

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,980

2
00:00:01,980 --> 00:00:03,900
This is an interview
being conducted

3
00:00:03,900 --> 00:00:08,010
on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

4
00:00:08,010 --> 00:00:10,650
The interview is
with Frank Ephraim.

5
00:00:10,650 --> 00:00:12,870
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

6
00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:17,020
Today is April the 7th, 1997.

7
00:00:17,020 --> 00:00:21,120
This is the first side,
side A, of the eighth tape

8
00:00:21,120 --> 00:00:23,670
of the interview.

9
00:00:23,670 --> 00:00:27,000
So I want to digress back a
little bit from my comments

10
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:28,230
just before.

11
00:00:28,230 --> 00:00:32,970
And this deals really with my
beginning and strong interest

12
00:00:32,970 --> 00:00:39,840
in Judaism as a nationality

or Jews as a nation as opposed

13
00:00:39,840 --> 00:00:42,240
strictly to Jews as a religion.

14
00:00:42,240 --> 00:00:44,370
And that is the
sort of environment

15
00:00:44,370 --> 00:00:47,920
in which I was brought up in--
the religious aspect of it.

16
00:00:47,920 --> 00:00:49,650
And of course, when
we were liberated,

17
00:00:49,650 --> 00:00:53,400
as I mentioned, with the
inculcation of Zionism,

18
00:00:53,400 --> 00:00:54,840
the concept of a Jewish state--

19
00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:57,520

20
00:00:57,520 --> 00:01:03,430
excuse me-- I began
to think seriously

21
00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:05,980
of Judaism as a nation.

22
00:01:05,980 --> 00:01:07,990
And I was not alone,
of course, in this.

23
00:01:07,990 --> 00:01:10,480
The State of Israel
was founded in 1948

24

00:01:10,480 --> 00:01:13,840
with strong support of people
that I was always with.

25
00:01:13,840 --> 00:01:18,800
And I have continued this
particular view ever since.

26
00:01:18,800 --> 00:01:23,668
I totally disregard
the notion that Jews,

27
00:01:23,668 --> 00:01:25,960
if they're going to be
Zionists, should move to Israel.

28
00:01:25,960 --> 00:01:29,950
This is a nonsensical
concept, like I said before,

29
00:01:29,950 --> 00:01:32,860
as even suggesting Irish
Americans move back to Ireland

30
00:01:32,860 --> 00:01:34,180
and so on.

31
00:01:34,180 --> 00:01:37,720
As I say, Judaism to me
is not solely a religion.

32
00:01:37,720 --> 00:01:42,520
In fact, I am a little bit
suspicious of Orthodox Judaism

33
00:01:42,520 --> 00:01:44,770
because it becomes cultism.

34
00:01:44,770 --> 00:01:47,740
And cultism is the kind
of thing which says,

35
00:01:47,740 --> 00:01:49,750

"Do as I do, or die."

36
00:01:49,750 --> 00:01:54,610
And this is what we have seen
in the advent of the Nazi Party.

37
00:01:54,610 --> 00:01:58,300
We see it in part in the world
with the Catholic Church,

38
00:01:58,300 --> 00:02:00,040
based on my own experience.

39
00:02:00,040 --> 00:02:02,170
And unfortunately, we
continue to see that

40
00:02:02,170 --> 00:02:03,800
in some South
American countries,

41
00:02:03,800 --> 00:02:05,740
and certainly in
the Philippines,

42
00:02:05,740 --> 00:02:10,030
where, as a result of the
interference and involvement

43
00:02:10,030 --> 00:02:12,430
of the Church in politics
and the social life

44
00:02:12,430 --> 00:02:16,210
of the Philippines,
the population has

45
00:02:16,210 --> 00:02:19,480
grown to such an extent that
they, of course, are exporting

46
00:02:19,480 --> 00:02:20,830
people.

47
00:02:20,830 --> 00:02:23,530
There is certainly not
enough work or sustenance

48
00:02:23,530 --> 00:02:25,150
for them to stay
in the Philippines.

49
00:02:25,150 --> 00:02:28,060
They have doubled the number
to 36 million in contrast

50
00:02:28,060 --> 00:02:30,820
to 18 million at the
time I was there.

51
00:02:30,820 --> 00:02:33,850
So that the philosophies
of birth control

52
00:02:33,850 --> 00:02:37,810
or being anti-birth control
by the Church is one that is,

53
00:02:37,810 --> 00:02:40,120
in my opinion, very detrimental.

54
00:02:40,120 --> 00:02:42,670
It's detrimental to
a democratic society.

55
00:02:42,670 --> 00:02:44,320
And it's detrimental
to the people,

56
00:02:44,320 --> 00:02:47,830
to their health, their
economy, to their education,

57
00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:52,330
and unfortunately still prevails
in many parts of the world.

58

00:02:52,330 --> 00:02:54,430

And also then, of course, there is

59

00:02:54,430 --> 00:02:59,440

Islam, which has similar qualities, wherein

60

00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:03,010

the philosophy also is, "Do as I do, or die."

61

00:03:03,010 --> 00:03:06,260

And we see that in places like Saudi Arabia,

62

00:03:06,260 --> 00:03:10,060

where in fact the United States policy has really not been

63

00:03:10,060 --> 00:03:11,410

thoroughly involved.

64

00:03:11,410 --> 00:03:16,360

We ignore the fact that that's a totally undemocratic state

65

00:03:16,360 --> 00:03:21,790

simply because they're the oil purveyors, providers.

66

00:03:21,790 --> 00:03:25,120

So that that, in turn, revolves around policies which

67

00:03:25,120 --> 00:03:26,830

relate to the State of Israel itself

68

00:03:26,830 --> 00:03:30,910

today in 1997, where there is tremendous pressure

69

00:03:30,910 --> 00:03:32,660

to go through with
something called

70

00:03:32,660 --> 00:03:35,020

the Peace Process,
which is, again,

71

00:03:35,020 --> 00:03:38,380

a rather naive or
nonsensical concept

72

00:03:38,380 --> 00:03:41,800

when you're dealing with a
medieval people like the Arabs,

73

00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:44,590

and even the
Palestinian Arabs, who

74

00:03:44,590 --> 00:03:48,340

have no compunction about
committing terror or blowing

75

00:03:48,340 --> 00:03:50,710

themselves up or whatever.

76

00:03:50,710 --> 00:03:54,688

It may also be true that
Jews do that sort of thing.

77

00:03:54,688 --> 00:03:56,230

There have been, of
course, incidents

78

00:03:56,230 --> 00:03:59,500

when single Jews began
to fire away at Arabs.

79

00:03:59,500 --> 00:04:02,140

However, it's never a and
never has been and never will

80
00:04:02,140 --> 00:04:06,130
be a national or policy of
any of the Jewish parties

81
00:04:06,130 --> 00:04:08,270
or Israeli parties.

82
00:04:08,270 --> 00:04:13,570
So what we're dealing with
is two unequal civilizations.

83
00:04:13,570 --> 00:04:20,110
And to negotiate a peace
process is certainly ridiculous.

84
00:04:20,110 --> 00:04:23,200
I think Israel must
preserve itself

85
00:04:23,200 --> 00:04:26,560
through its own power
and military might.

86
00:04:26,560 --> 00:04:29,140
And that interference
by others in how

87
00:04:29,140 --> 00:04:31,540
they should proceed
to protect themselves

88
00:04:31,540 --> 00:04:34,150
is not really called for.

89
00:04:34,150 --> 00:04:37,930
And the only reason it's there
is because of the oil card.

90
00:04:37,930 --> 00:04:42,160
Now, from that
standpoint again, we

91

00:04:42,160 --> 00:04:44,860
look at other naive policies.

92

00:04:44,860 --> 00:04:50,200
And we go back to
the rise of Nazism.

93

00:04:50,200 --> 00:04:53,320
I did talk about the
Kaiser and his infirmity.

94

00:04:53,320 --> 00:04:56,560
We looked at the four central
figures of the Nazi Party.

95

00:04:56,560 --> 00:05:02,675
Adolf Hitler is psychotic;
Hermann Goering, a glutton,

96

00:05:02,675 --> 00:05:04,300
despite the fact he
was a so-called war

97

00:05:04,300 --> 00:05:06,010
ace of the First World War.

98

00:05:06,010 --> 00:05:07,810
That's really irrelevant.

99

00:05:07,810 --> 00:05:11,080
We look at Joseph Goebbels,
a man of very small stature

100

00:05:11,080 --> 00:05:14,680
with two club feet whose main
concern was chasing actresses

101

00:05:14,680 --> 00:05:15,910
when he was in power.

102

00:05:15,910 --> 00:05:20,380
And then we talk about the

philosopher Hesse, Rudolf Hess.

103
00:05:20,380 --> 00:05:23,800
These are four at really the
central portion of the Nazi

104
00:05:23,800 --> 00:05:25,030
Party.

105
00:05:25,030 --> 00:05:28,510
And when you think about it,
that any nation, any individual

106
00:05:28,510 --> 00:05:32,590
listening to these people,
viewing them, and viewing them

107
00:05:32,590 --> 00:05:39,430
as something that is something
to behold or as models,

108
00:05:39,430 --> 00:05:42,700
you know right away that
you've got a problem nation

109
00:05:42,700 --> 00:05:45,970
on your hands, which is
what the German nation is,

110
00:05:45,970 --> 00:05:47,020
unfortunately.

111
00:05:47,020 --> 00:05:50,920
It's only been a nation
since the advent of Bismarck,

112
00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:54,910
where they brought the various
so-called "tribes" together.

113
00:05:54,910 --> 00:05:58,090
And it unfortunately
has not developed

114
00:05:58,090 --> 00:06:02,210
into a nation such
as the United States

115
00:06:02,210 --> 00:06:04,910
in more modern times
or the British,

116
00:06:04,910 --> 00:06:08,240
despite the fact that there
are flaws and faults in all

117
00:06:08,240 --> 00:06:09,170
of them.

118
00:06:09,170 --> 00:06:11,778
But the German people
are somewhat unique.

119
00:06:11,778 --> 00:06:13,820
It's always said that
they're either at your feet

120
00:06:13,820 --> 00:06:17,840
or at your throat,
which is probably true.

121
00:06:17,840 --> 00:06:20,030
I've seen them in
both situations.

122
00:06:20,030 --> 00:06:22,310
When I was in the military,
they were at your feet.

123
00:06:22,310 --> 00:06:25,400
When I was a Jew in Germany,
they were at your throat.

124
00:06:25,400 --> 00:06:28,010
There isn't much in
between, unfortunately.

125
00:06:28,010 --> 00:06:29,430
They're very rigid.

126
00:06:29,430 --> 00:06:31,220
They're robotic.

127
00:06:31,220 --> 00:06:34,880
And in that sense, the Japanese
also tend to be robotic.

128
00:06:34,880 --> 00:06:39,320
But they may have
great philosophies

129
00:06:39,320 --> 00:06:43,160
they may have generated
or sired important

130
00:06:43,160 --> 00:06:48,080
and successful people,
composers, researchers,

131
00:06:48,080 --> 00:06:50,660
made great contributions.

132
00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:53,720
It doesn't necessarily
flow from that--

133
00:06:53,720 --> 00:06:56,300
the people as a whole,
the ordinary people,

134
00:06:56,300 --> 00:06:58,550
the so-called
"ordinary Germans,"

135
00:06:58,550 --> 00:07:03,140
as many have now researched,
and clearly show they

136

00:07:03,140 --> 00:07:08,990
will proceed to commit
atrocities whenever

137
00:07:08,990 --> 00:07:11,030
they're called upon to do so.

138
00:07:11,030 --> 00:07:14,270
This brings me to
the point where

139
00:07:14,270 --> 00:07:18,780
we can talk about bureaucracy.

140
00:07:18,780 --> 00:07:21,130
People love to use that
word, "bureaucracy."

141
00:07:21,130 --> 00:07:23,520
If there's anything--
Roosevelt said--

142
00:07:23,520 --> 00:07:27,525
again, this is sort of
a simplistic slogan.

143
00:07:27,525 --> 00:07:30,390

144
00:07:30,390 --> 00:07:33,510
"One should fear nothing
but fear itself."

145
00:07:33,510 --> 00:07:36,110
The fact is one should
fear bureaucracy.

146
00:07:36,110 --> 00:07:38,610
That's probably the
most dangerous thing

147
00:07:38,610 --> 00:07:41,220
one has to confront.

148

00:07:41,220 --> 00:07:42,690

Bureaucracy, from
my own experience

149

00:07:42,690 --> 00:07:44,520

in the American
government for 30 years,

150

00:07:44,520 --> 00:07:46,980

is that the people that--

151

00:07:46,980 --> 00:07:52,510

people, the bureaucracy--
adhere to the leadership.

