

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,330

2

00:00:02,330 --> 00:00:04,880

This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:04,880 --> 00:00:08,540

Memorial Museum interview  
with George Arnstein.

4

00:00:08,540 --> 00:00:11,210

This is track number three.

5

00:00:11,210 --> 00:00:13,760

And let's talk now a little  
bit about your thoughts

6

00:00:13,760 --> 00:00:17,840

and your perspectives  
considering where you were born

7

00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:19,130

and what you went through.

8

00:00:19,130 --> 00:00:21,195

What are your thoughts  
about Germany today?

9

00:00:21,195 --> 00:00:24,990

10

00:00:24,990 --> 00:00:27,900

You said you've gone  
back, obviously, on visits

11

00:00:27,900 --> 00:00:29,370

and lectures.

12

00:00:29,370 --> 00:00:30,240

Just generally.

13  
00:00:30,240 --> 00:00:33,000  
Let me detour.

14  
00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:39,010  
My wife was a powerful  
influence in my life,

15  
00:00:39,010 --> 00:00:45,530  
which I'm sure happens in other  
marriages, too, but unusually

16  
00:00:45,530 --> 00:00:46,030  
so.

17  
00:00:46,030 --> 00:00:51,250  
She was smart, competent,  
sensitive, et cetera.

18  
00:00:51,250 --> 00:00:58,040  
On our first trip to Europe,  
which she was eager to do,

19  
00:00:58,040 --> 00:01:04,030  
we also stopped off in  
Stuttgart ostensibly

20  
00:01:04,030 --> 00:01:07,720  
to liquidate a  
wicker basket, which

21  
00:01:07,720 --> 00:01:12,280  
had been deposited by  
my great-aunt Claire

22  
00:01:12,280 --> 00:01:14,350  
with a bank in Stuttgart.

23  
00:01:14,350 --> 00:01:25,130  
When Claire, American born,  
great-aunt, and the bank

24

00:01:25,130 --> 00:01:30,350  
had charged annually a  
modest deposit fee, rent.

25  
00:01:30,350 --> 00:01:34,730  
And my wife said, we've  
got to liquidate that--

26  
00:01:34,730 --> 00:01:37,420  
fine-- among other things.

27  
00:01:37,420 --> 00:01:42,200  
She also said-- and this  
is typical of my wife--

28  
00:01:42,200 --> 00:01:47,080  
I want to know  
where you came from.

29  
00:01:47,080 --> 00:01:51,190  
So we looked at the house we  
lived in and things like that.

30  
00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:52,620  
We also went to the bank.

31  
00:01:52,620 --> 00:01:56,250  
Took half an hour to  
produce the wicker basket.

32  
00:01:56,250 --> 00:02:07,820  
And it contained linens,  
towels, 12 pieces of silverware,

33  
00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:11,510  
which, however, is not sterling,  
because the German standard is

34  
00:02:11,510 --> 00:02:19,970  
only 875 and sterling is  
92% or something like that.

35  
00:02:19,970 --> 00:02:24,710

And there also were  
a couple of armbands.

36  
00:02:24,710 --> 00:02:27,260

37  
00:02:27,260 --> 00:02:30,680  
She said, oh, I think  
there was something

38  
00:02:30,680 --> 00:02:33,740  
that turned out to be gold.

39  
00:02:33,740 --> 00:02:38,660  
And one went to my sister  
and one went to Sherry.

40  
00:02:38,660 --> 00:02:42,210  
She spotted them.

41  
00:02:42,210 --> 00:02:48,610  
The linens we gave to former  
maids, whom we also looked up.

42  
00:02:48,610 --> 00:02:58,720  
The pieces of silver we took  
to a local silversmith jewelry

43  
00:02:58,720 --> 00:03:00,870  
store.

44  
00:03:00,870 --> 00:03:04,010  
We would like to buy--

45  
00:03:04,010 --> 00:03:07,520  
we had German restitution funds.

46  
00:03:07,520 --> 00:03:12,320  
We would like to buy  
12 place settings.

47  
00:03:12,320 --> 00:03:15,440

And they said, we can't  
do that, because we

48  
00:03:15,440 --> 00:03:17,060  
don't have enough silver.

49  
00:03:17,060 --> 00:03:18,920  
And we can't import any.

50  
00:03:18,920 --> 00:03:21,410  
You have to have  
old silver to trade.

51  
00:03:21,410 --> 00:03:26,630  
And I said, well, we just  
happen to have this pile.

52  
00:03:26,630 --> 00:03:30,230  
And literally, that's  
how it happened.

53  
00:03:30,230 --> 00:03:35,840  
And that is how today I  
own place settings for 12

54  
00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:38,075  
in almost sterling silver.

55  
00:03:38,075 --> 00:03:41,110

56  
00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:45,220  
You asked about my  
feelings about Stuttgart,

57  
00:03:45,220 --> 00:03:54,050  
this is an example of my wife's  
influence in, to some extent,

58  
00:03:54,050 --> 00:03:55,310  
reconciling me.

59

00:03:55,310 --> 00:03:59,130

And on that same trip--

60

00:03:59,130 --> 00:03:59,910

oh.

61

00:03:59,910 --> 00:04:00,830

What year was that?

62

00:04:00,830 --> 00:04:01,500

When did you go?

63

00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:05,760

64

00:04:05,760 --> 00:04:07,110

'57, '58.

65

00:04:07,110 --> 00:04:08,236

Oh, the 1950's.

66

00:04:08,236 --> 00:04:08,736

OK.

67

00:04:08,736 --> 00:04:12,670

68

00:04:12,670 --> 00:04:16,089

I also engaged in a  
long correspondence

69

00:04:16,089 --> 00:04:18,910

dealing with restitution.

70

00:04:18,910 --> 00:04:22,210

My mother doesn't type.

71

00:04:22,210 --> 00:04:25,240

My sister doesn't know German.

72

00:04:25,240 --> 00:04:28,360

She does, but badly.

73

00:04:28,360 --> 00:04:30,460

And so it befell to me.

74

00:04:30,460 --> 00:04:34,280

And I inherited all these  
documents from my aunt Nellie,

75

00:04:34,280 --> 00:04:37,630

from my mother,  
from my grandmother.

76

00:04:37,630 --> 00:04:42,530

I still have an enormous  
collection of them.

77

00:04:42,530 --> 00:04:47,060

And I successfully pursued any  
number of restitution claims.

78

00:04:47,060 --> 00:04:48,620

Successfully has its limits.

