

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,750

2
00:00:01,750 --> 00:00:04,236
(film slating)

3
00:00:04,236 --> 00:00:05,460

4
00:00:05,460 --> 00:00:08,900
Well, we were talking
about how we make it

5
00:00:08,900 --> 00:00:12,540
to the ghetto and the
closing of the ghetto.

6
00:00:12,540 --> 00:00:20,610
And the reflection is, how was
it possible that we went there?

7
00:00:20,610 --> 00:00:24,960
That we went or were going,
because I couldn't believe it

8
00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:26,880
as we were going.

9
00:00:26,880 --> 00:00:34,530
But you have to remember that
at that time, what was going on

10
00:00:34,530 --> 00:00:38,490
was the Jews, and not only
the Jews, the Poles too, to be

11
00:00:38,490 --> 00:00:39,000
fair.

12
00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:44,820
Because I remember one family,
very good friends of ours,

13

00:00:44,820 --> 00:00:46,560
and neighbors, Poles,
and the first day

14
00:00:46,560 --> 00:00:50,400
the father was captured
and probably killed.

15
00:00:50,400 --> 00:00:52,320
And the family just moved away.

16
00:00:52,320 --> 00:00:54,570
So it was happening all over.

17
00:00:54,570 --> 00:00:56,310
But Jews were arrested.

18
00:00:56,310 --> 00:00:57,900
Jews were killed.

19
00:00:57,900 --> 00:00:59,280
Homes were invaded.

20
00:00:59,280 --> 00:01:02,160
I remember evening after
evening we were sitting

21
00:01:02,160 --> 00:01:05,370
and the streets
were in cordoned.

22
00:01:05,370 --> 00:01:09,660
And the Gestapo was
coming and asking

23
00:01:09,660 --> 00:01:15,990
for goods, money, jewelry,
whatever, robbing.

24
00:01:15,990 --> 00:01:18,480
It was a constant thing.

25
00:01:18,480 --> 00:01:21,930
Jews were taken to the
Gestapo and beaten up.

26
00:01:21,930 --> 00:01:23,010
They were killed.

27
00:01:23,010 --> 00:01:27,330
They were shamed on the
streets, particularly Jews, men

28
00:01:27,330 --> 00:01:28,590
with beards.

29
00:01:28,590 --> 00:01:29,340
The Hasidic--

30
00:01:29,340 --> 00:01:30,132
The religious Jews.

31
00:01:30,132 --> 00:01:34,950
The religious Jews were
shamed and spat on and so on.

32
00:01:34,950 --> 00:01:36,030
Did you witness this?

33
00:01:36,030 --> 00:01:38,370
Oh yes, yes, that
was pretty common.

34
00:01:38,370 --> 00:01:40,110
It was an every day--

35
00:01:40,110 --> 00:01:41,940
It was an everyday occurrence.

36
00:01:41,940 --> 00:01:45,090
And the fear of going out in
the street was tremendous.

37
00:01:45,090 --> 00:01:47,220
You felt like hiding.

38
00:01:47,220 --> 00:01:49,810
You had to hide to avoid that.

39

00:01:49,810 --> 00:01:53,670

So we-- shortly after,
at the beginning,

40

00:01:53,670 --> 00:01:57,810

we were living from
day to day in terror,

41

00:01:57,810 --> 00:02:01,890

in fear, constant fear,
unrelenting daily.

42

00:02:01,890 --> 00:02:06,450

And when those decrees came to
leave the houses and ghetto--

43

00:02:06,450 --> 00:02:09,060

to the ghetto, one became numb.

44

00:02:09,060 --> 00:02:10,800

It was paralyzed already.

45

00:02:10,800 --> 00:02:14,160

As I told you people, were
running, trying to find places.

46

00:02:14,160 --> 00:02:15,827

Did you have the
feeling that the ghetto

47

00:02:15,827 --> 00:02:18,930

would be a kind of protection?

48

00:02:18,930 --> 00:02:22,170

No, there was no feeling
of that kind at that time.

49

00:02:22,170 --> 00:02:26,730

It was the feeling that it is
sort of the beginning of death.

50

00:02:26,730 --> 00:02:28,740

Sort of the feeling
of death began

51
00:02:28,740 --> 00:02:31,170
to be an everyday occurrence.

52
00:02:31,170 --> 00:02:35,280
That we are being killed.

53
00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:37,540
The fear was-- the
fear of being killed--

54
00:02:37,540 --> 00:02:38,398
Of being killed.

55
00:02:38,398 --> 00:02:39,315
--was it overwhelming?

56
00:02:39,315 --> 00:02:40,890
Overwhelming and all the time.

57
00:02:40,890 --> 00:02:42,240
And present every day.

58
00:02:42,240 --> 00:02:45,790
And present every day.

59
00:02:45,790 --> 00:02:49,000
Yes, I'm curious to know what
happened to you after you

60
00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:50,740
went into the ghetto.

61
00:02:50,740 --> 00:02:53,000
We went to the ghetto.

62
00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:55,780
And we started to
live there somehow.

63
00:02:55,780 --> 00:02:58,930
And in a while--

64
00:02:58,930 --> 00:03:04,840

it was amazing, really, looking
back, how quickly the ghetto--

65

00:03:04,840 --> 00:03:07,960
and how well it was organized.

66

00:03:07,960 --> 00:03:09,790
It was unbelievable.

67

00:03:09,790 --> 00:03:15,430
I didn't know Rumkowski before
and his name didn't mean much

68

00:03:15,430 --> 00:03:17,110
in the beginning.

69

00:03:17,110 --> 00:03:19,720
But gradually, as
I was in the ghetto

70

00:03:19,720 --> 00:03:23,390
it became a name
very well known.

71

00:03:23,390 --> 00:03:26,980
He was the president of the
ghetto, of the Judenrat.

72

00:03:26,980 --> 00:03:30,350
And he took the job
rather seriously.

73

00:03:30,350 --> 00:03:31,310
We were surprised.

74

00:03:31,310 --> 00:03:32,830
I was surprised.

75

00:03:32,830 --> 00:03:35,020
How can one take
so seriously a job

76

00:03:35,020 --> 00:03:39,880
of having a ghetto, a Jewish
ghetto, and be a leader of it?

77

00:03:39,880 --> 00:03:42,430

But he took it very seriously.

78

00:03:42,430 --> 00:03:44,350

And in the beginning,
we made jokes.

79

00:03:44,350 --> 00:03:48,550

And we laughed and said, ha, ha,
ha, a Jewish state, and parody,

80

00:03:48,550 --> 00:03:49,900

and so on.

81

00:03:49,900 --> 00:03:53,470

But pretty soon, it was
nothing of that sort.

82

00:03:53,470 --> 00:03:56,740

He took it, I think,
with a sort of iron hand.

83

00:03:56,740 --> 00:03:59,650

And organized it quickly.

84

00:03:59,650 --> 00:04:03,190

Shops for work,
because he said that we

85

00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:05,110

will survive only if we work.

