

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,350

2

00:00:03,350 --> 00:00:05,870

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:05,870 --> 00:00:08,180

Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4

00:00:08,180 --> 00:00:09,920

interview with Phillip Abraham.

5

00:00:09,920 --> 00:00:12,110

This is track number
three, and you

6

00:00:12,110 --> 00:00:14,960

were talking about working
for Raytheon in Rhode Island.

7

00:00:14,960 --> 00:00:15,710

Right.

8

00:00:15,710 --> 00:00:23,000

I worked there and problems that
had to do with submarines, how

9

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:28,430

to make sure that a submarine
is not sunk by some missile

10

00:00:28,430 --> 00:00:35,030

or detected by an
adversary, and this

11

00:00:35,030 --> 00:00:40,310

means that there is
sound in the water.

12

00:00:40,310 --> 00:00:43,790

It's not like the sound
that we hear in the air.

13

00:00:43,790 --> 00:00:50,900

But that can propagate through
the ocean thousands of miles

14

00:00:50,900 --> 00:00:56,030

and in the process may hit
an object, like a submarine,

15

00:00:56,030 --> 00:00:57,950

and reflect it.

16

00:00:57,950 --> 00:01:03,230

And if there is somebody there
waiting with their own sensors,

17

00:01:03,230 --> 00:01:05,540

they say, oh, there
is something there,

18

00:01:05,540 --> 00:01:08,810

and they can determine sometimes
what that something is.

19

00:01:08,810 --> 00:01:14,190

So I worked on that, and
in my opinion and others,

20

00:01:14,190 --> 00:01:17,540

they did good work.

21

00:01:17,540 --> 00:01:21,800

But this was a
little company part

22

00:01:21,800 --> 00:01:27,410

that I was working in in this,
and it was actually given

23

00:01:27,410 --> 00:01:31,130

money for that
research by the Office

24
00:01:31,130 --> 00:01:36,560
of Naval Research in
Washington because it

25
00:01:36,560 --> 00:01:38,090
was an important need.

26
00:01:38,090 --> 00:01:41,020

27
00:01:41,020 --> 00:01:46,540
But the company itself
didn't put money

28
00:01:46,540 --> 00:01:52,780
into this, and
suddenly, money that

29
00:01:52,780 --> 00:01:55,420
came from this part of the--

30
00:01:55,420 --> 00:02:00,610
from the Navy stopped
because, in other projects,

31
00:02:00,610 --> 00:02:04,930
they didn't provide what
they were expected to,

32
00:02:04,930 --> 00:02:07,210
so they cut them off.

33
00:02:07,210 --> 00:02:11,530
And the Raytheon decided
to close this place,

34
00:02:11,530 --> 00:02:16,790
so suddenly, all the people
who were there are out.

35

00:02:16,790 --> 00:02:21,800

They gave me two weeks
notice and so on,

36

00:02:21,800 --> 00:02:24,720

and now I'm without a job.

37

00:02:24,720 --> 00:02:29,610

And as I said, this was like
1968, something like that,

38

00:02:29,610 --> 00:02:32,310

and I'm without a job.

39

00:02:32,310 --> 00:02:35,640

And I'm married, and I
have two little babies.

40

00:02:35,640 --> 00:02:36,960

When did you get married?

41

00:02:36,960 --> 00:02:43,310

I got married in 1964,
when I finished my--

42

00:02:43,310 --> 00:02:45,630

Was your wife American
or from Europe?

43

00:02:45,630 --> 00:02:48,110

No, she was an American, yeah.

44

00:02:48,110 --> 00:02:50,990

And we met through other people.

45

00:02:50,990 --> 00:02:53,540

She was at the
American University

46

00:02:53,540 --> 00:02:55,430

when I was at the
University of Maryland,

47
00:02:55,430 --> 00:02:59,120
and somebody said, oh, you
should meet this one and so on.

48
00:02:59,120 --> 00:03:02,550
And we met, and we got married.

49
00:03:02,550 --> 00:03:07,970
So we have two children
now, a daughter and a son.

50
00:03:07,970 --> 00:03:12,360
Of course, my daughter
is close to 44 years old,

51
00:03:12,360 --> 00:03:18,630
and my son is just 41,
42, something like that.

52
00:03:18,630 --> 00:03:23,930
And so that was--

53
00:03:23,930 --> 00:03:26,390
I was in a--

54
00:03:26,390 --> 00:03:31,340
and at the time, I was living
in New London, Connecticut

55
00:03:31,340 --> 00:03:32,270
because that's where--

56
00:03:32,270 --> 00:03:37,850
Raytheon group was there, that
particular group [INAUDIBLE]

57
00:03:37,850 --> 00:03:40,100
in Rhode Island.

58
00:03:40,100 --> 00:03:46,100
So I'm looking, and I'm

looking trying to find a job.

59

00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:52,510

Finally, I visited the
University of Connecticut,

60

00:03:52,510 --> 00:03:56,710

the Physics
Department, and I see

61

00:03:56,710 --> 00:04:01,950

something there maybe
on the bulletin board

62

00:04:01,950 --> 00:04:05,710

outdoors that they were
interested in something

63

00:04:05,710 --> 00:04:08,600

like physicist or something.

64

00:04:08,600 --> 00:04:12,550

So I knocked on
the door, and I met

65

00:04:12,550 --> 00:04:15,730

somebody named
like Paul Clements,

66

00:04:15,730 --> 00:04:20,470

Jewish guy actually
born in Australia

67

00:04:20,470 --> 00:04:23,620

but had been in England, got
his degree there, and so on.

68

00:04:23,620 --> 00:04:26,380

And he was the head of
the Physics Department

69

00:04:26,380 --> 00:04:31,400

at the University

of Connecticut.

70

00:04:31,400 --> 00:04:37,240

So he said, well, we don't
have a spot on the faculty,

71

00:04:37,240 --> 00:04:45,230

but I can arrange for you to be
here as a research associate.

72

00:04:45,230 --> 00:04:48,500

Some salary is
better than nothing,

73

00:04:48,500 --> 00:04:59,410

so I moved there to basically--

74

00:04:59,410 --> 00:05:04,880

University of Connecticut
is the College Park--

75

00:05:04,880 --> 00:05:08,650

sorry, not College Park.

76

00:05:08,650 --> 00:05:09,520

What is it called?

77

00:05:09,520 --> 00:05:12,310

78

00:05:12,310 --> 00:05:12,880

Something.

79

00:05:12,880 --> 00:05:13,930

It escapes me now.

80

00:05:13,930 --> 00:05:19,840

In any case, I moved to
that place with my family,

81

00:05:19,840 --> 00:05:26,690

and I was there

for several years.

82

00:05:26,690 --> 00:05:34,000

And they didn't have a space
for me to become a real--

83

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:35,170

--professor.

84

00:05:35,170 --> 00:05:39,940

Yeah, and on the
faculty, so I had

85

00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:46,090

to make do with jobs still with
the University of Connecticut

86

00:05:46,090 --> 00:05:50,890

but not at that place.

87

00:05:50,890 --> 00:05:57,230

But in Hartford, they
had a kind of a college

88

00:05:57,230 --> 00:06:04,010

or a branch of their, and I
taught their undergraduates

89

00:06:04,010 --> 00:06:07,360

and some graduates.

90

00:06:07,360 --> 00:06:17,910

And ultimately, I escaped that
because there was no hiring.

91

00:06:17,910 --> 00:06:28,840

And finally, I looked
around, and my friends were

92

00:06:28,840 --> 00:06:37,950

in Connecticut-- and they said,
maybe you want to work for--

93

00:06:37,950 --> 00:06:42,400

94

00:06:42,400 --> 00:06:42,900

let's see.

95

00:06:42,900 --> 00:06:44,340

What did I do there?

96

00:06:44,340 --> 00:06:48,060

I was in Connecticut.

97

00:06:48,060 --> 00:06:53,700

There is a place that can
hire you in New London that

98

00:06:53,700 --> 00:06:56,160

is not the University.

99

00:06:56,160 --> 00:06:56,880

It's the Navy.

100

00:06:56,880 --> 00:07:00,890

101

00:07:00,890 --> 00:07:05,890

And I went for an interview,
and they hired me.

102

00:07:05,890 --> 00:07:10,480

And I had to give some talks
and so on, and they hired me.

103

00:07:10,480 --> 00:07:14,770

And I was there for
eight years as a member,

104

00:07:14,770 --> 00:07:22,650

and I became, of course, not
temporary but with the pension

105

00:07:22,650 --> 00:07:24,700
plan and all that.

106
00:07:24,700 --> 00:07:31,490
And then I decided
to move elsewhere,

107
00:07:31,490 --> 00:07:36,590
and something happened,
also, in my family.

108
00:07:36,590 --> 00:07:39,120
We got a divorce.

109
00:07:39,120 --> 00:07:53,260
So I moved from there to right
here in Maryland, basically,

110
00:07:53,260 --> 00:07:58,420
at a Naval Research Laboratory.

111
00:07:58,420 --> 00:08:00,590
You probably heard of it.

112
00:08:00,590 --> 00:08:09,420
And I arrived there, and I was
a member of the Naval and so on.

