

JE: Yeah.

ER: I think bussing was an evil and still is.

JE: Right, that was a later development.

ER: And still is. Like in Memphis. Bussing has caused all prep schools to be developed for whites, and there's 90% blacks. So it didn't do any good. It didn't give any opportunity for the whites and the blacks to get together in the public schools. Same way in Atlanta. Same way in New Orleans. If they'd left bussing alone and yet nature take its course, some Negroes going to school with whites where they could, neighborhood schools, we'd be a whole lot better off than we are today. My opinion. I never did agree with forced bussing. It's expensive and a waste and an emphasis on a division of the races.

JE: There in the '40s, about the time you would have been leaving Tampa and going to Houston, were you still involved with SRC?

ER: Well, when I went to Orlando in '49, I believe it was, I continued to work quietly with people on good race relations, but I wasn't as prominent there as I was in Tampa because I had one hell of a job to do in running two newspapers. Nearly killed me.

JE: Yeah, your situation changed quite a bit when you went there. You took on a much bigger responsibility.

ER: Yeah, but my views didn't change. I just didn't have the opportunity to do as much, although I did what I could.

JE: Were you of the opinion that all the Jim Crow laws would eventually fall?

ER: Yeah, I thought so.

JE: Like the segregated restaurants and water fountains?

ER: Oh, I thought that would have fallen a long time before it did. But, you see, still it's a hard thing to realize. I look at this town here. Now, all the blacks here live across the river. Not a lot of them here, not more than 10%, but I don't believe there's one black family here on the beach side. You go into the restaurants and you go anywhere else, and it's seldom you ever see a black fellow. Our yacht club--I'm a member of the yacht club--there's 350 members. There's not a black in the lot, and there's not a black worker in the place at all. It's not deliberate. It's just the way the town developed. This used to be a railroad town.

JE: On the Florida East Coast Railroad?

ER: And then the strike. This was one of the key spots. When the strike came along, well, they just changed the face of this whole town.

JE: When was that?

ER: It came when I was in Texas, I believe.

JE: In the '50s, I guess.

ER: I wasn't in Florida then. I just heard about it.

JE: As you look back on all that involvement, you know, it was an unusual sort of thing for you to be involved. Most of

your friends, most of your business associates, were not out front on this issue, talking about how we need to have good race relations.

ER: No, you usually had preachers and a few lawyers.

JE: But you obviously felt pretty strongly about that or you wouldn't have been involved in it.

ER: Oh yeah.

JE: Now when you look back on it, does that period of time seem to you in any way like a time when the South might have--if more people had been willing to do what you did, that you might have been able to work out some of these social problems without going through all of the bloodshed and trauma that we subsequently went through?

ER: Yeah, if people would have just stopped and analyzed things, and they wouldn't do it. I tell you one of the reasons. It begins with children and attitudes in the home. Now, to eliminate those attitudes as various families grew up is an awfully hard job, awfully hard job.

JE: Yeah, it is. There's no question about that.

ER: My two children grew up, no prejudice at all about blacks. My son is married, remarried, he married a girl who worked as an executive for () Foods, and he was an executive. She had two girls. They built a home or she did. They moved in it when they married. The neighborhood in Houston they live in is very nice, nice homes, but about half a mile away is a subdivision for blacks. Many of those black children go to the same schools that my two step-grandchildren go to. The girls

do a lot of things together. The blacks have been in their homes. They have absolutely no prejudice against blacks at all. Now, there are a lot of those. They didn't run. They thought about putting them in private schools. My son and his wife, both, decided they better go.

JE: Where's your daughter live?

ER: She lives in Colorado Springs. She's grown. She has a grown son.

JE: Your attitudes, I'm curious. Obviously, you didn't get these feelings from your family. You left home when you were just a kid.

ER: That's right.

JE: Who do you suppose influenced you to feel the way you ended up feeling about all this?

ER: I guess around the newspaper. Men around the newspaper. They were very fine people.

JE: Mark Ethridge turned out to be one of the real outspoken people on this very issue.

ER: I think Mark Ethridge, his thinking, had more to do with my own attitude than anyone else. Willie Snow, his wife. He was from Mississippi, you know. She was from Macon. The Snow family in Macon. I suppose that, and also just in school and in seeing. . . . I made speeches about this, and I just happened to think about it. When the Klan was at its peak in the '30s--I've got pictures in there--in Tampa, (). There's a movie not long ago about how it escalated. Well, I was a young boy, and they had a rape there. Black man was accused of rape.

No trial. The Klan went out and killed him and put him on the back of a car and dragged him through the downtown streets of Macon. No stopping by the police at all. And I saw it. I think that had as much affect on me as anything else.

JE: You were just a boy?

ER: Never will forget it. And to my horror, one of the marching Klansmen I saw was my brother-in-law. He didn't know. But he was a good man, really, but he was one of those old crackers who said, well, the blacks just can't have what they think they want. Just couldn't get it out of his mind, so.