152

00:07:52,510 --> 00:07:55,890

This is the people
they follow and obey

153

00:07:55,890 --> 00:07:58,590

because their own interest
is their own promotion

154

00:07:58,590 --> 00:08:00,825

and their own progress.

155

00:08:00,825 --> 00:08:02,460

And they know they
can only get that

156

00:08:02,460 --> 00:08:06,030

by adhering to the
will and the likes

157

00:08:06,030 --> 00:08:12,340

and the drift of their
political leaders.

158

00:08:12,340 --> 00:08:18,990

This makes them like
Eichmann, a machine to perform

159

00:08:18,990 --> 00:08:21,360
and also one that
will keep performing,

160

00:08:21,360 --> 00:08:23,790
regardless of what the
change of leadership is.

161

00:08:23,790 --> 00:08:26,450

162

00:08:26,450 --> 00:08:29,180
We now know for
sure, certainly based

163

00:08:29,180 --> 00:08:33,289
on the book written
by Daniel Goldhagen--

164

00:08:33,289 --> 00:08:37,490
and his is one of the
first and really only good

165

00:08:37,490 --> 00:08:40,549
explanations and
thesis and concepts

166

00:08:40,549 --> 00:08:44,540
about what ordinary people
will do, particularly

167

00:08:44,540 --> 00:08:46,580
in the case of the Germans--

168

00:08:46,580 --> 00:08:50,420
is that once you
leave a chore, a task,

169

00:08:50,420 --> 00:08:51,950
in the hands of
a bureaucracy, it

170

00:08:51,950 --> 00:08:55,250
will be done to its very end.

171
00:08:55,250 --> 00:08:58,880
There's no stopping because the
bureaucracy, once in motion,

172
00:08:58,880 --> 00:09:02,510
like the Newton's law,
continues in motion.

173
00:09:02,510 --> 00:09:04,400
Nothing will stop
them, and that's

174
00:09:04,400 --> 00:09:06,440
what exactly what happened.

175
00:09:06,440 --> 00:09:08,900
So machinery would
be going on today

176
00:09:08,900 --> 00:09:11,150
in Germany with the
extermination of the Jews

177
00:09:11,150 --> 00:09:12,900
if there was--

178
00:09:12,900 --> 00:09:15,650
unless they were totally curbed.

179
00:09:15,650 --> 00:09:19,465
The bureaucracy goes on
under any leadership.

180
00:09:19,465 --> 00:09:20,840
So that's why we
should certainly

181
00:09:20,840 --> 00:09:23,120
fear bureaucracy per se.

182

00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:24,950

And jokingly, I
like to say we ought

183

00:09:24,950 --> 00:09:26,840

to take the bureaucracy
out every four years

184

00:09:26,840 --> 00:09:29,240

and shoot them all and
bring in totally new people,

185

00:09:29,240 --> 00:09:31,880

if for no other reason than
to start the process over

186

00:09:31,880 --> 00:09:34,400

again in a stumbling way.

187

00:09:34,400 --> 00:09:37,250

And of course, the American
spirit is good in that respect

188

00:09:37,250 --> 00:09:39,350

since there is great
distrust of government,

189

00:09:39,350 --> 00:09:40,820

which is well-placed.

190

00:09:40,820 --> 00:09:43,280

Government has a tendency
to build its bureaucracy,

191

00:09:43,280 --> 00:09:45,740

as do other corporations,
but government especially

192

00:09:45,740 --> 00:09:48,350

because it's not
profit-oriented,

193

00:09:48,350 --> 00:09:51,290
but always personally oriented.

194
00:09:51,290 --> 00:09:54,905
That is the progress made by the
individual in the government.

195
00:09:54,905 --> 00:09:58,010
That's what I have to
say about bureaucracy.

196
00:09:58,010 --> 00:10:00,530
As far as my career
went, as we talked

197
00:10:00,530 --> 00:10:02,270
about the times that was--

198
00:10:02,270 --> 00:10:05,930
that was in 1948 in the
Montezuma Mountain School.

199
00:10:05,930 --> 00:10:12,200
[INAUDIBLE] went to get in
the military in 1952 to 1954.

200
00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:15,715
I went back to college first
to do a year's refresher

201
00:10:15,715 --> 00:10:17,090
at City College
of San Francisco,

202
00:10:17,090 --> 00:10:19,280
because I was in engineering,
which is kind of a tough thing

203
00:10:19,280 --> 00:10:21,590
to get back into once
you've been out for a while.

204
00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:23,720

I went back to the
University of California,

205
00:10:23,720 --> 00:10:26,450
graduated as a mechanical
engineer with architecture

206
00:10:26,450 --> 00:10:29,720
as a specialty and
so-called social science

207
00:10:29,720 --> 00:10:33,650
as a minor, behavioral
science, things of that nature.

208
00:10:33,650 --> 00:10:36,290
And graduated in 1957.

209
00:10:36,290 --> 00:10:37,910
Went to work for
a Naval architect

210
00:10:37,910 --> 00:10:40,760
in San Francisco
for approximately

211
00:10:40,760 --> 00:10:44,210
a year and a half, and worked
again at Mayor Island for him

212
00:10:44,210 --> 00:10:48,680
in the submarine development--
guided missile submarines,

213
00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:50,810
nuclear powered-guided missiles.

214
00:10:50,810 --> 00:10:54,620
And then that work
all fizzled out

215
00:10:54,620 --> 00:10:58,520
as war contracts

began to decline.

216

00:10:58,520 --> 00:11:01,130

And I went to work for
United Airlines for a year.

217

00:11:01,130 --> 00:11:05,290

And I was there when the
jet fleet was introduced--

218

00:11:05,290 --> 00:11:08,870

the first jet service between
San Francisco and New York,

219

00:11:08,870 --> 00:11:11,090

the DC-8 jetliner.

220

00:11:11,090 --> 00:11:15,170

And then after a year there,
and I came to Washington, DC

221

00:11:15,170 --> 00:11:17,300

because they offered me
a job with the Maritime

222

00:11:17,300 --> 00:11:20,960

Administration, back in
my old field, in 1960.

223

00:11:20,960 --> 00:11:27,540

And I arrived here on July the
1st, 1960 in Washington, DC.

224

00:11:27,540 --> 00:11:30,210

And of course, my
life had become

225

00:11:30,210 --> 00:11:34,350

less eventful after my
arrival in the United States.

226

00:11:34,350 --> 00:11:36,330

The first 16 years

of my life were

227

00:11:36,330 --> 00:11:39,160

those that were interesting.

228

00:11:39,160 --> 00:11:41,400

Some people say, gee, you
didn't have a childhood.

229

00:11:41,400 --> 00:11:44,130

Or you didn't have
a good teenage life.

230

00:11:44,130 --> 00:11:46,770

Well, what is a
good teenage life?

231

00:11:46,770 --> 00:11:47,970

It's hard to define.

232

00:11:47,970 --> 00:11:50,940

If one defines it in
the American terms

233

00:11:50,940 --> 00:11:53,070

by going to high school
and high school proms

234

00:11:53,070 --> 00:11:57,960

and things of that nature,
yes, I didn't quite have that.

235

00:11:57,960 --> 00:12:01,080

However, in a way I
look back, and if I

236

00:12:01,080 --> 00:12:05,760

compare the lives of people
who I meet every day here

237

00:12:05,760 --> 00:12:08,040

and my life, I
find that I've had

238
00:12:08,040 --> 00:12:10,680
a much more interesting life.

239
00:12:10,680 --> 00:12:12,600
I learned a lot.

240
00:12:12,600 --> 00:12:16,440
One of my lessons I've learned
is that self-reliance is

241
00:12:16,440 --> 00:12:20,340
the most important quality
to have anywhere, any time--

242
00:12:20,340 --> 00:12:24,330
anything from being able to put
together scraps to build a fire

243
00:12:24,330 --> 00:12:27,780
or to repair something
or to make something.

244
00:12:27,780 --> 00:12:31,620
I mean, when we were
liberated in 1946--

245
00:12:31,620 --> 00:12:34,587
I'm sorry, in 1945--

246
00:12:34,587 --> 00:12:35,670
we had absolutely nothing.

247
00:12:35,670 --> 00:12:39,120
So what we did was I
collected some old beer cans

248
00:12:39,120 --> 00:12:41,992
and put some wire around
them to make handles

249
00:12:41,992 --> 00:12:43,200

and that we could drink from.

250

00:12:43,200 --> 00:12:46,680

That was our drinking implement.

251

00:12:46,680 --> 00:12:51,690

Clothes-- I had this t-shirt
which was shot full of holes

252

00:12:51,690 --> 00:12:53,820

from exploding shells.

253

00:12:53,820 --> 00:12:56,661

Well, I managed to get hold of--

254

00:12:56,661 --> 00:12:59,910

I think it was a new
Japanese Army uniform,

255

00:12:59,910 --> 00:13:01,910

the top part of it, the jacket.

256

00:13:01,910 --> 00:13:03,980

Well, it was a bit large
for me, so I cut it back

257

00:13:03,980 --> 00:13:04,980

with a pair of scissors.

258

00:13:04,980 --> 00:13:07,740

And it turned out become
like an Eisenhower jacket.

259

00:13:07,740 --> 00:13:10,875

And I wore that for some months.

260

00:13:10,875 --> 00:13:13,560

When it rained, I
would wear the jacket.

261

00:13:13,560 --> 00:13:16,680

And so even these basic things--

262
00:13:16,680 --> 00:13:20,250
if you're able to
manufacture something,

263
00:13:20,250 --> 00:13:23,140
put something together,
repair something-- electrical,

264
00:13:23,140 --> 00:13:23,940
plumbing.

265
00:13:23,940 --> 00:13:27,780
I always find that to be quite
enjoyable and, of course,

266
00:13:27,780 --> 00:13:28,710
very useful.

267
00:13:28,710 --> 00:13:30,510
And I found many of
my other colleagues,

268
00:13:30,510 --> 00:13:33,300
American colleagues, would
d disdain from anything

269
00:13:33,300 --> 00:13:36,030
that's do with working
by hand because I think

270
00:13:36,030 --> 00:13:39,180
they feel that that goes
back to their ancestors, who

271
00:13:39,180 --> 00:13:43,200
had to work themselves
up by using their hands.

272
00:13:43,200 --> 00:13:45,700
That was beyond them,
beneath them, and so forth.

273

00:13:45,700 --> 00:13:49,740

They were now-- whatever,
professionals of some kind.

274

00:13:49,740 --> 00:13:51,240

That's one thing I
don't believe in.

275

00:13:51,240 --> 00:13:53,640

I think it's good to learn
how to work with your hands

276

00:13:53,640 --> 00:13:55,140

but also, of course,
with your mind.

277

00:13:55,140 --> 00:13:57,600

So both are very,
very important.

278

00:13:57,600 --> 00:14:00,600

And if that can be
inculcated in people,

279

00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:03,810

it always will give them a
better chance of survival

280

00:14:03,810 --> 00:14:05,550

under any circumstances,
whether it's

281

00:14:05,550 --> 00:14:08,400

war, whether it's a hurricane,
or whether it's a flood

282

00:14:08,400 --> 00:14:10,440

or whatever.

283

00:14:10,440 --> 00:14:12,600

And also, if they find
themselves without a job,

284

00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:14,760

they can suddenly become
carpenters' helpers

285

00:14:14,760 --> 00:14:18,450

and whatever that
way-- or paint or do

286

00:14:18,450 --> 00:14:22,400

whatever needs to be
done in the society.

287

00:14:22,400 --> 00:14:25,430

And that, I think, was a
very, very important lesson

288

00:14:25,430 --> 00:14:27,650

to be learned from
the experience.

289

00:14:27,650 --> 00:14:31,160

The other one, of course goes,
again, back to self-reliance

290

00:14:31,160 --> 00:14:35,630

is in the area of the mind.

291

00:14:35,630 --> 00:14:37,997

I don't read too many
newspapers these days,

292

00:14:37,997 --> 00:14:39,830

even though we have The
Washington Post here

293

00:14:39,830 --> 00:14:41,502

in Washington, DC area.

294

00:14:41,502 --> 00:14:43,460

And it's supposed to be
one of the best papers.

295

00:14:43,460 --> 00:14:46,250
I rarely read the paper.

296
00:14:46,250 --> 00:14:50,240
I always find different
papers have drifts.

297
00:14:50,240 --> 00:14:52,160
Also The San Francisco
Examiner, when

298
00:14:52,160 --> 00:14:54,380
I go out to that area
where I used to live,

299
00:14:54,380 --> 00:14:56,390
that seems to have
a horrendously--

300
00:14:56,390 --> 00:14:59,600
I would call it the
liberal, left-wing drift,

301
00:14:59,600 --> 00:15:01,070
as does The Post.