113
00:08:09,420 --> 00:08:13,160
And they started doing research
on what they were interested in

114
00:08:13,160 --> 00:08:16,320
based on the work
I've done before,

115
00:08:16,320 --> 00:08:22,050
and I stayed there
for seven years.

116
00:08:22,050 --> 00:08:26,520
And one day, they asked me--

117

00:08:26,520 --> 00:08:30,660

and there was a
temporary vacancy

118

00:08:30,660 --> 00:08:36,169

at the Office of Naval Research
in Arlington, Virginia,

119

00:08:36,169 --> 00:08:41,309

and somebody that
has your background--

120

00:08:41,309 --> 00:08:43,429

only for a month or
something like that.

121

00:08:43,429 --> 00:08:45,350

Would you like to do that?

122

00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:49,385

Managing something-- I never
managed anything, except myself

123

00:08:49,385 --> 00:08:51,650

and doing my work.

124

00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:54,050

But I said, well, I'll take it.

125

00:08:54,050 --> 00:08:57,320

We'll see what-- I wasn't
losing my position at NRL.

126

00:08:57,320 --> 00:09:00,180

127

00:09:00,180 --> 00:09:01,060

I come there.

128

00:09:01,060 --> 00:09:06,940

So they give me a whole
program with money to go,

129
00:09:06,940 --> 00:09:09,870
and the first thing I do--

130
00:09:09,870 --> 00:09:13,650
I interviewed all these
people who had already

131
00:09:13,650 --> 00:09:17,290
programs from this and so on.

132
00:09:17,290 --> 00:09:26,010
And I had to cut immediately a
group at Catholic U. That was--

133
00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:27,735
But what I found about myself--

134
00:09:27,735 --> 00:09:30,960

135
00:09:30,960 --> 00:09:34,080
I never thought of
myself capable to do

136
00:09:34,080 --> 00:09:36,600
many managerial work.

137
00:09:36,600 --> 00:09:43,140
But I learned, and I
became a manager as well,

138
00:09:43,140 --> 00:09:46,260
even though I continued to be--

139
00:09:46,260 --> 00:09:50,400
my interest, and I
never stopped learning.

140
00:09:50,400 --> 00:09:54,168
So I was there for
the rest of my--

141
00:09:54,168 --> 00:09:54,710
--profession.

142
00:09:54,710 --> 00:09:59,480
--profession with
them until 2007,

143
00:09:59,480 --> 00:10:05,920
so that was after 32 years
of the work for the Navy.

144
00:10:05,920 --> 00:10:09,200

145
00:10:09,200 --> 00:10:13,790
And in the meantime, that
program that I started there

146
00:10:13,790 --> 00:10:17,810
that I was given at ONR--

147
00:10:17,810 --> 00:10:21,500
but I mentioned the
fact that I didn't

148
00:10:21,500 --> 00:10:25,610
know that Raytheon paid my
salary because they got it

149
00:10:25,610 --> 00:10:27,020
from ONR.

150
00:10:27,020 --> 00:10:28,460
I never knew that.

151
00:10:28,460 --> 00:10:34,470
Suddenly, I am at ONR,
and this is life going--

152
00:10:34,470 --> 00:10:41,030
So one day, in my

program, they decided

153

00:10:41,030 --> 00:10:44,150
that they don't want to
continue to do-- it was still

154

00:10:44,150 --> 00:10:51,260
with submarines and
stuff like that,

155

00:10:51,260 --> 00:10:57,040
but they had been doing so
long with submarines, basically

156

00:10:57,040 --> 00:11:01,600
since the beginning,
if one goes back,

157

00:11:01,600 --> 00:11:05,900
the First World War when
the submarines appeared.

158

00:11:05,900 --> 00:11:07,510
And they were
continuing at that.

159

00:11:07,510 --> 00:11:09,840
And sometimes they
reached a point

160

00:11:09,840 --> 00:11:12,860
where nothing new
was done, really,

161

00:11:12,860 --> 00:11:18,620
to do better, so they
decided, not because I failed

162

00:11:18,620 --> 00:11:20,690
or anything like
that, that they're not

163

00:11:20,690 --> 00:11:23,100

going to put money in that.

164
00:11:23,100 --> 00:11:26,280
And so what to do
with this guy, me,

165
00:11:26,280 --> 00:11:29,610
that I am an expert in that?

166
00:11:29,610 --> 00:11:35,640
They said, well,
there is here a group

167
00:11:35,640 --> 00:11:41,020
that works in logistics,
gives money to do

168
00:11:41,020 --> 00:11:44,980
science and technology
of logistics,

169
00:11:44,980 --> 00:11:51,650
and right now it's
headed by a captain who

170
00:11:51,650 --> 00:11:56,600
is retiring from this job.

171
00:11:56,600 --> 00:11:58,750
And we need somebody else.

172
00:11:58,750 --> 00:12:01,550
Would you like to take it?

173
00:12:01,550 --> 00:12:04,380
Well, I'll try.

174
00:12:04,380 --> 00:12:10,260
So yes, I tried, and
yeah, in the meantime,

175
00:12:10,260 --> 00:12:13,970

I had become also--

176
00:12:13,970 --> 00:12:16,850
no longer belonging to NRL.

177
00:12:16,850 --> 00:12:19,200
I was belonging to ONR.

178
00:12:19,200 --> 00:12:22,100
So I'm entering this.

179
00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:28,040
I didn't know what logistics is,
only some very primitive idea.

180
00:12:28,040 --> 00:12:31,350
I looked in the
dictionary and so on.

181
00:12:31,350 --> 00:12:36,690
And then I looked at what this
captain had done and so on.

182
00:12:36,690 --> 00:12:41,760
He was a very nice man, but
he was not a scientist at all,

183
00:12:41,760 --> 00:12:48,000
and what he did was OK.

184
00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,690
But it wasn't the
science and the--

185
00:12:51,690 --> 00:12:56,430
so here I was to try to find out
exactly what other people have

186
00:12:56,430 --> 00:12:59,890
done who are being
paid money and so on.

187

00:12:59,890 --> 00:13:05,370
And the first thing that I do--

188
00:13:05,370 --> 00:13:06,690
interview these people.

189
00:13:06,690 --> 00:13:09,930
I went, for instance,
to Catholic U

190
00:13:09,930 --> 00:13:15,350
or there was a group there
working with a program,

191
00:13:15,350 --> 00:13:19,610
and it's not logistics.

192
00:13:19,610 --> 00:13:27,590
And I wrote to my
supervisors at ONR

193
00:13:27,590 --> 00:13:29,980
that this should be cut off.

194
00:13:29,980 --> 00:13:33,740
It was a million-something
for three years.

195
00:13:33,740 --> 00:13:42,650
And they didn't quite cut it
off because Congress intervenes

196
00:13:42,650 --> 00:13:47,990
in these things, and the people
in Congress have the power.

197
00:13:47,990 --> 00:13:50,210
And the people
upstairs in the ONR--

198
00:13:50,210 --> 00:13:53,570

199

00:13:53,570 --> 00:13:57,650

unfortunately, instead
of saying, no, this

200

00:13:57,650 --> 00:14:01,260

is not a good place to do--

201

00:14:01,260 --> 00:14:07,310

so I didn't suffer from
it, but so ultimately, I

202

00:14:07,310 --> 00:14:09,380

took over this
logistics program.

203

00:14:09,380 --> 00:14:13,530

And it became, indeed,
science and technology

204

00:14:13,530 --> 00:14:21,200

with a lot of people that were
doing in universities, and also

205

00:14:21,200 --> 00:14:27,980

industry, and Navy institutions
themselves, so quite a large--

206

00:14:27,980 --> 00:14:34,210

it had ultimately something-- a
program of \$35 million per year

207

00:14:34,210 --> 00:14:38,680

that had to be-- and
we'd travel a lot

208

00:14:38,680 --> 00:14:42,160

to see what they are
doing and going directly

209

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:45,560

to the people who
were working on this.

210

00:14:45,560 --> 00:14:49,050

And they had to give me--

211

00:14:49,050 --> 00:14:53,670

every time, what have you done,
and so on, and discussing it.

212

00:14:53,670 --> 00:14:57,180

And I would say, go in a
different direction, and all

213

00:14:57,180 --> 00:14:57,680

that.

214

00:14:57,680 --> 00:15:01,410

215

00:15:01,410 --> 00:15:07,410

And people, at least those
who I didn't cut off,

216

00:15:07,410 --> 00:15:09,540

were happy with me.

217

00:15:09,540 --> 00:15:15,360

But I selected the people who--

218

00:15:15,360 --> 00:15:19,080

and I had connections.

219

00:15:19,080 --> 00:15:23,260

Sometimes I would be
asked to come and see

220

00:15:23,260 --> 00:15:27,910

what they are doing
prior to, and in one case

221

00:15:27,910 --> 00:15:32,470

it was something
in San Luis Obispo,

222

00:15:32,470 --> 00:15:35,200
and that's in California.