JE: We just about did ourselves in on that, you know.

ER: Did you see that movie of high Klansmen, how he jipped them, and finally (). That was a hell of a good job, not long ago.

JE: Yeah, I saw that. I guess we're lucky that we came through that without more of a massacre of people than actually occurred.

ER: I was in Tampa when they had the famous flogging case. My friend [Interruption]

The editor of the Nashville paper is a good friend of mine.

JE: John Seigenthaler.

ER: See, I was president of the IPA.

JE: Sure, you told me that. Did you ever know Stetson Kennedy? He was a writer.

JE: I don't believe so. There was somebody else on this list I was going to ask you about. We've talked about Mark

Ethridge. Another person on here from Macon was John D. Allen. What was he?

ER: Professor Allen. He was at Mercer. He was there when I was there.

JE: What was he, an English professor or something?

ER: Yeah, English professor at Mercer.

JE: Then another guy at Mercer I wanted to ask you about, Harry Strozi.

ER: Oh, Harry. She's kin to him.

JE: Who is that?

ER: He's a lawyer there.

JE: Is he still living?

ER: No, he's too old. Wasn't he kin to you, darling?

RAY'S WIFE: Yeah.

JE: He was a lawyer?

ER: Lawyer, yeah. Her father was dean and vice president of Wesleyan for twenty-five years. He believed in the South developing. One thing that he hated was liquor. He had a brother that ruined his life. He fought Al Smith.

JE: He was a real strong dry. It's funny how that issue breaks differently. You get to talking to somebody about civil liberties and you go right down the line, people say, "Yeah, I'm for that. I'm for that." And you get to liquor and if something's happened back in their lives, they'll say, "Nah, I draw the line there. I'm dry on that," or maybe they're militantly wet on it. Virginus Dabney was one of the wets on that issue. He really felt strongly about it.

ER: Well, our papers, the Macon papers, were against prohibition. Old man W.T. Henderson, he and his brother owned the Telegraph. First drink of whiskey I ever had when I was assistant sports editor, nineteen years old, he had a party for the staff and went out, and he kept in his basement, kegs of Georgia corn liquor that was illegal. I don't think he knew how old I was, but somebody gave me a drink of that old rot gut Bourbon. No, it was good Bourbon. It was charcoal. I had that first drink, and I tell you, it made me so sick. I thought I'd never have another drink, but I have. Are you full-time at writing?

JE: Yes sir, that's how I make a living. You made that speech in Richmond. That was the national convention of the Urban League in September of '48.

ER: Yeah.

JE: You remember anything much about that experience? Where you met and how the segregation issue was handled there? Where did people stay?

RAY'S WIFE: Yes, I went to that one.

ER: She's got a better memory than I have.

RAY'S WIFE: It was okay. We stayed at the cottage together and all. They were all very nice, but one of them was a little, overdid it a little bit. I think he was kissing whites, which was a little far fetched to me. One time, he brought some people home, three, Negro gentlemen. One of them had a Ph.D. from Dartmouth, I remember that. Our neighbors were horrified. He

brought them right in the front door. They sat right there in living room. My kids enjoyed them

JE: Remember Charles S. Johnson? He was president at Fisk, and he was active in the Southern Regional Council during that time.

ER: I remember the name. I just remember the name.

JE: And then some of the black newspapers editors of that time. All of them were weeklies except the Atlanta paper. But there was a guy in Norfolk, named P.B. Young, who was active in all of this.

ER: Maybe I remember the name.

RAY'S WIFE: Here's a Negro put this out.

JE: This magazine is owned by somebody black? I didn't know that.

ER: The top man.

RAY'S WIFE: It's a darn good magazine, too.

JE: Yes, it is. As a matter of fact, I've written for that magazine. I did a long piece on James Earl Ray several years ago.

RAY'S WIFE: [Laughter] That was an embarrassment to us.

JE: I went to the prison and talked to James Earl Ray and I talked to a lot of people, including a good many blacks, who didn't really believe, never had believed, that James Earl Ray was the trigger man. They felt he was involved in that, but that he was set up to cover the trail of somebody else. And of course, Ray, that's what he would tell you. That's what he did tell me, as a matter of fact.

RAY'S WIFE: I meant because his name was spelled just like his.

JE: I know, he kept telling me about seeing the headlines.

ER: I lived out in the north part of Steven Hills, Memphis. We heard on the radio, and I had to get to town in a hurry. Get the staff moving.

RAY'S WIFE: Let me tell you something. Something that's never been shown. When he was marching with those garbage men, they're the ones that--you were in Memphis, too--he was walking down Main Street with a whole bunch of them. You know, praise the Lord. And they started carrying on, shooting and stuff. It flashed one time on television. There was no more. He turned around and run like a dog, just ran. But they never did show it but one time.

JE: Wow!

RAY'S WIFE: What are you looking at?

ER: The Urban League.

RAY'S WIFE: The Urban League thing is not out.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

END OF INTERVIEW