79

00:04:48,620 --> 00:04:52,160

80

00:04:52,160 --> 00:04:57,260

They were put into  
blocked mark accounts,

81

00:04:57,260 --> 00:05:01,850

because Germany, in those  
days, had no foreign currency.

82

00:05:01,850 --> 00:05:05,020

They were essentially bankrupt.

83

00:05:05,020 --> 00:05:08,100

So you could use the  
money within Germany,

84

00:05:08,100 --> 00:05:09,170  
but you could not--

85  
00:05:09,170 --> 00:05:10,940  
or you could sell  
it in Switzerland

86  
00:05:10,940 --> 00:05:17,030  
at a terrific discount, which  
we did a couple of times.

87  
00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:19,730  
And of course, I  
shared everything

88  
00:05:19,730 --> 00:05:20,900  
with my mother and sister.

89  
00:05:20,900 --> 00:05:23,900

90  
00:05:23,900 --> 00:05:26,240  
The result is that  
we were wealthy

91  
00:05:26,240 --> 00:05:28,815  
when we were in Stuttgart.

92  
00:05:28,815 --> 00:05:31,545

93  
00:05:31,545 --> 00:05:38,420  
In the process I engaged  
a lawyer in Stuttgart,

94  
00:05:38,420 --> 00:05:44,120  
and got a letter from  
one of his interns,

95  
00:05:44,120 --> 00:05:48,770  
for lack of a better name,  
who identified himself



96

00:05:48,770 --> 00:05:53,960

as a former classmate, who  
is now an apprentice lawyer.

97

00:05:53,960 --> 00:05:56,750

And he would fully  
understand if I did not want

98

00:05:56,750 --> 00:06:00,140

to continue the correspondence.

99

00:06:00,140 --> 00:06:03,540

The point is I did, and  
we're still friends today.

100

00:06:03,540 --> 00:06:08,120

His kids have visited  
here, and et cetera.

101

00:06:08,120 --> 00:06:13,880

P.S. his father was a printer  
with the pre-war Social

102

00:06:13,880 --> 00:06:17,840

Democratic Newspaper, in  
other words, left leaning.

103

00:06:17,840 --> 00:06:23,590

104

00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:28,960

So that is another, shall  
we say, point of reference

105

00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:33,550

where we had access to a--

106

00:06:33,550 --> 00:06:35,050

oh, they weren't  
living in Stuttgart

107

00:06:35,050 --> 00:06:41,350

they had been evacuated during  
the war, where my wife got

108  
00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:44,200  
a feeling for how  
Germans lived, and what's

109  
00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:51,670  
most curious to learn  
about my previous life.

110  
00:06:51,670 --> 00:06:53,110  
Is this the kind of stuff?

111  
00:06:53,110 --> 00:06:55,390  
Well, yeah.

112  
00:06:55,390 --> 00:06:57,262  
I just wanted to go into your--

113  
00:06:57,262 --> 00:06:58,142  
Oh.

114  
00:06:58,142 --> 00:06:59,600  
--what your thoughts  
about Germany,

115  
00:06:59,600 --> 00:07:01,720  
whether you're  
comfortable there.

116  
00:07:01,720 --> 00:07:07,390  
At the Ost-Kolleg, the  
lecture I gave in German,

117  
00:07:07,390 --> 00:07:09,580  
very significant.

118  
00:07:09,580 --> 00:07:16,780  
I faced a decision if I  
accepted that invitation,

119

00:07:16,780 --> 00:07:20,230  
for which there was  
a trivial honorarium,

120  
00:07:20,230 --> 00:07:22,360  
I had to accept the Germans.

121  
00:07:22,360 --> 00:07:24,310  
I had to make my peace.

122  
00:07:24,310 --> 00:07:28,240  
So I was confronted with  
a decision, and I made it.

123  
00:07:28,240 --> 00:07:31,810  
And in the affirmative if  
you want to put it that way.

124  
00:07:31,810 --> 00:07:36,020

125  
00:07:36,020 --> 00:07:42,440  
Germans today are two  
generations removed from then.

126  
00:07:42,440 --> 00:07:45,490

127  
00:07:45,490 --> 00:07:48,670  
Every once in a while I  
run into somebody, who,

128  
00:07:48,670 --> 00:07:51,280  
of course, is of my generation.

129  
00:07:51,280 --> 00:07:54,250

130  
00:07:54,250 --> 00:07:58,900  
And there I tend  
to have problems.

131

00:07:58,900 --> 00:08:01,210  
Nothing hostile.

132  
00:08:01,210 --> 00:08:04,360  
They all behave very properly.

133  
00:08:04,360 --> 00:08:08,480  
And I behave, I hope, properly.

134  
00:08:08,480 --> 00:08:10,610  
But I simply don't  
relate to them the way

135  
00:08:10,610 --> 00:08:14,390  
I relate to younger people.

136  
00:08:14,390 --> 00:08:18,120

137  
00:08:18,120 --> 00:08:26,010  
There is an American foundation,  
the Obermeyer Foundation.

138  
00:08:26,010 --> 00:08:28,350  
Arthur Obermeyer is  
a third generation

139  
00:08:28,350 --> 00:08:33,760  
American of German Jewish  
descent from Southwest Germany.

140  
00:08:33,760 --> 00:08:38,970  
And he has established  
an annual award

141  
00:08:38,970 --> 00:08:43,440  
honoring those Germans who are  
doing something to keep alive

142  
00:08:43,440 --> 00:08:48,050  
the German Jewish memory.

143

00:08:48,050 --> 00:08:52,040

It's mostly the  
restoration of cemeteries

144

00:08:52,040 --> 00:08:55,070

and that kind of stuff.

145

00:08:55,070 --> 00:09:02,710

And four years ago, Hans Hirsch,  
and I, and a couple of others

146

00:09:02,710 --> 00:09:08,690

nominated somebody successfully.

147

00:09:08,690 --> 00:09:10,850

And I thought, OK,  
I've done my thing.

148

00:09:10,850 --> 00:09:14,310

So Hans asked me,  
you're going, of course?

149

00:09:14,310 --> 00:09:16,610

I said, it hadn't  
occurred to me.

150

00:09:16,610 --> 00:09:19,820

But I went and found  
it very interesting.

151

00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:22,010

And I'll spare you the details.

152

00:09:22,010 --> 00:09:25,100

I have since done  
it three more times,

153

00:09:25,100 --> 00:09:28,170

mostly because we have  
identified various people.

