

**Transcript: Dorothy Farrior Interview**

**Interviewee:** Dorothy Farrior  
**Date:** June 20, 2007  
**Location:** Farrior's home, Birmingham, Alabama  
**Interviewer:** Kim Hill  
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## START OF CD

KH: This is Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and this Kim Hill at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Farrior in Birmingham. So could you tell me what type of work that your parents did?

DF: My mother was a housewife, and my daddy was a laborer. He worked in (0.28). He was a labor worker at Berman, Berman Brothers. What kind of work he did there, I don't know, but it was a big company.

KH: You grew up in Phoenix City?

DF: Uh-huh.

KH: I've never heard of that.

DF: Really?

KH: Is that close to here?

DF: About a hundred and fifty-five miles.

KH: Oh, OK.

DF: You've heard of Columbus, Georgia, haven't you? Columbus, Georgia?

KH: I think so.

DF: OK, right across the bridge from Columbus, Georgia.

KH: OK. When did you come to Birmingham?

DF: In nineteen—let me see. I'm thinking 1954, we moved.

KH: Do you remember why you moved down here?

DF: My parents. I was a teenager then, so I was in school.

KH: Did they move down here for jobs or family?

DF: Well, my dad did, for a better job.

KH: What was your neighborhood like when you moved to Birmingham?

DF: It was nice. We lived in a nice neighborhood. We lived by a park and stuff, you know. You had something to do after school, go to a park, and on weekends—. In north Birmingham, we had a movie theater, and we had something like a little club for teenagers to go to on the weekend and dance and stuff like that. But we lived in a nice neighborhood. Wasn't no shooting and stuff like that [laughs]. Yeah.

KH: Did the other people in your neighborhood tend to be coal miners or work in the steel mills?

DF: Um-hmm, most of the men worked in steel mills.

KH: Did you hear much about people being in unions when you were a kid?

DF: Yeah, but I didn't understand when I was a kid. I heard the word "union," but I didn't understand it till I grew up and got a job of my own. That's when I understood it.

KH: What do you remember about civil rights protests going on here?

DF: Well, in 1955, I remember them bombing Reverend Shuttlesworth's home and church. I remember that. I don't think it happened in '55. It might have happened in '56, but I know I was still going to high school. I was going to Parker High School when that happened.

Then in 1963, I remember them burning Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where the four little girls was killed. I think it was four girls. Well, you know, I didn't do any of the marching and stuff like that when they was getting hosed down by the water and going to jail and bitten by dogs, but I remember seeing it on the news.

KH: Did you know any other people who were involved?

DF: Yes, Reverend Shuttlesworth. We lived around the corner from his house and church, because when they bombed his house, it shook our house. My pastor, Reverend Johnson, he deceased now, but he was in that march, and the dogs, and the hose.

KH: Yeah, I talked to some of the people who were there. Sounds like it was pretty scary.

DF: Uh-huh, just to see it on TV. I used to watch the news. It was scary. And I remember about the buses when they first integrate the bus, black and white, blacks sit where they want. Now that was a terrible time, because the whites didn't want us to sit up there, but we stood our ground. So we sat and once they accepted it— they had no choice but to accept it. Even the bus driver didn't want to accept it, but he had to. They expect us to still get up and let them sit down, so we overcame that. But we still got a lot of stuff to overcome, because there's still a lot of prejudice out there. Jobs, and people on the job, they been there for a certain length of time and then they get a white person put over them, and they don't have as much time on their job to move up. But black people got sense enough to fight it now, so not too many places do that, but they'll try.

KH: Did that happen a lot on your job?