86

00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:08,080

That we are worth to the
Germans what our hands can

87

00:04:08,080 --> 00:04:10,780

produce for the war machinery.

88

00:04:10,780 --> 00:04:14,860

And pretty soon in
no time, It was so.

89

00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:19,680
But this was based and the
ideology of Rumkowski during

90
00:04:19,680 --> 00:04:22,240
the whole time of the
ghetto, during the four years

91
00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:23,600
of the Łódź ghetto.

92
00:04:23,600 --> 00:04:28,270
The idea is that work
meant survival, no?

93
00:04:28,270 --> 00:04:31,630
Yes, yes.

94
00:04:31,630 --> 00:04:33,190
They had a policy.

95
00:04:33,190 --> 00:04:34,720
That was his policy.

96
00:04:34,720 --> 00:04:37,540
And it is-- what he was
saying in his speeches,

97
00:04:37,540 --> 00:04:42,550
that it is the condition of our
survival made by the Germans.

98
00:04:42,550 --> 00:04:45,280
He was in touch
with the Germans,

99
00:04:45,280 --> 00:04:46,480
talking with the Germans.

100
00:04:46,480 --> 00:04:49,510
And that was their policy.

101
00:04:49,510 --> 00:04:54,750
So I don't know.

102

00:04:54,750 --> 00:04:56,850

That was their
policy, that's clear.

103

00:04:56,850 --> 00:04:58,920

He was the administrator of it.

104

00:04:58,920 --> 00:05:00,810

And we hated him for it.

105

00:05:00,810 --> 00:05:01,500

You did?

106

00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:04,550

Of course.

107

00:05:04,550 --> 00:05:09,500

But did you-- did you have
yourselves this feeling,

108

00:05:09,500 --> 00:05:14,300

this inner feelings that being--

109

00:05:14,300 --> 00:05:18,260

that work meant being
alive and to remain alive?

110

00:05:18,260 --> 00:05:22,640

111

00:05:22,640 --> 00:05:25,410

I don't remember having
any feelings about it.

112

00:05:25,410 --> 00:05:27,050

One was overwhelmed.

113

00:05:27,050 --> 00:05:27,890

It was war.

114

00:05:27,890 --> 00:05:30,990

That was the fact.

115

00:05:30,990 --> 00:05:32,770
Pretty soon, the fact--

116
00:05:32,770 --> 00:05:35,640
if one was philosophical
in the beginning,

117
00:05:35,640 --> 00:05:40,290
toward a little later you
stopped to be philosophical.

118
00:05:40,290 --> 00:05:42,480
Because indeed, it was so.

119
00:05:42,480 --> 00:05:45,930
People that didn't
work were sent out.

120
00:05:45,930 --> 00:05:48,300
The story was at
first that it was

121
00:05:48,300 --> 00:05:52,015
to labor camps
outside elsewhere.

122
00:05:52,015 --> 00:05:53,640
And I think in the
beginning it was so.

123
00:05:53,640 --> 00:05:55,800
But pretty soon,
we had other news

124
00:05:55,800 --> 00:06:00,000
that those were some camps that
the people might not be alive.

125
00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:02,700
That they were just
sent out to die.

126
00:06:02,700 --> 00:06:04,090
But we didn't know.

127

00:06:04,090 --> 00:06:05,910
And I think part of the--

128
00:06:05,910 --> 00:06:09,030

129
00:06:09,030 --> 00:06:14,160
the weapon that the Germans
used was that we didn't know.

130
00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:15,870
It was all vague.

131
00:06:15,870 --> 00:06:21,870
And it was going here and
there and left and right.

132
00:06:21,870 --> 00:06:23,890
And we didn't know.

133
00:06:23,890 --> 00:06:25,740
So there was a total confusion.

134
00:06:25,740 --> 00:06:28,500
But this is a very
important question.

135
00:06:28,500 --> 00:06:33,240
Who was aware of the
deportations of Jews who took

136
00:06:33,240 --> 00:06:39,210
place in the Łódź ghetto,
like in [INAUDIBLE] ghetto,

137
00:06:39,210 --> 00:06:40,950
as a matter of fact.

138
00:06:40,950 --> 00:06:46,860
And we know today that
the people were killed.

139
00:06:46,860 --> 00:06:51,540
They were killed either in
Chelmno, in the gas vans.

140
00:06:51,540 --> 00:06:56,520
Or in the extermination
camps, in Auschwitz too.

141
00:06:56,520 --> 00:07:01,010
And when the people were
taken away for the deportation

142
00:07:01,010 --> 00:07:05,670
or there were orders for the
deportation which were given,

143
00:07:05,670 --> 00:07:08,370
did you know what
it meant or not.

144
00:07:08,370 --> 00:07:09,600
At first we didn't.

145
00:07:09,600 --> 00:07:10,920
We were just suspicious.

146
00:07:10,920 --> 00:07:12,180
But later we did.

147
00:07:12,180 --> 00:07:13,110
I did.

148
00:07:13,110 --> 00:07:14,250
I had no doubts.

149
00:07:14,250 --> 00:07:15,420
When did you know?

150
00:07:15,420 --> 00:07:21,063
I think it came about maybe
toward the end of '41, '42.

151
00:07:21,063 --> 00:07:23,130
This means pretty early.

152
00:07:23,130 --> 00:07:27,240
All right, yes, '42.

153

00:07:27,240 --> 00:07:33,630
Because at that time we did have
people coming from small towns

154

00:07:33,630 --> 00:07:34,500
around Łódź.

155

00:07:34,500 --> 00:07:37,020

156

00:07:37,020 --> 00:07:42,310
And they were telling
us what was going on.

157

00:07:42,310 --> 00:07:45,270
As a matter of fact, I
knew people that came.

158

00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:50,350
And they knew that the
others were sent to Chelmno.

159

00:07:50,350 --> 00:07:52,800
And some people saw
Chelmno already there.

160

00:07:52,800 --> 00:07:53,820
So we knew for sure.

161

00:07:53,820 --> 00:07:55,770
At some point, we knew for sure.

162

00:07:55,770 --> 00:07:57,787
In '42, I knew for sure.

163

00:07:57,787 --> 00:07:59,370
And you were not the
only one to know.

164

00:07:59,370 --> 00:08:01,070
And I was not the only one.

165

00:08:01,070 --> 00:08:03,600

And Rumkowski himself
knew very well.

166
00:08:03,600 --> 00:08:05,790
But he wouldn't say.

167
00:08:05,790 --> 00:08:07,920
I think he knew,
but he wouldn't say.

168
00:08:07,920 --> 00:08:10,920
He says we are
sending them to work.

169
00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:12,810
He always said this?

170
00:08:12,810 --> 00:08:15,550
To my knowledge.

171
00:08:15,550 --> 00:08:16,830
I don't think so.