154

00:09:28,170 --> 00:09:32,660

And we're currently waiting

to see whether this year's

155  
00:09:32,660 --> 00:09:36,800  
nominees were elected or not.

156  
00:09:36,800 --> 00:09:40,480

157  
00:09:40,480 --> 00:09:44,290  
The trip to Berlin  
was interesting to me

158  
00:09:44,290 --> 00:09:48,550  
also, because I wanted to meet  
this German historian, who

159  
00:09:48,550 --> 00:09:53,580  
is also interested in  
the six week occupation.

160  
00:09:53,580 --> 00:09:59,010  
It turns out he was conceived  
during that occupation

161  
00:09:59,010 --> 00:10:01,740  
of an American and  
a German mother.

162  
00:10:01,740 --> 00:10:03,960  
That's his motivation.

163  
00:10:03,960 --> 00:10:09,180  
And he doesn't  
speak much English.

164  
00:10:09,180 --> 00:10:12,480  
He has since discovered  
his American father,

165  
00:10:12,480 --> 00:10:16,560  
and has been accepted  
by the family in Ohio,

166

00:10:16,560 --> 00:10:23,220  
or wherever, still doesn't  
speak much English.

167

00:10:23,220 --> 00:10:29,220  
But he has been very helpful in  
taking me sightseeing to pieces

168

00:10:29,220 --> 00:10:34,950  
of Berlin that I would not have  
seen otherwise and, obviously,

169

00:10:34,950 --> 00:10:36,480  
is of a different generation.

170

00:10:36,480 --> 00:10:39,270

171

00:10:39,270 --> 00:10:42,330  
Do you think you would  
be a different person

172

00:10:42,330 --> 00:10:47,520  
today if you hadn't gone  
through the childhood

173

00:10:47,520 --> 00:10:51,900  
that you had living through  
the beginnings of Nazi Germany

174

00:10:51,900 --> 00:10:54,690  
and having to leave  
your home country?

175

00:10:54,690 --> 00:10:57,606  
Yes.

176

00:10:57,606 --> 00:10:59,670  
Different psychologically?

177

00:10:59,670 --> 00:11:05,310  
I can tell, because my sister,

being three years younger,

178

00:11:05,310 --> 00:11:10,350  
and married to an American with  
three American, California born

179

00:11:10,350 --> 00:11:19,950  
kids knows about American  
childhood rhymes, stories,

180

00:11:19,950 --> 00:11:21,420  
anecdotes.

181

00:11:21,420 --> 00:11:25,665  
I, not having kids, and  
being just a bit older--

182

00:11:25,665 --> 00:11:28,730

183

00:11:28,730 --> 00:11:32,150  
oh, I vaguely know who  
Old Mother Hubbard was,

184

00:11:32,150 --> 00:11:36,170  
but not really.

185

00:11:36,170 --> 00:11:42,340  
In that sense, I am  
not fully assimilated.

186

00:11:42,340 --> 00:11:43,960  
You asked me, would  
I be different,

187

00:11:43,960 --> 00:11:45,610  
yes, I would be different.

188

00:11:45,610 --> 00:11:49,863  
But I didn't have that kind  
of childhood or experiences.

189



00:11:49,863 --> 00:11:51,530

Yeah, I also meant  
like psychologically.

190

00:11:51,530 --> 00:11:57,340

In background knowledge,  
right, but psychologically,

191

00:11:57,340 --> 00:12:00,140

do you think?

192

00:12:00,140 --> 00:12:00,920

Yes.

193

00:12:00,920 --> 00:12:08,330

I still have certain  
German habits, customs.

194

00:12:08,330 --> 00:12:13,130

The way I was brought  
up is emphasizes

195

00:12:13,130 --> 00:12:14,840

deferred gratification.

196

00:12:14,840 --> 00:12:20,250

197

00:12:20,250 --> 00:12:27,990

Maybe fewer white  
lies, maybe too much

198

00:12:27,990 --> 00:12:34,560

adherence to telling the truth,  
even when it shouldn't be told.

199

00:12:34,560 --> 00:12:40,150

200

00:12:40,150 --> 00:12:43,700

Now, my wife taught  
me an awful lot

201  
00:12:43,700 --> 00:12:47,500  
and certainly has  
Americanized me.

202  
00:12:47,500 --> 00:12:55,300

203  
00:12:55,300 --> 00:12:58,020  
I think that's as  
far as I can go.

204  
00:12:58,020 --> 00:13:00,220  
What are your thoughts  
about being Jewish?

205  
00:13:00,220 --> 00:13:02,800  
Did you become-- you  
didn't realize it

206  
00:13:02,800 --> 00:13:05,560  
until you were older.

207  
00:13:05,560 --> 00:13:10,630  
Have you become  
more Jewish or not?

208  
00:13:10,630 --> 00:13:15,850  
I have for the past  
dozen years or so,

209  
00:13:15,850 --> 00:13:24,720  
longer than that my wife,  
been very active in doing

210  
00:13:24,720 --> 00:13:27,150  
family history, genealogy.

211  
00:13:27,150 --> 00:13:33,720  
My wife teased me until I  
started compiling her family

212  
00:13:33,720 --> 00:13:36,330

history, which is quite  
limited, of course,

213  
00:13:36,330 --> 00:13:40,410  
because Eastern resources are.

214  
00:13:40,410 --> 00:13:45,820  
But I discovered  
a cousin of hers,

215  
00:13:45,820 --> 00:13:48,460  
who had fled the Soviet  
Union and lived in Germany.

216  
00:13:48,460 --> 00:13:50,970

217  
00:13:50,970 --> 00:13:54,480  
I corresponded with  
that cousin, who

218  
00:13:54,480 --> 00:14:02,150  
said, oh, you, Sherry,  
have an uncle in Leningrad,

219  
00:14:02,150 --> 00:14:06,680  
whereupon we took  
a Baltic cruise.

220  
00:14:06,680 --> 00:14:14,320  
First, lined up a  
local recent immigrant,

221  
00:14:14,320 --> 00:14:20,140  
who made a phone call to  
the uncle in Leningrad

222  
00:14:20,140 --> 00:14:26,190  
and basically arranged that  
we would meet in Leningrad

223  
00:14:26,190 --> 00:14:28,710  
when our ship stopped there.

224  
00:14:28,710 --> 00:14:35,620  
The uncle imported a cousin of  
Sherry's, who lived in Moscow,

225  
00:14:35,620 --> 00:14:39,000  
a retired teacher  
of English, who

226  
00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:42,570  
had never been in an  
English speaking country

227  
00:14:42,570 --> 00:14:46,200  
to serve as interpreter.