DF: Yes, it did. It happened when I was at East End hospital. They had moved this—. It was a supervisor position open, and they had this white girl that was working with her, and

then they'd move her in that position. Then they had people that had been over there on that job twenty-something years. But we went to administration, so that was stopped because he didn't want to be on the news. That's where we were going to take it. Yeah. And then when I was working at Medical Center East, I left in 1999 because it was getting too rough. Because my mouth was like that and I couldn't take all of the slack. They changed our department over to independent people, and we were working for the hospital but they was over us, people that come off different places to run the dietary. I work in the dietary at that time as a cashier at that time, and they came in and tried to change the rules. It was rough, but I started writing letters to the administration and personnel, so we got that right. See, I learned how to write letters through Alex Hurder. He taught me that [laughs]. Was things not going right? And he also taught me not to sign my name.

KH: Not to sign your name?

DF: Not to sign my name.

KH: Why is that?

DF: See, because they going to have a regular pick on you. So what you do, I said that—. I wrote the letter, and at the end of it I signed "Dietary Department," so that meant all of us.

KH: OK.

DF: Uh-huh. But I didn't let no one in dietary knew that I wrote the letter, because you still got a lot of black people that will snitch on you, too. So they didn't know who wrote the letter, but then we got results from the letter. Everything started changing up; plus they got rid of the man because he was on drugs.

KH: Really?

DF: Uh-huh. I told them to check that out because he was on. He'd go in the bathroom, come out, girl, he'd be flying [laughs]. But it was just a way that we learned how to do things that you will get results out of without getting fired off the job.

KH: So far you mentioned working at East End Hospital?

DF: Uh-huh. Yeah, Medical Center East. It's the same hospital; they just changed names and moved in a different location. But when I was working with Alex, I worked at Spain rehabilitation center, and I must say that was the best job I ever had.

KH: Why is that?

DF: Because everybody got along, black and the whites. Really, they did.

KH: Just when you were working together?

DF: Working together, we went out together, we partied together. We did all that together, and when we got our job, we were professional enough to keep our personal part of life out till the weekend, stuff like that. But we got along on the job. That was the best job I ever had. I hate I left it [laughs].

KH: When did you work there?

DF: I had to work in seventy—. I had Dexter in 1973, so it had to be between 1969 and '72. I think I worked there three years.

KH: How did you get into doing hospital work?

DF: Hmm?

KH: How did you start doing hospital work?

DF: Well, after I finished high school, that's all I applied for, hospital jobs. My first job, though, was University Hospital. I forgot to say that. That was my first job. I didn't work there but a year. After a year I married, and I don't think I worked no more till probably my baby

about four years old. That's when I went to Spain.

KH: At that time, were the hospital jobs the best that was available?

DF: Yeah, they was available jobs, but they didn't want you—. Still, at that time, they didn't want to give you no high position. You had to fight for those positions.

KH: Yeah. What position did you have when you first started?

DF: Well, only thing they would have open is cashier for dietary or housekeeping for blacks at that time. When I first started working, that was like in -- I forgot when I worked over there. It was in like 1960. We were still going through all that process of segregation and stuff. We were just like one day at a time. They really didn't want to give us no kind of position.

KH: So I guess when you started, there were people there who'd already been there for many years who still had the same—.

DF: Oh, yeah. Same job. Um-hmm. Thirty-five years, they were in the same position. They didn't let them move up. By the time they were half dead, they let them move up [laughs] because they didn't have a choice then. Yeah.

KH: Right. When you started out, what responsibilities did you have?

DF: Well, when you work in dietary and you was black, you had no job description. Whatever they tell you to do, that's what you had to do. They'll hire you for one thing, but if they're short, you got to do your job and somebody else's, too. I mean, that's just about in every job now. They want you to double up because they short of help, but during that time, it was worse. But like I say, when I working at Spain Rehab, that was the best job I ever had because we did what we were supposed to do. Wasn't no switch-swapping around.

KH: What hours did you work?

DF: Nine to five.

KH: And how long was it before you heard that people were trying to put together a union?

DF: That was in—let's see what year that was in. It had to be like in 1969, because Alex was the one that tried to start getting everyone to have a union at different hospitals. We started having union meetings—I mean, not union meetings, started having meetings secretly, trying to get people to join up so they can vote for a union and stuff like that. But he the one that got that started, and my husband was—. They were just like that, and they did a lot of work trying to get it together.