172
00:08:16,830 --> 00:08:19,950
Because there are
speeches of Rumkowski

173
00:08:19,950 --> 00:08:24,917
which are very clear when he
says that he must have a bloody

174
00:08:24,917 --> 00:08:29,610
hands that it is
his job to give away

175
00:08:29,610 --> 00:08:34,559
a part of the Jewish population
to save another part.

176
00:08:34,559 --> 00:08:36,600
He knew exactly what it meant.

177
00:08:36,600 --> 00:08:38,309
And he didn't hide it.

178

00:08:38,309 --> 00:08:45,180

Well, I also know that when the
deportation of children came,

179

00:08:45,180 --> 00:08:51,330

what the officials were saying
was that the children are being

180

00:08:51,330 --> 00:08:55,830

sent to a special camp where
they will be taken care of

181

00:08:55,830 --> 00:08:57,900

and they will have it well.

182

00:08:57,900 --> 00:09:02,400

We cannot feed them
here in the ghetto,

183

00:09:02,400 --> 00:09:05,190

but we will take them and
give them a good place.

184

00:09:05,190 --> 00:09:11,340

It was never stated that
they will be killed.

185

00:09:11,340 --> 00:09:14,880

Could you talk precisely
about this, the deportation

186

00:09:14,880 --> 00:09:17,250

of the children?

187

00:09:17,250 --> 00:09:18,390

Yeah, yes.

188

00:09:18,390 --> 00:09:20,700

I think that was
the worst moment

189

00:09:20,700 --> 00:09:25,350

that I lived through
in the ghetto, when

190

00:09:25,350 --> 00:09:29,040

we heard Rumkowski's
speech about it, announcing

191

00:09:29,040 --> 00:09:31,080

the children will be taken.

192

00:09:31,080 --> 00:09:33,990

We got sort of used to it,
that people that don't work

193

00:09:33,990 --> 00:09:34,800

will be taken.

194

00:09:34,800 --> 00:09:38,220

If they're lazy or whatnot,
they will be sent away.

195

00:09:38,220 --> 00:09:43,350

Or people-- well, some
sick ones and old ones

196

00:09:43,350 --> 00:09:45,120

were taken away already.

197

00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:47,520

But the children
would be taken away,

198

00:09:47,520 --> 00:09:50,190

that was-- this was
just unbelievable.

199

00:09:50,190 --> 00:09:52,620

That was just unbelievable.

200

00:09:52,620 --> 00:09:58,350

First of all, how did
Rumkowski hold his speeches?

201

00:09:58,350 --> 00:10:00,090

Where was the gathering
of the people?

202

00:10:00,090 --> 00:10:01,530
Was everybody obliged to--

203
00:10:01,530 --> 00:10:03,750
They were given--
there was a few spots

204
00:10:03,750 --> 00:10:05,290
that there were megaphones.

205
00:10:05,290 --> 00:10:08,370
And from wherever he
was making the speech,

206
00:10:08,370 --> 00:10:09,780
everyone could hear there.

207
00:10:09,780 --> 00:10:12,600
It was sort of a central
point in the ghetto.

208
00:10:12,600 --> 00:10:14,328
And people would listen.

209
00:10:14,328 --> 00:10:15,870
I think there were
announcements made

210
00:10:15,870 --> 00:10:17,950
that he would talk
at such and such time

211
00:10:17,950 --> 00:10:20,910
and people would
gather at this place.

212
00:10:20,910 --> 00:10:23,790
And one was obliged to
listen to the speeches?

213
00:10:23,790 --> 00:10:27,450
No, no, but everybody was
curious what's going on.

214
00:10:27,450 --> 00:10:30,330

There was questions
of life and death.

215
00:10:30,330 --> 00:10:32,160
So people would go and listen.

216
00:10:32,160 --> 00:10:36,825
Can you describe this atmosphere
of Rumkowski's speech?

217
00:10:36,825 --> 00:10:39,810

218
00:10:39,810 --> 00:10:41,682
Well, just-- I don't know.

219
00:10:41,682 --> 00:10:42,390
The way he posed.

220
00:10:42,390 --> 00:10:44,798
The way that people
reacted and so on.

221
00:10:44,798 --> 00:10:48,710

222
00:10:48,710 --> 00:10:51,380
Because the ghetto of Łódź
was a very special ward.

223
00:10:51,380 --> 00:10:53,130
Well, I don't know.

224
00:10:53,130 --> 00:10:55,550
I think the best
way to describe it

225
00:10:55,550 --> 00:10:58,910
for us is that the reaction
for a long time, minutes

226
00:10:58,910 --> 00:11:02,290
or whatnot, was
just dead silence.

227

00:11:02,290 --> 00:11:07,950

People were just in
disbelief and numb.

228

00:11:07,950 --> 00:11:09,866

(technical film issue)

229

00:11:09,866 --> 00:11:11,260

(film slating)

230

00:11:11,260 --> 00:11:12,920

231

00:11:12,920 --> 00:11:16,810

OK, so Rumkowski's speeches.

232

00:11:16,810 --> 00:11:22,600

Well, so he spoke his peace
and people went home, crying--

233

00:11:22,600 --> 00:11:25,720

eventually crying,
and lamenting,

234

00:11:25,720 --> 00:11:28,990

and totally helpless,
and totally bewildered.

235

00:11:28,990 --> 00:11:36,380

I have read that during some
of the speeches of Rumkowski,

236

00:11:36,380 --> 00:11:37,070

there were--

237

00:11:37,070 --> 00:11:40,450

the people lamented not only
when they returned home,

238

00:11:40,450 --> 00:11:41,460

but during the speeches.

239

00:11:41,460 --> 00:11:42,280

Yes.

240
00:11:42,280 --> 00:11:43,840
First was the dead silence.

241
00:11:43,840 --> 00:11:44,800
And then lament.

242
00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:46,090
When he started.

243
00:11:46,090 --> 00:11:46,960
Yes.

244
00:11:46,960 --> 00:11:48,460
Because people
couldn't believe it.

245
00:11:48,460 --> 00:11:50,050
Just couldn't comprehend it.

246
00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:53,020
Because was it taken for
granted by the people who

247
00:11:53,020 --> 00:11:58,540
assembled to listen at him that
he could only deliver bad news?

248
00:11:58,540 --> 00:11:59,110
That's right.

249
00:11:59,110 --> 00:12:00,640
Any speech meant bad news.

250
00:12:00,640 --> 00:12:01,390
And it was so.

251
00:12:01,390 --> 00:12:04,210
There was never good news.

252
00:12:04,210 --> 00:12:11,200
So as we went deeper and
deeper into the year and years,

253

00:12:11,200 --> 00:12:13,720

there were more
and more bad news.

254

00:12:13,720 --> 00:12:16,400

But it's very difficult
to understand.

255

00:12:16,400 --> 00:12:20,050

It's what I'm trying, with
your help to figure out.

256

00:12:20,050 --> 00:12:25,900

Because the Łódź ghetto
was a very special ward.

257

00:12:25,900 --> 00:12:27,610

It was the first
ghetto to be settled

258

00:12:27,610 --> 00:12:31,180

in Poland and the last
one to be destroyed.