302
00:15:01,070 --> 00:15:05,390
I happen to be not a
liberal, nor a left-winger.

303
00:15:05,390 --> 00:15:08,600
Be that as it may,
that's a good--

304
00:15:08,600 --> 00:15:10,580
people have that
view, that's fine.

305
00:15:10,580 --> 00:15:15,710
But to me, TV news,
newspapers, often

306
00:15:15,710 --> 00:15:17,840

represent personal
views of those

307
00:15:17,840 --> 00:15:20,720
that present the news
or the news bureaus,

308
00:15:20,720 --> 00:15:26,270
not necessarily the rational,
logical, or truly realistic.

309
00:15:26,270 --> 00:15:28,430
And so therefore,
one should take this

310
00:15:28,430 --> 00:15:29,510
with a grain of salt--

311
00:15:29,510 --> 00:15:32,390
almost take it like an
automobile commercial,

312
00:15:32,390 --> 00:15:37,580
because basically, that's
the same vein that it's cast.

313
00:15:37,580 --> 00:15:41,630
So there is this
caution in my head

314
00:15:41,630 --> 00:15:45,260
that that says, well, if I
hear this, how much of this

315
00:15:45,260 --> 00:15:45,995
is really true?

316
00:15:45,995 --> 00:15:47,450
And what is drift?

317
00:15:47,450 --> 00:15:48,680
What is hype?

318
00:15:48,680 --> 00:15:50,510
What is pure lies?

319
00:15:50,510 --> 00:15:52,790
And these days of
the great spin,

320
00:15:52,790 --> 00:15:55,140
you cannot really believe
anything the government tells

321
00:15:55,140 --> 00:15:55,640
you.

322
00:15:55,640 --> 00:15:57,560
Of course, I know
from my own experience

323
00:15:57,560 --> 00:15:59,870
that they would spend an
awful lot of time trying

324
00:15:59,870 --> 00:16:01,730
to figure out how
to put together

325
00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:07,430
in a report to the public a
news release so as to be sure

326
00:16:07,430 --> 00:16:10,190
that everything is well
covered-up or covered,

327
00:16:10,190 --> 00:16:13,010
and that perhaps the
so-called "real truth"

328
00:16:13,010 --> 00:16:17,480
is shaded in such a way that
it will not reflect badly

329

00:16:17,480 --> 00:16:21,230
on those who are giving it or
on the work of the bureaucracy.

330
00:16:21,230 --> 00:16:23,840
So that seems to
occupy a great deal

331
00:16:23,840 --> 00:16:28,340
of the time of senior
bureaucrats and the politicians

332
00:16:28,340 --> 00:16:29,430
as well.

333
00:16:29,430 --> 00:16:33,530
So there is this caution
about believing what you hear

334
00:16:33,530 --> 00:16:36,020
or what you see.

335
00:16:36,020 --> 00:16:38,810
That may sound a
little bit paranoid.

336
00:16:38,810 --> 00:16:39,650
Perhaps it is.

337
00:16:39,650 --> 00:16:47,240
But I think that's the way one
is built from this experience.

338
00:16:47,240 --> 00:16:48,830
That's what happens.

339
00:16:48,830 --> 00:16:52,640
One also then is
not ever surprised.

340
00:16:52,640 --> 00:16:55,340
One also has then
the ability to judge

341
00:16:55,340 --> 00:17:00,320
a situation that is developing,
a dangerous one or some crisis,

342
00:17:00,320 --> 00:17:04,339
with a great deal of calm,
which is, again, very important

343
00:17:04,339 --> 00:17:06,650
because those that panic--

344
00:17:06,650 --> 00:17:08,060
they will lose out.

345
00:17:08,060 --> 00:17:12,650
So if you remain calm and
begin to logically assess

346
00:17:12,650 --> 00:17:17,119
what is happening and try to
take action in good order,

347
00:17:17,119 --> 00:17:20,460
set up your priorities,
do a sort of triage

348
00:17:20,460 --> 00:17:24,260
on the situation, you will be
better off in the long run.

349
00:17:24,260 --> 00:17:25,790
You will also survive.

350
00:17:25,790 --> 00:17:27,470
So here, what we
are talking about

351
00:17:27,470 --> 00:17:29,810
is techniques,
mental and physical,

352

00:17:29,810 --> 00:17:34,970
that let you learn from
experiences like mine

353
00:17:34,970 --> 00:17:36,650
and, of course,
from the experiences

354
00:17:36,650 --> 00:17:40,220
of many, many others who went
through the Holocaust period

355
00:17:40,220 --> 00:17:42,030
and went through life.

356
00:17:42,030 --> 00:17:46,100
This is not limited to people
from that particular period.

357
00:17:46,100 --> 00:17:47,960
Anyone who went
through tough times--

358
00:17:47,960 --> 00:17:50,210
people who went through the
Depression in this country

359
00:17:50,210 --> 00:17:52,190
also have a certain view.

360
00:17:52,190 --> 00:17:55,880
They tend to be more
thrifty, careful,

361
00:17:55,880 --> 00:17:59,090
whereas those who grew
up in the more yuppie era

362
00:17:59,090 --> 00:18:00,710
are quite different.

363
00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:03,110
But it all is a reflection

on one's experience,

364
00:18:03,110 --> 00:18:06,410
and that's all really
one can gather from this.

365
00:18:06,410 --> 00:18:10,160
As I go back now to the parallel
life, I came to Washington,

366
00:18:10,160 --> 00:18:11,810
and I met my wife.

367
00:18:11,810 --> 00:18:14,720
As it turned out, she
was born in Hamburg.

368
00:18:14,720 --> 00:18:17,480
She also has given oral history
to the United States Holocaust

369
00:18:17,480 --> 00:18:18,830
Memorial Museum.

370
00:18:18,830 --> 00:18:24,790
And we married in 1963.

371
00:18:24,790 --> 00:18:28,620
And as it turned out, we were
both born on the very same day.

372
00:18:28,620 --> 00:18:32,200
And as a result, we're
the same age, of course.

373
00:18:32,200 --> 00:18:38,410
And we had our child, a
daughter, Michelle, in 1969.

374
00:18:38,410 --> 00:18:40,330
I'm sorry, I goofed all this up.

375

00:18:40,330 --> 00:18:42,880
We were married in 1966.

376
00:18:42,880 --> 00:18:45,490
Michelle was born in 1969.

377
00:18:45,490 --> 00:18:51,520
And I raced ahead
by three years.

378
00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:53,980
So, yes, she was born in 1969.

379
00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:56,240
And we've lived in the
Washington area, of course,

380
00:18:56,240 --> 00:19:02,170
both of us, since the 1960s,
which now in 1997 is 37 years.

381
00:19:02,170 --> 00:19:04,750
I often return home
and to San Francisco,

382
00:19:04,750 --> 00:19:07,090
where my parents live.

383
00:19:07,090 --> 00:19:10,480
My father passed away
in 1996, and my mother

384
00:19:10,480 --> 00:19:14,930
is living right now
near San Francisco.

385
00:19:14,930 --> 00:19:18,820
And it is April, 1997.

386
00:19:18,820 --> 00:19:22,720
But in all these
years, our relationship

387

00:19:22,720 --> 00:19:27,460

with the Jewish community
has been sort of off and on.

388

00:19:27,460 --> 00:19:30,820

My wife comes from
an Orthodox home.

389

00:19:30,820 --> 00:19:32,740

She was one of five girls.

390

00:19:32,740 --> 00:19:36,730

Her father was a shohet,
which he practiced in Hamburg

391

00:19:36,730 --> 00:19:38,390

and also later on in England.

392

00:19:38,390 --> 00:19:41,170

393

00:19:41,170 --> 00:19:44,890

But of course,
since marriage here,

394

00:19:44,890 --> 00:19:49,630

me being a bit of an
outsider to the religion,

395

00:19:49,630 --> 00:19:53,860

we do go to the synagogue on
memorials for memorial services

396

00:19:53,860 --> 00:19:56,950

and perhaps once a year for
the Rosh Hashanah services.

397

00:19:56,950 --> 00:20:01,200

And she may go more
often at other times.

398

00:20:01,200 --> 00:20:06,600

However, as I say, we do not now
belong to any Jewish synagogue.

399
00:20:06,600 --> 00:20:09,150
We did belong to Eretz
Israel and also once

400
00:20:09,150 --> 00:20:10,650
to Washington Hebrew
during the time

401
00:20:10,650 --> 00:20:14,100
that my daughter was
going through her Hebrew

402
00:20:14,100 --> 00:20:20,010
schooling, which she went
to until she was age 13.

403
00:20:20,010 --> 00:20:22,680
But she chose not
to be bat mitzvah,

404
00:20:22,680 --> 00:20:25,177
although she now has sort of--

405
00:20:25,177 --> 00:20:26,760
I wouldn't say come
back to the faith,

406
00:20:26,760 --> 00:20:29,730
but she's come back
to very much of what

407
00:20:29,730 --> 00:20:35,520
has been my own philosophy
of the Jewish Nation,

408
00:20:35,520 --> 00:20:38,940
since she's taking a
graduate PhD degree,

409
00:20:38,940 --> 00:20:42,870

and her dissertation is on the
subject of the role of Jews,

410
00:20:42,870 --> 00:20:45,150
particularly Jewish
women, during the time

411
00:20:45,150 --> 00:20:49,500
of the Renaissance and in
the Shakespearean era, which,

412
00:20:49,500 --> 00:20:54,100
if anything, is certainly a
nationalistic view of Judaism.

413
00:20:54,100 --> 00:20:56,400
And I had nothing
to do with this.

414
00:20:56,400 --> 00:20:58,630
I never channeled
her in that direction

415
00:20:58,630 --> 00:21:03,780
and refrained from advising
or suggesting anything to her.

416
00:21:03,780 --> 00:21:09,100
But she has come to that point,
which I find very interesting.

417
00:21:09,100 --> 00:21:15,590
So that is my situation
as of this point.

418
00:21:15,590 --> 00:21:18,200
I do want to at this point--
we're about ready to close,

419
00:21:18,200 --> 00:21:18,860
here.

420
00:21:18,860 --> 00:21:21,382

Or maybe Nancy has
some more questions.

421
00:21:21,382 --> 00:21:23,090
But before she does,
I do want to mention

422
00:21:23,090 --> 00:21:26,660
I want to thank Nancy
Alper for having

423
00:21:26,660 --> 00:21:28,640
this tremendous
amount of patience

424
00:21:28,640 --> 00:21:31,160
and sitting through here for
I don't know how many hours.

425
00:21:31,160 --> 00:21:32,990
We had four sessions.

426
00:21:32,990 --> 00:21:34,210
She's been extremely patient.

427
00:21:34,210 --> 00:21:35,840
She's had excellent questions.

428
00:21:35,840 --> 00:21:38,000
She was extremely
well-organized.

429
00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,640
And so it's really
been my pleasure,

430
00:21:40,640 --> 00:21:43,280
and I'd like to thank
her for doing this.

431
00:21:43,280 --> 00:21:46,120

432

00:21:46,120 --> 00:21:51,190

We've got to talk about your involvement at the Museum

433

00:21:51,190 --> 00:21:58,900

and your organization of the reunion for Jews

434

00:21:58,900 --> 00:22:02,050

who were living in the Philippines during the war.

435

00:22:02,050 --> 00:22:06,730

And the last specific topic that I was hoping to cover

436

00:22:06,730 --> 00:22:13,370

was your attempts to get recompense

437

00:22:13,370 --> 00:22:17,240

for the building that existed in East Berlin-- that

438

00:22:17,240 --> 00:22:19,760

exists in East Berlin and belonged to your family

439

00:22:19,760 --> 00:22:22,640

prior to the Holocaust.

440

00:22:22,640 --> 00:22:24,500

Yes, it is, of course, quite a long story.

441

00:22:24,500 --> 00:22:27,210

It has almost a subject in and of itself.

442

00:22:27,210 --> 00:22:31,820

This was a small, old apartment house with 10 apartments.

443

00:22:31,820 --> 00:22:36,410

And there also is a retail store-- orthopedic shoes

444

00:22:36,410 --> 00:22:38,370

or something like that-- on the ground floor.

445

00:22:38,370 --> 00:22:44,240

The building is located in a district called Weissensee,

446

00:22:44,240 --> 00:22:47,240

which is in the northern part of Berlin and was under

447

00:22:47,240 --> 00:22:51,920

the Eastern or Communist regime until 1990

448

00:22:51,920 --> 00:22:54,770

or so, or '89, '90, when this whole--

449

00:22:54,770 --> 00:22:58,340

the Communist side of Germany collapsed.