KH: Why did they start at that time?

DF: Hmm?

KH: Why did they start trying to get the other hospital workers together at that time?

DF: So they can change the benefits and change the way they was working people and not promoting them and stuff like that. That was the only way they were going to change it, if they got a young one. They felt like that.

KH: So it was a problem with promotions.

DF: Um-hmm.

KH: Wages, too?

DF: Definite, wages. They give you a raise like fifteen cents, they think they done did you a favor [laughs]. Then you done put in a hundred and fifty percent work.

KH: What were their challenges when they were trying to get this started?

DF: I really can't remember. I mean, the biggest challenge was trying to get the people together to come to these different meetings. We started off slow, but then we got a great big membership. Then a lot of people started getting terminated, and they started dropping out



because the word had gotten back to the administration that we was meeting and all that. But during this time we were trying to get a union, a lot of people that did get terminated, we was able to help them get their job back by picketing the hospital. So they were hired back because they didn't want that kind of publicity. Um-hmm.

KH: How often did you picket the hospital?

DF: When somebody got fired for nothing. Um-hmm.

KH: So it must have been—.

DF: Often. [Laughs] If it wasn't at the hospital we were working at, it would be at another hospital, so the people that worked, I would say, Saint Vincent, they would picket University for somebody that get fired there. Then we would go over there and picket they hospital, trying to keep our faces from being seen on the job site, so that's how we did it.

KH: Yeah, that's smart. Did a lot of people get fired from your hospital?

DF: Well, I worked in Spain. Nobody got fired from there, but some got fired from University Hospital. At the time we was trying to get the union together, I was working the Spain then, but my husband was working at University Hospital. They tried to terminate him, too, but together we got his job back. We started writing letters and stuff to administration and radio stations and stuff like that, so got his job back. He was supervisor food production, and you know by him being a supervisor, they really didn't want him to be mixed up in that, you know. But he was trying to help other people, too.

KH: They knew he had authority over other people.

DF: Right, right.

KH: Did your husband and Alex Hurder have much experience with unions before they started doing this?



DF: I know my husband didn't, but his daddy was—. He knew about the union because his daddy worked for US Steel. I don't know whether his daddy ever discussed their union business around, but they probably did. They had a lot of union men, some US Steel, to come speak to us at our different meetings. They would tell us different ways to go about doing things.

KH: What kind of things did they suggest? Do you remember?

DF: [Laughs] I can't remember that.

KH: Were they talking about strikes or—?

DF: Yeah, they talked about that, too. Strikes, yeah.

KH: Did your union start out being all black?

DF: Yeah, the majority was black. We had a few whites. Let me see. It was Alex. Let me see. Just about everybody that we worked with, me and Alex—. Besides me, I was the only black from our department that was—. There was two blacks, me and another girl; then the rest of them was white. I believe it was Alice, Mike—I'd say about six whites from Spain Rehab and about three blacks that were trying to help get the union from our department. They would go to the different meetings that we had set up.

KH: How often did you have meetings?

DF: Like maybe about once every two weeks, about twice a month. We'd meet at somebody house or either we'd meet at a hall. They had some kind of union hall out in Fairfield, and we'd meet there when some of those men from the steel plant would come and talk to us.

KH: So why did it take so long to do this organizing? Was it because so many people were getting fired in the meantime?

DF: I think so. Yeah, because a lot of them started dropping out. I'm trying to remember. It was one hospital did get the union, and I can't remember which one it was. All the

hospitals we tried to join together, it was one that did come together. It wasn't St. Vincent. It was a hospital, but I can't remember. It wasn't nearly as big as University. Now that was the main one we was trying to get, so we knew that if we got University, all the other hospitals was going to fall in because University's one of the biggest hospitals in Birmingham. It is *the* biggest hospital in Birmingham.

KH: What was it about the University Hospital that made it so difficult to get them to consider a union?