259

00:12:31,180 --> 00:12:32,860

It was a strong ghetto.

260

00:12:32,860 --> 00:12:34,540

It was a strong ghetto, yes.

261

00:12:34,540 --> 00:12:37,840

It lasted for more
than four years.

262

00:12:37,840 --> 00:12:40,180

And well organized.

263

00:12:40,180 --> 00:12:41,710

Yeah, so this is a--

264

00:12:41,710 --> 00:12:45,970

there were several periods
doing this for years.

265

00:12:45,970 --> 00:12:52,280

And there were some
people who survived,

266

00:12:52,280 --> 00:12:56,000

I mean before the liquidation
of the ghetto, in August '44,

267

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:05,270

there were 60,000 Jews
still in the ghetto.

268

00:13:05,270 --> 00:13:09,040

And OK, let's try--

269

00:13:09,040 --> 00:13:09,560

Yeah.

270

00:13:09,560 --> 00:13:10,143

Let's try to--

271

00:13:10,143 --> 00:13:13,010

So I told you, in
the speech he said

272

00:13:13,010 --> 00:13:14,810

that we have to
give the children,

273

00:13:14,810 --> 00:13:18,200

and how painful it will be,
and how agonizing it is,

274

00:13:18,200 --> 00:13:21,870

and how agonized he is.

275

00:13:21,870 --> 00:13:25,100

But at the same
time, the other line

276

00:13:25,100 --> 00:13:28,010

was that the children
will not be killed.

277

00:13:28,010 --> 00:13:30,300

They are going to survive
in better circumstances.

278

00:13:30,300 --> 00:13:34,230

First of all, let's not take
these things for granted.

279

00:13:34,230 --> 00:13:37,880

Which category of children
would be taken away?

280

00:13:37,880 --> 00:13:42,860

Under nine years old, all
children, babies, infants,

281

00:13:42,860 --> 00:13:44,007

newborns.

282

00:13:44,007 --> 00:13:44,840

There were newborns.

283

00:13:44,840 --> 00:13:47,630

There were children
born into ghetto too.

284

00:13:47,630 --> 00:13:49,460

And all of them have to go.

285

00:13:49,460 --> 00:13:51,770

This was asked by the Germans?

286

00:13:51,770 --> 00:13:53,000

So Rumkowski said.

287

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,340

And it was in September 1942.

288

00:13:56,340 --> 00:13:56,840

I see.

289

00:13:56,840 --> 00:13:59,020

OK.

290

00:13:59,020 --> 00:14:00,100

As a matter of fact--

291

00:14:00,100 --> 00:14:03,598

OK, well, what did
the parents think

292

00:14:03,598 --> 00:14:04,970

when such a request was made?

293

00:14:04,970 --> 00:14:08,020

I think-- all right,
I just can tell you

294

00:14:08,020 --> 00:14:10,750

how I perceive
that in the house I

295

00:14:10,750 --> 00:14:13,810

lived, because the people
were coming and lamenting.

296

00:14:13,810 --> 00:14:16,600

And then my own feeling was--

297

00:14:16,600 --> 00:14:18,580

I came home and I
said, thank god,

298

00:14:18,580 --> 00:14:21,220

we don't have any
children under nine years.

299

00:14:21,220 --> 00:14:23,080

We're safe.

300

00:14:23,080 --> 00:14:23,800

We are safe.

301

00:14:23,800 --> 00:14:25,870

Yes, my family is safe.

302

00:14:25,870 --> 00:14:29,740

My sister-- my sister was
what, 14 at that time.

303

00:14:29,740 --> 00:14:32,200

We are safe, relief.

304

00:14:32,200 --> 00:14:34,570

And then you listen
to the others,

305

00:14:34,570 --> 00:14:37,790

the people that had children.

306

00:14:37,790 --> 00:14:43,330

So there was a dream like, sort
of like you were in a dream,

307

00:14:43,330 --> 00:14:46,810

that things are
happening and you really

308

00:14:46,810 --> 00:14:48,820

don't know what's happening.

309

00:14:48,820 --> 00:14:52,930

Mothers lamented and then
they said, all right,

310

00:14:52,930 --> 00:14:55,414

they will have it
better than we.

311

00:14:55,414 --> 00:14:56,190

The children?

312

00:14:56,190 --> 00:14:57,490

Yeah.

313

00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:01,880

Because for at least
the older children,

314

00:15:01,880 --> 00:15:04,240

the order was give
them some clothing

315

00:15:04,240 --> 00:15:13,390

and give them also dishes to
eat from, a spoon and a dish

316

00:15:13,390 --> 00:15:18,310
to eat so that they can have
something right away to be fed.

317

00:15:18,310 --> 00:15:21,880
And they were talking about
special camps for children

318

00:15:21,880 --> 00:15:26,440
where they will be kept and they
will have better circumstances,

319

00:15:26,440 --> 00:15:27,100
better food.

320

00:15:27,100 --> 00:15:29,590
There was a hunger in
the ghetto at this time?

321

00:15:29,590 --> 00:15:32,870
Yes, yes.

322

00:15:32,870 --> 00:15:37,400
Ghetto was hunger,
worsening all the time.

323

00:15:37,400 --> 00:15:39,560
People were dying from hunger.

324

00:15:39,560 --> 00:15:42,770
People were dying in
the street from hunger,

325

00:15:42,770 --> 00:15:46,830
with swollen legs,
swollen faces.

326

00:15:46,830 --> 00:15:49,610
Real hunger.

327

00:15:49,610 --> 00:15:53,780
And then they sort of started

talking in those terms.

328

00:15:53,780 --> 00:15:55,370
And you thought it
was a bad dream.

329

00:15:55,370 --> 00:15:56,912
You couldn't believe
it, and yet, you

330

00:15:56,912 --> 00:15:58,670
couldn't wake up from it either.

331

00:15:58,670 --> 00:16:01,850
But I would like to know
were there people [INAUDIBLE]

332

00:16:01,850 --> 00:16:06,990
many who knew that and not
only who knew the truth,

333

00:16:06,990 --> 00:16:12,680
but who could perfectly imagine
that if the children would

334

00:16:12,680 --> 00:16:19,880
be taken away, this meant that
they were [INAUDIBLE] that this

335

00:16:19,880 --> 00:16:22,190
was to destroy them.

336

00:16:22,190 --> 00:16:25,550
Well I had a neighbor,
a very lovely lady,

337

00:16:25,550 --> 00:16:30,140
and I made a good
friendship with her.

338

00:16:30,140 --> 00:16:33,590
She came, I think,
probably end of '41

339

00:16:33,590 --> 00:16:37,370

or so, from a little
town where they

340
00:16:37,370 --> 00:16:39,080
liquidated the little town.

341
00:16:39,080 --> 00:16:43,790
Her husband was a
member of the Judenrat.

342
00:16:43,790 --> 00:16:45,740
He was killed in her eyes.

