So what part of--

Israel?

[TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT] [INAUDIBLE]

You have to test it out first?

I just tested it a minute ago.

Oh, you did?

I'm just trying to make sure it's halfway picking up.

OK.

Are you in the same class with him or--

Not, not history class, no. I have an English class with him.

I see. Well, see, that's funny kind of because I go to so many schools and universities and so many different grades, too. And then I find out later that wasn't history at all. It was the English class. And it's all-- everybody has something different.

OK. You've got some new questions for me?

It's still some of the same questions. I'm still pretty much leaving it the same informal manner.

Does your teacher know about it yet?

He knows about it. He was asking me if I was taking notes or questions, stuff like that. And I told him I was trying to leave it more informal, but I had [background noise][INAUDIBLE].

I was just wondering-- we are talking this week basically about the role that-- like some people-- in Palestine they tried some Jewish people who participated in the sense that in the ghettos, where they tried to, I guess-- the Nazis wanted them and had them in charge within the ghetto. And they were the ones who were picking who went and who didn't. What are your feelings on the blame on that? Or do you feel that's more or less--

Well, first of all, they wanted them all together. That was the main thing is to have them all together because they could get to them real easy, and they did, especially in the ghettos. What I wanted to ask you was whether you had ever read Mila 18. I'm going to have to give it to you because that gives you a good description, and a fairly true one. And the other one was-- it was made into a movie. Gee.

I have to get it out. That book deals altogether after it was over with and how they got to Israel, and what they did there, and how they did, and with the Palestinian bombing, and all of those things that they did right after the war. And it's fascinating.

And, well, I have to tell you, by 3:00 AM in the morning I was cross-eyed, and I finally had to put the book down. I was reading the same paragraph three times, and then you have to just quit. But they're very, very interesting books, and they're kind of easy to read.

In the beginning, as you start reading, you meet each person that is within the book, and by the time you get further down in, you know that person. You know his personality, and what he does, and what he likes, and what he doesn't

like, and so on, and it's very descriptive. And I'd love for you to read it.

But I ask you at the same time to bring them back to me. I have-- did you read them?

I've heard of the first one, but I haven't read it before.

Fabulous. It really gives you an insight, and maybe you can have some time and read it. I found it fascinating. I really did.

There's a lot of books I haven't-- I've got a lot of books that I haven't read that--

Yeah, you hadn't even read Anne Frank, did you?

I haven't read it yet.

I have that, too, and I also have it in Dutch, if you care.

That might take a little longer.

Yeah, I think it would. And there are quite a few books that are very, very interesting on that subject and how young those kids were at the time, about your age, and the things that they went through, and how they got out. It was something else, especially Mila 18 because that takes place in Poland, in the ghetto, in the Warsaw Ghetto.

And crazy enough, these are novels, but he has put all the facts together and made books out of them so that they're true in the way of history. And you can recognize them from one book to the other, would be the same personalities.

Do you think that those who were put in charge, that had to do the picking-- do you think that they were so much responsible? Or do you think they were trying to-- because a lot of times I've gotten the perspective that the people felt that, by having to pick out-- if they didn't pick out the 1,000 that they had to, that the Nazis would have come in and just picked any 2,000.

Oh, yeah.

Do you think that-- you think that kind of-- does that make sense?

Yes, that does make sense. It definitely does. And of course, it wasn't very easy to pick them because so many of them were friends of yours, maybe related to you, and so on, and it was very hard to do that. But they had it to do, and there were conflicts because of it.

They were all Jewish, and then you really don't want to pick your friends if something is up like a transport and such. No, it wasn't easy. And they would have picked. And they would. The Germans would have picked, and they would have picked more just because.

Sometimes in Amsterdam, too-- let's say they would find somebody a underground person, and he, of course, was never politically correct. He was on the opposite end, and if they found them, they would take him to any square. And it might be in the middle of the town. And they round up maybe 250 to 500 people and shot them, and they had to watch it.