450

00:22:58,340 --> 00:23:02,450

This building was purchased by a man called Abraham Schlimmer,

451

00:23:02,450 --> 00:23:05,930

who changed his name to Slimmer, when he emigrated to the United

452

00:23:05,930 --> 00:23:09,770

States sometime in the 1800s.

453

00:23:09,770 --> 00:23:14,300

He founded what we call the American branch of the Slimmer

454

00:23:14,300 --> 00:23:16,010

Clan.

455

00:23:16,010 --> 00:23:21,170

He was one of eight
children of the Slimmers,

456

00:23:21,170 --> 00:23:25,210

the ancient Slimmers,
born in Germany.

457

00:23:25,210 --> 00:23:30,360

And he had a brother called
[? Zaarly ?] Schlimmer,

458

00:23:30,360 --> 00:23:34,170

who lived in an
apartment in that house.

459

00:23:34,170 --> 00:23:36,070

And then he had the rest of--

460

00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:41,770

the six others were all girls,
one of whom was my grandmother.

461

00:23:41,770 --> 00:23:44,820

And her name was
Clara Schlimmer,

462

00:23:44,820 --> 00:23:49,020

but she married a
veterinarian, my grandfather,

463

00:23:49,020 --> 00:23:52,840

whose name was [? Hyman, ?] so
that's the [? Hyman ?] branch.

464

00:23:52,840 --> 00:23:57,288

In addition, there was
the [? Zimone ?] branch.

465

00:23:57,288 --> 00:24:01,230
That was a woman who name
was Cecilia Schlimmer married

466
00:24:01,230 --> 00:24:04,380
a doctor, [PERSONAL NAME].

467
00:24:04,380 --> 00:24:07,470
They both perished in the
Holocaust, he at Theresienstadt

468
00:24:07,470 --> 00:24:10,460
and she in Auschwitz thereafter.

469
00:24:10,460 --> 00:24:13,490
That's another branch.

470
00:24:13,490 --> 00:24:17,330
Actually, the eighth person
was another brother who

471
00:24:17,330 --> 00:24:20,270
died, who owned the house
together with this Abe

472
00:24:20,270 --> 00:24:25,310
Schlimmer, but who died and
left his property to all

473
00:24:25,310 --> 00:24:27,800
the other seven,
I believe as well.

474
00:24:27,800 --> 00:24:28,760
Yes.

475
00:24:28,760 --> 00:24:30,200
In other words,
the seven branches

476
00:24:30,200 --> 00:24:35,930
are the heirs of this
one oldest brother.

477
00:24:35,930 --> 00:24:39,560
So this house had been
standing all these years.

478
00:24:39,560 --> 00:24:40,640
It was taken over.

479
00:24:40,640 --> 00:24:42,860
It was never actually
formally taken over

480
00:24:42,860 --> 00:24:44,540
by the Nazis we found out.

481
00:24:44,540 --> 00:24:50,540
For some reason, the deed is
in existence on record in the--

482
00:24:50,540 --> 00:24:53,990
what is called the [GERMAN]
the housing authority

483
00:24:53,990 --> 00:24:56,030
of the district of Weissensee.

484
00:24:56,030 --> 00:24:59,600
The lawyer that we have
now has this document.

485
00:24:59,600 --> 00:25:02,390
It was never
formally confiscated.

486
00:25:02,390 --> 00:25:07,790
So legally, it has always
belonged to these seven heirs,

487
00:25:07,790 --> 00:25:09,110
original heirs--

488
00:25:09,110 --> 00:25:14,660

my grandmother and her
six brothers and sisters.

489
00:25:14,660 --> 00:25:18,040
Well, this lawyer was got--

490
00:25:18,040 --> 00:25:19,950
someone recommended him.

491
00:25:19,950 --> 00:25:22,570
He's from East Berlin.

492
00:25:22,570 --> 00:25:28,870
I've been working on this
project since 1990, 1991--

493
00:25:28,870 --> 00:25:31,570
almost six years I think by now.

494
00:25:31,570 --> 00:25:34,300
And the idea is to
get this property back

495
00:25:34,300 --> 00:25:39,470
to the current heirs of
all these seven branches.

496
00:25:39,470 --> 00:25:42,860
I have spent a lot
of time identifying

497
00:25:42,860 --> 00:25:47,300
who the current heirs are by
tracing through the families.

498
00:25:47,300 --> 00:25:51,050
And there's, of course, my
mother and my uncle and aunt.

499
00:25:51,050 --> 00:25:53,880
They're one of the branches.

500

00:25:53,880 --> 00:25:58,340
There are people living
in Israel and London who

501
00:25:58,340 --> 00:26:00,170
are members of another branch.

502
00:26:00,170 --> 00:26:04,460
It's called-- we call the
[? Manasseh ?] branch.

503
00:26:04,460 --> 00:26:08,360
This was the married
name of one of the women

504
00:26:08,360 --> 00:26:10,850
heirs, original women heirs.

505
00:26:10,850 --> 00:26:15,080
Then there is another branch,
which the [? Simon ?] branch

506
00:26:15,080 --> 00:26:16,400
I mentioned before.

507
00:26:16,400 --> 00:26:19,970
Only about the fourth generation
is left from that branch-- two

508
00:26:19,970 --> 00:26:22,310
young people in New York.

509
00:26:22,310 --> 00:26:26,070
And then there is another group.

510
00:26:26,070 --> 00:26:29,380
Then the other three
branches have died out.

511
00:26:29,380 --> 00:26:32,740
There were either no
children, or in one case,

512

00:26:32,740 --> 00:26:34,870

was the man, [? Zaarly ?]

Schlimmer, who

513

00:26:34,870 --> 00:26:37,180

committed suicide

living in that house

514

00:26:37,180 --> 00:26:38,860

before he was taken by the--

515

00:26:38,860 --> 00:26:40,720

before he could be

taken by the Nazis.

516

00:26:40,720 --> 00:26:42,610

In fact, his

funeral arrangements

517

00:26:42,610 --> 00:26:48,610

were made by the [? Zimone ?]

people, who later would take

518

00:26:48,610 --> 00:26:51,490

him to Theresienstadt and

she to Auschwitz because they

519

00:26:51,490 --> 00:26:53,560

lived in Berlin at that time.

520

00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:55,210

So they had made

the arrangements.

521

00:26:55,210 --> 00:26:57,520

I found that out by

contacting, first

522

00:26:57,520 --> 00:27:00,040

of all, of course, the

cemetery where he was buried,

523

00:27:00,040 --> 00:27:02,350
and then what they
call the [GERMAN]

524
00:27:02,350 --> 00:27:05,020
like the vital health bureau,
vital statistics bureau

525
00:27:05,020 --> 00:27:07,270
for that area of Weissensee.

526
00:27:07,270 --> 00:27:09,040
And they sent me
all the documents

527
00:27:09,040 --> 00:27:13,210
because they had them and wanted
some blanks filled in, which

528
00:27:13,210 --> 00:27:14,600
I did for them.

529
00:27:14,600 --> 00:27:19,270
So three died out, branches--
four remaining branches.

530
00:27:19,270 --> 00:27:24,850
There are approximately 13 or
so people, individuals, involved

531
00:27:24,850 --> 00:27:26,770
as being current heirs.

532
00:27:26,770 --> 00:27:29,590
But there's a long
process to do all that.

533
00:27:29,590 --> 00:27:34,360
It requires heirship
certificates by German courts.

534
00:27:34,360 --> 00:27:35,920
The lawyer's pursuing that.

535

00:27:35,920 --> 00:27:37,780

And of course, in
the meantime, we

536

00:27:37,780 --> 00:27:41,740

discovered that the housing
authority of Weissensee,

537

00:27:41,740 --> 00:27:43,840

unbeknownst to the
lawyer or anyone,

538

00:27:43,840 --> 00:27:48,160

turned this property over to the
Jewish Claims Commission that

539

00:27:48,160 --> 00:27:50,950

is responsible for Jewish
property that is not claimed.

540

00:27:50,950 --> 00:27:54,040

However, they were
approached by the lawyer,

541

00:27:54,040 --> 00:27:55,600

and they have realized
that there are

542

00:27:55,600 --> 00:27:57,280

people claiming the property.

543

00:27:57,280 --> 00:27:59,090

They had already,
in the meantime,

544

00:27:59,090 --> 00:28:01,810

sold the house, the
apartment house.

545

00:28:01,810 --> 00:28:03,850

So it is now a
question though, I

546

00:28:03,850 --> 00:28:08,980
suppose, divvying up or getting
the funds that were received.

547

00:28:08,980 --> 00:28:10,690
This was not my
original mission was

548

00:28:10,690 --> 00:28:13,660
to make this a monetary
thing, because by the time

549

00:28:13,660 --> 00:28:16,240
it's divided up and
lawyers' fees are taken,

550

00:28:16,240 --> 00:28:19,570
I don't know that the amounts
are going to be all that much.

551

00:28:19,570 --> 00:28:22,390
It's more of the
concept of returning

552

00:28:22,390 --> 00:28:28,810
this property, which was the
family's, back into the family.

553

00:28:28,810 --> 00:28:30,400
Unfortunately, it's been sold.

554

00:28:30,400 --> 00:28:33,760
But still, I think we
will try to perhaps put

555

00:28:33,760 --> 00:28:35,560
a little plaque on the house.

556

00:28:35,560 --> 00:28:39,290
And certainly, for the man
that committed suicide there,

557

00:28:39,290 --> 00:28:45,250
one of the seven original branch
leaders, we'll get a gravestone

558

00:28:45,250 --> 00:28:48,310
and put it over his grave
at the Weissensee, Cemetery,

559

00:28:48,310 --> 00:28:51,250
a Jewish cemetery, an enormous
cemetery, where some--

560

00:28:51,250 --> 00:28:54,850
where my grandfather, my
father's father, is buried.

561

00:28:54,850 --> 00:28:57,820
And I did find his grave
with a small gravestone,

562

00:28:57,820 --> 00:29:00,680
and where other members of the
Schlimmer family are buried.

563

00:29:00,680 --> 00:29:02,410
It's quite a few
members of both sides,

564

00:29:02,410 --> 00:29:06,370
from both sides of my
family, are buried there.

565

00:29:06,370 --> 00:29:11,020
Frank, why do you think that you
were the one in the family who

566

00:29:11,020 --> 00:29:12,790
wanted to pursue this?

567

00:29:12,790 --> 00:29:15,070
Why do you think it
ended up being you who

568

00:29:15,070 --> 00:29:18,580
were motivated enough to do it?

569

00:29:18,580 --> 00:29:20,690
Well, my mother had
talked about this house.

570

00:29:20,690 --> 00:29:22,490
In fact, they went
to see it many,

571

00:29:22,490 --> 00:29:25,300
many years ago when they
were visiting the area

572

00:29:25,300 --> 00:29:27,370
at the invitation of
the Berlin government.

573

00:29:27,370 --> 00:29:28,960
They have a program
where they invite

574

00:29:28,960 --> 00:29:31,030
people who had lived
there back and so forth.

575

00:29:31,030 --> 00:29:34,770
And they did take
advantage of it.

576

00:29:34,770 --> 00:29:36,510
I don't know.

577

00:29:36,510 --> 00:29:38,827
I'm by nature a--

578

00:29:38,827 --> 00:29:39,660
what do you call it?

579

00:29:39,660 --> 00:29:40,202
A researcher.

580
00:29:40,202 --> 00:29:42,470
I like to find things out.

581
00:29:42,470 --> 00:29:43,140
Excuse me.

582
00:29:43,140 --> 00:29:46,170
It's part of my
training as an engineer.

583
00:29:46,170 --> 00:29:47,880
And I enjoy it as well.

584
00:29:47,880 --> 00:29:49,140
It's a challenge.

585
00:29:49,140 --> 00:29:52,290
Any kind of challenge-- that's
for me, whatever it is, maybe

586
00:29:52,290 --> 00:29:54,870
physical or this
kind or whatever

587
00:29:54,870 --> 00:29:57,300
or going on raids or missions.

588
00:29:57,300 --> 00:29:59,310
That's right up my alley.

589
00:29:59,310 --> 00:30:01,920
And as long as I'm
physically fit, anyway,

590
00:30:01,920 --> 00:30:03,670
I can do all these things.

591
00:30:03,670 --> 00:30:06,180
So my mother started that.

592

00:30:06,180 --> 00:30:10,230
She got hold of this
lawyer, and she wrote me

593
00:30:10,230 --> 00:30:12,720
as to what the situation was.

