

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,490  
[BEEP]

2  
00:00:02,490 --> 00:00:58,350

3  
00:00:58,350 --> 00:01:00,362  
Speak.

4  
00:01:00,362 --> 00:01:02,720  
Milton, I'd like  
to begin by asking

5  
00:01:02,720 --> 00:01:04,940  
you to state your name,  
your date of birth,

6  
00:01:04,940 --> 00:01:07,130  
where you were born.

7  
00:01:07,130 --> 00:01:11,720  
Milton Green, and  
I'm 82 years old.

8  
00:01:11,720 --> 00:01:15,590  
And I was born in  
Lowell, Massachusetts.

9  
00:01:15,590 --> 00:01:19,490  
But we moved from Lowell, when  
I was about five years old,

10  
00:01:19,490 --> 00:01:22,970  
to Brookline, Mass.

11  
00:01:22,970 --> 00:01:25,820  
And we went to Temple--

12  
00:01:25,820 --> 00:01:30,950  
I went to Temple  
Israel in Boston

13  
00:01:30,950 --> 00:01:36,320  
since I was about five  
years old till even now.

14  
00:01:36,320 --> 00:01:38,700  
How's the sound look?

15  
00:01:38,700 --> 00:01:39,820  
OK.

16  
00:01:39,820 --> 00:01:42,810  
Tell me a little bit about  
growing up in Brooklyn--

17  
00:01:42,810 --> 00:01:47,670  
your family, your religious  
background, all of that.

18  
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:53,970  
Yes, I moved to  
Brookline in 1925.

19  
00:01:53,970 --> 00:02:03,000  
And I have a twin sister and  
a brother and another sister.

20  
00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:07,860  
And we lived in Brookline,  
and I went to Temple Israel,

21  
00:02:07,860 --> 00:02:10,320  
which is a reformed temple.

22  
00:02:10,320 --> 00:02:13,470  
And the head of that  
temple was Rabbi Levi,

23  
00:02:13,470 --> 00:02:17,010  
who was a well-known  
Rabbi in those days.

24

00:02:17,010 --> 00:02:21,270  
And it's a reformed temple.

25  
00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:24,780  
And my parents were  
quite religious,

26  
00:02:24,780 --> 00:02:30,270  
and I was actually bar  
mitzvah-ed in a temple

27  
00:02:30,270 --> 00:02:32,220  
and in Brookline.

28  
00:02:32,220 --> 00:02:37,110  
And I also went  
to Temple Israel.

29  
00:02:37,110 --> 00:02:39,990  
And we observed  
all the holidays,

30  
00:02:39,990 --> 00:02:41,760  
or most of the holidays.

31  
00:02:41,760 --> 00:02:47,760  
But specifically, we weren't  
really terribly religious.

32  
00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:52,710  
We didn't-- we didn't  
have kosher set up at all,

33  
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:57,090  
but we always went at  
different holidays--

34  
00:02:57,090 --> 00:03:00,510  
Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

35  
00:03:00,510 --> 00:03:02,640  
And we still do.

36

00:03:02,640 --> 00:03:09,090

But our religious  
training was moderate.

37

00:03:09,090 --> 00:03:14,680

And I went to  
school in Brookline.

38

00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:20,500

And it was a grammar school  
called, Edward Devotion School.

39

00:03:20,500 --> 00:03:25,620

And that's when I started  
to be interested in track.

40

00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:31,710

And I was captain of the  
Grammar School Track Team.

41

00:03:31,710 --> 00:03:36,300

And the principal of the school  
was named Charles Taylor.

42

00:03:36,300 --> 00:03:40,740

And he was very interested  
in my athletic activities,

43

00:03:40,740 --> 00:03:45,420

and he really encouraged  
me, especially in track.

44

00:03:45,420 --> 00:03:50,520

Because in those days, I held  
a record in the high jump

45

00:03:50,520 --> 00:03:53,700

when I was 11 years old,  
and he was sponsoring me

46

00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:55,890

in all activities.

47

00:03:55,890 --> 00:04:00,480  
And then I went to high school,  
and I was captain of the track

48

00:04:00,480 --> 00:04:04,710  
team there, and held  
quite a few records

49

00:04:04,710 --> 00:04:07,650  
in the inter- scholastic meets.

50

00:04:07,650 --> 00:04:11,850  
And that was in 1932.