And you talk about that being hard. It was terrible. But they had no conscience, never bothered them. I was told to do that, always the same excuse. And even now, 50 years later, if you go to Germany and you find somebody my age, they still say either they didn't know it, didn't know what was going on-- it was all over. They couldn't help but see. Or they said, well, I just did what I was told to do, big, innocent eyes. And that's the way it came across.

Were most of the political prisoners that were there that you came across-- were they pretty much mostly older? Or were they--

No, they were young then. So was I. The war was-- I was 18 when it started, and I was 23 when it was over. That's five years. We learned to grow up very fast.

Were the people that mostly spoke out like from different denominations and stuff-- weren't people like that-- were they more like in their 20s, 30s, 40s that you came across or--

Yeah, most of them were. But we did have some older people, too. I think I told you last week we brought back a young lady of 73. That's what I am now. And she made it all the way through with our help. That was fantastic.

And there are other little things that haven't even come about to talk about. There were a lot of people that had diabetes. Never ever did they get a shot of insulin. And to this day I am wondering what happened after the war. Did diabetes come back? Was it gone for good? Are they back on insulin? What actually happened?

The food was so lousy, and we never did have anything sweet. As far as I know, all the diabetics that we had in our compound came back, never had any medication of any kind. The only medication they ever had was aspirin, and they had to ask for it or beg for it. And you weren't sick until you had 104 degrees. It was totally not counted if it was under 104, and you could be pretty sick by the time you hit 104 degrees.

But that has always stood in my mind how they just didn't collapse or just died without the medication that they had to have at least once or twice a day. It never occurred-- never came-- never paid attention. The Germans sure didn't. It's kind of weird.

And after the war, I never saw any of the ones that were diabetics. This is just an example-- people have other diseases besides just diabetes-- but that was one. And I've never totally understood. God was with us somewhere around there, not to get any medication whatsoever.

I lost my train of thought there, typical thing.

Well, I do that. Why should you be different?

With most of the people that were in the camps, what would you say was-- the people that survived or the people that lasted the longest-- what do you think carried them most? Was it-- as far as their minds, was it-- because it couldn't have been-- it wasn't-- I know it wasn't obedience that did it. What carried their sanity?

Their sanity?

Or your own.

Willing, wanting to live, to show you could do it. And it took a tremendous amount of strength to keep your mind on that. And I think I told you last week, too, that there were times-- and things were so bad you kind of had to turn your mind off because that wasn't normal. That was no normal living that we did.

And it's hard to imagine that you have to turn off your mind, make like it's not there, and just accept as-is at that point to make it through. And to have a good sense of humor-- that helped greatly. We made fun of things. They weren't always funny, but you know.

And we would do things that the Germans didn't like. You were always marching, and march we could, believe me. We learned. And it's like I-- I said before that they ask us to whistle. Well, when they said whistle, we sang. When they told us to sing, we whistled. We never did the thing exactly as they wanted it, and it just gave you a little strength, knowing that you did that against them.

We had no weapons. All you have are your two fists. Now, there were not going to do you any good against guns, and rifles, and all this lovely stuff that they did, sticks. They beat you to a pulp at any time, so you had to-- you got to have a

strong mind.

What was it like dealing with-- when people that you knew were getting-- you said sent one way, sent the wrong ways?

That mostly happened when I was in Auschwitz, which was the worst, of course. The feelings that go inside you are incredible. This one goes to the left. Goes to the left-- that means you'll be gassed and put in the crematorium to burn.

And we saw our friends, some of them relatives, mothers, fathers-- small children that couldn't work yet were sent there. And they did it-- they were so mean. Sometimes they'd say, everybody in the first row, two steps forward. Everybody went up to the gas chamber. Next time, they did it on the back row or out of the middle. You never, never knew.

What you didn't knew-- what you did know was the fact that if you were sick and you were-- you have seen pictures of the skeletons walking around. If you were at that stage that you were walking skeleton, off to the gas chamber.