343
00:16:45,740 --> 00:16:50,030
She and her little girl that
was 10 came to the ghetto.

344
00:16:50,030 --> 00:16:54,260
She was a very sensitive,
bright, and open woman.

345
00:16:54,260 --> 00:16:56,615
And we were good friends.

346
00:16:56,615 --> 00:16:58,490
She told me everything
what's happened there.

347
00:16:58,490 --> 00:16:59,810
Then I had no--

348
00:16:59,810 --> 00:17:01,430
that was one source
for me, that I

349
00:17:01,430 --> 00:17:06,322
had no doubt what's happening
outside, because she knew.

350
00:17:06,322 --> 00:17:07,280
That they were killing.

351
00:17:07,280 --> 00:17:08,839
That they were killing, yes.

352

00:17:08,839 --> 00:17:13,349

And then, of course, after
the speech of Rumkowski,

353

00:17:13,349 --> 00:17:14,270

we went home.

354

00:17:14,270 --> 00:17:17,270

And I spent hours
with her, talking.

355

00:17:17,270 --> 00:17:22,589

And she said, well, look
at all those people.

356

00:17:22,589 --> 00:17:24,109

Why do they kid themselves?

357

00:17:24,109 --> 00:17:27,230

Those children will be killed.

358

00:17:27,230 --> 00:17:30,090

And I said, what
are you going to do?

359

00:17:30,090 --> 00:17:32,780

And she said, well,
I have no qualms.

360

00:17:32,780 --> 00:17:34,430

I know what I'm going to do.

361

00:17:34,430 --> 00:17:37,880

I'm not going to
give away my girl.

362

00:17:37,880 --> 00:17:42,620

And she was very calm
about it, a calm resolve.

363

00:17:42,620 --> 00:17:49,490

And then the day came that
our street was cleaned.

364

00:17:49,490 --> 00:17:54,830
And usually-- and we had to
go down in the back yard.

365
00:17:54,830 --> 00:17:56,900
And the Germans came.

366
00:17:56,900 --> 00:18:01,520
A van in front of the
street and a few Gestapo--

367
00:18:01,520 --> 00:18:03,350
who knows who, SS.

368
00:18:03,350 --> 00:18:07,010
Excuse me, this was made,
this aktion, by the Germans

369
00:18:07,010 --> 00:18:08,090
or by the Jewish police?

370
00:18:08,090 --> 00:18:09,320
By the Germans.

371
00:18:09,320 --> 00:18:11,180
The Jewish police
didn't participate?

372
00:18:11,180 --> 00:18:12,830
I don't recall.

373
00:18:12,830 --> 00:18:16,730
My attention was
paid to the Germans.

374
00:18:16,730 --> 00:18:18,110
I saw the Germans.

375
00:18:18,110 --> 00:18:21,540
The Germans had guns.

376
00:18:21,540 --> 00:18:26,430
So we were collected
in the yard.

377

00:18:26,430 --> 00:18:30,480

And I was next to her, my
friend, and her little girl.

378

00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:31,500

In the same yard?

379

00:18:31,500 --> 00:18:33,600

In the same yard, next to her.

380

00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:37,890

And then the Germans started
to pull out the children.

381

00:18:37,890 --> 00:18:39,480

Well, first they started--

382

00:18:39,480 --> 00:18:42,330

all children, tra-la-la,
come step out.

383

00:18:42,330 --> 00:18:43,742

And many did already.

384

00:18:43,742 --> 00:18:44,700

The parents were civil.

385

00:18:44,700 --> 00:18:48,480

And the children
were stepping out.

386

00:18:48,480 --> 00:18:51,950

And that little girl
also make a step forward.

387

00:18:51,950 --> 00:18:53,070

She did?

388

00:18:53,070 --> 00:18:54,000

Yes.

389

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:58,440

And the mother pulled her back,
and said no, you stay here.

390
00:18:58,440 --> 00:19:04,230
And the SS man came to
the woman and said--

391
00:19:04,230 --> 00:19:05,340
pulled the child.

392
00:19:05,340 --> 00:19:06,510
And she says, no.

393
00:19:06,510 --> 00:19:09,300
In German she said, nein.

394
00:19:09,300 --> 00:19:14,630
And he said, you better do
it or else I'll shoot you.

395
00:19:14,630 --> 00:19:17,910
So she says, go ahead, shoot me.

396
00:19:17,910 --> 00:19:21,450
So he grabbed her by the
neck, turned her around

397
00:19:21,450 --> 00:19:22,950
and shoot her.

398
00:19:22,950 --> 00:19:25,890
And she fell just next to me.

399
00:19:25,890 --> 00:19:28,320
In front of the daughter?

400
00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:29,970
In front of the daughter.

401
00:19:29,970 --> 00:19:31,340
And the daughter was taken up.

402
00:19:31,340 --> 00:19:38,210

403

00:19:38,210 --> 00:19:41,480

There must have been
horrible scenes, no?

404

00:19:41,480 --> 00:19:43,560

I couldn't move for
two or three days.

405

00:19:43,560 --> 00:19:45,270

I was just sitting, stunned.

406

00:19:45,270 --> 00:19:47,420

I just couldn't move.

407

00:19:47,420 --> 00:19:50,000

And then I said, well,
OK, you have to go on.

408

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:54,050

409

00:19:54,050 --> 00:19:55,190

So life went on.

410

00:19:55,190 --> 00:19:57,914

411

00:19:57,914 --> 00:20:02,660

Yes, and do you remember the
speech of Rumkowski for this--

412

00:20:02,660 --> 00:20:04,940

when he announced this aktion?

413

00:20:04,940 --> 00:20:06,440

I don't remember it in detail.

414

00:20:06,440 --> 00:20:10,070

I remember the gist of it and
the feeling of it, but not

415

00:20:10,070 --> 00:20:10,640

in detail.

416

00:20:10,640 --> 00:20:14,360

417

00:20:14,360 --> 00:20:18,290

This means that this
population of 200,000 people

418

00:20:18,290 --> 00:20:23,540

at the beginning,
there were always, year

419

00:20:23,540 --> 00:20:25,940

after year, people which were--

420

00:20:25,940 --> 00:20:26,480

Pulled out.

421

00:20:26,480 --> 00:20:30,860

And if you said 60,000, I don't
know what proportion of that

422

00:20:30,860 --> 00:20:33,920

was people from Łódź originally.

423

00:20:33,920 --> 00:20:38,270

Because it was a Tower of Babel.

424

00:20:38,270 --> 00:20:39,950

People with our people--

425

00:20:39,950 --> 00:20:43,580

I mean, the Łódź people were
sent out and others were

426

00:20:43,580 --> 00:20:48,860

transported in from the
little towns surrounding Łódź,

427

00:20:48,860 --> 00:20:53,840

from other farther away
towns, and also from outside,

428

00:20:53,840 --> 00:20:56,255

German Jews, Viennese Jews.

429

00:20:56,255 --> 00:20:59,060

A transport of Viennese
old people came.