51

00:04:11,850 --> 00:04:13,920  
And then I went  
to Exeter Academy

52

00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:18,660  
for one year in preparation  
to go to Harvard.

53

00:04:18,660 --> 00:04:23,610  
And while I was at Harvard--

54

00:04:23,610 --> 00:04:29,100  
while I was at a summer  
camp rather, in 1932,

55

00:04:29,100 --> 00:04:35,610  
I met this Norman Connors, who  
eventually became my roommate.

56

00:04:35,610 --> 00:04:39,240  
And he was an outstanding  
track athlete too.

57

00:04:39,240 --> 00:04:48,360  
He was a hammer thrower, and  
also a 100-yard dash runner.

58

00:04:48,360 --> 00:04:54,870

And in 1935, there was a  
Harvard-Yale track team

59  
00:04:54,870 --> 00:04:59,640  
that competed in London,  
against Oxford-Cambridge.

60  
00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:05,760  
And Norman Conners was a hammer  
thrower, mostly at that time.

61  
00:05:05,760 --> 00:05:08,970  
And they didn't have the hammer  
thrower in the Oxford-Cambridge

62  
00:05:08,970 --> 00:05:09,960  
meet.

63  
00:05:09,960 --> 00:05:15,870  
So he trained in 100 and 220  
and made the team in the 100

64  
00:05:15,870 --> 00:05:19,230  
and the 220, which was  
an unusual combination--

65  
00:05:19,230 --> 00:05:22,530  
a hammer thrower  
and a 100-yard dash.

66  
00:05:22,530 --> 00:05:27,930  
And I was in three events at  
the Oxford-Cambridge meet--

67  
00:05:27,930 --> 00:05:30,750  
that was in 1935--

68  
00:05:30,750 --> 00:05:32,790  
in the high hurdles,  
the low hurdles,

69  
00:05:32,790 --> 00:05:35,670  
and the running-broad jump.

70  
00:05:35,670 --> 00:05:37,420  
It was called the broad  
jump at that time,

71  
00:05:37,420 --> 00:05:40,830  
but it's called  
the long jump now.

72  
00:05:40,830 --> 00:05:46,710  
And I won two events at  
the Oxford-Cambridge meet.

73  
00:05:46,710 --> 00:05:54,570  
And I'd been always thinking and  
wanting to be in the Olympics.

74  
00:05:54,570 --> 00:05:59,460  
Of course, that was my  
hope to be in the Olympics.

75  
00:05:59,460 --> 00:06:09,720  
But 1936, in the Harvard-Yale  
game, Harvard-Yale track meet,

76  
00:06:09,720 --> 00:06:17,040  
Conners and myself had won  
six gold medals between us.

77  
00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:18,870  
And there was quite  
a bit of publicity

78  
00:06:18,870 --> 00:06:23,760  
about it, and about  
our Olympic plans

79  
00:06:23,760 --> 00:06:25,950  
or whether we were  
going to the Olympics,

80  
00:06:25,950 --> 00:06:28,660  
or whether we could qualify.

81  
00:06:28,660 --> 00:06:33,120  
And I had qualified  
for the final tryouts

82  
00:06:33,120 --> 00:06:35,460  
at Randall Island.

83  
00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:38,330  
And I got a certificate  
from Avery Brundage.

84  
00:06:38,330 --> 00:06:44,360  
And I think I have submitted,  
to your group, the certificate

85  
00:06:44,360 --> 00:06:46,640  
from Avery Brundage saying  
that I had qualified

86  
00:06:46,640 --> 00:06:48,800  
for the final tryouts.

87  
00:06:48,800 --> 00:06:51,710  
Let me ask you to  
restate that thought

88  
00:06:51,710 --> 00:06:53,060  
without mentioning the museum.

89  
00:06:53,060 --> 00:06:54,410  
Oh, OK.

90  
00:06:54,410 --> 00:06:56,780  
That you had gotten  
the certificate.

91  
00:06:56,780 --> 00:07:01,400  
Yes, I received a certificate  
from the American Olympic

92  
00:07:01,400 --> 00:07:03,230



Committee--

93

00:07:03,230 --> 00:07:04,640

Avery Brundage.

94

00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:08,870

And it stated that

I had qualified

95

00:07:08,870 --> 00:07:13,280

through all the preliminary  
tryouts, for the final tryouts,

96

00:07:13,280 --> 00:07:15,860

at Randall Island.