223

00:15:35,200 --> 00:15:40,840
And they have Cal Poly there,
California Polytechnic,

224

00:15:40,840 --> 00:15:45,550
and they said they have
a new method of dealing

225

00:15:45,550 --> 00:15:49,240
with certain things
and what they

226

00:15:49,240 --> 00:15:56,300
called an intelligent agent,
"artificial intelligence,"

227

00:15:56,300 --> 00:15:57,820
so-called.

228

00:15:57,820 --> 00:16:01,730
And they showed me
when I arrived there--

229

00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:05,360
they had three people
with computers,

230

00:16:05,360 --> 00:16:18,210
and a task that they had was
to load with the equipment

231

00:16:18,210 --> 00:16:25,420
a ship that can bring
these things of the Navy

232

00:16:25,420 --> 00:16:28,760
into the ocean and
to resupply and so

233

00:16:28,760 --> 00:16:32,840
on with all these
things, whether it

234
00:16:32,840 --> 00:16:37,490
be a tank, or a
truck, or everything.

235
00:16:37,490 --> 00:16:42,465
Now, to load something like
that, it's not easy on a ship.

236
00:16:42,465 --> 00:16:49,760
A ship has all sorts of
decks, and it has elevators.

237
00:16:49,760 --> 00:16:52,010
Can they do this or not?

238
00:16:52,010 --> 00:16:53,570
They have cranes.

239
00:16:53,570 --> 00:16:56,240
It's a very complicated
story, and they

240
00:16:56,240 --> 00:17:01,100
used to put two people to work
for one single ship, maybe two

241
00:17:01,100 --> 00:17:07,210
weeks or more, to
decide how to do it.

242
00:17:07,210 --> 00:17:11,190
So with this intelligent
agent just on a computer,

243
00:17:11,190 --> 00:17:14,520
having all the data
about what loads

244
00:17:14,520 --> 00:17:18,119

they have to put
on the ship, they

245
00:17:18,119 --> 00:17:21,890
could do it in half an hour,
and they proved it to me.

246
00:17:21,890 --> 00:17:26,710
And indeed that was one of the
most successful things that I--

247
00:17:26,710 --> 00:17:30,190
and with not a lot of money.

248
00:17:30,190 --> 00:17:32,620
Some other projects
cost millions of dollars

249
00:17:32,620 --> 00:17:35,140
and didn't perform this--

250
00:17:35,140 --> 00:17:38,990
but this, with a quarter of a
million dollars, they advanced.

251
00:17:38,990 --> 00:17:47,800
And nowadays, they have a
company of about 200 people

252
00:17:47,800 --> 00:17:49,460
that work on this.

253
00:17:49,460 --> 00:17:52,990
And it's not only the US
Navy, and the Marine Corps,

254
00:17:52,990 --> 00:17:56,390
and the army, but
the British are

255
00:17:56,390 --> 00:17:59,480
paying to have this program.

256

00:17:59,480 --> 00:18:02,590

And it was really
something that--

257

00:18:02,590 --> 00:18:07,440

and I also suffered
from it, in one sense.

258

00:18:07,440 --> 00:18:09,465

When you are in the
Navy or any government

259

00:18:09,465 --> 00:18:15,530

and so on, you defend yourself
from anybody else by saying,

260

00:18:15,530 --> 00:18:17,590

this is no good for us.

261

00:18:17,590 --> 00:18:18,920

We don't do that.

262

00:18:18,920 --> 00:18:21,060

We don't want that.

263

00:18:21,060 --> 00:18:24,410

And indeed they refused to
use something like that,

264

00:18:24,410 --> 00:18:28,250

and this is a long
story in itself.

265

00:18:28,250 --> 00:18:31,665

266

00:18:31,665 --> 00:18:34,850

Well, it sounds like you've
had a very interesting career.

267

00:18:34,850 --> 00:18:35,840

That's for sure.

268
00:18:35,840 --> 00:18:41,000
Really, I did, yes, and these
people from the university

269
00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:43,290
there are still in
connection with me

270
00:18:43,290 --> 00:18:47,630
and send me what they
are doing nowadays.

271
00:18:47,630 --> 00:18:55,340
And I started, also, much
more-- and not only this thing,

272
00:18:55,340 --> 00:19:03,800
but I went deeper, myself, into
what logistics should be about.

273
00:19:03,800 --> 00:19:06,680
And something that--

274
00:19:06,680 --> 00:19:09,300

275
00:19:09,300 --> 00:19:11,580
I'm saying this, and people
say, you are bragging.

276
00:19:11,580 --> 00:19:15,180
But it's a true thing.

277
00:19:15,180 --> 00:19:19,800
It's the truth because I
started studying and see,

278
00:19:19,800 --> 00:19:21,480
what is this logistics?

279
00:19:21,480 --> 00:19:22,410

What do we do?

280

00:19:22,410 --> 00:19:24,600

It's all these supplies.

281

00:19:24,600 --> 00:19:25,560

Oh, I need water.

282

00:19:25,560 --> 00:19:27,540

I bring a tank of water.

283

00:19:27,540 --> 00:19:29,150

Is that enough to do--

284

00:19:29,150 --> 00:19:30,270

is that logistics?

285

00:19:30,270 --> 00:19:31,710

No.

286

00:19:31,710 --> 00:19:35,910

I realized, by studying it,
really, not just for the Navy,

287

00:19:35,910 --> 00:19:38,350

that it's much deeper than that.

288

00:19:38,350 --> 00:19:43,830

It goes all the way to the
people in a mine for coal

289

00:19:43,830 --> 00:19:46,230

or all these
materials that we do

290

00:19:46,230 --> 00:19:49,440

or people who grow
food and so on.

291

00:19:49,440 --> 00:19:51,460

Everything is connected.

292

00:19:51,460 --> 00:19:55,230

When you hear, oh, we'll
do this or put this--

293

00:19:55,230 --> 00:19:57,270

we'll send shovels--

294

00:19:57,270 --> 00:20:00,480

Obama-style-- ready shovels.

295

00:20:00,480 --> 00:20:01,830

Who's making the shovels?

296

00:20:01,830 --> 00:20:02,640

Somebody.

297

00:20:02,640 --> 00:20:05,310

Well, what are they
made of and so on.

298

00:20:05,310 --> 00:20:08,300

Oh, in the mine they bring.

299

00:20:08,300 --> 00:20:11,010

It's not a circle.

300

00:20:11,010 --> 00:20:16,710

You have so many routes
to the final object,

301

00:20:16,710 --> 00:20:21,630

but even more so, even
military philosophy

302

00:20:21,630 --> 00:20:24,930

and how to deal with
the battle and all this.

303

00:20:24,930 --> 00:20:29,190

So I wrote about this and
so on, and only some people

304

00:20:29,190 --> 00:20:30,890
paid attention.

305

00:20:30,890 --> 00:20:38,420
And interestingly enough,
after 9/11, what did they do?

306

00:20:38,420 --> 00:20:43,060
The Navy decides they
don't need logistics.

307

00:20:43,060 --> 00:20:46,270
It was the stupidest,
absolutely--

308

00:20:46,270 --> 00:20:49,630
something that the
public doesn't know.

309

00:20:49,630 --> 00:20:51,970
They cut it out.

310

00:20:51,970 --> 00:20:56,860
They no longer have
anything in logistics.

311

00:20:56,860 --> 00:21:03,250
To me, it's a very sad
thing because many people

312

00:21:03,250 --> 00:21:05,380
have died because of that.

313

00:21:05,380 --> 00:21:06,990
Can we get back to your--

314

00:21:06,990 --> 00:21:10,550
All right, but I'm just
thinking because I feel strongly

315

00:21:10,550 --> 00:21:11,050
about that.

316
00:21:11,050 --> 00:21:11,633
I know you do.

317
00:21:11,633 --> 00:21:13,790
Not because my whole--

318
00:21:13,790 --> 00:21:14,800
I had my career.

319
00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:15,460
It's OK.

320
00:21:15,460 --> 00:21:22,060
But it's how sometimes
people refusing

321
00:21:22,060 --> 00:21:26,990
to accept something, and then
later on I'll tell you a story.

322
00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:34,840
Do you feel Romanian at all, any
connections with the country?

323
00:21:34,840 --> 00:21:35,870
Not really, no.

324
00:21:35,870 --> 00:21:36,970
Have you been--

325
00:21:36,970 --> 00:21:38,700
No, I have never
gone back there.

326
00:21:38,700 --> 00:21:39,658
You've never gone back?

327
00:21:39,658 --> 00:21:40,540
No.

328

00:21:40,540 --> 00:21:45,400
My parents came from there
in 1950 with my brother

329
00:21:45,400 --> 00:21:47,780
and my sister, who--

330
00:21:47,780 --> 00:21:52,980
I have the roots there in the
cemeteries, in the families,

331
00:21:52,980 --> 00:21:55,850
and so on, and maybe
someday I may go in

332
00:21:55,850 --> 00:21:59,520
to visit where I
was born and so on.

333
00:21:59,520 --> 00:22:04,400
Do you think you would
have been a different adult

334
00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:07,800
if you hadn't had to get up
and move to a different city,

335
00:22:07,800 --> 00:22:12,590
and then leave the
country, and so forth?

336
00:22:12,590 --> 00:22:15,740
Did that mold you
into who you are?