228  
00:14:46,200 --> 00:14:48,420  
In short, my wife  
has forgiven me

229  
00:14:48,420 --> 00:14:50,110  
my interest in family history.

230  
00:14:50,110 --> 00:14:53,000

231  
00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:54,450  
I'm being glib, of course.

232  
00:14:54,450 --> 00:14:58,810

233  
00:14:58,810 --> 00:15:03,280  
Why did I engage in what  
is clearly unequivocally

234  
00:15:03,280 --> 00:15:04,510  
Jewish family history?

235  
00:15:04,510 --> 00:15:06,640  
I learned a whole lot  
about my ancestors,

236  
00:15:06,640 --> 00:15:10,420  
who spoke probably  
Western Yiddish, who

237  
00:15:10,420 --> 00:15:13,390  
clearly were observant.

238  
00:15:13,390 --> 00:15:18,910  
I have a great-grandfather,  
who was either a parnas or--

239  
00:15:18,910 --> 00:15:24,160

240  
00:15:24,160 --> 00:15:27,000  
but it's all  
historical interest.

241  
00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:28,990  
It doesn't do anything for me.

242  
00:15:28,990 --> 00:15:33,580  
In the emotional  
Jewish sense, I am

243  
00:15:33,580 --> 00:15:42,280  
ethnically Jewish as  
non-observant as can be.

244  
00:15:42,280 --> 00:15:44,440  
The only time I  
go to a synagogue

245  
00:15:44,440 --> 00:15:45,775  
is for weddings and funerals.

246  
00:15:45,775 --> 00:15:51,890

247  
00:15:51,890 --> 00:16:02,820  
Hans has forgiven me,

clearly that's it.

248

00:16:02,820 --> 00:16:06,230

What are your  
thoughts about Israel?

249

00:16:06,230 --> 00:16:10,100

Do you feel a connection?

250

00:16:10,100 --> 00:16:13,830

That's an awkward question  
or an awkward answer.

251

00:16:13,830 --> 00:16:18,910

252

00:16:18,910 --> 00:16:27,940

I keep thinking the Jewish  
claim to Palestine, to Israel,

253

00:16:27,940 --> 00:16:31,330

is a little bit like, are we  
ready to give America back

254

00:16:31,330 --> 00:16:31,975

to the Indians?

255

00:16:31,975 --> 00:16:40,450

256

00:16:40,450 --> 00:16:43,600

I'm conflicted, obviously.

257

00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:44,650

I am not a Zionist.

258

00:16:44,650 --> 00:16:47,630

259

00:16:47,630 --> 00:16:50,720

I am vaguely pro-Israel.

260

00:16:50,720 --> 00:16:54,520

But it's a tenuous connection.

261

00:16:54,520 --> 00:16:56,600

Have you been there?

262

00:16:56,600 --> 00:17:00,260

We've been there twice,  
but superficially.

263

00:17:00,260 --> 00:17:03,830

We took Mediterranean cruises,  
and the ship docked in Haifa.

264

00:17:03,830 --> 00:17:07,490

And we had 36 hours.

265

00:17:07,490 --> 00:17:09,740

I walked the  
stations of the cross

266

00:17:09,740 --> 00:17:16,040

in Jerusalem, because the fellow  
passengers were Protestants.

267

00:17:16,040 --> 00:17:21,150

My wife had a  
non-cousin in Haifa,

268

00:17:21,150 --> 00:17:23,500

I think, and visited him.

269

00:17:23,500 --> 00:17:29,190

270

00:17:29,190 --> 00:17:32,880

My wife had a much more  
traditional Jewish upbringing.

271

00:17:32,880 --> 00:17:38,010

She belonged to B'nai B'rith  
youth, and [INAUDIBLE]..

272  
00:17:38,010 --> 00:17:45,860

273  
00:17:45,860 --> 00:17:47,690  
I don't want to put  
words in her mouth,

274  
00:17:47,690 --> 00:17:50,870  
but I think she kind  
of saw marrying me

275  
00:17:50,870 --> 00:17:54,560  
as a liberating experience.

276  
00:17:54,560 --> 00:17:58,800  
Part of it being, of course,  
simply loyalty to a marriage,

277  
00:17:58,800 --> 00:18:01,700  
and I don't know.

278  
00:18:01,700 --> 00:18:07,130  
But she certainly adjusted more  
to my way of life and thinking

279  
00:18:07,130 --> 00:18:09,560  
then I adjusted to hers.

280  
00:18:09,560 --> 00:18:11,710  
What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann trial?

281  
00:18:11,710 --> 00:18:14,630

282  
00:18:14,630 --> 00:18:16,520  
I'm not sure I had any.

283  
00:18:16,520 --> 00:18:17,330  
But he's an SOB.



284

00:18:17,330 --> 00:18:20,000

And he had it coming.

285

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:26,570

I mean, that's simple.

286

00:18:26,570 --> 00:18:29,630

When the news came  
out after the war

287

00:18:29,630 --> 00:18:34,260

on the liberation of the camps  
and the terrible photographs

288

00:18:34,260 --> 00:18:37,490

and films, did that--

289

00:18:37,490 --> 00:18:39,590

There, but for the  
grace of God, go I.

290

00:18:39,590 --> 00:18:39,740

Did you feel that way?

291

00:18:39,740 --> 00:18:40,310

Of course.

292

00:18:40,310 --> 00:18:41,480

Of course.

293

00:18:41,480 --> 00:18:45,920

I certainly internalized that.

294

00:18:45,920 --> 00:18:50,980

I am very conscious of  
the fact that, thanks

295

00:18:50,980 --> 00:18:53,395

to an American  
great-grandfather, and thus

296

00:18:53,395 --> 00:18:56,440  
an American grandmother,  
and thus extended family

297  
00:18:56,440 --> 00:19:04,300  
in California, my life  
became a whole lot better.

298  
00:19:04,300 --> 00:19:08,585  
In part also, because I didn't  
get hung up on the East Coast

299  
00:19:08,585 --> 00:19:09,085  
in New York.

300  
00:19:09,085 --> 00:19:11,650

301  
00:19:11,650 --> 00:19:13,190  
There's nothing with New York.

302  
00:19:13,190 --> 00:19:16,150  
And there's nothing wrong with--

303  
00:19:16,150 --> 00:19:18,460  
but I'm glad I grew  
up in San Francisco.