97

00:07:15,860 --> 00:07:18,890

And about at that time,

there was some publicity

98

00:07:18,890 --> 00:07:22,070

in the Boston papers

about my roommate

99

00:07:22,070 --> 00:07:24,380

and me, Norman

Connors and myself.

100

00:07:24,380 --> 00:07:29,630

There was a picture of us  
winning six gold medals.

101

00:07:29,630 --> 00:07:34,940

And some of the executives,

or the committee members,

102

00:07:34,940 --> 00:07:40,610

at Temple Israel and Rabbi

Levi, had seen the publicity

103

00:07:40,610 --> 00:07:45,650

and knew that we were

potential Olympic candidates.

104  
00:07:45,650 --> 00:07:50,240  
And one of the committee  
members called me

105  
00:07:50,240 --> 00:07:53,570  
and said he had liked--  
he had congratulated me

106  
00:07:53,570 --> 00:07:59,540  
for our performance at the  
Harvard-Yale track meet.

107  
00:07:59,540 --> 00:08:06,290  
And asked if-- said the Rabbi  
Levi would like to talk to us

108  
00:08:06,290 --> 00:08:12,140  
about the Olympics and the  
potential there, and could we--

109  
00:08:12,140 --> 00:08:13,760  
could we meet with them?

110  
00:08:13,760 --> 00:08:18,740  
And we met with them  
at Temple Israel.

111  
00:08:18,740 --> 00:08:23,870  
And they explained to  
us what was happening

112  
00:08:23,870 --> 00:08:26,990  
in Germany at that time,  
the terrible things that

113  
00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:34,640  
were going on and all the  
activities against the Jews

114  
00:08:34,640 --> 00:08:37,880  
and people in Germany.

115

00:08:37,880 --> 00:08:43,700  
And we knew something about  
the problem of Germany

116

00:08:43,700 --> 00:08:46,460  
but not in any great details.

117

00:08:46,460 --> 00:08:50,330  
And we were really quite taken  
aback with the information

118

00:08:50,330 --> 00:08:51,380  
that they gave to us.

119

00:08:51,380 --> 00:08:55,820

120

00:08:55,820 --> 00:09:03,020  
And at that time it  
was suggested that--

121

00:09:03,020 --> 00:09:07,040  
they suggested that it might  
be a good idea for us not

122

00:09:07,040 --> 00:09:11,510  
to go to the Olympics because  
of all these problems,

123

00:09:11,510 --> 00:09:20,030  
and to register our objections  
and boycotting the Olympics.

124

00:09:20,030 --> 00:09:24,080  
And we were quite taken  
aback about that thought.

125

00:09:24,080 --> 00:09:26,660  
And they tried to explain  
to us that we would never

126

00:09:26,660 --> 00:09:32,690

regret if we did take that  
action to boycott the Olympics.

127  
00:09:32,690 --> 00:09:37,370  
And they suggested that  
we talk it over and let

128  
00:09:37,370 --> 00:09:39,590  
them know what our  
thoughts were, if we

129  
00:09:39,590 --> 00:09:43,220  
wanted any further discussion.

130  
00:09:43,220 --> 00:09:46,280  
And while we--

131  
00:09:46,280 --> 00:09:49,340  
Norman Connors and I went  
back and talked it over,

132  
00:09:49,340 --> 00:09:53,810  
and thought we'd discuss  
it with our parents

133  
00:09:53,810 --> 00:09:57,260  
because we had great  
respect for their judgment.

134  
00:09:57,260 --> 00:10:02,960  
And after talking it  
over with our parents,

135  
00:10:02,960 --> 00:10:06,290  
they also called  
Rabbi Levi to see

136  
00:10:06,290 --> 00:10:12,620  
what his thoughts were again,  
to get an explanation from him.

137  
00:10:12,620 --> 00:10:18,080  
And my father told me that

he was satisfied and had

138

00:10:18,080 --> 00:10:21,890  
confidence in Rabbi  
Levi's judgment,

139

00:10:21,890 --> 00:10:29,600  
and that we wouldn't regret it  
if we did boycott the Olympics.

140

00:10:29,600 --> 00:10:31,520  
Because the problem  
was-- not the problem,

141

00:10:31,520 --> 00:10:34,970  
but the question  
was how imminent

142

00:10:34,970 --> 00:10:40,890  
our selection on to the  
Olympic team would be?