337
00:22:15,740 --> 00:22:19,850
Yes, I think so, and I will
repeat the words of a guy

338
00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:23,990
that I worked with
in New London.

339

00:22:23,990 --> 00:22:30,140

He was also a guy with a
PhD, born here and so on.

340

00:22:30,140 --> 00:22:34,820

And he asked me about my
history, and I told him.

341

00:22:34,820 --> 00:22:40,700

And he said, I really envy you
of having all these experiences

342

00:22:40,700 --> 00:22:44,030

while I, he said--

343

00:22:44,030 --> 00:22:48,920

I went to grammar school, then
high school, then college,

344

00:22:48,920 --> 00:22:50,410

then I went this.

345

00:22:50,410 --> 00:22:52,040

I'm now working here.

346

00:22:52,040 --> 00:22:59,430

I never had any
obstacles that challenge,

347

00:22:59,430 --> 00:23:00,860

but you had all this.

348

00:23:00,860 --> 00:23:04,790

And I really felt good when he
said that because indeed this

349

00:23:04,790 --> 00:23:05,750

is what happened to me.

350

00:23:05,750 --> 00:23:08,240

I didn't know that
this is going to be,

351

00:23:08,240 --> 00:23:13,390

but somehow that's how
fortune, or lack of it,

352

00:23:13,390 --> 00:23:17,230

or whatever made me
into what I am so.

353

00:23:17,230 --> 00:23:20,720

Are you proud of being
a Jew, even though you

354

00:23:20,720 --> 00:23:22,730

had to leave your home country?

355

00:23:22,730 --> 00:23:23,930

Absolutely, yes.

356

00:23:23,930 --> 00:23:26,540

Because of the fact
that you were Jewish?

357

00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:32,260

Well, I'm Jewish
because I know Hebrew.

358

00:23:32,260 --> 00:23:35,530

I know all these things
that I've learned

359

00:23:35,530 --> 00:23:42,200

and more so than most Jews
that don't live in Israel.

360

00:23:42,200 --> 00:23:48,330

Sometimes even those in Israel
don't know so much about--

361

00:23:48,330 --> 00:23:50,020

I read and so on.

362

00:23:50,020 --> 00:23:52,450

I always loved to read.

363
00:23:52,450 --> 00:24:01,430
And I think that
what happened to me

364
00:24:01,430 --> 00:24:06,400
was a faithful sort of thing.

365
00:24:06,400 --> 00:24:08,700
It's fate, if you wish.

366
00:24:08,700 --> 00:24:11,410
Do you feel that you
still had your childhood?

367
00:24:11,410 --> 00:24:14,320
That was not taken
away from you?

368
00:24:14,320 --> 00:24:18,270
No, it wasn't taken that
way because, as I said,

369
00:24:18,270 --> 00:24:22,910
I was not a child anymore
when I was in the kibbutz.

370
00:24:22,910 --> 00:24:23,980
But we had--

371
00:24:23,980 --> 00:24:27,293
No, but you were eight years old
when you had to leave one town

372
00:24:27,293 --> 00:24:28,210
to go to another town.

373
00:24:28,210 --> 00:24:29,680
No, because we still had--

374
00:24:29,680 --> 00:24:34,420

we still had friends, and we
did things together and so

375
00:24:34,420 --> 00:24:38,710
on in the snow and all that.

376
00:24:38,710 --> 00:24:42,310
And yeah, and so
[? with that-- ?] for instance,

377
00:24:42,310 --> 00:24:43,360
I used to--

378
00:24:43,360 --> 00:24:47,140
when I was still
a child like that,

379
00:24:47,140 --> 00:24:50,650
there was a little
girl my age who

380
00:24:50,650 --> 00:24:56,080
had some books that I
wanted to read and said,

381
00:24:56,080 --> 00:25:03,310
oh, I'll lend them to you
if you pull me on the snow,

382
00:25:03,310 --> 00:25:07,030
so I did that in order
to get the book to read.

383
00:25:07,030 --> 00:25:12,220
So my parents and
my siblings said--

384
00:25:12,220 --> 00:25:15,280
first of all, my parents
didn't like me, at the table,

385
00:25:15,280 --> 00:25:21,070
to read at the table

and stuff like that

386

00:25:21,070 --> 00:25:24,262

because I was very
much involved--

387

00:25:24,262 --> 00:25:30,070

when we lived in Tecuci, in
this house, I and my brother

388

00:25:30,070 --> 00:25:36,380

slept in the room that
had one wall as windows.

389

00:25:36,380 --> 00:25:40,360

So during summer
time or something

390

00:25:40,360 --> 00:25:43,360

like that and the
moon shined, you

391

00:25:43,360 --> 00:25:47,550

could actually read with
this light of the moon.

392

00:25:47,550 --> 00:25:51,610

And I used to read, hiding
my book under my pillows.

393

00:25:51,610 --> 00:25:53,130

My parents didn't know.

394

00:25:53,130 --> 00:25:55,240

You talked about
seeing a dead German.

395

00:25:55,240 --> 00:25:57,930

Did you see any
other destruction,

396

00:25:57,930 --> 00:26:00,670

any damage from the war at all?

397
00:26:00,670 --> 00:26:01,890
In Romania?

398
00:26:01,890 --> 00:26:02,390
Yeah.

399
00:26:02,390 --> 00:26:07,360
Yeah, there are things like that
because they bombed the city

400
00:26:07,360 --> 00:26:08,440
and so on.

401
00:26:08,440 --> 00:26:10,750
Did you have to go into
shelters and things like that?

402
00:26:10,750 --> 00:26:12,120
We didn't have a shelter.

403
00:26:12,120 --> 00:26:15,450
We would go down maybe in the--

404
00:26:15,450 --> 00:26:15,950
--basement.

405
00:26:15,950 --> 00:26:19,750
--basement, yeah, if
you had a basement.

406
00:26:19,750 --> 00:26:23,750
And it was not a common thing.

407
00:26:23,750 --> 00:26:26,920
It was the basement
that they cut--

408
00:26:26,920 --> 00:26:31,490
they didn't put real walls
or something like that.

409

00:26:31,490 --> 00:26:34,010

And was there a lot of
destruction in your area,

410

00:26:34,010 --> 00:26:35,020

in your neighborhood?

411

00:26:35,020 --> 00:26:39,640

Not that much because it
was-- the only thing that

412

00:26:39,640 --> 00:26:43,180

the American and
British air forces did--

413

00:26:43,180 --> 00:26:45,880

they bombed the airport, yeah.

414

00:26:45,880 --> 00:26:51,300

Sometimes, for instance, they
did bad things in Bucharest

415

00:26:51,300 --> 00:26:55,660

that they shouldn't have done
because they hit population.

416

00:26:55,660 --> 00:26:57,850

There were no
military and so on.

417

00:26:57,850 --> 00:26:59,630

But I meant what you
yourself experienced.

418

00:26:59,630 --> 00:27:00,750

No, I didn't
experience that, no.

419

00:27:00,750 --> 00:27:01,875

You didn't experience any--

420

00:27:01,875 --> 00:27:03,050

No.

421
00:27:03,050 --> 00:27:05,680
Do you get reparations?

422
00:27:05,680 --> 00:27:06,360
No.

423
00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:08,380
No.

424
00:27:08,380 --> 00:27:11,470
Do you think the world
has learned any lessons

425
00:27:11,470 --> 00:27:14,260
from the Holocaust?

426
00:27:14,260 --> 00:27:16,870
Sometimes I think
no because we see

427
00:27:16,870 --> 00:27:20,170
what's happening
right now when you

428
00:27:20,170 --> 00:27:25,900
have people killed in Israel,
and so on, and Israel reacts.

429
00:27:25,900 --> 00:27:31,180
And immediately, [INAUDIBLE]
[? Russia, ?] a failed country,

430
00:27:31,180 --> 00:27:37,690
if any, and so on that committed
such massacres everywhere they

431
00:27:37,690 --> 00:27:40,720
went in their history,
the whole history--

432

00:27:40,720 --> 00:27:43,540
and they are saying all this.

433
00:27:43,540 --> 00:27:49,570
And Belgium, and all these
countries, and even here--

434
00:27:49,570 --> 00:27:54,420
what is our so-called
president in the--

435
00:27:54,420 --> 00:27:57,950
it's not fair to react.

436
00:27:57,950 --> 00:28:03,980
So yes, definitely I think
that we haven't learned yet.

437
00:28:03,980 --> 00:28:07,250
What are your feeling when you
go into the Holocaust Museum

438
00:28:07,250 --> 00:28:09,000
building?

439
00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:13,350
Well, first of
all, it's sadness,

440
00:28:13,350 --> 00:28:19,070
deep sadness that this happened
because you cannot really go

441
00:28:19,070 --> 00:28:24,580
to it and not feel like crying
when you see the youngsters,

442
00:28:24,580 --> 00:28:29,000
and the old, and the women, and
the men, and so on for nothing,

443
00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:31,160
for just nothing.

444
00:28:31,160 --> 00:28:32,680
And I get mad.

445
00:28:32,680 --> 00:28:33,870
I get very mad.