This happened to my father. He go so thin that he was just a walking skeleton, and he happened to stand in line with a neighbor from Amsterdam. And he's the one that-- when he saw me back in Amsterdam later, after the war, tapped me on the shoulder and said, by the way, if you care to know, your father died on October 1, 1944. I was standing next to him.

That's a shocker. I didn't know yet. Well, it wasn't a shocker. It was, and it wasn't. I hadn't heard from the Red Cross or anywhere that he was still alive. And that was my mother's birthday, October 1.

Do you think-- I read a little bit about you mom. Do you think that might have been a good way for your mom or-- I know--

My mother was spared. Yes, she died. She died in the camp in Holland. But it was, I guess, the 15th of November. She died on the seventh, which was my grandmother's birthday.

Anyway, there was a transport supposed to go of a minimum of 2,000 on the 15th of November. Now, I got there on June 6, on D-day. I arrived in Auschwitz. There were two left of the 2,000 that had left on November 15, so I feel that she was spared this, really.

But they were tough days, and I never did see my dad again after he had the-- he left a few days after that because he went to see one of the higher-up Germans who happened to be in the camp on a certain day, and he went to him and told him that he was supposed to go on that transport on the 15th.

And he said he had just lost his wife, which he did, and I was still sick. I had pleurisy bad, real bad. And he talked him into letting him stay, not to go on the 15th but go a few days later. And right now I can't remember the exact date. I might have it written down somewhere.

But he was allowed to go on a different transport you see he had been a soldier in World War I, and if you could prove that you had been in World War I, which, of course, he could, you had the privilege, if you can call it that, to go to Theresienstadt. Terezin it is called now. And that's where they had people that had been involved in World War I.

But both my grandparents, my father's parents-- both were sent there. They had six children. Five of them were boys and one girl, and all five of them were in the war, in the First World War. So he was sent there.

He was-- well, I can't say spared. He wasn't because, in the end, they sent him to Auschwitz, too. So you could never rely on what they were telling you. It happened anyway. They did exactly what they wanted to do.

Do you think that the role of the Polish railroad workers and stuff like that-- do you think that them going along with it, like the workers-- and I know there's always excuse-- the economics excuse, my family-- at what point do you think the blame is cast?

The Poles? I don't like to say it. There was a great amount of Poles that helped the Germans. They were still from the old school, mostly Catholic. We were called Christ-killers. That was almost inborn. Everybody was told that.

So we didn't take too kindly to them at that point, and they know that, they and the Lithuanian. And we also-- in camp we had prisoners that were from Russia. Many of them were for the Germans. So we had to look out in every direction. You never knew where it was going to come from.

Now, at Auschwitz we were not bothered much by the Poles because they were outside the camp, actually. They weren't inside the camp. Jewish prisoners were, Polish ones.

But Lithuania was full of Lithuanians that backed Hitler and did tremendous damage, and even now you can find it in some of the magazines that go around. They're still finding Lithuanians, Poles, too, that participated in war crimes. They're still trying to get them. And it's getting harder and harder because it's been so long.

The last time, you spoke of your friend and-- when you were a little girl and how you had gotten her pin.

Oh, my girl friend, yeah.

Did you ever speak to her later?

No, we moved, see?

So you never--

No, no. I don't know what happened to her. I have no idea. And at this point I couldn't have cared less because they were super-Nazis. They really were.

I just didn't know if you--

Yeah. No, never seen or heard from her.

You spoke of some of the things that you had done at the camp like with the little transistors.

Transistors weren't-- I don't believe they were out yet.

Well, the--

The radio tubes.

Yeah, the tubes, the radio tubes.

Yes.

You sort of were doing stuff like that. What other things did you do to kind of-- I don't-- mess with their--

Well we did. It wasn't really too much we could do, but what we destroyed there and materials-- it's unbelievable. Those tubes-- we made as many as we had to, which was 100 per day, seven days a week, including Sundays, yeah.