304  
00:19:18,460 --> 00:19:21,460

305  
00:19:21,460 --> 00:19:23,920  
We're in a moment of  
weakness, of course.

306  
00:19:23,920 --> 00:19:27,970  
I can claim to be a fourth  
generation Californian.

307  
00:19:27,970 --> 00:19:30,190  
Do you still get restitution?

308

00:19:30,190 --> 00:19:31,510  
Reparations, I meant.

309  
00:19:31,510 --> 00:19:34,210

310  
00:19:34,210 --> 00:19:37,990  
My mother was unhappy, because  
she never collected a monthly--

311  
00:19:37,990 --> 00:19:38,660  
She never did?

312  
00:19:38,660 --> 00:19:39,160  
No.

313  
00:19:39,160 --> 00:19:43,090  
She somehow or other  
fell between the cracks.

314  
00:19:43,090 --> 00:19:45,970  
No, we collected on the  
house, and it's forced

315  
00:19:45,970 --> 00:19:48,710  
sale, and things like that.

316  
00:19:48,710 --> 00:19:52,510  
And I got a very modest  
restitution for my sister

317  
00:19:52,510 --> 00:19:55,570  
and for myself for  
interrupted education.

318  
00:19:55,570 --> 00:19:58,360  
Parenthetically, she  
collected more than I did,

319  
00:19:58,360 --> 00:20:02,350  
because I was hell  
bent to get a PhD.

320

00:20:02,350 --> 00:20:05,230

She took her own sweet  
time to get a Masters.

321

00:20:05,230 --> 00:20:11,440

But those are the aberrations or  
idiosyncrasies of laws enacted

322

00:20:11,440 --> 00:20:13,450

So you didn't get  
monthly reparations?

323

00:20:13,450 --> 00:20:15,430

Oh, it didn't amount  
to all that much.

324

00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:18,610

But we were poor, struggling,  
graduate students,

325

00:20:18,610 --> 00:20:20,455

and every little  
bit was welcome.

326

00:20:20,455 --> 00:20:24,010

327

00:20:24,010 --> 00:20:32,110

I have uncovered a couple  
of dormant Swiss accounts,

328

00:20:32,110 --> 00:20:34,750

because I pursued  
that kind of stuff.

329

00:20:34,750 --> 00:20:39,280

And I tipped off a cousin  
in Connecticut, who

330

00:20:39,280 --> 00:20:41,060

collected far more than I did.

331

00:20:41,060 --> 00:20:45,100  
But she had wealthier relatives.

332  
00:20:45,100 --> 00:20:51,670  
And tipped off a  
cousin in Florida,

333  
00:20:51,670 --> 00:20:53,020  
who failed to follow through.

334  
00:20:53,020 --> 00:20:56,100

335  
00:20:56,100 --> 00:20:59,130  
It has been ongoing.

336  
00:20:59,130 --> 00:21:02,610  
But nobody in my  
immediate family

337  
00:21:02,610 --> 00:21:05,640  
ever collected monthly payments.

338  
00:21:05,640 --> 00:21:11,610  
No, these were always  
rather small lump sums.

339  
00:21:11,610 --> 00:21:14,670  
Do you feel the lessons  
have been learned?

340  
00:21:14,670 --> 00:21:19,750  
Do you feel lessons have been  
learned from the Holocaust

341  
00:21:19,750 --> 00:21:21,720  
that the world has learned?

342  
00:21:21,720 --> 00:21:24,180  
Who is the learner?

343  
00:21:24,180 --> 00:21:28,590

I mean, who is supposed  
to have learned?

344  
00:21:28,590 --> 00:21:33,710  
And as far as the  
Germans are concerned,

345  
00:21:33,710 --> 00:21:39,290  
I am persuaded that they are  
trying to do the right thing

346  
00:21:39,290 --> 00:21:40,880  
and are doing the right thing.

347  
00:21:40,880 --> 00:21:43,920

348  
00:21:43,920 --> 00:21:51,140  
Sometimes I even  
worry that they may

349  
00:21:51,140 --> 00:21:55,925  
be going too far in outlawing  
any kind of a protest.

350  
00:21:55,925 --> 00:21:58,700

351  
00:21:58,700 --> 00:22:00,380  
But that's their  
problem, not mine.

352  
00:22:00,380 --> 00:22:02,960

353  
00:22:02,960 --> 00:22:06,560  
Yes, the Germans have  
learned their lesson I think.

354  
00:22:06,560 --> 00:22:08,180  
Who else is supposed  
to have learned?

355

00:22:08,180 --> 00:22:11,290

356

00:22:11,290 --> 00:22:12,760

The Austrians, certainly not.

357

00:22:12,760 --> 00:22:13,900

They're opportunists.

358

00:22:13,900 --> 00:22:16,840

359

00:22:16,840 --> 00:22:25,700

I happen to have Austrian,  
Jewish neighbors--

360

00:22:25,700 --> 00:22:29,660

he was much younger than  
I was when they came here.

361

00:22:29,660 --> 00:22:33,440

He's fully far more  
Americanized than I am.

362

00:22:33,440 --> 00:22:37,600

363

00:22:37,600 --> 00:22:42,520

And we sometimes make  
our unkind remarks

364

00:22:42,520 --> 00:22:45,880

about Austrian opportunism.

365

00:22:45,880 --> 00:22:49,670

I assume you're  
familiar with the story.

366

00:22:49,670 --> 00:22:52,040

Who else is supposed to have  
learned from the Holocaust?

367

00:22:52,040 --> 00:22:54,960

368

00:22:54,960 --> 00:22:58,450

I just mean the  
world in general.

369

00:22:58,450 --> 00:23:03,430

Sorry, I draw a blank.

370

00:23:03,430 --> 00:23:07,060

What are your thoughts about a  
Holocaust Museum in Washington

371

00:23:07,060 --> 00:23:12,560

DC, built in Washington?

372

00:23:12,560 --> 00:23:14,900

I'm glad it's there.

373

00:23:14,900 --> 00:23:16,685

I'm glad it includes the Roma.

374

00:23:16,685 --> 00:23:22,790

375

00:23:22,790 --> 00:23:23,970

I have been there.

376

00:23:23,970 --> 00:23:29,120

I have-- enjoyed is  
not the right word--

377

00:23:29,120 --> 00:23:29,690

the exhibits.

378

00:23:29,690 --> 00:23:33,820

379

00:23:33,820 --> 00:23:36,280

In fact, the last



time I was there I

380  
00:23:36,280 --> 00:23:41,170  
was reminded it is my life  
deja vu all over again.