430

00:20:59,060 --> 00:20:59,990

Czech.

431

00:20:59,990 --> 00:21:02,660

Czech people, young people.

432

00:21:02,660 --> 00:21:04,970

Czech people, wonderful people.

433

00:21:04,970 --> 00:21:06,650

Many of them didn't know why.

434

00:21:06,650 --> 00:21:09,510

Many of them didn't
know they were Jews.

435

00:21:09,510 --> 00:21:11,920

Do you remember their arrival?

436

00:21:11,920 --> 00:21:17,510

Oh, yes, because I worked in
the bureau that was giving--

437

00:21:17,510 --> 00:21:19,340

I don't know how to say it--

438

00:21:19,340 --> 00:21:21,440

distributing the living space.

439

00:21:21,440 --> 00:21:23,170

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

440

00:21:23,170 --> 00:21:23,670

441

00:21:23,670 --> 00:21:24,710

Right.

442

00:21:24,710 --> 00:21:25,730

Thank you.

443
00:21:25,730 --> 00:21:29,180
So I had direct contact
with each transport,

444
00:21:29,180 --> 00:21:31,100
because they were coming--

445
00:21:31,100 --> 00:21:32,800
With the incoming transport?

446
00:21:32,800 --> 00:21:34,130
With the incoming transport.

447
00:21:34,130 --> 00:21:35,810
Not with the outgoing?

448
00:21:35,810 --> 00:21:37,880
No, no, no, with the
incoming transport.

449
00:21:37,880 --> 00:21:43,770
They would come and we would
assign them a living space.

450
00:21:43,770 --> 00:21:47,090
So I saw the characters
so to speak of each group,

451
00:21:47,090 --> 00:21:49,010
and how they looked,
and how they were.

452
00:21:49,010 --> 00:21:50,090
And we would talk.

453
00:21:50,090 --> 00:21:52,917
We would talk
sometimes with them.

454
00:21:52,917 --> 00:21:53,625
Can you describe?

455

00:21:53,625 --> 00:21:54,975
And we'd ask and question.

456
00:21:54,975 --> 00:21:58,020

457
00:21:58,020 --> 00:22:04,790
I remember I was very struck
by the German group of Jews.

458
00:22:04,790 --> 00:22:08,690
Because they were all older
people, totally bewildered.

459
00:22:08,690 --> 00:22:11,450
They came-- it was
sort of like that-- we

460
00:22:11,450 --> 00:22:12,420
were sort of hardened.

461
00:22:12,420 --> 00:22:14,840
The ones that were
surviving were hardened.

462
00:22:14,840 --> 00:22:17,780

463
00:22:17,780 --> 00:22:18,920
[INAUDIBLE]

464
00:22:18,920 --> 00:22:21,800
(film slating)

465
00:22:21,800 --> 00:22:22,300

466
00:22:22,300 --> 00:22:26,650
Well, we were talking about
the influx of the German Jews.

467
00:22:26,650 --> 00:22:29,560
And they were
totally bewildered.

468

00:22:29,560 --> 00:22:31,995

We were in the war
and suffered hardship.

469

00:22:31,995 --> 00:22:33,610

We were getting used.

470

00:22:33,610 --> 00:22:37,450

With great losses,
people were dying.

471

00:22:37,450 --> 00:22:40,570

But we were slowly into it.

472

00:22:40,570 --> 00:22:42,850

Those people came
totally unprepared.

473

00:22:42,850 --> 00:22:46,330

They came from relatively
better conditions.

474

00:22:46,330 --> 00:22:49,630

They were just pulled
out from the communities.

475

00:22:49,630 --> 00:22:51,760

They were dying quickly.

476

00:22:51,760 --> 00:22:55,720

But it's difficult to
understand because they came

477

00:22:55,720 --> 00:22:58,210

after years of persecution.

478

00:22:58,210 --> 00:23:01,690

479

00:23:01,690 --> 00:23:07,780

Well, probably so, but still
when we looked at them,

480

00:23:07,780 --> 00:23:10,060

it was different.

481

00:23:10,060 --> 00:23:11,540

We were in a ghetto.

482

00:23:11,540 --> 00:23:17,380

And labor, doing the
labor work and hardship.

483

00:23:17,380 --> 00:23:19,180

They didn't look it.

484

00:23:19,180 --> 00:23:22,150

I rather thought that they
were coming from persecution

485

00:23:22,150 --> 00:23:22,960

from Germany.

486

00:23:22,960 --> 00:23:26,440

But they lived in relatively
normal circumstances.

487

00:23:26,440 --> 00:23:31,120

They were being fished out
from relatively-- to us--

488

00:23:31,120 --> 00:23:35,620

more normal conditions,
no ghettos and so on.

489

00:23:35,620 --> 00:23:38,200

And also, there were
people fished out

490

00:23:38,200 --> 00:23:42,325

that probably were just
discovered to be Jews.

491

00:23:42,325 --> 00:23:45,110

492

00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:47,930

That somehow they were living
in a normal circumstance,

493

00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:49,820

but they were just
being discovered,

494

00:23:49,820 --> 00:23:52,790

the paper looked thin
and so on and so forth.

495

00:23:52,790 --> 00:23:56,060

And just at that point,
they were declared enemies

496

00:23:56,060 --> 00:23:58,250

and sent off.

497

00:23:58,250 --> 00:23:59,630

Not that they didn't suffer.

498

00:23:59,630 --> 00:24:02,810

They lived with that fear
all the time, that's true.

499

00:24:02,810 --> 00:24:04,740

But for many, it was a surprise.

500

00:24:04,740 --> 00:24:07,820

I know the Czech Jews,
they were totally--

501

00:24:07,820 --> 00:24:09,770

why?

502

00:24:09,770 --> 00:24:12,740

As if pulled out right now
and say you are a Jew, go.

503

00:24:12,740 --> 00:24:15,330

Your are a Jew, go.

504

00:24:15,330 --> 00:24:19,490

And at this point
only it hit them.

505

00:24:19,490 --> 00:24:25,040

Also, whatever it was,
they were on their grounds,

506

00:24:25,040 --> 00:24:28,040

in their homes, in their
cities, in their culture.

507

00:24:28,040 --> 00:24:30,800

They were pulled
out and transplanted

508

00:24:30,800 --> 00:24:37,810

in a total different
environment, emotionally,

509

00:24:37,810 --> 00:24:39,300

physically, everything.

510

00:24:39,300 --> 00:24:47,010

You mean that they were made
Jews before dying, in one way.

511

00:24:47,010 --> 00:24:48,330

That's right.

512

00:24:48,330 --> 00:24:50,330

And it did not
make sense to them.

513

00:24:50,330 --> 00:24:52,850

514

00:24:52,850 --> 00:24:53,990

Maybe it had to--

515

00:24:53,990 --> 00:24:55,530

And they were assigned to you?

516

00:24:55,530 --> 00:24:59,810

Let's say to the Eastern Jews?