594
00:30:12,720 --> 00:30:15,240
But it was a
complicated project,

595
00:30:15,240 --> 00:30:17,250
searching through,
having to obtain

596
00:30:17,250 --> 00:30:19,680
death certificates
from God knows where,

597
00:30:19,680 --> 00:30:22,020
having to obtain birth
certificates, wills,

598
00:30:22,020 --> 00:30:25,800
having to translate wills,
tracing exactly what happened

599
00:30:25,800 --> 00:30:29,380
to whom along the way after all
these-- that we go back here.

600
00:30:29,380 --> 00:30:31,490
This is my grandmother.

601
00:30:31,490 --> 00:30:33,840
And this is three generations.

602
00:30:33,840 --> 00:30:36,480
We have to deal sometimes
with four generations' worth.

603
00:30:36,480 --> 00:30:38,985

604

00:30:38,985 --> 00:30:41,100

And then you have to
talk to all these people.

605

00:30:41,100 --> 00:30:44,250

You have to call them up
and inform them and ask

606

00:30:44,250 --> 00:30:46,650

them to do stuff for you.

607

00:30:46,650 --> 00:30:48,940

I mean, that was not
my mother's bag at all.

608

00:30:48,940 --> 00:30:52,788

She's really-- be
reticent in making contact

609

00:30:52,788 --> 00:30:54,330

with the American
side of the family,

610

00:30:54,330 --> 00:30:57,120

for example, for God
knows what reasons.

611

00:30:57,120 --> 00:31:00,060

I had no compunction about
calling them up and explaining,

612

00:31:00,060 --> 00:31:01,950

identifying who I am.

613

00:31:01,950 --> 00:31:03,510

And it's the same
with the Israel--

614

00:31:03,510 --> 00:31:04,620

people who live in Israel.

615

00:31:04,620 --> 00:31:07,530
There was one fellow who
was fourth generation.

616
00:31:07,530 --> 00:31:13,410
His father was killed during
the 1948 battle in Israel.

617
00:31:13,410 --> 00:31:15,070
He was a journalist.

618
00:31:15,070 --> 00:31:17,160
And so this young fellow--

619
00:31:17,160 --> 00:31:20,010
well, he's about
40 now, I guess.

620
00:31:20,010 --> 00:31:22,440
I wrote him a letter,
introduced myself.

621
00:31:22,440 --> 00:31:24,210
And then he wrote back.

622
00:31:24,210 --> 00:31:26,440
And then we find we
both had fax machines,

623
00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:29,310
so we were able to
communicate by fax.

624
00:31:29,310 --> 00:31:31,290
And he went through
a whole procedure

625
00:31:31,290 --> 00:31:33,900
that you have to go through
to show that you are an heir--

626
00:31:33,900 --> 00:31:39,480
at least to show that you're

an heir of his father's and had

627

00:31:39,480 --> 00:31:41,975

to do that through the
American consulate--

628

00:31:41,975 --> 00:31:43,350

or through the
German consulate--

629

00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:45,360

I'm sorry-- in Israel.

630

00:31:45,360 --> 00:31:48,960

And so we've had to appear
before German consulates

631

00:31:48,960 --> 00:31:54,600

to get these heirship affidavits
written up and notarized and so

632

00:31:54,600 --> 00:31:55,570

on.

633

00:31:55,570 --> 00:31:59,820

But I just felt that this was
an interesting and challenging

634

00:31:59,820 --> 00:32:00,330

thing.

635

00:32:00,330 --> 00:32:03,630

Here is this apartment
house, sitting there.

636

00:32:03,630 --> 00:32:06,390

If nothing was done, it
would probably-- who knows--

637

00:32:06,390 --> 00:32:10,290

end up in German hands,
a piece of property

638

00:32:10,290 --> 00:32:12,840
that belonged to the family.

639

00:32:12,840 --> 00:32:19,560
Symbolic, really, more than
a great value in real estate.

640

00:32:19,560 --> 00:32:21,690
At the time, the
lawyer quoted me

641

00:32:21,690 --> 00:32:26,400
a sort of value which
really wasn't very much.

642

00:32:26,400 --> 00:32:28,830
It has apparently been
sold for a lot more,

643

00:32:28,830 --> 00:32:32,265
but still, being spread
amongst so many people,

644

00:32:32,265 --> 00:32:35,250
it will not be a
fortune by any means.

645

00:32:35,250 --> 00:32:39,930
Still, I'm the type
that takes on--

646

00:32:39,930 --> 00:32:41,610
I love to take on
projects like that.

647

00:32:41,610 --> 00:32:44,100
I go back to my work with
the Maritime Administration

648

00:32:44,100 --> 00:32:46,950
in the government back
in the Lyndon Johnson

649

00:32:46,950 --> 00:32:49,677

era with a young fellow
by the name of Johnson,

650

00:32:49,677 --> 00:32:52,260

who headed up-- political head
of the Maritime Administration.

651

00:32:52,260 --> 00:32:54,690

He was all of 29 years
old, going on 30.

652

00:32:54,690 --> 00:32:57,405

Was a lawyer from
a place in Iowa--

653

00:32:57,405 --> 00:33:01,170

a very interesting, active
guy, great to work with.

654

00:33:01,170 --> 00:33:05,280

And he gave me the task of
trying to come up with--

655

00:33:05,280 --> 00:33:09,840

to develop the analysis to make
a decision as to whether or not

656

00:33:09,840 --> 00:33:14,070

the United States should pursue
a nuclear-powered merchant

657

00:33:14,070 --> 00:33:16,170

marine program.

658

00:33:16,170 --> 00:33:18,570

At that time, the
USS Savannah was

659

00:33:18,570 --> 00:33:22,770

being used as an Atoms
for Peace ship as a trial,

660

00:33:22,770 --> 00:33:23,850
as an experiment.

661

00:33:23,850 --> 00:33:25,830
And the question was,
should nuclear power

662

00:33:25,830 --> 00:33:27,480
be put into merchant ships?

663

00:33:27,480 --> 00:33:28,560
Is that worthwhile?

664

00:33:28,560 --> 00:33:30,300
Is that feasible?

665

00:33:30,300 --> 00:33:33,540
Is that economically right?

666

00:33:33,540 --> 00:33:34,560
So there I was.

667

00:33:34,560 --> 00:33:38,130
And I had to form myself
a task force of experts

668

00:33:38,130 --> 00:33:40,830
in the various areas of
trade routes and engineering

669

00:33:40,830 --> 00:33:45,030
and nuclear power and
manning questions--

670

00:33:45,030 --> 00:33:48,030
crewing and health and
so on because you're

671

00:33:48,030 --> 00:33:50,880
dealing with nuclear radiation.

672

00:33:50,880 --> 00:33:52,680
And that was a
fascinating project.

673
00:33:52,680 --> 00:33:58,420
We finished it in 1964,
turned in the result.

674
00:33:58,420 --> 00:34:00,850
The recommendation
then, the result,

675
00:34:00,850 --> 00:34:03,730
was that it didn't appear
to be economically feasible,

676
00:34:03,730 --> 00:34:06,950
and also with some
technical questions.

677
00:34:06,950 --> 00:34:11,469
As one can see, there's been no
nuclear-powered merchant fleet

678
00:34:11,469 --> 00:34:13,730
because it was certainly
not economically feasible.

679
00:34:13,730 --> 00:34:18,095
So I like projects-- anything
that builds up a challenge.

680
00:34:18,095 --> 00:34:23,080
I've always drifted toward
that, whatever it may be.

681
00:34:23,080 --> 00:34:28,330
Did it matter to you
that your wife had also

682
00:34:28,330 --> 00:34:32,679
had a Holocaust experience,
although obviously

683

00:34:32,679 --> 00:34:34,780

quite a different one?

684

00:34:34,780 --> 00:34:36,880

And I know a little bit
about her background--

685

00:34:36,880 --> 00:34:38,230

a very little bit.

686

00:34:38,230 --> 00:34:42,909

But did it matter to you
and the two of you deciding

687

00:34:42,909 --> 00:34:47,500

to get married that you
shared to some limited extent

688

00:34:47,500 --> 00:34:49,389

the same kind of experience?

689

00:34:49,389 --> 00:34:51,409

And if so, why?

690

00:34:51,409 --> 00:34:54,190

Well, the answer to
that is, yes, of course.

691

00:34:54,190 --> 00:34:58,990

There's this dual
compatibility base.

692

00:34:58,990 --> 00:35:05,770

One is origin-- similar country,
sort of similar experience,

693

00:35:05,770 --> 00:35:08,260

Holocaust-related, certainly.

694

00:35:08,260 --> 00:35:15,340

Jewish, obviously--
these brought forth

695
00:35:15,340 --> 00:35:18,940
cultural similarities,
social similarities.

696
00:35:18,940 --> 00:35:22,720

697
00:35:22,720 --> 00:35:26,800
I think we would have
both, had we married--

698
00:35:26,800 --> 00:35:27,820
and people have.

699
00:35:27,820 --> 00:35:33,310
It's quote, "Americans," Jews
who had lived here a long time.

700
00:35:33,310 --> 00:35:36,730
It would have been a
different relationship.

701
00:35:36,730 --> 00:35:42,020
I think if I go back, having
gone out with many girls

702
00:35:42,020 --> 00:35:45,290
and women that were Jewish--

703
00:35:45,290 --> 00:35:48,050
local people born here.

704
00:35:48,050 --> 00:35:52,970
They, too, were
different from myself--

705
00:35:52,970 --> 00:35:55,310
a different experience,
a different view

706
00:35:55,310 --> 00:35:59,270

of the world, different
desires, needs

707
00:35:59,270 --> 00:36:03,740
that certainly would
have been the base

708
00:36:03,740 --> 00:36:08,540
of some incompatibility,
I suspect.

709
00:36:08,540 --> 00:36:12,320
Although I've seen marriages
between people like myself, who

710
00:36:12,320 --> 00:36:16,590
came here from other countries,
to Americans, men or women--

711
00:36:16,590 --> 00:36:18,290
it's neither here nor there--

712
00:36:18,290 --> 00:36:20,390
also married out
of their religion.

713
00:36:20,390 --> 00:36:24,590
And this has worked out well.

714
00:36:24,590 --> 00:36:27,030
There was no real problem.

715
00:36:27,030 --> 00:36:28,130
In fact, there's no--

716
00:36:28,130 --> 00:36:31,310
I mentioned my uncle married
a native-born American

717
00:36:31,310 --> 00:36:34,310
of the Episcopalian faith.

718

00:36:34,310 --> 00:36:41,150
And so in that standpoint,
that's not insurmountable.

719
00:36:41,150 --> 00:36:45,140
Nonetheless, I think one
drifts toward the, again,

720
00:36:45,140 --> 00:36:47,090
birds of a feather.

721
00:36:47,090 --> 00:36:51,350
It is probably inevitable,
if such a bird exists.

722
00:36:51,350 --> 00:36:54,430
In the case of no
such birds, one

723
00:36:54,430 --> 00:36:56,180
would have to deal
with a different flock.

724
00:36:56,180 --> 00:37:00,810
But then that, too-- one
adjusts to that as well.

725
00:37:00,810 --> 00:37:06,850
I'm not sure whether
that was necessary,

726
00:37:06,850 --> 00:37:09,550
but it did in fact happen.

727
00:37:09,550 --> 00:37:16,480
And the attraction was
certainly a similar background.

728
00:37:16,480 --> 00:37:21,160
In any event, there's
always a basis for that.

729
00:37:21,160 --> 00:37:22,970

And it may not have worked out.

730

00:37:22,970 --> 00:37:27,120

I mean, it could have
not worked out, too.

731

00:37:27,120 --> 00:37:30,580

Why don't you discuss a
little bit your involvement

732

00:37:30,580 --> 00:37:37,180

with the Holocaust Museum as a
volunteer and your organization

733

00:37:37,180 --> 00:37:40,480

of this reunion of
the Philippine Jews,

734

00:37:40,480 --> 00:37:44,260

and in both cases, why
you had felt compelled

735

00:37:44,260 --> 00:37:47,170

to do those activities?

736

00:37:47,170 --> 00:37:52,420

Well, they're compatible with my
way of thinking and lifestyle.

737

00:37:52,420 --> 00:37:55,750

The building of the Holocaust
Museum in Washington

738

00:37:55,750 --> 00:38:01,990

certainly was a
spectacular event.

739

00:38:01,990 --> 00:38:06,400

It was something that I really
never expected to see happen.

740

00:38:06,400 --> 00:38:10,870

After all, we're dealing here

with a very Jewish-oriented

741
00:38:10,870 --> 00:38:14,950
suffering and history.

742
00:38:14,950 --> 00:38:17,950
What does that have
to do with American--

743
00:38:17,950 --> 00:38:22,240
with the American character
or with American history?