446
00:28:33,870 --> 00:28:40,240
If I had been there and I
had a gun, I would have shot.

447
00:28:40,240 --> 00:28:42,980
And one thing that
made me mad as well--

448
00:28:42,980 --> 00:28:49,000
and the Jews-- they didn't
react to or see in the beginning

449
00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:51,880
that this is so serious.

450
00:28:51,880 --> 00:28:55,900
No, the German Jews--
they believe that, oh,

451
00:28:55,900 --> 00:28:57,140
it cannot happen here.

452
00:28:57,140 --> 00:29:01,640
After all, such a cultural
nation and so on--

453
00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:04,760
and they couldn't believe
that this has happened.

454
00:29:04,760 --> 00:29:07,915
But even though your father was
told to leave-- and he said,

455
00:29:07,915 --> 00:29:09,790

I can't leave because
I have extended family.

456
00:29:09,790 --> 00:29:11,500
That's right, exactly, right.

457
00:29:11,500 --> 00:29:15,580
But at the time, in
Romania, it was so bad.

458
00:29:15,580 --> 00:29:16,130
That's why.

459
00:29:16,130 --> 00:29:18,340
It was somewhere else.

460
00:29:18,340 --> 00:29:23,380
But many times we
talked in the family.

461
00:29:23,380 --> 00:29:27,370
We could have been born in
the United States or something

462
00:29:27,370 --> 00:29:31,288
like that or living
in the United States.

463
00:29:31,288 --> 00:29:33,080
What are your thoughts
about Germany today?

464
00:29:33,080 --> 00:29:37,840

465
00:29:37,840 --> 00:29:38,470
I don't know.

466
00:29:38,470 --> 00:29:43,400
I've met some nice
people from Germany.

467

00:29:43,400 --> 00:29:49,960

One of them is a man that
I supported at Cal Poly.

468

00:29:49,960 --> 00:29:54,020

He was actually
born in Australia.

469

00:29:54,020 --> 00:29:57,580

He's of German origin, and
he is a professor there.

470

00:29:57,580 --> 00:30:01,330

And he was the one who
pushed this new thing

471

00:30:01,330 --> 00:30:06,310

that I mentioned, and
he's a religious man.

472

00:30:06,310 --> 00:30:12,890

And he really is a
man with standards,

473

00:30:12,890 --> 00:30:17,350

and we didn't talk a
lot about the Holocaust.

474

00:30:17,350 --> 00:30:22,330

He is not guilty of
having done that.

475

00:30:22,330 --> 00:30:25,840

So there are people like
that that I respect,

476

00:30:25,840 --> 00:30:29,740

and I think there are--

477

00:30:29,740 --> 00:30:33,590

but there are still
groups there that are not.

478

00:30:33,590 --> 00:30:34,950
Have you been to Germany?

479
00:30:34,950 --> 00:30:38,330
No, and frankly, I
don't want to visit.

480
00:30:38,330 --> 00:30:40,218
Because?

481
00:30:40,218 --> 00:30:40,760
I don't know.

482
00:30:40,760 --> 00:30:41,600
I would be--

483
00:30:41,600 --> 00:30:44,510
I'd feel really-- not
because I'm afraid of them.

484
00:30:44,510 --> 00:30:47,450
At this point, I'm
not afraid of anybody.

485
00:30:47,450 --> 00:30:50,980
I will fight for my
life, but I'm not afraid.

486
00:30:50,980 --> 00:30:54,870
So I don't like it.

487
00:30:54,870 --> 00:30:59,800
I don't like-- and
to some extent,

488
00:30:59,800 --> 00:31:06,710
I don't like the
French, even the Dutch.

489
00:31:06,710 --> 00:31:12,590
They didn't behave in a
way that they should have.

490

00:31:12,590 --> 00:31:15,950

People that had,
actually, a tradition

491

00:31:15,950 --> 00:31:22,010

of helping the Jews in Holland
during the Inquisition--

492

00:31:22,010 --> 00:31:26,070

and here they are, and
instead fully support

493

00:31:26,070 --> 00:31:30,530

this small minority
of Jews, they

494

00:31:30,530 --> 00:31:35,810

did bad things, yeah, not
all of them, not all of them.

495

00:31:35,810 --> 00:31:38,100

You volunteer at the
Holocaust Museum.

496

00:31:38,100 --> 00:31:38,600

Yeah, I did.

497

00:31:38,600 --> 00:31:40,190

What kind of work do you do?

498

00:31:40,190 --> 00:31:46,760

Well, basically, to translate
from Romanian people who have

499

00:31:46,760 --> 00:31:50,390

been interviewed, like you--

500

00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:53,625

and I think my--

501

00:31:53,625 --> 00:31:56,130

I'll try to take--

502
00:31:56,130 --> 00:31:58,050
if you'll excuse me, please.

503
00:31:58,050 --> 00:32:00,243
Oh, [INAUDIBLE].

504
00:32:00,243 --> 00:32:00,743
Sorry.

505
00:32:00,743 --> 00:32:12,830

506
00:32:12,830 --> 00:32:18,770
So we were talking about
what do you do at the museum.

507
00:32:18,770 --> 00:32:20,870
Yes.

508
00:32:20,870 --> 00:32:31,690
Because I still know Romanian
language, I can translate.

509
00:32:31,690 --> 00:32:38,680
And so I went in
there, and I was

510
00:32:38,680 --> 00:32:42,120
given a task to get
something like this

511
00:32:42,120 --> 00:32:45,200
that was an interview.

512
00:32:45,200 --> 00:32:48,780
Listen to it, and
try to translate.

513
00:32:48,780 --> 00:32:51,660
And I started doing that.

514

00:32:51,660 --> 00:32:55,290

But because I was busy
with other things,

515

00:32:55,290 --> 00:32:56,590

I didn't quite finish it.

516

00:32:56,590 --> 00:32:58,410

I still have to
finish it and so on.

517

00:32:58,410 --> 00:33:04,140

It was somebody in Romania who--

518

00:33:04,140 --> 00:33:08,490

in the north of Romania
on the border with Russia

519

00:33:08,490 --> 00:33:12,000

where the Jews were
picked up and so on.

520

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:17,070

It was a horrible thing
and stories that are--

521

00:33:17,070 --> 00:33:21,090

and that was done by the
Romanians, the Romanian police

522

00:33:21,090 --> 00:33:22,310

and army.

523

00:33:22,310 --> 00:33:30,060

And it's very-- in fact,
one of my friends in Israel,

524

00:33:30,060 --> 00:33:33,150

the wife of a good friend--

525

00:33:33,150 --> 00:33:36,760

she was there and survived.

526
00:33:36,760 --> 00:33:41,090
And she was hit with
a bayonet in the back,

527
00:33:41,090 --> 00:33:43,470
and to this very day--

528
00:33:43,470 --> 00:33:50,400
she is like 77 years old, and
she still suffers from that.

529
00:33:50,400 --> 00:33:52,350
But she survived.

530
00:33:52,350 --> 00:33:54,840
How do you feel
being from Romania,

531
00:33:54,840 --> 00:33:59,530
knowing that others in the
same country suffered war--

532
00:33:59,530 --> 00:34:07,500
Yeah, well, I am suddenly
very supporting for the Jews

533
00:34:07,500 --> 00:34:09,090
who suffered, yes.

534
00:34:09,090 --> 00:34:11,290
There is no question about that.

535
00:34:11,290 --> 00:34:13,469
And I was just lucky.

536
00:34:13,469 --> 00:34:17,167
We were lucky, those who
didn't have that experience.

537
00:34:17,167 --> 00:34:18,125
It could have happened.

538
00:34:18,125 --> 00:34:22,070

539
00:34:22,070 --> 00:34:26,420
But it wasn't their
fault. Yeah, I'm

540
00:34:26,420 --> 00:34:29,719
not saying that the
German Jews are at fault

541
00:34:29,719 --> 00:34:34,429
for this Holocaust of theirs.

542
00:34:34,429 --> 00:34:34,969
The Germans?

543
00:34:34,969 --> 00:34:39,610
The German Jews,
yeah, because they

544
00:34:39,610 --> 00:34:44,770
couldn't believe that people
will do something like that.

545
00:34:44,770 --> 00:34:46,780
Is there any particular
part of the museum

546
00:34:46,780 --> 00:34:49,880
that you identify with?

547
00:34:49,880 --> 00:34:53,300
Identifying in what sense?

548
00:34:53,300 --> 00:34:56,750
Any exhibits that kind
of strike you as--

549
00:34:56,750 --> 00:35:02,390
Well, I admire and identify

with when they started

550

00:35:02,390 --> 00:35:06,230

reacting with force against--

551

00:35:06,230 --> 00:35:07,100

The resistance?

552

00:35:07,100 --> 00:35:10,760

The resistance,
yes, because I feel

553

00:35:10,760 --> 00:35:19,190

that, small or without powers,
and so on, as I am or I was,

554

00:35:19,190 --> 00:35:23,600

still would have taken a
stone and throw at them.

555

00:35:23,600 --> 00:35:25,970

That's my feeling.