143

00:10:40,890 --> 00:10:46,610  
And I had held the world's  
record in the high hurdles

144

00:10:46,610 --> 00:10:52,490  
and also the Harvard-Yale  
record in the broad jump.

145

00:10:52,490 --> 00:10:59,270  
And at that time the  
Harvard-Yale broad jump event,

146

00:10:59,270 --> 00:11:06,830  
which I held the record in,  
was over 24 feet 11 inches.

147

00:11:06,830 --> 00:11:12,320  
And I had been running in three  
events at that track meet,

148

00:11:12,320 --> 00:11:15,770

and the coach said not  
to take too many jumps

149  
00:11:15,770 --> 00:11:20,390  
because I have to save  
myself for the other events.

150  
00:11:20,390 --> 00:11:24,590  
And on the first  
try on a broad jump,

151  
00:11:24,590 --> 00:11:29,750  
I had fouled the take off,  
stepped over the mark.

152  
00:11:29,750 --> 00:11:32,720  
And he said to be very  
careful on the next jump

153  
00:11:32,720 --> 00:11:36,620  
because he didn't want me  
to take all my full jumps.

154  
00:11:36,620 --> 00:11:40,350  
So in the next jump  
I was very careful

155  
00:11:40,350 --> 00:11:45,870  
and took off about a foot  
behind the take-off board.

156  
00:11:45,870 --> 00:11:49,230  
And I did 24 feet 11.

157  
00:11:49,230 --> 00:11:55,080  
So I would close to 26  
feet in the actual jump.

158  
00:11:55,080 --> 00:12:01,170  
And they thought that I had  
a good chance of qualifying

159  
00:12:01,170 --> 00:12:04,680

for the Olympics in the long  
jump, where I had the potential

160  
00:12:04,680 --> 00:12:07,830  
to go close to 26 feet.

161  
00:12:07,830 --> 00:12:10,890  
And in the high hurdles,  
which was the other event

162  
00:12:10,890 --> 00:12:19,530  
that I was qualified for, I had  
been running around 14, 9, 15

163  
00:12:19,530 --> 00:12:22,290  
seconds in the high hurdles.

164  
00:12:22,290 --> 00:12:30,330  
And the qualifying times were  
in the 14-second, probably

165  
00:12:30,330 --> 00:12:32,700  
14, 2, or 3.

166  
00:12:32,700 --> 00:12:37,050  
But I was improving  
in the high hurdles,

167  
00:12:37,050 --> 00:12:41,190  
and I practiced at  
timing event, timing

168  
00:12:41,190 --> 00:12:45,540  
in the high-hurdle  
practice rounds.

169  
00:12:45,540 --> 00:12:50,370  
And I was getting  
closer to the 14 5 14 4.

170  
00:12:50,370 --> 00:12:54,930  
And they felt that there was a  
good chance that I could make

171  
00:12:54,930 --> 00:12:56,610  
the team in maybe two events.

172  
00:12:56,610 --> 00:12:59,610

173  
00:12:59,610 --> 00:13:03,390  
But at any rate,  
after the discussion

174  
00:13:03,390 --> 00:13:08,640  
with Rabbi Levi and my parents  
and as this whole situation

175  
00:13:08,640 --> 00:13:12,210  
about boycotting,  
both Connors and I

176  
00:13:12,210 --> 00:13:18,210  
decided that we would  
boycott the Olympics,

177  
00:13:18,210 --> 00:13:22,530  
and we didn't go into  
the final tryouts.

178  
00:13:22,530 --> 00:13:24,720  
And although I was  
disappointed, I

179  
00:13:24,720 --> 00:13:30,240  
felt that, that was  
the thing to do,

180  
00:13:30,240 --> 00:13:33,510  
and that's what  
basically happened,

181  
00:13:33,510 --> 00:13:36,930  
as far as boycotting the  
Olympics is concerned.



182

00:13:36,930 --> 00:13:41,680

Because at that time I  
was a senior at Harvard,

183

00:13:41,680 --> 00:13:47,580

and I was interested in  
getting into business,

184

00:13:47,580 --> 00:13:51,450

and whether to go into  
business right away

185

00:13:51,450 --> 00:13:55,740

after graduation,  
which was in 1936,

186

00:13:55,740 --> 00:14:00,240

or to go to graduate school.