381  
00:23:41,170 --> 00:23:44,080

382  
00:23:44,080 --> 00:23:46,630  
The exhibits are awe inspiring.

383  
00:23:46,630 --> 00:23:52,880

384  
00:23:52,880 --> 00:23:56,150  
In a way, I'm glad that  
it's just off the Mall.

385  
00:23:56,150 --> 00:23:58,850

386  
00:23:58,850 --> 00:24:02,080  
Period.

387  
00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:02,830  
Because?

388  
00:24:02,830 --> 00:24:03,700  
Why do you say that?

389  
00:24:03,700 --> 00:24:07,530

390  
00:24:07,530 --> 00:24:10,360  
The Mall should be  
American patriotic.

391  
00:24:10,360 --> 00:24:13,880

392

00:24:13,880 --> 00:24:19,070  
Just like Martin Luther King is  
just a little bit off, in part,

393  
00:24:19,070 --> 00:24:20,750  
because the Mall is  
more or less full.

394  
00:24:20,750 --> 00:24:32,490

395  
00:24:32,490 --> 00:24:39,050  
It's only in a limited sense the  
American experience, therefore,

396  
00:24:39,050 --> 00:24:42,470  
it's entirely suitable,  
but maybe off the Mall.

397  
00:24:42,470 --> 00:24:45,950

398  
00:24:45,950 --> 00:24:47,780  
Well, is there  
anything else you would

399  
00:24:47,780 --> 00:24:49,610  
want to say before we close?

400  
00:24:49,610 --> 00:24:51,260  
Anything else you want to add?

401  
00:24:51,260 --> 00:24:56,130  
Anything we haven't covering  
that you would like?

402  
00:24:56,130 --> 00:25:02,420  
I should add something about  
my military experience,

403  
00:25:02,420 --> 00:25:08,440  
which obviously is a  
major event in my life.

404

00:25:08,440 --> 00:25:11,745

I am glad I was sent to  
the European theater.

405

00:25:11,745 --> 00:25:14,940

406

00:25:14,940 --> 00:25:19,270

It was a very  
meaningful experience.

407

00:25:19,270 --> 00:25:23,210

I don't want to call it an  
emotional experience, but it--

408

00:25:23,210 --> 00:25:25,510

and I don't want to call  
it vengeance either.

409

00:25:25,510 --> 00:25:29,590

But I was clear what  
the war was about.

410

00:25:29,590 --> 00:25:33,300

And I was glad to be doing  
something towards it.

411

00:25:33,300 --> 00:25:36,750

412

00:25:36,750 --> 00:25:41,100

I am amazed with hindsight--  
and I was in a small outfit,

413

00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:42,270

160 men--

414

00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:44,840

415

00:25:44,840 --> 00:25:49,130

how fully accepted I was.

416

00:25:49,130 --> 00:25:52,850

That they never, to my  
knowledge, had any doubts.

417

00:25:52,850 --> 00:25:55,940

418

00:25:55,940 --> 00:25:58,340

They were not conscious  
of the difference

419

00:25:58,340 --> 00:26:00,543

between Jewish and non-Jewish.

420

00:26:00,543 --> 00:26:03,410

421

00:26:03,410 --> 00:26:05,957

I was fully accepted.

422

00:26:05,957 --> 00:26:07,790

You're talking about  
the men in your outfit?

423

00:26:07,790 --> 00:26:10,175

Oh, yes, my fellow troopers.

424

00:26:10,175 --> 00:26:13,940

425

00:26:13,940 --> 00:26:20,000

And of course, I was more  
pivotal than most others,

426

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:23,130

because I spoke French,  
and I spoke German.

427

00:26:23,130 --> 00:26:26,060

And I knew all kinds

of local things

428

00:26:26,060 --> 00:26:28,190  
that turned out to be useful.

429

00:26:28,190 --> 00:26:31,140

430

00:26:31,140 --> 00:26:33,530  
I could translate the sign  
that said Achtung Minen.

431

00:26:33,530 --> 00:26:43,810

432

00:26:43,810 --> 00:26:46,840  
So I just want to add that  
was a meaningful experience.

433

00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:48,900  
And I'm glad I was in it.

434

00:26:48,900 --> 00:26:54,810

435

00:26:54,810 --> 00:27:00,420  
The experience in military  
government after the end

436

00:27:00,420 --> 00:27:03,930  
of the war was also meaningful.

437

00:27:03,930 --> 00:27:08,790  
First of all, it certainly  
enhanced my vocabulary.

438

00:27:08,790 --> 00:27:11,340  
To do denazification  
questionnaires

439

00:27:11,340 --> 00:27:17,625  
you enlarged your vocabulary

and your view of the world.

440

00:27:17,625 --> 00:27:23,140

441

00:27:23,140 --> 00:27:25,180

It also refreshed my memories.

442

00:27:25,180 --> 00:27:30,970

One reason why I am probably  
better able to remember things

443

00:27:30,970 --> 00:27:33,820

during an interview  
like this than others

444

00:27:33,820 --> 00:27:39,610

is because I had a refresher  
course at age 20, 21,

445

00:27:39,610 --> 00:27:42,910

which living in an  
environment that

446

00:27:42,910 --> 00:27:46,510

evoked all kinds of  
things that are forgotten

447

00:27:46,510 --> 00:27:47,830

or would have forgotten.

448

00:27:47,830 --> 00:27:53,840

449

00:27:53,840 --> 00:28:03,890

And once again, the influence  
of my wife is massive.

450

00:28:03,890 --> 00:28:05,480

Period.

451

00:28:05,480 --> 00:28:08,390

And positive, obviously.

452

00:28:08,390 --> 00:28:10,370

Do you feel German in any way?

453

00:28:10,370 --> 00:28:18,720

454

00:28:18,720 --> 00:28:25,170

I'm not sure I understand  
the question, probably

455

00:28:25,170 --> 00:28:26,910

because I can't answer it.

456

00:28:26,910 --> 00:28:28,680

Part of me says, hell no.

457

00:28:28,680 --> 00:28:33,810

And part of me says,  
well, of course.

458

00:28:33,810 --> 00:28:36,870

459

00:28:36,870 --> 00:28:38,100

That's where I was born.

460

00:28:38,100 --> 00:28:41,730

That's how I spent the first 13  
years of my life, or 12 years.

461

00:28:41,730 --> 00:28:49,280

462

00:28:49,280 --> 00:28:52,400

My father certainly  
wasn't Americanized.