DF: I don't know. They just wanted to do things the way they were doing. They knew that if they brought a union that they wanted to change up a whole lot of rules. They didn't want one. They did everything they could to fight against it, called the people in their office, either threatened their jobs or "I'll give you a raise and you need to drop out of this" and all this stuff. And bribery, "come back and tell me what went on." They had somebody tell who was at the meetings and all that, what was talked about.

KH: Did any managers ever try to bribe you?

DF: No, they know not to try to bribe me, because they know my husband was on the front row. [Laughter] No, they don't go that route.

KH: What other things were you involved in during this time?

DF: Let me see. I think about all we were involved in was trying to get the union, and we got involved with a lady that—. She was in our—. This was after we were trying to get the union at the hospital, though. She was a nurse at Brookwood, and she fell and broke her knee, whatever. She couldn't get around too much. Then they did everything to keep from paying her. Then she had to get a lawyer, and I think they bought the lawyer off. So we picketed that hospital and all for them to give her her money, her back money and all of her benefits and stuff.

She did get results, but it took about two years before we could get that for her, writing letters to different senators and stuff like that. Then when things were going wrong at a hospital in a department, we would—. Like if I'm working in Medical Center East, I go over here to Carraway Hospital, and I go in the bathroom and put out leaflets [laughs], you know, in their bathroom. Then I leave out of there and sit down; then I go on another floor, go to another bathroom. They would be in an uproar the next morning because they didn't know who had slipped in there and did this [laughs]. We used to do a lot of little stuff and we got results. We didn't get the union, but we got a lot of results, you know, different things.

KH: Why do you think the hospitals were so afraid of publicity?

DF: I don't know. I guess most big people here, they don't want to be in the news, because once the news people get a hold to a story, they is blowing it on and on so it doesn't make them look bad to know. I guess that's why.

KH: Did you feel like you had good support from other people in the community?

DF: Yeah, yeah. In this community, yeah. The lady across the street—and there's another lady worked at the medical center, she's deceased now—and this lady across the street here, she worked at Fairway. Then another lady across the street, she worked at Saint Vincent. We was lucky we the community with the hospital, so—. But we would do different things for different hospitals. They'd do for the hospital I'm at, they would come over and put leaflets and stuff out in the bathroom and distribute them, and then I'd go on their work-site and do stuff like that. We did it at different work-sites.

KH: I was just wondering if anybody ever complained about your striking against the hospital.

DF: Oh, yeah, you know they did. They don't want a strike at a hospital. That's why

they fought it so hard. They didn't want no strike in the hospital. I told you, it was a—. Down there where they had that hospital they had this big strike, it was some hospital had a big strike. I can't remember. I mean, it was a mess.

KH: I don't remember that.

DF: Um-hmm, but it was a mess, so that's why they fight against unions. They start talking about you got the sick folks and all [laughs], but they don't want to give you the right amount of money to pay you. So that's why people strike, for benefits and fair treatment.

KH: I know one of my co-workers interviewed Mary Moore.

DF: Yeah.

KH: And she was talking about how the hospital kept trying to make them work longer and longer hours so that they're too tired to take care of anybody, basically.

DF: Yeah, they got this—what do they call it? Seven on and four—seven off. They tried to get that at our hospital. Now some of them agreed to do it, because they had brainwashed that oh, you going to have four days off in a row. OK, you done worked seven days, you got four days off in a row. What can you do? You're so tired, you're crazy [laughs]. And I guess for the people that had kids, small kids, what they do? The first day you going to stay in the bed because you're tired today. You done worked seven days and you worked like how many hours? They worked more than eight hours. I think it was ten hours for seven days. Each day was ten hours, and out of that seven days, one day was twelve hours.

Oh, they had people so crazy. They thought, "I'm lucky. We going to have four days off." And they would drag around like they were a hundred years old. They got mad at my sister because she and I would both get—. We were working at Medical Center East, and they tried to give it to her, but they know not to ask me now [Laughter] She told them no. They said, "But

Carrie, you'll have four days . . ." She said, "I don't care. I'm not working no seven days, no twelve hours." And they got mad with her, but then the rest of them, after they started working, they were so tired, they couldn't do nothing but lay down on their four days off.