We made lots of them. That used up a lot of material. And then when the tube didn't work, we had destroyed some more. And then-- don't forget-- this was just my department where we actually build the little tubes. Department before us is where they stamped out all the materials. Well, they did their thing, too, there, offset the thing, and then it wasn't round enough or not oval enough for it. It couldn't be used.

And my friend and I-- we suddenly were made electricians. I think I told you I didn't a positive from a negative, so I was

a real good electrician. We were made to fix the welding machine. This was all spot-welding that we had to do.

And we had to take care of the electrodes, the pure copper. And it came-- oh, they must have been about an 1/8 of an inch round, long pieces, and they had to be cut to the size for the machine.

And then copper is very soft, and we had to hammer it. The front part of the electrode had to be hammered till it was hard enough to be used and had to be square. They came round.

What did we do? We started hammering exactly at 12:00, midnight. We had midnight shift for eight months solid. And why did we do that at midnight? We had these big stainless steel, squared pieces of-- oh, there must have been 3 inches thick square.

And you put the electrode on there, and you hammer it. Now, can you imagine the noise that made? At 12:00 they would play the German national anthem. While we were there, they never heard it. We hammered until 12:00.

And it never occurred to them that we did that on purpose. Nobody ever asked, and we just hammered away. I have hammered a piece of copper, paper-thin. I mean you could roll it it was so thin. Well, we did that a few times, and that was ruined. Matter of fact, we sometimes made little pins out of the copper, out of the copper where we just nailed it down and hammered and hammered. And then you could cut it with a knife.

And if you could find a safety pin, you could solder it in the back. And we'd make little pins, made elephants, and all kind of things. And then it never occurred to them it was their own material. We ruined a lot.

That was the best defense we had, really. You didn't have any weapons that you could defend yourself with, only with your mouth. And then you hoped that they wouldn't understand what you were saying, like I did. But I was just lucky. She didn't know what I was saying to her, and I told her to drop dead. She thanked me for it.

What else you got?

Well, as far as like your friends that you met through the camps, how many have you-- have you been able to track down many of them or--

In Amsterdam after the war, yes. But I left three years later, and so then, of course, I couldn't. But one of my friends came to Canada and then to the United States, and she is in California. I don't hear much about her now, but a few years ago we had a reunion at the Philips factory. And I happened to hear it before she did, and I called her. I have her address and phone number.

And she got herself in motion, and we both met again. And we got back to Amsterdam, and then we went to Eindhoven. That's where the factory is. And there were still over a hundred of us that had made that trip, and there were, of course, quite a few that didn't make it, weren't able to come. As we are getting older, it's a little bit harder.

But there were over 100, and all of us had name tags. And 50 years-- or, well, then it was maybe 45 years later-- to see each other again took a little doing. We did look different than the last time we saw each other. That's for sure. That was a fun, fun trip, rehashed a lot of things and trying to recognize each other.

And we had one-- the name was familiar, but it was not. And I looked, and I looked, and I looked, and I tried, and racked my brain to find out who she was. And I recognized her face, but the name didn't mean a thing with her face. It didn't correspond.

And she said, you're still trying to find out who I am. I said, I most certainly am. And then she gave this other name, and I knew immediately who she was. She had been a Spanish dancer. Matter of fact, she had brought some of her costumes-- how she ever did that I will not know or why she did it I will not know-- brought them to camp, and she performed for us occasionally in our own barrack.

And I knew her as the Spanish dancer, and that was her stage name that she gave me. She had her real name on her tag, had a tough time. And she was in her 90s, looked maybe not older than maybe 65 or 70. It's amazing. But we all-- in the end, we all knew who we were.

But to meet again after that long a time was something else. It was fantastic. It really was. Is it recording?

That popped loose, I think.

When?

I'm not sure.

Well, try and find it out. Do you have to rewind?

Well, I still got plenty of tape. I've got another tape, too, so I can always-- yeah, I've got a couple of weeks.