517

00:24:59,810 --> 00:25:03,800

How did they behave
in front of you?

518
00:25:03,800 --> 00:25:05,320
I think the best
I can describe--

519
00:25:05,320 --> 00:25:06,050
What did they say to you?

520
00:25:06,050 --> 00:25:06,590
Nothing.

521
00:25:06,590 --> 00:25:07,550
They were bewildered.

522
00:25:07,550 --> 00:25:10,730
They didn't know
what was happening.

523
00:25:10,730 --> 00:25:12,380
They felt sort put in a zoo.

524
00:25:12,380 --> 00:25:19,100
So just let you know how we
looked, what a zoo it was.

525
00:25:19,100 --> 00:25:20,690
Why do you say this?

526
00:25:20,690 --> 00:25:21,860
Because it was like a zoo.

527
00:25:21,860 --> 00:25:23,180
It was animalistic.

528
00:25:23,180 --> 00:25:24,560
It was not human anymore.

529
00:25:24,560 --> 00:25:25,840
We lived not a human life.

530
00:25:25,840 --> 00:25:29,880

531

00:25:29,880 --> 00:25:32,520

And the only thing I
think that one developed

532

00:25:32,520 --> 00:25:37,590

was numbness and
a dreamlike state.

533

00:25:37,590 --> 00:25:42,637

And you said to hardness,
that you hardened.

534

00:25:42,637 --> 00:25:43,470

You became hardened.

535

00:25:43,470 --> 00:25:45,510

I think the hardened
was the putting on

536

00:25:45,510 --> 00:25:51,330

of the shell of numbness, and
just living, and hoping that

537

00:25:51,330 --> 00:25:53,220

someday maybe.

538

00:25:53,220 --> 00:25:57,180

But right now, you just have
to close your eyes and ears.

539

00:25:57,180 --> 00:25:59,790

You just have to
withdraw into yourself,

540

00:25:59,790 --> 00:26:04,410

think about your family,
and hope you survive.

541

00:26:04,410 --> 00:26:06,870

Fight for survival.

542

00:26:06,870 --> 00:26:12,202

But you said that it looked
like a zoo, which I understand,

543

00:26:12,202 --> 00:26:14,580
I think, well.

544
00:26:14,580 --> 00:26:19,060
But it was a zoo with
an administration.

545
00:26:19,060 --> 00:26:21,540
It was a zoo with
an administration.

546
00:26:21,540 --> 00:26:25,560
It was also on a personal level.

547
00:26:25,560 --> 00:26:26,700
There was hunger.

548
00:26:26,700 --> 00:26:34,320
We were all weight loss,
skinny, no proper clothing.

549
00:26:34,320 --> 00:26:39,450
We would make shoes for
the winter from scraps.

550
00:26:39,450 --> 00:26:40,650
You couldn't buy shoes.

551
00:26:40,650 --> 00:26:44,890
So you wore some made out of
scrap, sort of make shoes.

552
00:26:44,890 --> 00:26:47,417
So it was literally
too, like a--

553
00:26:47,417 --> 00:26:50,040

554
00:26:50,040 --> 00:26:52,830
when you looked, you had
to take away your eyes

555
00:26:52,830 --> 00:26:58,530
and say just forget it all,

just go on from day to day.

556
00:26:58,530 --> 00:27:01,500
Yes.

557
00:27:01,500 --> 00:27:03,540
I think the dignity
was taken away.

558
00:27:03,540 --> 00:27:05,790
We lost the dignity
a long time ago.

559
00:27:05,790 --> 00:27:11,010

560
00:27:11,010 --> 00:27:13,890
Could you say more about this?

561
00:27:13,890 --> 00:27:16,020
Well, there was nothing.

562
00:27:16,020 --> 00:27:20,310
We were encircled
with barbed wire.

563
00:27:20,310 --> 00:27:23,940
Outside were German
police guarding it.

564
00:27:23,940 --> 00:27:29,070
Outside where the Poles
that couldn't give a damn.

565
00:27:29,070 --> 00:27:35,040
And were, sort of, as a matter
of fact, probably glad that--

566
00:27:35,040 --> 00:27:37,080
or indifferent.

567
00:27:37,080 --> 00:27:42,010
So we had no friends,
not whatsoever.

568

00:27:42,010 --> 00:27:44,130

And, of course, we would
listen to the news.

569

00:27:44,130 --> 00:27:47,885

Or some did, though it was
prohibited, radios and so on.

570

00:27:47,885 --> 00:27:48,760

There were no radios.

571

00:27:48,760 --> 00:27:50,130

But there were some.

572

00:27:50,130 --> 00:27:54,090

There were some underground
so we would know the news.

573

00:27:54,090 --> 00:27:56,460

And we knew that nobody cares.

574

00:27:56,460 --> 00:27:58,350

To the world, we are dead.

575

00:27:58,350 --> 00:28:01,350

And that was incomprehensible.

576

00:28:01,350 --> 00:28:06,600

Do you remember the
day when Rumkowski's--

577

00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:09,390

the Juden officer the
chief of the Judenrat

578

00:28:09,390 --> 00:28:13,560

created its own currency?

579

00:28:13,560 --> 00:28:14,400

Yes.

580

00:28:14,400 --> 00:28:16,110

Oh, yes, we had our own--

581
00:28:16,110 --> 00:28:17,850
[INAUDIBLE]

582
00:28:17,850 --> 00:28:19,980
Yes, we had our own currency.

583
00:28:19,980 --> 00:28:21,430
We had a theater.

584
00:28:21,430 --> 00:28:24,990
We had a symphony or
something like that.

585
00:28:24,990 --> 00:28:31,380
And you live that, at least
I did, in a total dreamlike

586
00:28:31,380 --> 00:28:32,470
state.

587
00:28:32,470 --> 00:28:34,620
You didn't dare to
think, or if you

588
00:28:34,620 --> 00:28:42,008
did you would go mad I
suppose, or kill yourself.

589
00:28:42,008 --> 00:28:46,330
But how would you
use the currency?

590
00:28:46,330 --> 00:28:49,090
Because it was completely
without any kind of value

591
00:28:49,090 --> 00:28:50,470
outside the ghetto.

592
00:28:50,470 --> 00:28:52,900
But we were cut off even
if we had currency.

593
00:28:52,900 --> 00:28:54,530

We were cut off totally.

594

00:28:54,530 --> 00:29:01,000
But was there in Łódź, like in
Dachau or in Warsaw, smugglers,

595

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:05,320
people who made traffic with
the outside world in order

596

00:29:05,320 --> 00:29:10,300
to permit the population
of the ghetto to eat?

597

00:29:10,300 --> 00:29:12,920
Well, I know one
point of smuggling

598

00:29:12,920 --> 00:29:17,920
would be where
food would come in.

599

00:29:17,920 --> 00:29:20,320
People that would bring
food to the ghetto,

600

00:29:20,320 --> 00:29:22,870
and I suppose there were
some Poles bringing it.