KH: I'm sure it's—

DF: Yeah, it sound good. Four days off, yay!

KH: Seventy-two, seventy-four hours a week?

DF: Right. You can't do anything with your family, your kids, and any sports or anything. You can't go to their activities. Uh-huh, so I never wanted that.

KH: Was that just for people who worked in dietary or were they trying to get—?

DF: Housekeeping and all departments, the nurses, all of them. They went along; a lot of them went along with it and then they regret it [laughs]. They'd be so tired when they get back to work because they ain't been able to get anything at home. You can't get anything done. What do you do? Come home and go to bed. Yeah, it was the whole hospital, but in our department—I don't know about the other departments—it was left up to you to agree that you wanted to work that many shifts, you know, that long a shift. So.

KH: Are people still working like that now?

DF: Um-hmm. I believe once you sign up to do it, that's it [laughs].

KH: No time to change your mind.

DF: Uh-uh. I'm thinking that's it. I wouldn't want that if I were just sitting in one spot all day. I wouldn't want that twelve hours a day, ten hours, and stuff like that. I wouldn't want to do that.

KH: Yeah. Well, how has the promotion system changed in the hospital?

DF: Well, they changed it for the best, I think. We have a lot of black supervisors in

hospitals now where we usually didn't have any. Got a lot of black supervisors, but then the boss is so hard on them, that make them be hard on other people. Nothing they do satisfy them because really they don't want them to have the position, but they don't have a choice. And then if you been in the hospital certain length of time—I'd say like twenty-five, thirty years, stuff like that—then you are a regular person that being picked on because they want to get rid of you so they can hire somebody else that makes less money. Uh-huh. So they want to get rid of you, and they hire somebody in your spot doing the same job that you did for about six dollars an hour.

KH: That's because of seniority?

DF: Hmm?

KH: Is that because of seniority?

DF: Yeah, that we'll be making more than the person—yeah. Because each year you get a little raise, so as you get a certain amount, they think you making too much money. It ain't never too much money because you work too hard. So they do everything. They pick at you to get you to just quit or do something so they can fire you. They doing it right now. I left there in 1999 because I was going to lose my benefits [laughs] I stayed in the office too much.

KH: How were you going to lose your benefits?

DF: Huh?

KH: How were—?

DF: If they fired me, I would have lost my benefits, see. So I just resigned. Um-hmm. See, but they were working on it.

KH: That's because of how outspoken you are.

DF: Yeah, because I was outspoken. They were doing everything they could, and they done it for two years. I'm just not one of the people that can just swallow, swallow, swallow,



swallow, especially when I know I haven't did anything wrong. You know, they'll find something.

KH: Do you think anybody's ever tried to do union organizing again?

DF: I don't know. It's hard to say. I don't know. It would take a good one that have the patience that Alex and my husband had to gather up all these people from different hospital and find out the strong one and the weak link and all that. It would take a good person to do this. I don't know. I don't know anybody will ever try again.

KH: Do you think it would work if somebody tried to organize the union just for one hospital?

DF: Hmm-mm. I think that all of them would have to come together. That one hospital ain't going to work.

KH: Why is that?

DF: I just don't believe it will. I think all the hospitals will have to come together, and then again it might. I don't know. I don't know. That was then. But your best—if you're going to organize a hospital, I still say the best one is to get the biggest one, and that will be University Hospital. If they can get that organized, it won't be too hard to get the rest of them.

KH: How much does University Hospital pay now, do you know?

DF: I don't have a clue. Not enough, I'm sure [laughs].

KH: Yeah, I was wondering how it compares to other jobs.

DF: Yeah. I heard that University don't pay as much as Medical Center East in dietary and housekeeping. Now that's what I heard about four or five years ago, so I don't know. I don't think they pay all that much. But not if they can get away with it, they not going to pay what they supposed to pay.