They go by-- you won't be surprised-- you'll be surprised how fast they go by. At the last minute you're stuck with something, and I've been trying to avoid that.

I try to-- what I can't remember I can always call you and find out, get all this. Because I know I only have so much I can--

--put together.

Yeah. And I'm more or less-- I guess I'm going to try to get a basic overview mixed in with--

Did you get to read that article that-- yeah, that one.

I read this one. I think I read this one. This one I read the other--

It starts there in the front. Yeah, that's where it starts.

I believe I read this one last week, and this one I started-- I just got a chance to read the first couple of pages. It's just been-- that's the way it's been recently. That's why I--

That's a good thing you have that because it describes quite a bit and that one. It was a newspaper article in the Sunday magazine, and it's the longest article I've ever seen from one person, actually, that they printed as much as they did. They always get shrunk.

Oh, we got to liberation. What else you want to know?

OK. I know you do a lot of lecturing and stuff like that. Do you think that some people that went through the same thing-- do you think-- and I know there's some people who want to completely forget it that they've--

Can't forget it.

I mean like a lot of people won't--

Want to shut it off.

--don't even want to--

--talk about it. I think that's been my best solution for me. I was always able to talk about it, and that way I got it off my chest. And that makes a big difference, whether you hold it in-- and you really suffer from it the entire time. Some

people are still doing it 50 years later.

And I knew my parents well enough to know that they didn't want me to live that way, to hold it all in. Get it out and over with, and start living again. And basically that's what I've done.

That he's going to start those lectures this week. Those lectures from my Holocaust teacher.

Yeah?

He's going to start this start this week.

If they ever want me over there, I'd be glad to come. Well, I shouldn't say it that way. Somebody has to come and get me. I don't drive, and my car is gone. I shed a few tears the other day as it left. I don't drive. But they came here from Mississippi before, so if I ever want that, I'll be glad to do it.

I'll have to let them know. I don't know how long he's been working on getting this together. But it takes--

Did you mention to him that you're interviewing somebody that--

I told him I was interviewing you. He's trying to make sure I was write-- he asked whether I was taking notes or what.

How long does it take you to the school from here?

It's two and a half, three hours. It's not too bad. Just it depends on how many cops you have to deal with. You got to find someone. You try to look for that little cord, and the little lights, the radar detector.

Yeah, right. You don't-- I'll tell you this now. You don't do that in North Carolina. You drive 55-- that's it-- 65 at the most on the open road. Don't drive at 66. It is not worth it.

Sounds like Germany.

Nah, they fall out of the sky. You don't know where they come from. It is unbelievable. Have you been through there?

I lived in Raleigh.

Oh, well, I was in Durham.

They're all over there.

You know exactly what I'm talking about. A friend of mine was caught between Durham and whatever, as long as North Carolina goes. Her husband had passed away, and they had two run home, literally. And they got caught at that point. And that wasn't easy to explain. We got ticketed anyway. You don't do it in North Carolina. You don't. Have you lived there long, in Raleigh?

That's where I'm co-oping at, in--

In that triangle?

Yeah. I was there this summer, and then I was there five months last fall, so.

Is that still home to you?

No, I'm actually from South Mississippi, from Picayune.

From where?

Picayune, Mississippi. It's down toward the coast.

Well, they got me to [INAUDIBLE]. And I told-- I know your name. Why can't I say it? What's your name?

Corey?

Corey, Corey. I told Corey last week, I think, they got me the afternoon before, so I had spent the night there. But that night they took me out, and they had 50 other teachers, or teachers aides, or anything that had to do with education there.

And I spoke to them. We had a nice dinner, and I spoke to them. The next day, they pulled three high schools together within that vicinity. I spoke to 600 in the morning and 400 in the afternoon. This is incredible-- I have pictures of that, too-- big article in the paper.

And I've got more paper clippings. You wouldn't believe. It's awful. But that was quite a meeting. I went in Arkansas. I spoke there. And in Munford-- I got to Munford the other day, and Sunday night I'll be here in-- let's see-- Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

I used to play basketball against them.