744
00:38:22,240 --> 00:38:24,950
It didn't happen here.

745
00:38:24,950 --> 00:38:28,600
It's sitting on the Mall
or close to the Mall.

746
00:38:28,600 --> 00:38:36,180
It was by an act of Congress,
in many ways quite unusual.

747
00:38:36,180 --> 00:38:42,350
And aside from that fact,
of course the Holocaust--

748
00:38:42,350 --> 00:38:45,560
this whole creation
of a situation

749
00:38:45,560 --> 00:38:49,100
where Jews were persecuted
because of their religion

750
00:38:49,100 --> 00:38:50,990
and lifestyle--

751
00:38:50,990 --> 00:38:55,370
did not have a
national protector

752
00:38:55,370 --> 00:38:58,520
in any of these countries.

753
00:38:58,520 --> 00:39:01,960
To commemorate that,
to memorialize it,

754
00:39:01,960 --> 00:39:05,600
it was extremely important
for today's generation

755
00:39:05,600 --> 00:39:06,950
and the future.

756
00:39:06,950 --> 00:39:11,270
It spells out very
clearly that the defense

757
00:39:11,270 --> 00:39:18,570
from such an [AUDIO OUT]

758
00:39:18,570 --> 00:39:21,840
This interview is being made
on behalf of the United States

759
00:39:21,840 --> 00:39:24,810
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

760
00:39:24,810 --> 00:39:28,710
This is an interview with
Frank Ephraim by Nancy Alper.

761
00:39:28,710 --> 00:39:33,030
The date is April the 7th, 1997.

762
00:39:33,030 --> 00:39:38,340
And this is side B or the second
side of tape number eight.

763
00:39:38,340 --> 00:39:41,110

764

00:39:41,110 --> 00:39:46,090

To return to the motive for
being a volunteer at the United

765

00:39:46,090 --> 00:39:49,150

States Holocaust Memorial
Museum is the very fact

766

00:39:49,150 --> 00:39:53,650

that this became to me
a forum, a foundation,

767

00:39:53,650 --> 00:39:57,940

a base for educating the--

768

00:39:57,940 --> 00:40:01,540

not only Jews, but anyone
else because the experience

769

00:40:01,540 --> 00:40:03,010

is common.

770

00:40:03,010 --> 00:40:08,680

It is what happened to people
who were vulnerable, vulnerable

771

00:40:08,680 --> 00:40:12,760

perhaps in part
by their own hand

772

00:40:12,760 --> 00:40:16,000

because they did not have
the strength or the means

773

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:20,410

or the foresight or fortitude
to organize themselves

774

00:40:20,410 --> 00:40:25,720

into a defense mechanism
to defend society.

775

00:40:25,720 --> 00:40:29,350
Physical defense is
what I'm talking about.

776
00:40:29,350 --> 00:40:32,620
Jews have always said,
when we were at prayer,

777
00:40:32,620 --> 00:40:33,830
anything can happen.

778
00:40:33,830 --> 00:40:36,050
We will not move from prayer.

779
00:40:36,050 --> 00:40:37,330
We believe in God.

780
00:40:37,330 --> 00:40:39,270
He will take care of us.

781
00:40:39,270 --> 00:40:40,520
They were wrong.

782
00:40:40,520 --> 00:40:43,060
None of that was true.

783
00:40:43,060 --> 00:40:45,220
They were slaughtered
like lambs, you know?

784
00:40:45,220 --> 00:40:50,050
And when that occurs, that is
the biggest lesson to learn--

785
00:40:50,050 --> 00:40:55,570
the self-defense, the
communal self-defense,

786
00:40:55,570 --> 00:41:04,480
last seen in Masada and
before the time of Israel.

787

00:41:04,480 --> 00:41:08,620
So this, too, is a
fundamental concept of mine--

788
00:41:08,620 --> 00:41:13,400
that to help that along, to
support it, to help in any way,

789
00:41:13,400 --> 00:41:17,080
shape or form, that I
saw being a volunteer

790
00:41:17,080 --> 00:41:19,540
there as exactly
what I wanted to do.

791
00:41:19,540 --> 00:41:22,630
And I was looking towards also
retirement from my government

792
00:41:22,630 --> 00:41:23,410
service.

793
00:41:23,410 --> 00:41:27,070
And I felt that this was
be one of the finest ways

794
00:41:27,070 --> 00:41:29,500
that I could spend my time--

795
00:41:29,500 --> 00:41:30,910
most interesting ways.

796
00:41:30,910 --> 00:41:34,180
It had all the elements that
I'm interested in-- the concept,

797
00:41:34,180 --> 00:41:37,680
the philosophy, the
research potential,

798
00:41:37,680 --> 00:41:40,900
any other work that would be--

799
00:41:40,900 --> 00:41:42,550
that I could offer.

800
00:41:42,550 --> 00:41:45,550
And so I had once inquired
about being a volunteer,

801
00:41:45,550 --> 00:41:47,510
but they were still
very disorganized.

802
00:41:47,510 --> 00:41:49,480
Their buildings were
just under construction.

803
00:41:49,480 --> 00:41:51,580
And every morning,
I drove by that area

804
00:41:51,580 --> 00:41:53,530
on my way to work to
the Transportation

805
00:41:53,530 --> 00:41:55,540
Department in Southwest.

806
00:41:55,540 --> 00:41:58,330
And I saw the buildings,
the originals being raised,

807
00:41:58,330 --> 00:42:01,030
and then the new building
being constructed.

808
00:42:01,030 --> 00:42:02,230
And then I finally--

809
00:42:02,230 --> 00:42:04,690
I knew a person who lived here
in the Town of Somerset who

810

00:42:04,690 --> 00:42:07,840
was also doing oral
interview, oral history.

811
00:42:07,840 --> 00:42:10,150
And she kept me up
to date because she

812
00:42:10,150 --> 00:42:12,460
was getting announcements
as to volunteers

813
00:42:12,460 --> 00:42:13,810
were going to be asked to meet.

814
00:42:13,810 --> 00:42:15,400
Anyone want to be a volunteer?

815
00:42:15,400 --> 00:42:17,590
So I began to attend
those sessions.

816
00:42:17,590 --> 00:42:20,830
And we had meetings at lunch,
and I would take off from work.

817
00:42:20,830 --> 00:42:24,670
And I would bring my lunch,
and we would listen to the--

818
00:42:24,670 --> 00:42:26,770
in those days was,
Betsy [? McWhirt, ?]

819
00:42:26,770 --> 00:42:29,110
and also her name was Hill.

820
00:42:29,110 --> 00:42:34,000
She was coordinating the Visitor
Services part of the museum.

821
00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:36,460
And eventually, they

began to organize

822
00:42:36,460 --> 00:42:39,970
a volunteer training,
which occurred

823
00:42:39,970 --> 00:42:41,410
before the museum opened.

824
00:42:41,410 --> 00:42:42,640
And I attended those.

825
00:42:42,640 --> 00:42:45,280
I believe it was six or eight
sessions that I attended.

826
00:42:45,280 --> 00:42:49,420
It was on Sundays because I
was working still at that time.

827
00:42:49,420 --> 00:42:52,450
And I trained with
all the other people.

828
00:42:52,450 --> 00:42:56,440
And pretty soon, we were asked--

829
00:42:56,440 --> 00:42:59,050
this was mainly for the
visitor service part of it.

830
00:42:59,050 --> 00:43:00,538
And we were told
that we were going

831
00:43:00,538 --> 00:43:02,080
to be wearing these
burgundy jackets,

832
00:43:02,080 --> 00:43:04,540
and so soon we were
being fitted for jackets.

833

00:43:04,540 --> 00:43:08,090

And so pretty soon,
the museum opened.

834

00:43:08,090 --> 00:43:10,750

And we were asked to volunteer
for the day of opening.

835

00:43:10,750 --> 00:43:13,070

And I volunteered for
the candlelight portion

836

00:43:13,070 --> 00:43:13,960

of the evening.

837

00:43:13,960 --> 00:43:16,685

And that was my very first
duty is as a volunteer.

838

00:43:16,685 --> 00:43:19,210

Oh, I'm not correct in that.

839

00:43:19,210 --> 00:43:21,730

It was even before
the museum opened.

840

00:43:21,730 --> 00:43:24,760

I'd had a call from a
librarian in the library--

841

00:43:24,760 --> 00:43:25,600

Sheri.

842

00:43:25,600 --> 00:43:28,900

And she said that she'd heard
that I could speak German.

843

00:43:28,900 --> 00:43:30,970

And that, again, was
done through Betsy,

844

00:43:30,970 --> 00:43:33,127

who was coordinating
volunteer matters at the time,

845
00:43:33,127 --> 00:43:34,960
because she had interviewed
me and found out

846
00:43:34,960 --> 00:43:37,630
that I did speak German
and other things about me--

847
00:43:37,630 --> 00:43:40,490
education, age, the whole bit.

848
00:43:40,490 --> 00:43:44,650
So she says, gee, I could really
use some help because I have

849
00:43:44,650 --> 00:43:48,950
a lot of journals that we need
to go through and to index,

850
00:43:48,950 --> 00:43:52,000
which means
translating the titles

851
00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:55,540
and doing a short abstract
in English of the journal

852
00:43:55,540 --> 00:43:57,580
and whatever it contained.

853
00:43:57,580 --> 00:43:58,880
So I said, fine, I'll do that.

854
00:43:58,880 --> 00:44:00,880
So I went over, and she
gave me a batch of them.

855
00:44:00,880 --> 00:44:03,760
And I did that for
about six months or so

856
00:44:03,760 --> 00:44:05,690
and produced a lot
of these indices.

857
00:44:05,690 --> 00:44:08,980
So I actually started
both my volunteer work

858
00:44:08,980 --> 00:44:10,460
with the museum--

859
00:44:10,460 --> 00:44:10,960
let's see.

860
00:44:10,960 --> 00:44:16,150
Museum opened in '93, so this
must have been in early 1992.

861
00:44:16,150 --> 00:44:19,150
So as of today in
1997, we're talking

862
00:44:19,150 --> 00:44:22,480
five years as a volunteer.

863
00:44:22,480 --> 00:44:24,820
I have maintained my
enthusiasm for it.

864
00:44:24,820 --> 00:44:26,890
I enjoy working with
crowds and people.

865
00:44:26,890 --> 00:44:29,980
And I like the work
on the floor, which

866
00:44:29,980 --> 00:44:32,500
is the Visitor Services part.

867
00:44:32,500 --> 00:44:35,080

But I've also done work for
the Education Department

868
00:44:35,080 --> 00:44:40,220
and worked with people there in
things like planning and things

869
00:44:40,220 --> 00:44:44,900
like developing some
kind of a scheme

870
00:44:44,900 --> 00:44:47,660
for the Outreach
Education portion,

871
00:44:47,660 --> 00:44:50,660
where they deal with the
various states and the schools

872
00:44:50,660 --> 00:44:55,670
in the states and trying to
forge Holocaust education

873
00:44:55,670 --> 00:44:56,900
programs.

874
00:44:56,900 --> 00:44:59,360
In some States,
these are actually

875
00:44:59,360 --> 00:45:01,610
mandated by the legislature.

876
00:45:01,610 --> 00:45:04,640
In other states, they're
recommended by the legislature.

877
00:45:04,640 --> 00:45:07,040
In many states, of course,
there is no such thing,

878
00:45:07,040 --> 00:45:10,010
but there are groups, and

there are individual schools

879

00:45:10,010 --> 00:45:13,250
and school districts that
introduce the subject

880

00:45:13,250 --> 00:45:16,370
either in history
or social science

881

00:45:16,370 --> 00:45:18,710
or in other courses
as part of the course

882

00:45:18,710 --> 00:45:23,880
or as a segment of a course
or as units or as an elective.

883

00:45:23,880 --> 00:45:29,300
And so in that area, I've
done some work with the people

884

00:45:29,300 --> 00:45:30,170
there.

885

00:45:30,170 --> 00:45:34,100
Developing surveys and
analyzing the surveys--

886

00:45:34,100 --> 00:45:36,830
I will be doing that
actually this year.

887

00:45:36,830 --> 00:45:38,030
And I've also served--

888

00:45:38,030 --> 00:45:41,300
this is my second term on
the Volunteer Advisory Board.

889

00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:43,380
I was on the very first
one that was formed,

890
00:45:43,380 --> 00:45:49,250
which again is advising the
manager of volunteers as really

891
00:45:49,250 --> 00:45:52,460
a role and continue to do that.

892
00:45:52,460 --> 00:45:55,980
So that, too, is invigorating.

893
00:45:55,980 --> 00:46:00,020
It gets you back into
the bureaucracy business.