KH: Did you ever get promoted while you were working?

DF: At University or Medical Center East? The last one I worked at?

KH: I guess the last one.

DF: Well, yeah, because I put in for a cashier's job, but at the time they didn't have one open. So I just took the job they had. That was serving on the line. Then some of the jobs open, so I don't ever recall a promotion at work. [laughter]

KH: How long was it before your husband became a supervisor?

DF: Let's see. He was working there before I started, so I think it was maybe about what? For five or six years, I believe, because he started off as a cook helper, and then he got promoted to being a cook. After that, he got promoted in food production, supervise. But I don't know. He'd probably been working there about six years before he went through all these different levels, changes. Then they sent him to school out in Atlanta, and then he went to—I think it was Grady Hospital out there. He took some classes there and then took some in New Orleans.

I think they did pretty fair by him because they know he was a strong person in dietary department. They knew that he had a good connection with the people, so that's why they decided to do everything they could to pull him out from what we were trying to do, but it didn't work. There were a lot of people that should have made more money and they didn't. He always had to go in the office and ask for people a raise because he knew they was working good because they was working under him, so he knew they did a good job. That's one thing they didn't really like about him, but they knew he wasn't going to step down from what he had to say.

KH: At all the hospitals that you worked at over the years, did you feel like there was less prejudice by the time you resigned than when you started?

DF: Well, I say it was a better front [laugh].

KH: OK. They could hide it better.

DF: Yeah, they could hide it better. It was a better front.

KH: Hmm. What about for Birmingham in general? Do you feel like there's less prejudice? Do you feel like it's a better place to live?

DF: It's a lot better than it was back in the fifties when I first started going to Parkland High School, so yeah, it's a whole lot better. The kids, our children get scholarships and things, where a lot of times they wasn't getting any scholarships, so it's better. It'll get better, but it's better than what it was.

KH: Where did your kids go to school?

DF: Huh?

KH: Where did your kids—?

DF: Oh, my kids. Oh, Phillips High School. They went to MacArthur Elementary and Phillips High School. I had one go to Bessemer Tech, and that's Dexter. He went to Lawson State, and my oldest son, he started out at Lawson State, but he wanted a job make big money, so he went [laughs]—. He a contractor truck driver in the moving business.

KH: That is a good job.

DF: Oh, yeah. You make way bigger bucks than you had a plant job. He wouldn't make that kind of money working at a plant, and I know he make good. But he make more money than that, so.

KH: When you and your husband were involved in the union, did you ever think of yourself as doing civil rights work?

DF: No, I didn't. We went to a few civil rights things in Atlanta. Was it Atlanta? Yeah,

Atlanta. We went to a lot of movements and stuff when they had civil rights things. That's after Alex had moved from here, though. We were with another group doing some work considered, you know, to the thing that we tried to help out with. We went to Atlanta, we went to Selma. We marched here whenever they had Reverend Martin Luther King—. We always have a march downtown celebrating his birthday and trying to get better positions for people who march and stuff like that, but there had never been no real big one out there.

KH: Um-hmm. To you, what does it mean to fight for civil rights?

DF: It mean a lot, because I want things to be better for my grandkids than they were for my children and than it was for me. Each generation should have a better—things should be better for them. When my grandkids have their kids, then they want things going to be better for them. Just want things to get better and better. It always can be better than what it is, because I'm pretty sure it was whole lot better for me than it was for my parents. It was a way whole lot better for my kids than it was for me, so you just strive on, each generation. You just want things to get better and better.

KH: What type of things do you hope will get better in the future?

DF: Less prejudice, no skinheads and Ku Klux [laughs] and whatever you call, and no gang bangers. The black society knows it's bad on both sides, the black and the white, and they come to these different gangs. They are the skinheads for the white, you got—. I don't know what you call it, the gang bangers, they got a name for—. The Crips or whatever you call them.

KH: Crips, Bloods.

DF: What?

KH: Crips and Bloods.