Huh?

I used to--

Play basketball against them? Yeah. This time it's a youth group, and they we're going to have one class. And I told him-- I said, you get those kids in there. Why don't you get them all?

So we're going to have them all. They're going to pull them all together into one meeting. You know I think it's from either seventh or eighth grade through 12th. So that way, you reach more, and if you have more, more questions come, things they want to know. It's really something. I'm surprised.

I don't know if you caught the Million Man March stuff. I recorded that just so I could have-- of course, old Farrakhan stayed away from some of his typical stuff.

Yes, I heard.

But it was funny. I recorded it so I would have a little example because they said some of-- Jackson and Sharpton-- they all said a little bit of their stuff, but they didn't really get into it.

They did. They couldn't.

I wish I would have been recording Rush this week because they kind of went over a little bit of it every day. And then he'd show-- he would show some of their-- because they were claiming they never said this. And then Rush would turn around, and he showed people saying it.

I now. I heard it all.

I need to-- there's that place in Connecticut that handles all the transcripts and this and that and have all-- I want to write to them and try to get video because they're the ones that have--

--have it all.

There's huge archives and stuff. And I want to get those clips, especially if I plan on teaching, because I want to show people that their speeches are as bad as some the Nazis made as far as--

Oh, absolutely, absolutely.

Because I've seen some on Rush that-- I was just like, this is--

You were too young to listen to that. You probably were still in the beginning of high school or something like that and not yet quite interested in all that when he spoke like that. I have heard them all.

He came to down to state-- I don't know if this was freshman year or the year before. Was it the year before that he came, that Farrakhan? He came to state--

I don't remember.

If it was my-- I don't think it was my freshman year because I think I would have been aware of it. But I had heard that there was a whole lot of trouble. You know how after the OJ verdict-- I heard that the police-- the university police had to go there and watch over a lot of things and stuff like that.

You bet your life. Oh, it caused a tremendous-- he's a tremendous rabble-rouser.

Rush poked fun at his-- he was using a lot of numerology type stuff, messing around with all this, and Rush said-- he said, yeah, if you take Farrakhan's name as letters being in the alphabet, one through 26, he said, his name comes to the number 78. And when did he come to power? '78, 1978. Because he kept saying stuff like--

I mean, Rush was making fun of-- and then Rush took apart his own name. He said, take apart my name. You have-- first off, you start off, R-U. He said, well, if you take those as words, R-U, and then you take the last--

--two.

--of the first name and then the first name, you get slim. He said, you take that R-U slim-- are you slim? Yes, I have been losing weight.

He can make something out of everything. It's funny.

He was poking so much fun at all that stuff. But he-- the thing I-- I don't know if Saturday Night Live or any of those are going to poke fun at, but during the whole speech his son and I guess a couple others behind him but, in particular, his son-- all you heard was, go ahead, go ahead. I've got it on tape. I'm going to go back through, and I'm going to count how many times he says--

And you wished you had it on video, didn't you?

Oh, I've got it on video.

Oh, you did. Oh, that's good.

It stopped-- at one point the power went out. I've been-- it's a couple of times it's happened recently. They don't even tell you. They don't say if they shut off-- I guess all the complex-- they've been doing stuff with the telephone line.

Oh, God.

You'd think they would tell people, hey, we're going to be shutting off power, or whatever. So I missed--

It's all right.

--probably about 10 minutes of it. It funny. The whole time-- and you can see him-- go ahead-- he had his sunglasses on-- go ahead. It's just so funny.

Now, he is in Chicago, right? Farrakhan.

I'm not sure.

Clinton, he got out of that city so he wouldn't have to deal with it. But old Colin Powell knew-- he knows what's politically smart for him. He's--

He knows. No, he's not stupid.

But some-- it's pretty bad. They were talking about, well, is it a good thing, the way he's bringing out this type of unity? But you look at the Nazis, he brought out unity, but it wasn't positive.