187

00:14:00,240 --> 00:14:04,620

And I decided to go to  
Harvard Business School,

188

00:14:04,620 --> 00:14:08,500

and then to go into the  
real estate business.

189

00:14:08,500 --> 00:14:10,030

So I was interested in looking--

190

00:14:10,030 --> 00:14:13,530

I was always interested  
in athletics.

191

00:14:13,530 --> 00:14:17,250

And I knew that I was  
a pretty good athlete.

192

00:14:17,250 --> 00:14:21,280

And as I say, I was captain  
of all the track teams

193

00:14:21,280 --> 00:14:24,100  
since I was in grammar school.

194  
00:14:24,100 --> 00:14:31,350  
But my focus, after getting  
out of college, was not--

195  
00:14:31,350 --> 00:14:35,400  
nothing to do really,  
with athletics.

196  
00:14:35,400 --> 00:14:39,300  
Although I was interested  
in all athletics and tennis

197  
00:14:39,300 --> 00:14:44,370  
and skiing and all  
the other activities,

198  
00:14:44,370 --> 00:14:50,280  
but I decided to go to the  
Harvard Business School

199  
00:14:50,280 --> 00:14:54,570  
and then to go into business,  
in the real estate business.

200  
00:14:54,570 --> 00:14:58,350  
And that's what  
happened, and I was

201  
00:14:58,350 --> 00:15:04,440  
interested in finding a nice  
gal and getting married too.

202  
00:15:04,440 --> 00:15:10,770  
So that's the basic  
course that I followed.

203  
00:15:10,770 --> 00:15:15,000  
And after I got out of  
the business school,

204

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:17,850  
I participated in tennis.

205  
00:15:17,850 --> 00:15:21,540  
And I was ranked number  
six in New England,

206  
00:15:21,540 --> 00:15:26,670  
in the Super Senior category.

207  
00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:31,200  
So I was always  
interested in athletics,

208  
00:15:31,200 --> 00:15:37,770  
but that's really the  
basic story about what

209  
00:15:37,770 --> 00:15:40,830  
happened in that situation.

210  
00:15:40,830 --> 00:15:43,680  
OK, I want to backtrack  
a little bit now.

211  
00:15:43,680 --> 00:15:44,970  
And that was great by the way.

212  
00:15:44,970 --> 00:15:46,140  
I didn't want to start.

213  
00:15:46,140 --> 00:15:46,880  
OK.

214  
00:15:46,880 --> 00:15:48,672  
So we're going to o  
backwards a little bit.

215  
00:15:48,672 --> 00:15:52,950  
And if you can try not to  
refer to what you already said.

216

00:15:52,950 --> 00:15:55,390  
Don't say, as I told you before.

217  
00:15:55,390 --> 00:15:55,890  
Right.

218  
00:15:55,890 --> 00:15:56,880  
This is the first time.

219  
00:15:56,880 --> 00:15:57,380  
OK, then.

220  
00:15:57,380 --> 00:15:59,400  
What I want to do is  
get you to elaborate

221  
00:15:59,400 --> 00:16:00,550  
on some of those points.

222  
00:16:00,550 --> 00:16:01,050  
OK.

223  
00:16:01,050 --> 00:16:02,160  
OK?

224  
00:16:02,160 --> 00:16:08,100  
So I'm going to go back  
to your family first.

225  
00:16:08,100 --> 00:16:13,320  
And you came from not a highly  
religious background, but

226  
00:16:13,320 --> 00:16:14,850  
certainly a Jewish background.

227  
00:16:14,850 --> 00:16:17,190  
You identified as a Jewish boy.

228  
00:16:17,190 --> 00:16:17,760  
That's right.

229

00:16:17,760 --> 00:16:20,530

Absolutely.

230

00:16:20,530 --> 00:16:26,010

My mother and father, as I say, were reformed at that time

231

00:16:26,010 --> 00:16:29,250

while I moved to Brookline in 1925.

232

00:16:29,250 --> 00:16:31,333

But their parents were very religious.

233

00:16:31,333 --> 00:16:33,000

Well, my mother's parents, particularly,

234

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,880

because my father's parents weren't around at that time.

235

00:16:36,880 --> 00:16:40,310

But my mother's parents, the name was Warper,

236

00:16:40,310 --> 00:16:43,100

and they were very religious.