DF: Yeah, yeah, that. Uh-huh. So you need things to get better so you won't have so

many kids getting shot down, get guns and things off the street. So many kids going to jail, spend the rest of they life till they get old in jail for something stupid, so you want things to get better for them. They need more education than being on the street. I'll put it like that. Because it's bad on both sides, the black and the white, so you can't say that the white bad, it's the black; you can't say the black bad, it's the white. They come out equal. It's bad on both sides. Everybody need to just come together and try to do better and stop all these different names, make you look like you badder than that gang and all this stuff. You can't cross over my tracks [laughs]. You can't come in my neighborhood and stuff like that. All that stuff need to stop.

KH: If there was a union at your hospital, is there anything that you would hope that union would be able to do?

DF: If it was a union?

KH: Yeah.

DF: At the hospital I used to work at?

KH: The one you resigned from.

DF: [Laughs] What the question was now?

KH: If they had a union at the hospital, what would you hope that union would be able to do?

DF: Well, I hope the union would be able to help them get better benefits and better job description, instead of you would have worked for this thing and then you had to do two, three people's job, and you should be able to say no to that without getting fired. So I would wish that could happen. I also would wish that you have a good union so you won't have all the union managers get paid off by the hospital and do what they say, because you have a lot of that, too. Now you got to be careful with the union you pick, because all unions not good unions. So you

got to be sure you have—what do they call the man that's over the union? The foreman? It's a name—would it be the union president?

KH: The union president.

DF: You see, you got to be in one of them unions where you don't have the president of the union be a yes man to the company. See, because a lot of places have got a yes man—they got a union, but their president is a yes man and stuff like that. They get behind closed doors, and they work out the deal that the company wants to work out, so you don't want that. All unions not good [laughs].

KH: Which ones around here are bad?

DF: I really don't know. I really don't.

KH: I talked with the president at the United Auto Workers, and he was telling me how he wishes more of the unions around here were active.

DF: Um-hmm. Well, a lot of them not. I blame my baby boy. He was at PEMCO and they got a union, but he don't go. He just made two or three meetings, but he said the union not about nothing. In the end, they're always interested in just about doing what the company want to do instead of, you know. He don't like the union. It's not US Steel. They're another name. I think it might be part of US Steel, but it got something to do with the Army—airplanes and stuff like that.

KH: Yeah. He might be involved in the United Auto Workers.

DF: He probably is. That's what is it, United—yeah. I remember them papers coming here.

KH: I just have one more question. What would you want your children and your grandchildren and other people to learn from your experiences?

DF: Oh, I want them to learn from my experience to further their education and try to be the best that they can be. And the more education they have, the better job they can get. And just try to pick a skill that they know will benefit them in the long run. When they going into college, have their mind made up that they do what they can. You know, I don't want to push them to do this because I want them to do it. I want them to do what they want to do.

Whatever they take up, to just remember—. Some of these thing that kids take up in college, it ain't going to cut it unless something else change. Some of them go for being in administration and when they get out of college, they done did four years in college, it's hard for them to get a job here in Birmingham. They got to go all across the state to get a good job. A lot of kids at my church, their parents sent them to college, four years education being in administration, they in Texas, they in Baton Rouge and all that. They got to leave Birmingham to get a good job, so—.

KH: Is that because there aren't that many businesses here?

DF: Oh, there's business. They just don't where they at. There you go.

KH: OK.

DF: There's three ladies in my choir now. They daughters had to leave Birmingham to get a decent job. Like I said, depends on what you take up in college what you wants to be. Good jobs in nursing here. You'd probably get a good job as being a nurse, but when you start going to be in administration, you going to have to leave town when it's time for you to finish college unless things get better.

KH: Yeah. I know a lot of businesses have moved out of the city, too. That might have something to do with it.

DF: Um-hmm. Definitely have.

KH: Well, thank you very much.

DF: Oh, you're welcome. I didn't know you were going to be so young. [Laughter]

KH: I'm twenty-six.

END OF TRANSCRIPTION