601

00:29:22,870 --> 00:29:25,120
And there would be some trading.

602

00:29:25,120 --> 00:29:27,220
But that was only
for the very few

603

00:29:27,220 --> 00:29:29,545
and the few that
were already in the--

604

00:29:29,545 --> 00:29:32,950
don't forget, Rumkowski
was not only by himself,

605

00:29:32,950 --> 00:29:35,920
but he had also a
government, many people

606
00:29:35,920 --> 00:29:40,190
that sort of lived of it
very comfortably, very well.

607
00:29:40,190 --> 00:29:42,610
And there was a
group of population

608
00:29:42,610 --> 00:29:43,960
that lived very well.

609
00:29:43,960 --> 00:29:44,814
Privileged.

610
00:29:44,814 --> 00:29:45,670
Privileged.

611
00:29:45,670 --> 00:29:47,440
And they had food.

612
00:29:47,440 --> 00:29:49,960
And they would party it up too.

613
00:29:49,960 --> 00:29:53,500
They sort of didn't give
a damn and did the best.

614
00:29:53,500 --> 00:29:56,170
He had a rather
huge administration.

615
00:29:56,170 --> 00:29:58,240
That's right.

616
00:29:58,240 --> 00:30:01,060
Not everybody was like that,
but there was certainly

617
00:30:01,060 --> 00:30:03,550
a good part of it that was--

618

00:30:03,550 --> 00:30:07,830

sort of took that
very seriously.

619

00:30:07,830 --> 00:30:13,750

They considered themselves very
serious people in government.

620

00:30:13,750 --> 00:30:16,030

And ate well and lived well.

621

00:30:16,030 --> 00:30:18,490

And thought that-- all right.

622

00:30:18,490 --> 00:30:20,860

Was there corruption
in the ghetto.

623

00:30:20,860 --> 00:30:23,860

Terrific, terribly.

624

00:30:23,860 --> 00:30:27,070

But the worst corruption
was about life.

625

00:30:27,070 --> 00:30:31,930

Because if people were
sent out, the corruption

626

00:30:31,930 --> 00:30:35,350

was there-- who
will be sent out.

627

00:30:35,350 --> 00:30:38,477

So people that had
influence, of course,

628

00:30:38,477 --> 00:30:42,410

they did care for their own.

629

00:30:42,410 --> 00:30:46,780

So, of course, the others that
didn't have influence would go.

630

00:30:46,780 --> 00:30:48,760

You mean there was
a traffic for life.

631

00:30:48,760 --> 00:30:49,690

Of course.

632

00:30:49,690 --> 00:30:50,868

Who will live--

633

00:30:50,868 --> 00:30:51,410

That's right.

634

00:30:51,410 --> 00:30:52,035

Who would live.

635

00:30:52,035 --> 00:30:53,160

--who will die.

636

00:30:53,160 --> 00:30:54,670

That's right.

637

00:30:54,670 --> 00:30:56,310

Could you give examples of this?

638

00:30:56,310 --> 00:31:01,750

639

00:31:01,750 --> 00:31:07,000

How was the corruption
resented by the--

640

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:11,651

not resented, how was
corruption felt by the people?

641

00:31:11,651 --> 00:31:14,278

642

00:31:14,278 --> 00:31:15,070

Well, I don't know.

643

00:31:15,070 --> 00:31:16,770

I'm just trying to

think how I felt.

644

00:31:16,770 --> 00:31:23,210
The jobs you had to find-- at
one point only men had to work

645

00:31:23,210 --> 00:31:26,580
and able women or younger women.

646

00:31:26,580 --> 00:31:28,550
Then the point came
that everybody,

647

00:31:28,550 --> 00:31:31,910
all women had to work or
they will be sent out.

648

00:31:31,910 --> 00:31:35,060
My mother didn't work.

649

00:31:35,060 --> 00:31:35,840
She did work?

650

00:31:35,840 --> 00:31:38,930
She didn't work at
one point, '42 still.

651

00:31:38,930 --> 00:31:45,170
And then she-- the edict came
that whoever will not work

652

00:31:45,170 --> 00:31:49,140
will be sent out, sick,
or well, or whatnot.

653

00:31:49,140 --> 00:31:50,630
So we had to find
a job for mother.

654

00:31:50,630 --> 00:31:53,300
What was the word
to be sent out?

655

00:31:53,300 --> 00:31:54,400
Deported.

656
00:31:54,400 --> 00:31:55,320
Deported.

657
00:31:55,320 --> 00:31:56,295
Deported, yes.

658
00:31:56,295 --> 00:32:00,510
But what was the word,
in Yiddish or in German?

659
00:32:00,510 --> 00:32:01,928
Doesn't come to me.

660
00:32:01,928 --> 00:32:02,470
Maybe it'll--

661
00:32:02,470 --> 00:32:02,970
[INAUDIBLE]

662
00:32:02,970 --> 00:32:04,770
[INAUDIBLE] OK, yes.

663
00:32:04,770 --> 00:32:11,490
That's right, [INAUDIBLE]
So I had to find a job.

664
00:32:11,490 --> 00:32:14,020
Father and myself are
looking for a job.

665
00:32:14,020 --> 00:32:15,630
And how do you find a job?

666
00:32:15,630 --> 00:32:18,990
I had to go and ask somebody.

667
00:32:18,990 --> 00:32:21,280
And I did.

668
00:32:21,280 --> 00:32:26,280
In the office that I
worked, I asked the chief.

669

00:32:26,280 --> 00:32:33,230

And fortunately, I
did get a job for her.

670

00:32:33,230 --> 00:32:35,630

But I felt very low
on the totem pole.

671

00:32:35,630 --> 00:32:38,810

This was a case of corruption?

672

00:32:38,810 --> 00:32:43,040

Well, that was a case that if
you didn't have the influence,

673

00:32:43,040 --> 00:32:44,000

if I wouldn't--

674

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:45,470

I no way, mother had no way.

675

00:32:45,470 --> 00:32:50,240

She couldn't go in and say I
am employable I want to work.

676

00:32:50,240 --> 00:32:52,520

I had to look for proteksia.

677

00:32:52,520 --> 00:32:53,690

That was the word.

678

00:32:53,690 --> 00:32:57,560

Whoever didn't have
proteksia couldn't survive.

679

00:32:57,560 --> 00:33:00,500

I'll remind you, I
was young then too.

680

00:33:00,500 --> 00:33:02,810

I had no big meaning.

681

00:33:02,810 --> 00:33:09,930

And if I would just go and ask

and was not given, that was it.

682

00:33:09,930 --> 00:33:12,690

But did you, yourself,
did it happen to you

683

00:33:12,690 --> 00:33:19,310

that you occupied during these
four years privilege positions?

684

00:33:19,310 --> 00:33:20,780

685

00:33:20,780 --> 00:33:23,790

(film -technical adjustment)

686

00:33:23,790 --> 00:33:24,570

Save your breath.

687

00:33:24,570 --> 00:33:26,420

[LAUGHTER]