894
00:46:00,020 --> 00:46:03,480
And I always counsel the
following-- be patient.

895
00:46:03,480 --> 00:46:07,670
And if things seem to
go wrong in the museum,

896
00:46:07,670 --> 00:46:10,280
you must reflect on
the fact that it's new

897
00:46:10,280 --> 00:46:14,060
and that it has had an
overwhelming attendance

898
00:46:14,060 --> 00:46:17,450
and that it has served
very well, given all that.

899
00:46:17,450 --> 00:46:20,000
And that if there's criticism
about the people that

900
00:46:20,000 --> 00:46:24,740
are manning the place, that
are in charge or responsible--

901

00:46:24,740 --> 00:46:27,440

there have been criticisms
by some volunteers,

902

00:46:27,440 --> 00:46:31,385

perhaps some of the survivors,
that these people are--

903

00:46:31,385 --> 00:46:34,610

they're not Jewish, and they
don't have the experience.

904

00:46:34,610 --> 00:46:38,060

They don't know enough
about Holocaust history.

905

00:46:38,060 --> 00:46:40,530

I have found that to
be not true at all.

906

00:46:40,530 --> 00:46:42,950

I think most people
working there

907

00:46:42,950 --> 00:46:46,640

have a good appreciation
of the Holocaust history

908

00:46:46,640 --> 00:46:51,750

and are very, very dedicated.

909

00:46:51,750 --> 00:46:55,550

Also, I don't think there's
much base to such criticism.

910

00:46:55,550 --> 00:46:58,660

911

00:46:58,660 --> 00:47:02,350

My last question
concerns the reunion

912

00:47:02,350 --> 00:47:05,410
that you helped to
organize of the Jews who

913
00:47:05,410 --> 00:47:09,190
had been in the Philippines
during the Holocaust.

914
00:47:09,190 --> 00:47:14,210
Well, that was actually
not my own thing.

915
00:47:14,210 --> 00:47:16,270
It began-- my mother,
who has always

916
00:47:16,270 --> 00:47:18,925
been in contact with
one of her friends--

917
00:47:18,925 --> 00:47:20,200
they're from the Philippines.

918
00:47:20,200 --> 00:47:21,760
The lady has now passed on.

919
00:47:21,760 --> 00:47:25,600
But her daughter, who is
married to a retired rabbi

920
00:47:25,600 --> 00:47:29,140
here in the United States, had
made some exchange of letters

921
00:47:29,140 --> 00:47:30,190
with my mother.

922
00:47:30,190 --> 00:47:32,290
And one aspect of it--

923
00:47:32,290 --> 00:47:36,310
I think at one point, she was
also in contact, of course,

924
00:47:36,310 --> 00:47:41,540
with other people her age and
my age about the Philippines.

925
00:47:41,540 --> 00:47:44,320
We were the so-called
teenage generation there--

926
00:47:44,320 --> 00:47:47,470
the members of the
[NON-ENGLISH] some of us.

927
00:47:47,470 --> 00:47:49,900
And she called me
one day and says,

928
00:47:49,900 --> 00:47:51,400
you know, Frank,
I've been thinking.

929
00:47:51,400 --> 00:47:55,240
I've been talking to Eva,
which is another woman.

930
00:47:55,240 --> 00:47:58,390
Maybe we should have a reunion.

931
00:47:58,390 --> 00:47:59,800
What do you think of that idea?

932
00:47:59,800 --> 00:48:01,730
Oh, that sounds
like a good idea.

933
00:48:01,730 --> 00:48:02,960
That would be kind of fun.

934
00:48:02,960 --> 00:48:04,710
There are lots of
people we haven't seen--

935

00:48:04,710 --> 00:48:06,530
I certainly haven't
seen for 50 years.

936
00:48:06,530 --> 00:48:08,260
Others, I have seen
in the meantime.

937
00:48:08,260 --> 00:48:11,800
Yeah, OK, well, she decided
to talk to them for a while.

938
00:48:11,800 --> 00:48:14,380
They said, well, we should
have it in New York.

939
00:48:14,380 --> 00:48:16,300
She's from Connecticut,
and these other people

940
00:48:16,300 --> 00:48:18,483
are from New York, so
naturally in New York.

941
00:48:18,483 --> 00:48:20,650
So I wrote back, well, we
could have it in New York,

942
00:48:20,650 --> 00:48:22,608
but I said we could also
have it in Washington.

943
00:48:22,608 --> 00:48:24,365
I said, after all, we
have two things here

944
00:48:24,365 --> 00:48:25,490
which might be of interest.

945
00:48:25,490 --> 00:48:27,070
One is the Holocaust Museum.

946
00:48:27,070 --> 00:48:29,260

The other is the
Philippine Embassy.

947
00:48:29,260 --> 00:48:29,980
And I don't know.

948
00:48:29,980 --> 00:48:32,710
We might be able to get
something going there-- perhaps

949
00:48:32,710 --> 00:48:33,880
a visit or what.

950
00:48:33,880 --> 00:48:36,250
And I said I'd
certainly try that.

951
00:48:36,250 --> 00:48:38,440
And so finally she wrote back.

952
00:48:38,440 --> 00:48:39,940
Oh, yeah, we had
another discussion

953
00:48:39,940 --> 00:48:40,857
about the whole thing.

954
00:48:40,857 --> 00:48:44,180
And, yes, Washington
would be a good place.

955
00:48:44,180 --> 00:48:47,650
So at that point, we were
in contact quite often.

956
00:48:47,650 --> 00:48:50,620
And we organized the reunion.

957
00:48:50,620 --> 00:48:52,120
The reunion took
place-- let me see.

958

00:48:52,120 --> 00:48:55,910
It was October 19
through October 21, 1996.

959
00:48:55,910 --> 00:48:58,040
I had to make all the
arrangements, of course,

960
00:48:58,040 --> 00:48:59,640
since I was local.

961
00:48:59,640 --> 00:49:01,330
I got the hotel.

962
00:49:01,330 --> 00:49:05,650
And we did manage
finally to get a session

963
00:49:05,650 --> 00:49:09,250
with the Philippine ambassador,
which is kind of interesting,

964
00:49:09,250 --> 00:49:11,620
because when we went
there, they didn't really

965
00:49:11,620 --> 00:49:13,190
know what to do with us.

966
00:49:13,190 --> 00:49:14,770
And we made a presentation.

967
00:49:14,770 --> 00:49:16,060
We gave them a plaque.

968
00:49:16,060 --> 00:49:19,900
And that was designed
to thank the Philippines

969
00:49:19,900 --> 00:49:24,290
for allowing us in, for giving
us shelter, and so forth.

970

00:49:24,290 --> 00:49:27,010

And it was a plaque which had
a picture of a temple on it

971

00:49:27,010 --> 00:49:30,070

and also the picture
of this event

972

00:49:30,070 --> 00:49:32,470

that was held in the
ruins to collect money

973

00:49:32,470 --> 00:49:35,482

on November 9, 1945.

974

00:49:35,482 --> 00:49:36,940

So it had-- on the
bottom, it says,

975

00:49:36,940 --> 00:49:39,590

"In Thanks for"--
and so and so forth--

976

00:49:39,590 --> 00:49:41,348

plaque framed and everything.

977

00:49:41,348 --> 00:49:42,640

Well, the ambassador showed up.

978

00:49:42,640 --> 00:49:44,050

But before he
showed up, they had

979

00:49:44,050 --> 00:49:47,620

us view a film,
which was nothing

980

00:49:47,620 --> 00:49:50,800

more than a
vacation-type commercial

981

00:49:50,800 --> 00:49:52,810

for coming to the
Philippines to lay

982
00:49:52,810 --> 00:49:54,775
on those white beaches
and that stuff.

983
00:49:54,775 --> 00:49:55,900
It was kind of interesting.

984
00:49:55,900 --> 00:50:01,198
Here are all these German
and Austrian and other Jews.

985
00:50:01,198 --> 00:50:02,740
Rather than showing
us something that

986
00:50:02,740 --> 00:50:05,650
dealt with the current
situation in the Philippines

987
00:50:05,650 --> 00:50:09,610
or something like that,
they showed us a travelogue,

988
00:50:09,610 --> 00:50:12,160
if you will.

989
00:50:12,160 --> 00:50:14,440
That just points out
that they were not

990
00:50:14,440 --> 00:50:17,530
really prepared for this kind
of thing that we had in mind

991
00:50:17,530 --> 00:50:19,510
or that we would have liked.

992
00:50:19,510 --> 00:50:22,150
But again, you go with the flow.

993

00:50:22,150 --> 00:50:24,850

And certainly, they
opened the embassy for us.

994

00:50:24,850 --> 00:50:27,100

The ambassador spent
half an hour with us.

995

00:50:27,100 --> 00:50:29,980

They offered us coffee
and cookies afterwards.

996

00:50:29,980 --> 00:50:33,580

And they were trying to be
hospitable and all that,

997

00:50:33,580 --> 00:50:35,230

and that was very nice.

998

00:50:35,230 --> 00:50:37,990

But the other
thing we arranged--

999

00:50:37,990 --> 00:50:40,030

and of course, for that
day we ordered a bus

1000

00:50:40,030 --> 00:50:41,440

to haul everyone about.

1001

00:50:41,440 --> 00:50:43,518

And we [? saw ?] the
private cars as well.

1002

00:50:43,518 --> 00:50:45,310

Because from there, we
were going to lunch.

1003

00:50:45,310 --> 00:50:47,260

From there, we went to
the Holocaust Museum,

1004

00:50:47,260 --> 00:50:51,400
where we were welcomed
by the person that's

1005
00:50:51,400 --> 00:50:54,820
head of the Survivor
Registry, Ioanid--

1006
00:50:54,820 --> 00:50:57,820

1007
00:50:57,820 --> 00:51:02,800
I think his name's
Ioanid, Dr. Ioanid.

1008
00:51:02,800 --> 00:51:05,230
Oh, Dr. Radu Ioanid,
that's right.

1009
00:51:05,230 --> 00:51:08,020
And so that, of course,
was very interesting.

1010
00:51:08,020 --> 00:51:10,120
Some had been to the
Holocaust Museum.

1011
00:51:10,120 --> 00:51:12,340
They were from the New
York area, had been there.

1012
00:51:12,340 --> 00:51:14,530
We had one person coming
all the way from Israel.

1013
00:51:14,530 --> 00:51:18,400
And she does travel a lot, so
it was on one of her trips.

1014
00:51:18,400 --> 00:51:21,730
And the other thing we had
was, of course, at the hotel,

1015

00:51:21,730 --> 00:51:25,000
we had in the first
evening-- we had a reception,

1016
00:51:25,000 --> 00:51:26,230
and we had dinner.

1017
00:51:26,230 --> 00:51:29,280
And each person
introduced themselves

1018
00:51:29,280 --> 00:51:32,140
who was from the Philippines,
who had been there.

1019
00:51:32,140 --> 00:51:35,470
We had also attending one
of the Army chaplains, who

1020
00:51:35,470 --> 00:51:38,650
was very instrumental in
founding the [INAUDIBLE]

1021
00:51:38,650 --> 00:51:40,730
and helping the
Jewish community.

1022
00:51:40,730 --> 00:51:42,760
And we had one
other soldier there

1023
00:51:42,760 --> 00:51:49,090
who was also part of
the liberating force.

1024
00:51:49,090 --> 00:51:51,010
He comes from Pottsville--

1025
00:51:51,010 --> 00:51:52,720
Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

1026
00:51:52,720 --> 00:51:55,840
And he and his brother, Alvin--

1027
00:51:55,840 --> 00:51:57,610
forgot his last name
now at the moment.

1028
00:51:57,610 --> 00:52:00,140
But he was there as well.

1029
00:52:00,140 --> 00:52:05,050
We also had the people from
the American side of the Manila

1030
00:52:05,050 --> 00:52:06,400
Jewish community.

1031
00:52:06,400 --> 00:52:09,940
We had two daughters
of Alex Frieder there.

1032
00:52:09,940 --> 00:52:13,960
And, yes, because there
was a third daughter

1033
00:52:13,960 --> 00:52:16,120
who lived right here in
the town of Somerset who

1034
00:52:16,120 --> 00:52:19,300
was married to the mayor.

1035
00:52:19,300 --> 00:52:21,010
Accidentally when
we first moved here,

1036
00:52:21,010 --> 00:52:26,740
found out that her name had been
Frieder, Louise Frieder, one

1037
00:52:26,740 --> 00:52:28,540
of the daughters
of Alex Frieder,

1038

00:52:28,540 --> 00:52:30,910
whom I had mentioned
much earlier as having

1039
00:52:30,910 --> 00:52:32,560
been president of
the Jewish community.