463

00:28:52,400 --> 00:28:56,150

My mother became quite  
thoroughly Americanized,

464  
00:28:56,150 --> 00:28:58,625  
and learned to speak  
excellent English.

465  
00:28:58,625 --> 00:29:01,940

466  
00:29:01,940 --> 00:29:07,370  
Well, she lived within walking  
distance of her grandchildren.

467  
00:29:07,370 --> 00:29:09,260  
And she became a  
surrogate mother

468  
00:29:09,260 --> 00:29:11,690  
to the grandchildren,  
who to this day

469  
00:29:11,690 --> 00:29:14,600  
think very highly of her.

470  
00:29:14,600 --> 00:29:16,850  
Well, she had a house with  
a pool in Los Angeles.

471  
00:29:16,850 --> 00:29:23,900

472  
00:29:23,900 --> 00:29:33,665  
But my mother was German,  
and expected me to--

473  
00:29:33,665 --> 00:29:37,300

474  
00:29:37,300 --> 00:29:43,390  
I was expected to write home  
in the army after the war

475  
00:29:43,390 --> 00:29:45,040



regularly, often.

476

00:29:45,040 --> 00:29:48,760

And I would get a  
letter back punctually.

477

00:29:48,760 --> 00:29:49,727

That simply was a

478

00:29:49,727 --> 00:29:50,560

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

479

00:29:50,560 --> 00:29:53,770

Were those letters always in  
German to her and back to you?

480

00:29:53,770 --> 00:29:54,280

Oh, no.

481

00:29:54,280 --> 00:29:54,780

No, no.

482

00:29:54,780 --> 00:29:55,300

In English?

483

00:29:55,300 --> 00:29:56,590

In English.

484

00:29:56,590 --> 00:29:58,480

Well, mine had to be in  
English, because they

485

00:29:58,480 --> 00:29:59,605

were subject to censorship.

486

00:29:59,605 --> 00:30:02,110

Oh, censorship.

487

00:30:02,110 --> 00:30:05,110

Well, not after the end  
of hostilities, of course.

488

00:30:05,110 --> 00:30:09,710

But I'd have to look.

489

00:30:09,710 --> 00:30:12,300

490

00:30:12,300 --> 00:30:15,840

My mother's letter

almost certainly

491

00:30:15,840 --> 00:30:18,720

were in English by then.

492

00:30:18,720 --> 00:30:21,480

Did you talk to your mother

in English or in German?

493

00:30:21,480 --> 00:30:26,910

We spoke English almost from  
day one in this country.

494

00:30:26,910 --> 00:30:27,900

Obviously, not.

495

00:30:27,900 --> 00:30:31,290

We had to speak German, because  
we didn't know enough English.

496

00:30:31,290 --> 00:30:36,570

But we were hellbent to become  
Americans, and assimilate,

497

00:30:36,570 --> 00:30:42,360

and learn English, which in  
the case of my sister and me

498

00:30:42,360 --> 00:30:45,300

happened, not overnight,  
but very quickly.

499

00:30:45,300 --> 00:30:48,340

500

00:30:48,340 --> 00:30:53,740

And in the case of my  
mother, we increasingly

501

00:30:53,740 --> 00:30:54,880

spoke to her in English.

502

00:30:54,880 --> 00:30:58,480

503

00:30:58,480 --> 00:31:01,780

We had no intention  
of going back.

504

00:31:01,780 --> 00:31:04,810

This was in the day when it  
took a week on a steamer.

505

00:31:04,810 --> 00:31:09,520

And, no, we didn't  
want to go back.

506

00:31:09,520 --> 00:31:13,810

Of course, I went back  
within five years.

507

00:31:13,810 --> 00:31:16,010

Did your mother ever  
go back to visit?

508

00:31:16,010 --> 00:31:19,600

Oh, my mother went  
back at least twice.

509

00:31:19,600 --> 00:31:22,210

She did?

510

00:31:22,210 --> 00:31:24,310

My aunt Nellie died too soon.

511

00:31:24,310 --> 00:31:25,745

She didn't go back.

512  
00:31:25,745 --> 00:31:28,270  
Marianne didn't go back.

513  
00:31:28,270 --> 00:31:33,790  
And my grandmother, also, she  
died in '49, much too soon

514  
00:31:33,790 --> 00:31:34,300  
to go back.

515  
00:31:34,300 --> 00:31:37,000  
Did you lose any extended  
members of your family

516  
00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:38,260  
in the Holocaust?

517  
00:31:38,260 --> 00:31:39,445  
Extended, yes.

518  
00:31:39,445 --> 00:31:40,000  
You did?

519  
00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:41,725  
But not immediate family.

520  
00:31:41,725 --> 00:31:48,470

521  
00:31:48,470 --> 00:31:53,060  
Well, because I do family  
history, I have, of course--

522  
00:31:53,060 --> 00:31:58,850  
I mean, I have several  
thousand names.

523  
00:31:58,850 --> 00:32:02,220  
And there are lots  
and lots of victims.

524  
00:32:02,220 --> 00:32:09,010  
But in terms of people  
that I knew personally,

525  
00:32:09,010 --> 00:32:10,870  
there was a classmate  
of my father's,

526  
00:32:10,870 --> 00:32:15,580  
who was also a distant  
relative, who committed suicide

527  
00:32:15,580 --> 00:32:21,250  
in Los Angeles, because he  
found out that his nieces

528  
00:32:21,250 --> 00:32:23,090  
and nephews had been deported.

529  
00:32:23,090 --> 00:32:32,370

530  
00:32:32,370 --> 00:32:38,180  
There was a cousin,  
who of all things

531  
00:32:38,180 --> 00:32:45,810  
was the equivalent of  
a county judge, not--

532  
00:32:45,810 --> 00:32:50,050  
I mean he was a judge, but not--

533  
00:32:50,050 --> 00:32:54,430  
who was killed, or  
his wife was killed.

534  
00:32:54,430 --> 00:32:55,450  
I don't remember now.

535  
00:32:55,450 --> 00:32:58,390

One of them died of natural  
causes about that time.

536  
00:32:58,390 --> 00:33:02,750

537  
00:33:02,750 --> 00:33:04,040  
I think it was his wife.

538  
00:33:04,040 --> 00:33:06,410  
And she is the relative,  
as opposed to the judge.

539  
00:33:06,410 --> 00:33:09,500

540  
00:33:09,500 --> 00:33:10,970  
But this is extended family.