556

00:35:25,970 --> 00:35:30,420

To this very day, if somebody
would try to attack me,

557

00:35:30,420 --> 00:35:33,080

I wouldn't sit there and let
them, whether they have a gun

558

00:35:33,080 --> 00:35:34,700

or not.

559

00:35:34,700 --> 00:35:44,040

And I truly admire those
people who defend themselves,

560

00:35:44,040 --> 00:35:48,990

and I believe in
the death penalty.

561

00:35:48,990 --> 00:35:53,270

I think that a murderer
should be executed.

562

00:35:53,270 --> 00:36:00,110

And I know people that say,
oh, let's keep them 30 years,

563

00:36:00,110 --> 00:36:02,450

and then they say, well,
he learned something.

564

00:36:02,450 --> 00:36:05,120

Let's let him out.

565

00:36:05,120 --> 00:36:11,390

When I hear this, I just see
red because all the time it

566

00:36:11,390 --> 00:36:15,680

happens, if you read the
newspapers, what happens.

567

00:36:15,680 --> 00:36:17,360

Well, he was given for this--

568

00:36:17,360 --> 00:36:20,060

569

00:36:20,060 --> 00:36:24,950

he killed this, but
after all, he is not--

570

00:36:24,950 --> 00:36:27,950

psychologists say that
this or that and so on.

571

00:36:27,950 --> 00:36:29,160

I don't believe in that.

572

00:36:29,160 --> 00:36:34,610

Frankly, I will say
it in public and--

573
00:36:34,610 --> 00:36:40,580
Has your experience affected
you religiously in any way?

574
00:36:40,580 --> 00:36:42,977

575
00:36:42,977 --> 00:36:44,810
You were a child,
obviously, during the war.

576
00:36:44,810 --> 00:36:48,100
As a child, actually,
until my bar mitzvah,

577
00:36:48,100 --> 00:36:50,665
I was still a believer.

578
00:36:50,665 --> 00:36:54,130
But now, as an adult who
lived through this and

579
00:36:54,130 --> 00:36:56,330
experienced it--

580
00:36:56,330 --> 00:37:01,130
Also, being a scientist
has something to say.

581
00:37:01,130 --> 00:37:07,720
When I hear that people
talk about this spirit that

582
00:37:07,720 --> 00:37:12,400
created the world and so
on, if people believe,

583
00:37:12,400 --> 00:37:14,950
I'm not laughing at them, no.

584
00:37:14,950 --> 00:37:16,000

I'm saying, that's fine.

585

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:17,950

You believe in that.

586

00:37:17,950 --> 00:37:20,660

But what I believe in--

587

00:37:20,660 --> 00:37:28,990

it's a mystery whose answer
or solving will never happen.

588

00:37:28,990 --> 00:37:36,710

So when you look out in the sky
and you see the stars and all

589

00:37:36,710 --> 00:37:41,570

that, and if you are
those who can actually

590

00:37:41,570 --> 00:37:45,780

look through a telescope and
see much more than we do,

591

00:37:45,780 --> 00:37:53,150

how can you say there was some
spirit or some somebody who

592

00:37:53,150 --> 00:37:55,010

created all this?

593

00:37:55,010 --> 00:37:57,680

Can we understand
this-- absolutely not--

594

00:37:57,680 --> 00:37:59,630

and why it exists?

595

00:37:59,630 --> 00:38:03,070

There is a mystery
in looking at an ant.

596

00:38:03,070 --> 00:38:05,780
And you try to pick it up.

597
00:38:05,780 --> 00:38:07,310
It turns away from you.

598
00:38:07,310 --> 00:38:10,070
It knows you are there.

599
00:38:10,070 --> 00:38:11,390
It's a mystery.

600
00:38:11,390 --> 00:38:12,890
How?

601
00:38:12,890 --> 00:38:16,040
I know Darwin said
evolution, but that's

602
00:38:16,040 --> 00:38:18,420
a mystery, too, a big mystery.

603
00:38:18,420 --> 00:38:25,880
And sometimes even our rabbi
at TI, Tifereth Israel,

604
00:38:25,880 --> 00:38:31,710
sometimes says that he
doesn't know what to believe.

605
00:38:31,710 --> 00:38:36,680
He has the courage to say
that to a congregation.

606
00:38:36,680 --> 00:38:40,765
So you are observant in the
sense of holidays and things

607
00:38:40,765 --> 00:38:41,265
like that?

608
00:38:41,265 --> 00:38:44,370

The holidays, yes, because
that's a tradition.

609
00:38:44,370 --> 00:38:49,890
In a way, it's not so much the
religion as being a nation,

610
00:38:49,890 --> 00:38:51,720
being a nation that--

611
00:38:51,720 --> 00:38:55,890
it's another thing
that we should really

612
00:38:55,890 --> 00:39:01,370
respect ourselves, a
people who suffered

613
00:39:01,370 --> 00:39:05,510
so much in their history,
and they survived.

614
00:39:05,510 --> 00:39:08,720
One can say it's God's
doing, but can they

615
00:39:08,720 --> 00:39:13,700
say it's God's doing the
Holocaust, the six million Jews

616
00:39:13,700 --> 00:39:14,600
killed?

617
00:39:14,600 --> 00:39:19,880
It never happened to
other people in such way.

618
00:39:19,880 --> 00:39:23,360
No, never, in all the
history of mankind.

619
00:39:23,360 --> 00:39:25,130
Are you more comfortable

being with people

620
00:39:25,130 --> 00:39:28,160
who are born in Europe than
those who were born here

621
00:39:28,160 --> 00:39:29,240
in the United States?

622
00:39:29,240 --> 00:39:30,110
No, no.

623
00:39:30,110 --> 00:39:35,705
I don't-- I can be--

624
00:39:35,705 --> 00:39:38,900

625
00:39:38,900 --> 00:39:40,880
one aspect, though--

626
00:39:40,880 --> 00:39:44,690
I would say, the American Jews--

627
00:39:44,690 --> 00:39:51,320
there are a lot of them who
are really not in connection

628
00:39:51,320 --> 00:39:55,260
with their history as a nation.

629
00:39:55,260 --> 00:39:58,160
No, they feel themselves
Americans and so on.

630
00:39:58,160 --> 00:40:00,290
That's a major thing.

631
00:40:00,290 --> 00:40:05,390
And I feel that that
is missing something.

632

00:40:05,390 --> 00:40:10,610

While those Jews who
were born in Israel

633

00:40:10,610 --> 00:40:12,650

or who came to Israel--

634

00:40:12,650 --> 00:40:13,760

they know.

635

00:40:13,760 --> 00:40:17,790

That's a different story.

636

00:40:17,790 --> 00:40:23,300

And indeed, some Americans
when they became Israelis--

637

00:40:23,300 --> 00:40:28,520

but when I see in the synagogue,
for instance, what are they

638

00:40:28,520 --> 00:40:31,670

doing many times?

639

00:40:31,670 --> 00:40:35,180

They are very active
in things that

640

00:40:35,180 --> 00:40:39,300

are done in Somalia to
people, or other places

641

00:40:39,300 --> 00:40:43,250

and so on, or in the
district and so on.

642

00:40:43,250 --> 00:40:48,950

They never talk about poor
Jews, or let's give to Israel.

643

00:40:48,950 --> 00:40:56,360

Yes, in the prayer book there

is a whole thing about Israel

644

00:40:56,360 --> 00:40:58,920

and so on, and we
pray and read this.

645

00:40:58,920 --> 00:41:00,180

Fine.

646

00:41:00,180 --> 00:41:03,500

But what about--
yeah, many times

647

00:41:03,500 --> 00:41:09,380

they send their children
to this new thing

648

00:41:09,380 --> 00:41:12,962

that youngsters can
go to visit Israel.

649

00:41:12,962 --> 00:41:13,920

Birthright, Birthright.

650

00:41:13,920 --> 00:41:17,210

Yeah, and that's fine.

651

00:41:17,210 --> 00:41:26,030

And in fact, my wife's youngest
grandchild, Samuel, Sam--

652

00:41:26,030 --> 00:41:32,180

he's going, actually, in a few
days for nine months in Israel.

653

00:41:32,180 --> 00:41:34,640

And, oh, I like him very much.

654

00:41:34,640 --> 00:41:41,164

He is really for Israel and
a great youngster, really.

655

00:41:41,164 --> 00:41:46,460
And I knew them from
when they were born, OK.

656
00:41:46,460 --> 00:41:47,360
I don't have--

657
00:41:47,360 --> 00:41:48,895
So you remarried?

658
00:41:48,895 --> 00:41:49,395
Yes.

659
00:41:49,395 --> 00:41:50,245
Oh, you did remarry.

660
00:41:50,245 --> 00:41:50,960
Yeah, right.

661
00:41:50,960 --> 00:41:54,980
And my children are not married.

662
00:41:54,980 --> 00:41:58,520
I have no grandchildren
of my own,

663
00:41:58,520 --> 00:42:01,910
and Naomi has five
grandchildren.

664
00:42:01,910 --> 00:42:04,420
And I've been there.

665
00:42:04,420 --> 00:42:07,250
So one of them is
already in college,

666
00:42:07,250 --> 00:42:12,500
in their second year in college,
and the others are still--

667
00:42:12,500 --> 00:42:18,500

there is only a young
one that is only 14.