1040
00:52:32,560 --> 00:52:36,010
So we had the two Freiders here
and a couple of other people

1041
00:52:36,010 --> 00:52:38,410
who were of the
so-called "American clan"

1042
00:52:38,410 --> 00:52:41,230
of the Jewish community
in the Philippines.

1043
00:52:41,230 --> 00:52:43,480
And of course, they all
spoke and introduced them.

1044
00:52:43,480 --> 00:52:46,660
And I might add, one of
them was Becky Konigsburg.

1045
00:52:46,660 --> 00:52:52,630
Her father was the man that
ran the Temple proceedings

1046
00:52:52,630 --> 00:52:54,580
in Manila before the rabbi came.

1047
00:52:54,580 --> 00:52:56,680
And if I remember
mentioning that he owned

1048
00:52:56,680 --> 00:52:58,390
the bookstore, too, in Manila.

1049
00:52:58,390 --> 00:52:59,470

She was there.

1050
00:52:59,470 --> 00:53:04,090
And she was out of, I
believe, Teaneck, New York--

1051
00:53:04,090 --> 00:53:05,590
New Jersey, I'm sorry--

1052
00:53:05,590 --> 00:53:06,250
State.

1053
00:53:06,250 --> 00:53:07,630
She was there with her daughter.

1054
00:53:07,630 --> 00:53:10,810
And some of the Frieders
came with a younger--

1055
00:53:10,810 --> 00:53:13,450
with one or two
daughters, and one

1056
00:53:13,450 --> 00:53:15,460
of whom is at Berkeley--
lives in Berkeley,

1057
00:53:15,460 --> 00:53:16,940
doesn't go to school anymore.

1058
00:53:16,940 --> 00:53:19,150
And she did a lot
of videotaping.

1059
00:53:19,150 --> 00:53:20,800
We had several
people do videotaping

1060
00:53:20,800 --> 00:53:23,980
of the affair, various
parts of the affair.

1061

00:53:23,980 --> 00:53:25,790
So that was the first night.

1062
00:53:25,790 --> 00:53:27,730
And the second day--

1063
00:53:27,730 --> 00:53:28,600
why, let's see.

1064
00:53:28,600 --> 00:53:30,550
What did we do the second day?

1065
00:53:30,550 --> 00:53:33,460
We had a morning brunch, which
lasted for four hours, where

1066
00:53:33,460 --> 00:53:35,050
we exchanged memorabilia.

1067
00:53:35,050 --> 00:53:39,910
We had pictures of ourselves
and others during those days.

1068
00:53:39,910 --> 00:53:42,130
And one woman who
was now 85 years

1069
00:53:42,130 --> 00:53:43,540
old-- she brought
a [? mickan, ?]

1070
00:53:43,540 --> 00:53:46,810
which was a bomb that went
off very close to her.

1071
00:53:46,810 --> 00:53:49,030
And it was a piece like that.

1072
00:53:49,030 --> 00:53:53,350
And people brought
lots of photos.

1073

00:53:53,350 --> 00:53:56,110
And we laid them on these
big tables that we had.

1074
00:53:56,110 --> 00:53:57,610
And we all looked at them.

1075
00:53:57,610 --> 00:54:01,150
And we all laughed about
it and stuff like that.

1076
00:54:01,150 --> 00:54:05,800
And we all told our life story
since then at that brunch

1077
00:54:05,800 --> 00:54:07,930
the next morning at the hotel.

1078
00:54:07,930 --> 00:54:10,750
And after that, we
had some hours' break.

1079
00:54:10,750 --> 00:54:13,660
And then I had everybody
over here at my house.

1080
00:54:13,660 --> 00:54:15,910
We had 60 people
stuffed in here.

1081
00:54:15,910 --> 00:54:17,980
And then we had a
buffet dinner for that.

1082
00:54:17,980 --> 00:54:20,045
And that was kind of fun.

1083
00:54:20,045 --> 00:54:21,670
And then the next
day was the last day,

1084
00:54:21,670 --> 00:54:23,530
and that was the day

we went in the morning

1085
00:54:23,530 --> 00:54:25,660
by bus to the
Philippine embassy,

1086
00:54:25,660 --> 00:54:28,270
and then thereafter to lunch
and to the Holocaust Museum.

1087
00:54:28,270 --> 00:54:30,790
And that ended the reunion.

1088
00:54:30,790 --> 00:54:32,590
There are different
views on the reunion.

1089
00:54:32,590 --> 00:54:35,650
There were people there from
the-- that were very young age,

1090
00:54:35,650 --> 00:54:37,960
who were children at the time--

1091
00:54:37,960 --> 00:54:39,700
babies.

1092
00:54:39,700 --> 00:54:43,240
In fact, one set was born in
the United States of parents

1093
00:54:43,240 --> 00:54:44,680
that were in the Philippines.

1094
00:54:44,680 --> 00:54:47,890
There were people there up
to the age of about 85, 86.

1095
00:54:47,890 --> 00:54:50,510
Two women showed up that age.

1096
00:54:50,510 --> 00:54:54,460

And so there was
a range of people.

1097
00:54:54,460 --> 00:54:59,218
We were actually over 60 people,
out of which about half or so

1098
00:54:59,218 --> 00:55:00,760
had actually been
in the Philippines.

1099
00:55:00,760 --> 00:55:03,200
The others were spouses.

1100
00:55:03,200 --> 00:55:04,900
So it was an exciting time.

1101
00:55:04,900 --> 00:55:07,000
Some people said, oh, we'd
like to do this again.

1102
00:55:07,000 --> 00:55:09,730
Others said, no, this was
once-- such a great affair.

1103
00:55:09,730 --> 00:55:12,610
I'm not sure they
wanted to do it again--

1104
00:55:12,610 --> 00:55:14,080
different opinions.

1105
00:55:14,080 --> 00:55:16,540
But since then, we've been
in contact, some of us.

1106
00:55:16,540 --> 00:55:19,810
And also we'll be meeting
again, if we all can,

1107
00:55:19,810 --> 00:55:22,450
here next month in
May in New York.

1108
00:55:22,450 --> 00:55:26,050
Two or three of us will
be there at the same time

1109
00:55:26,050 --> 00:55:29,540
for some other reasons,
and so we'll meet again.

1110
00:55:29,540 --> 00:55:32,740
But it was a an
exciting experience.

1111
00:55:32,740 --> 00:55:35,110
Also, interesting, too,
what's happened to people--

1112
00:55:35,110 --> 00:55:37,510
were we able to
recognize one another?

1113
00:55:37,510 --> 00:55:39,670
And interestingly
enough, yeah, you

1114
00:55:39,670 --> 00:55:42,812
could more or less
tell who it was perhaps

1115
00:55:42,812 --> 00:55:44,770
if you knew the people
back in the Philippines.

1116
00:55:44,770 --> 00:55:48,460
In some cases, I didn't remember
them or what they looked like.

1117
00:55:48,460 --> 00:55:50,840
But that was exciting.

1118
00:55:50,840 --> 00:55:55,910
That was a unique experience.

1119

00:55:55,910 --> 00:55:57,700

I'm about to close
the interview up.

1120

00:55:57,700 --> 00:55:59,290

And I just wanted
to ask you if there

1121

00:55:59,290 --> 00:56:03,793

was anything else that you
would like to add before I stop.

1122

00:56:03,793 --> 00:56:05,710

Well, you know, we've
covered a lot of ground.

1123

00:56:05,710 --> 00:56:11,650

And at the moment, I'm at a loss
as to what else to talk about.

1124

00:56:11,650 --> 00:56:14,770

And so I certainly will close
instead of yakking along any

1125

00:56:14,770 --> 00:56:16,630

further and so on.

1126

00:56:16,630 --> 00:56:19,180

As I say again, it's
been an excellent time.

1127

00:56:19,180 --> 00:56:23,110

And I've enjoyed
telling this story.

1128

00:56:23,110 --> 00:56:24,360

I hope it's of value.

1129

00:56:24,360 --> 00:56:27,310

And of course,
there's so many others

1130

00:56:27,310 --> 00:56:31,270
that have many things to
say and to talk about.

1131
00:56:31,270 --> 00:56:35,080
But again, we go back to the
fundamental lesson learned,

1132
00:56:35,080 --> 00:56:38,810
and that is, again, the
notion of Jews as a state,

1133
00:56:38,810 --> 00:56:40,150
as a nation--

1134
00:56:40,150 --> 00:56:43,600
far more important than
Jews as a religion.

1135
00:56:43,600 --> 00:56:45,960
The religion can
collapse on you.

1136
00:56:45,960 --> 00:56:50,200
It's a bond, certainly.

1137
00:56:50,200 --> 00:56:54,940
It is a common
thread, but it is not

1138
00:56:54,940 --> 00:56:57,670
something that will necessarily
be with you in perpetuity

1139
00:56:57,670 --> 00:57:02,500
because that's not
a building block.

1140
00:57:02,500 --> 00:57:08,230
A nation represents not just the
intellectuals, the physicians

1141
00:57:08,230 --> 00:57:11,080

and the lawyers
and the thinkers,

1142
00:57:11,080 --> 00:57:14,110
but it really
reflects what indeed

1143
00:57:14,110 --> 00:57:17,800
is in large part occurring
in the state of Israel,

1144
00:57:17,800 --> 00:57:21,100
where Jews are in many fields--

1145
00:57:21,100 --> 00:57:26,062
farmers and what have
you, policemen, laborers.

1146
00:57:26,062 --> 00:57:28,270
Although, of course, they're
using the Arabs for that

1147
00:57:28,270 --> 00:57:29,500
quite a bit.

1148
00:57:29,500 --> 00:57:32,590
Still, that is what
builds a nation.

1149
00:57:32,590 --> 00:57:34,570
And that is what
is survivability,

1150
00:57:34,570 --> 00:57:37,060
and that is the best
basis for any defense--

1151
00:57:37,060 --> 00:57:41,260
that is, in cases where
Jews are under threat.

1152
00:57:41,260 --> 00:57:46,110
So this is a primary conceptual

philosophical lesson.

1153
00:57:46,110 --> 00:57:47,860
The others, of course
are the personal one

1154
00:57:47,860 --> 00:57:51,110
again-- the ability
to be self-sufficient,

1155
00:57:51,110 --> 00:57:55,210
self-starting, and calm,
cool, and collected.

1156
00:57:55,210 --> 00:57:57,520
Cannot always be done.

1157
00:57:57,520 --> 00:58:00,280
There's the human
element, of course.

1158
00:58:00,280 --> 00:58:04,780
But these are the sort of bases.

1159
00:58:04,780 --> 00:58:08,260
And again, the dangers
that one confronts

1160
00:58:08,260 --> 00:58:12,940
is that bureaucracy,
the crowd, the formation

1161
00:58:12,940 --> 00:58:16,420
of a crowd-- an interesting
book is the Crowds and Power

1162
00:58:16,420 --> 00:58:20,770
by Canetti, the Nobel
Prize winner in 1981,

1163
00:58:20,770 --> 00:58:25,270
who wrote about the
crowd in other novels.

1164
00:58:25,270 --> 00:58:29,560
But the development of crowds,
which then turn into mobs,

1165
00:58:29,560 --> 00:58:37,000
is a framework and also reflects
what happened in Germany--

1166
00:58:37,000 --> 00:58:41,950
that from a bunch of
ragamuffins, a bunch of freaks,

1167
00:58:41,950 --> 00:58:48,520
generated a cult, Nazism, which
could manipulate through pure

1168
00:58:48,520 --> 00:58:51,710
power of speech on the part
of Adolf Hitler and Goebbels

1169
00:58:51,710 --> 00:58:57,280
and others a people who were
vulnerable-- the Germans,

1170
00:58:57,280 --> 00:58:58,030
that is--

1171
00:58:58,030 --> 00:59:03,850
and susceptible and easily
molded to do things which

1172
00:59:03,850 --> 00:59:07,720
the normal, civilized people--
even the aborigine in New

1173
00:59:07,720 --> 00:59:13,540
Guinea who led a downed
pilot back to his base--

1174
00:59:13,540 --> 00:59:15,070
would not do.

1175

00:59:15,070 --> 00:59:19,120

So this is something
to keep in mind--

1176

00:59:19,120 --> 00:59:24,910

the degeneration of bureaucracy
and the formation of crowds.

1177

00:59:24,910 --> 00:59:31,600

These are one of the key dangers
or flags one must watch for.

1178

00:59:31,600 --> 00:59:32,530

Thanks, Frank.

1179

00:59:32,530 --> 00:59:36,040

This concludes the interview
with Frank Ephraim on April

1180

00:59:36,040 --> 00:59:38,670

the 7th, 1997.

1181

00:59:38,670 --> 00:59:41,000