541  
00:33:10,970 --> 00:33:13,490

542  
00:33:13,490 --> 00:33:26,430  
Of all the people that I knew,  
I literally can't think of one.

543  
00:33:26,430 --> 00:33:31,440  
When you meet  
someone from Germany,

544  
00:33:31,440 --> 00:33:34,890  
your generation or  
about that time,

545  
00:33:34,890 --> 00:33:39,270  
do you ever talk about your  
childhoods or do you not dwell

546  
00:33:39,270 --> 00:33:41,150  
on that?

547  
00:33:41,150 --> 00:33:49,010

Well, as I told you, Herman  
came out of a PW cage.

548  
00:33:49,010 --> 00:33:51,650  
This was September 1945.

549  
00:33:51,650 --> 00:33:55,370  
The war ended in May.

550  
00:33:55,370 --> 00:33:58,050  
We explored the  
neighborhood together.

551  
00:33:58,050 --> 00:34:01,310  
And we did it  
amicably, successfully,

552  
00:34:01,310 --> 00:34:04,640  
and nostalgically.

553  
00:34:04,640 --> 00:34:08,102  
He told me that--

554  
00:34:08,102 --> 00:34:11,690  
he was a Lieutenant-- his  
company commander, who

555  
00:34:11,690 --> 00:34:15,170  
was a captain, was a guy  
who lived across the street.

556  
00:34:15,170 --> 00:34:18,260  
And he was four years older  
than we were, and he was killed.

557  
00:34:18,260 --> 00:34:25,560

558  
00:34:25,560 --> 00:34:26,170  
Period.

559  
00:34:26,170 --> 00:34:27,380

Paragraph.

560

00:34:27,380 --> 00:34:32,090

My wife and I went back and  
visited Herman and his wife.

561

00:34:32,090 --> 00:34:34,310

This must have been--

562

00:34:34,310 --> 00:34:39,080

my wife died 14 years ago,  
so I tend to time everything

563

00:34:39,080 --> 00:34:40,130

before and after.

564

00:34:40,130 --> 00:34:44,239

This must have been  
18, 20 years ago.

565

00:34:44,239 --> 00:34:49,310

And it was a very good visit.

566

00:34:49,310 --> 00:34:56,060

He, and his wife, and my  
wife, and I took a trip out

567

00:34:56,060 --> 00:35:02,690

in the country and we visited a  
ruined castle on a mountaintop,

568

00:35:02,690 --> 00:35:08,030

because Herman and  
I had bicycled there

569

00:35:08,030 --> 00:35:10,190

on a one day trip and.

570

00:35:10,190 --> 00:35:12,440

We were all staggered  
that we had managed

571



00:35:12,440 --> 00:35:15,650  
to do out at the age of 12, 13.

572  
00:35:15,650 --> 00:35:20,930

573  
00:35:20,930 --> 00:35:22,850  
But these are selective.

574  
00:35:22,850 --> 00:35:25,810

575  
00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:30,700  
When I visited the  
city of Stuttgart

576  
00:35:30,700 --> 00:35:37,210  
had a program to invite  
its former citizens.

577  
00:35:37,210 --> 00:35:42,550  
My wife was by then  
too ill to travel.

578  
00:35:42,550 --> 00:35:48,190  
And so my sister, and I, and  
her husband went whenever.

579  
00:35:48,190 --> 00:35:52,100

580  
00:35:52,100 --> 00:35:54,650  
And I was interviewed,  
and there was

581  
00:35:54,650 --> 00:35:59,270  
a story in the newspaper  
with my picture, whereupon

582  
00:35:59,270 --> 00:36:02,300  
there promptly was a phone  
call from a former classmate

583

00:36:02,300 --> 00:36:02,990  
in the hotel.

584

00:36:02,990 --> 00:36:05,900  
He'd like to get  
together with me.

585

00:36:05,900 --> 00:36:10,250  
Well, he was one  
of those I did not

586

00:36:10,250 --> 00:36:14,340  
wish to get reacquainted with.

587

00:36:14,340 --> 00:36:19,760  
He was the cousin of one of  
the guys who had followed me

588

00:36:19,760 --> 00:36:21,890  
during a soccer game.

589

00:36:21,890 --> 00:36:25,430  
Now, blood is  
thicker than water.

590

00:36:25,430 --> 00:36:28,700  
He was a cousin, so maybe  
he was less enthusiastic

591

00:36:28,700 --> 00:36:29,930  
and less nasty.

592

00:36:29,930 --> 00:36:35,360  
But I chose not to tell him  
off, not to do anything.

593

00:36:35,360 --> 00:36:40,010  
I chose not to get reacquainted.

594

00:36:40,010 --> 00:36:42,380  
Does that illustrate?

595

00:36:42,380 --> 00:36:44,810

Yeah.

596

00:36:44,810 --> 00:36:57,660

In 1945, probably during  
that same visit with Herman,

597

00:36:57,660 --> 00:37:02,540

I remember walking  
past the house where

598

00:37:02,540 --> 00:37:09,060

the teacher lived who had made  
that precipitating remark.

599

00:37:09,060 --> 00:37:11,960

And there was the doorbell,  
and there was his name.

600

00:37:11,960 --> 00:37:15,460

601

00:37:15,460 --> 00:37:17,880

Should I break his  
goddamn windows?

602

00:37:17,880 --> 00:37:19,210

No.

603

00:37:19,210 --> 00:37:20,695

I chose to ignore him.

604

00:37:20,695 --> 00:37:26,750

605

00:37:26,750 --> 00:37:30,910

So I don't remember exactly  
what your question was.

606

00:37:30,910 --> 00:37:34,930

But my feelings are  
very clearly, no, I

607

00:37:34,930 --> 00:37:37,270

do not want to exact revenge.

608

00:37:37,270 --> 00:37:43,170

I merely want to take advantage  
of whatever pleasant memories

609

00:37:43,170 --> 00:37:43,680

I have.

610

00:37:43,680 --> 00:37:49,260

611

00:37:49,260 --> 00:37:51,885

Well, that's a good  
note to end on.

612

00:37:51,885 --> 00:37:53,460

That's a good note to end on.

613

00:37:53,460 --> 00:37:55,230

I thank you.

614

00:37:55,230 --> 00:37:58,325

I hope I have  
contributed something.

615

00:37:58,325 --> 00:38:01,200

You certainly have.

616

00:38:01,200 --> 00:38:04,380

This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

617

00:38:04,380 --> 00:38:08,450

interview with George Arnstein.

618

00:38:08,450 --> 00:38:09,000