668
00:42:18,500 --> 00:42:20,930
When your children
were very young,

669
00:42:20,930 --> 00:42:23,880
did you tell them
about your childhood?

670
00:42:23,880 --> 00:42:24,740
Yes, I did.

671
00:42:24,740 --> 00:42:25,760
I did, yes.

672
00:42:25,760 --> 00:42:33,260
And my first wife
was not Jewish.

673
00:42:33,260 --> 00:42:35,480
So how were the children raised?

674
00:42:35,480 --> 00:42:39,260
Well, actually, I
tried to raise them--

675
00:42:39,260 --> 00:42:50,360
but when I was a professor at
the University of Connecticut,

676
00:42:50,360 --> 00:42:52,800
I met-- there was
a synagogue there,

677
00:42:52,800 --> 00:42:55,710
and I would go there with them.

678
00:42:55,710 --> 00:43:04,080
But somehow it didn't work
out, but my children now--

679

00:43:04,080 --> 00:43:07,380

one thing, of course,
that is always told

680

00:43:07,380 --> 00:43:12,020

to them, since their
mother is not Jewish,

681

00:43:12,020 --> 00:43:15,030

then they are not
considered Jewish.

682

00:43:15,030 --> 00:43:17,460

So they point this out.

683

00:43:17,460 --> 00:43:20,980

But they are certainly
for Israel and so on.

684

00:43:20,980 --> 00:43:26,040

My daughter has visited
quite a few times.

685

00:43:26,040 --> 00:43:27,600

Have you gone back to Israel?

686

00:43:27,600 --> 00:43:29,240

Oh, yes.

687

00:43:29,240 --> 00:43:34,050

Do you consider yourself
Israeli, or American, or both?

688

00:43:34,050 --> 00:43:35,190

This is interesting.

689

00:43:35,190 --> 00:43:35,690

Both.

690

00:43:35,690 --> 00:43:39,840

And I feel I'm Israeli, and I'll
give you some examples of that.

691
00:43:39,840 --> 00:43:42,570

692
00:43:42,570 --> 00:43:46,590
When I came here, I
was not a citizen.

693
00:43:46,590 --> 00:43:51,960
I was a foreign student,
so to speak, and I was--

694
00:43:51,960 --> 00:43:54,810

695
00:43:54,810 --> 00:44:00,810
when I became a citizen
in 1968, they never

696
00:44:00,810 --> 00:44:07,500
asked me, meaning,
have you denounced

697
00:44:07,500 --> 00:44:13,000
your Israeli citizenship?

698
00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:17,560
Nobody asked me, and I
thought that just by leaving--

699
00:44:17,560 --> 00:44:22,000
and I lived, by that
time eight years here--

700
00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:25,590
I'm not a citizen anymore there.

701
00:44:25,590 --> 00:44:29,160
And I became a citizen.

702
00:44:29,160 --> 00:44:34,020
So I visited there in 1973.

703
00:44:34,020 --> 00:44:36,990
I took my children-- they
were very and a time--

704
00:44:36,990 --> 00:44:41,090
for my parents to see-- my
mother actually had died,

705
00:44:41,090 --> 00:44:45,960
so only my father saw them
and my relatives there.

706
00:44:45,960 --> 00:44:51,480
But when I--
[? I never said-- ?] nobody,

707
00:44:51,480 --> 00:44:52,980
when I came back--

708
00:44:52,980 --> 00:44:54,840
I visited to Israel.

709
00:44:54,840 --> 00:44:57,990
I had my American passport.

710
00:44:57,990 --> 00:45:01,380
Nobody asked any questions.

711
00:45:01,380 --> 00:45:07,030
I went again later
on a few times.

712
00:45:07,030 --> 00:45:08,680
Nobody there asked.

713
00:45:08,680 --> 00:45:21,370
The last time that I was there,
in 2007, as a matter of fact--

714
00:45:21,370 --> 00:45:26,730
that was not the last time, but

that's when something happened.

715

00:45:26,730 --> 00:45:29,970

They looked up, when I came to--

716

00:45:29,970 --> 00:45:35,910

on the computer,
they had my name,

717

00:45:35,910 --> 00:45:37,380

that I'm an Israeli citizen.

718

00:45:37,380 --> 00:45:39,780

I had a passport once,
which I still have

719

00:45:39,780 --> 00:45:42,540

a copy of that old passport.

720

00:45:42,540 --> 00:45:52,440

And they said, you won't be let
out from Israel if you either

721

00:45:52,440 --> 00:46:02,130

renounce your citizenship or
you have an Israeli passport.

722

00:46:02,130 --> 00:46:06,880

So I said, well--

723

00:46:06,880 --> 00:46:09,650

I said, OK, I'll
get a new passport.

724

00:46:09,650 --> 00:46:12,570

And I had to go
through and so on,

725

00:46:12,570 --> 00:46:15,620

and I was lucky
because I and Naomi--

726

00:46:15,620 --> 00:46:19,080
she was with me at the time.

727
00:46:19,080 --> 00:46:24,130
We had a flight
back in a few days,

728
00:46:24,130 --> 00:46:26,830
and the bureaucracy
in Israel is such

729
00:46:26,830 --> 00:46:30,190
that it may take you
a month and so on.

730
00:46:30,190 --> 00:46:33,430
Luckily, I have a
friend from the kibbutz.

731
00:46:33,430 --> 00:46:38,860
So we've been friends from
all these 60 years, almost,

732
00:46:38,860 --> 00:46:47,740
and he knew somebody in Haifa,
at the place of the passports.

733
00:46:47,740 --> 00:46:52,600
And we went there, and they
did it on the spot for me,

734
00:46:52,600 --> 00:46:56,680
particularly because
they saw I served

735
00:46:56,680 --> 00:46:58,410
in the army and all this.

736
00:46:58,410 --> 00:47:02,170
So I said, I'm not going
to do problems to just--

737
00:47:02,170 --> 00:47:08,950

so I have an Israeli
passport, so I'm a dual--

738
00:47:08,950 --> 00:47:09,630
it's legal.

739
00:47:09,630 --> 00:47:11,420
Right, it's legal.

740
00:47:11,420 --> 00:47:14,510
One thing happened--
before I finished my work

741
00:47:14,510 --> 00:47:24,090
and I retired in 2007, they
wanted me to continue to work,

742
00:47:24,090 --> 00:47:33,980
not at ONR but at NRL, by
being a kind of contractor

743
00:47:33,980 --> 00:47:35,630
with a company.

744
00:47:35,630 --> 00:47:45,620
And they would pay me and so on
and work as much as I wanted.

745
00:47:45,620 --> 00:47:51,190
And I said, OK, but
for this, they said,

746
00:47:51,190 --> 00:47:53,820
you have to fill out this form.

747
00:47:53,820 --> 00:48:00,390
And this form asks you, are you
a citizen of what countries?

748
00:48:00,390 --> 00:48:05,730
And I said, the United
States, and they asked,

749

00:48:05,730 --> 00:48:07,050
do you have any other passport?

750

00:48:07,050 --> 00:48:09,440
And I said, yes.

751

00:48:09,440 --> 00:48:17,710
And they said, OK,
we can give you a--

752

00:48:17,710 --> 00:48:20,510

753

00:48:20,510 --> 00:48:23,240
what do you call it?

754

00:48:23,240 --> 00:48:27,720
A security clearance
and so on and work.

755

00:48:27,720 --> 00:48:29,570
And I said, how
is that possible?

756

00:48:29,570 --> 00:48:34,520
I had secret clearance,
and now you're telling me--

757

00:48:34,520 --> 00:48:38,330
and then they came
back and said, OK,

758

00:48:38,330 --> 00:48:41,470
if you give us your
Israeli passport--

759

00:48:41,470 --> 00:48:44,150
and we'll cut it
off into pieces--

760

00:48:44,150 --> 00:48:50,110
you can still enter the

laboratory and around there.

761

00:48:50,110 --> 00:48:52,760

And I said no.

762

00:48:52,760 --> 00:48:54,530

I had enough of that.

763

00:48:54,530 --> 00:48:59,785

I don't want people to
tell me what to do anymore.

764

00:48:59,785 --> 00:49:03,190

So money-- they were going
to pay me, basically,

765

00:49:03,190 --> 00:49:05,830

\$1,000 per day.

766

00:49:05,830 --> 00:49:07,870

That's pretty good.

767

00:49:07,870 --> 00:49:12,280

So I never had that when
I worked a regular--

768

00:49:12,280 --> 00:49:13,300

and so on.

769

00:49:13,300 --> 00:49:20,060

But I decided, no, there
is a point where it's not--

770

00:49:20,060 --> 00:49:21,990

So that's how I feel.

771

00:49:21,990 --> 00:49:25,980

I feel for America and
Israel at the same time.

772

00:49:25,980 --> 00:49:26,480

Why?

773
00:49:26,480 --> 00:49:27,020
Because?

774
00:49:27,020 --> 00:49:30,830
I feel these two countries
are so connected.

775
00:49:30,830 --> 00:49:36,650
Even many people don't realize,
including the Jews, how come.

776
00:49:36,650 --> 00:49:39,925

777
00:49:39,925 --> 00:49:43,640
If you look at the history
of the United States--

778
00:49:43,640 --> 00:49:48,170
and I've learned a lot from
the history and reading books.

779
00:49:48,170 --> 00:49:52,620
I collected books and so on,
from biographies and all this.

780
00:49:52,620 --> 00:49:56,630
And when you read about
the founding fathers,

781
00:49:56,630 --> 00:49:58,430
what did they depend on?

782
00:49:58,430 --> 00:50:02,210
They went to the Old
Testament, which is

783
00:50:02,210 --> 00:50:06,740
the Hebrew Bible, and all this.

784
00:50:06,740 --> 00:50:10,430

So there is no
other country that

785
00:50:10,430 --> 00:50:19,450
has that and believed in that,
and the two are basically--

786
00:50:19,450 --> 00:50:27,280
the one invented
this God and so on.

787
00:50:27,280 --> 00:50:31,240
The others invented how
to behave as a nation,

788
00:50:31,240 --> 00:50:36,000
how to do it, liberties
of human beings.

789
00:50:36,000 --> 00:50:37,500
That's what's the connection.

790
00:50:37,500 --> 00:50:42,260
And there is no other
country in the world that

791
00:50:42,260 --> 00:50:48,380
has done that, neither Israel
as a nation or the United States

792
00:50:48,380 --> 00:50:51,320
as a nation and as a--

793
00:50:51,320 --> 00:50:55,940
it will be a tremendous tragedy
if one of these two countries

794
00:50:55,940 --> 00:51:00,680
will disappear, and sometimes
I feel very strongly

795
00:51:00,680 --> 00:51:06,230
about the United States, that

it goes in the direction that,

796

00:51:06,230 --> 00:51:11,130
to me, is extremely
dangerous, becoming something

797

00:51:11,130 --> 00:51:13,320
that it shouldn't become.

798

00:51:13,320 --> 00:51:17,460
When I hear about illegal
immigrants-- and this

799

00:51:17,460 --> 00:51:20,260
is, oh, no, these poor people.

800

00:51:20,260 --> 00:51:23,630
Well, they have their lands.

801

00:51:23,630 --> 00:51:25,310
When you talk about
South America--

802

00:51:25,310 --> 00:51:28,340
and you can call me a racist
or something like that,

803

00:51:28,340 --> 00:51:35,270
but I feel, they have a land,
rich lands, Mexico and so on.

804

00:51:35,270 --> 00:51:38,480
They have natural
resources and so on.

805

00:51:38,480 --> 00:51:42,830
They don't know how to
conduct themselves as nations.

806

00:51:42,830 --> 00:51:48,640
And in a way, I remember in
the time that I've been here--

807

00:51:48,640 --> 00:51:50,900

I arrived in 1960--

808

00:51:50,900 --> 00:51:53,790

the Americans were Americans.

809

00:51:53,790 --> 00:51:57,340

Really, when I looked
at people they--

810

00:51:57,340 --> 00:52:00,970

suddenly we see groups of
people that don't look--

811

00:52:00,970 --> 00:52:03,700

they looking differently.

812

00:52:03,700 --> 00:52:07,840

I'm not saying bad,
differently, different.

813

00:52:07,840 --> 00:52:11,440

And to claim that--

814

00:52:11,440 --> 00:52:14,200

I even wrote an article--

815

00:52:14,200 --> 00:52:16,600

not an article but a
letter to the editor--

816

00:52:16,600 --> 00:52:21,610

in The Wall Street
Journal because there

817

00:52:21,610 --> 00:52:32,830

was a man who was in a consulate
from Mexico here in the US.

818

00:52:32,830 --> 00:52:35,860

And he wrote, oh, he
doesn't understand

819
00:52:35,860 --> 00:52:42,010
why people are against
immigrants, illegal or not.

820
00:52:42,010 --> 00:52:46,160
We are giving you
the best of us.

821
00:52:46,160 --> 00:52:50,320
And I couldn't
stand it because--

822
00:52:50,320 --> 00:52:52,760
they are giving us the
best of themselves?

823
00:52:52,760 --> 00:52:57,640
How many scientists are
coming here who are illegal?

824
00:52:57,640 --> 00:53:02,080
Coming people that don't have
jobs, that they have the worst

825
00:53:02,080 --> 00:53:05,380
jobs there, and they come here.

826
00:53:05,380 --> 00:53:10,470
And so I felt very
strongly about that.

827
00:53:10,470 --> 00:53:13,810
And that's only one thing, that
there are so many other things

828
00:53:13,810 --> 00:53:15,220
that are happening.

829
00:53:15,220 --> 00:53:18,070
The freedom of the
people in this country

830

00:53:18,070 --> 00:53:21,030

is in danger with
the government,

831

00:53:21,030 --> 00:53:23,380

what it's doing,
taking over things

832

00:53:23,380 --> 00:53:26,660

that it's not-- it's
unconstitutional.

833

00:53:26,660 --> 00:53:27,440

That's how I feel.

834

00:53:27,440 --> 00:53:31,010

835

00:53:31,010 --> 00:53:36,120

That's what I am, and I'm
not ashamed to say that.

836

00:53:36,120 --> 00:53:41,000

For instance, when
people talk about--

837

00:53:41,000 --> 00:53:46,220

I hope you will not be--

838

00:53:46,220 --> 00:53:50,440

I have some views about
those same-sex marriages.

839

00:53:50,440 --> 00:53:53,200

840

00:53:53,200 --> 00:53:57,100

I'm totally against
that, to force that

841

00:53:57,100 --> 00:54:01,950

on the rest of the

country, no matter what.

842

00:54:01,950 --> 00:54:04,950

If they want to call
me a bad guy, fine.

843

00:54:04,950 --> 00:54:09,800

844

00:54:09,800 --> 00:54:18,190

But many people have this
view that this is freedom.

845

00:54:18,190 --> 00:54:20,310

I'm not sure that
this is freedom.

846

00:54:20,310 --> 00:54:23,820

I'm against hurting
anybody like that.

847

00:54:23,820 --> 00:54:29,240

I don't want to do anything,
in jobs or anything like that.

848

00:54:29,240 --> 00:54:32,240

But the truth is that--

849

00:54:32,240 --> 00:54:41,440

and that's my view, that they
go beyond this tremendously,

850

00:54:41,440 --> 00:54:46,280

and that's bad for America.

851

00:54:46,280 --> 00:54:49,225

Well, thank you for telling
the story of your life

852

00:54:49,225 --> 00:54:51,580

and expressing your views.

853

00:54:51,580 --> 00:54:53,700
Well, I was asked--

854
00:54:53,700 --> 00:54:55,310
I didn't want to
talk, really, about--

855
00:54:55,310 --> 00:55:01,110
if my wife heard, she would
have said, oh, Phillip,

856
00:55:01,110 --> 00:55:03,153
what did you do?

857
00:55:03,153 --> 00:55:03,820
Why did you do--

858
00:55:03,820 --> 00:55:07,480
let's just end up by you telling
me why you did this interview,

859
00:55:07,480 --> 00:55:09,220
why you're willing
to do the interview.

860
00:55:09,220 --> 00:55:13,690
Well, frankly, I never thought
about looking back at my life,

861
00:55:13,690 --> 00:55:15,040
and so on.

862
00:55:15,040 --> 00:55:20,110
Yes, I have a lot of material,
the things that I've--

863
00:55:20,110 --> 00:55:25,300
papers that I
published and so on.

864
00:55:25,300 --> 00:55:32,050
But I decided, maybe I'm going
to organize myself and so on

865
00:55:32,050 --> 00:55:37,405
and leave it as a memory
for my children, yeah.

866
00:55:37,405 --> 00:55:44,302
And they know some of it
but not really everything

867
00:55:44,302 --> 00:55:45,760
because when they
were very young--

868
00:55:45,760 --> 00:55:47,440
they were very young and so on.

869
00:55:47,440 --> 00:55:53,330
And so I decided,
yes, it's interesting,

870
00:55:53,330 --> 00:55:58,340
and if this can help other
people make some decisions

871
00:55:58,340 --> 00:56:01,470
or whatever, it's up to them.

872
00:56:01,470 --> 00:56:06,320
But I'm not going out and
shouting it in the street

873
00:56:06,320 --> 00:56:09,590
and so on because
I know people--

874
00:56:09,590 --> 00:56:12,350
they have their own
ideas, and they don't

875
00:56:12,350 --> 00:56:14,540
have to accept mine, yeah.

876

00:56:14,540 --> 00:56:15,680
That's freedom.

877
00:56:15,680 --> 00:56:18,660
That's freedom.

878
00:56:18,660 --> 00:56:19,460
Yeah.

879
00:56:19,460 --> 00:56:22,220
Well, thank you so much
for doing the interview.

880
00:56:22,220 --> 00:56:24,080
All right, thank you.

881
00:56:24,080 --> 00:56:27,530
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

882
00:56:27,530 --> 00:56:30,683
interview with Phillip Abraham.

883
00:56:30,683 --> 00:56:31,183