237

00:16:43,100 --> 00:16:46,010

And we used to go over to their home, to their apartment,

238

00:16:46,010 --> 00:16:50,630

and celebrate all the Jewish holidays.

239

00:16:50,630 --> 00:16:55,400

And, as I say, they were very religious.

240

00:16:55,400 --> 00:17:01,550  
And my parents were religious,  
but they were reformed.

241  
00:17:01,550 --> 00:17:03,410  
What about your friends?

242  
00:17:03,410 --> 00:17:06,079  
Were your friends mixed,  
or did you really grow up

243  
00:17:06,079 --> 00:17:08,240  
in a more Jewish environment?

244  
00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:10,430  
I'd say that I  
grew up, basically,

245  
00:17:10,430 --> 00:17:13,790  
in a mixed environment.

246  
00:17:13,790 --> 00:17:18,710  
After we lived in Brookline  
in 1929, we moved to Newton.

247  
00:17:18,710 --> 00:17:20,470  
And I went to  
Newton High School.

248  
00:17:20,470 --> 00:17:23,750  
And in those days, it was--

249  
00:17:23,750 --> 00:17:28,940  
it wasn't to integrated.

250  
00:17:28,940 --> 00:17:34,250  
And my friends, I'd say, were  
50-50 Jewish and non-Jewish.

251  
00:17:34,250 --> 00:17:39,980  
So our upbringing was mixed,  
but our social activities

252

00:17:39,980 --> 00:17:43,610  
were mostly Jewish activities.

253

00:17:43,610 --> 00:17:46,700  
Did you experience  
any anti-Semitism

254

00:17:46,700 --> 00:17:51,650  
from your classmates or people  
while you were growing up?

255

00:17:51,650 --> 00:17:53,390  
Not particularly.

256

00:17:53,390 --> 00:17:57,800  
In high school,  
never noticed any.

257

00:17:57,800 --> 00:18:02,990  
I know it was around and  
there were situations.

258

00:18:02,990 --> 00:18:07,140  
And in college, at  
Harvard, we lived--

259

00:18:07,140 --> 00:18:10,340  
Connors and I lived  
in Lowell House.

260

00:18:10,340 --> 00:18:15,920  
And they had common-room  
eating, and we

261

00:18:15,920 --> 00:18:17,900  
mixed with all of  
the-- everyone there.

262

00:18:17,900 --> 00:18:23,840  
And we never really noticed  
any particular anti-Semitism,

263

00:18:23,840 --> 00:18:27,110  
but we knew it existed.

264  
00:18:27,110 --> 00:18:31,590  
But we were never  
particularly subjected to it.

265  
00:18:31,590 --> 00:18:37,770  
Do you think that sports and  
your early athletic career

266  
00:18:37,770 --> 00:18:41,580  
provided a good opportunity for  
you to fit into the mainstream

267  
00:18:41,580 --> 00:18:47,070  
and move beyond your  
Jewish environment?

268  
00:18:47,070 --> 00:18:49,410  
I never particularly  
thought of it that way,

269  
00:18:49,410 --> 00:18:57,930  
but was the focus that put  
us in contact with Ali.

270  
00:18:57,930 --> 00:19:01,530  
Let me ask you to just start  
the sentence by saying,

271  
00:19:01,530 --> 00:19:05,338  
sports or athletics was a focus.

272  
00:19:05,338 --> 00:19:07,130  
So that you say the  
subject in the sentence

273  
00:19:07,130 --> 00:19:08,570  
because my question  
will be cut out.

274  
00:19:08,570 --> 00:19:09,070



Oh, yeah.

275

00:19:09,070 --> 00:19:10,580

I see.

276

00:19:10,580 --> 00:19:15,200

Yeah, sports and  
athletics were a focus.

277

00:19:15,200 --> 00:19:18,530

Because, as I say, I was  
captain of the team, so I was--

278

00:19:18,530 --> 00:19:22,260

I did pretty well  
in all the events.

279

00:19:22,260 --> 00:19:26,620

And while that was a  
focus, and I enjoyed it,

280

00:19:26,620 --> 00:19:29,270

it wasn't a 100% focus.

281

00:19:29,270 --> 00:19:36,560

But I trained carefully,  
and I did all the training

282

00:19:36,560 --> 00:19:39,110

that the coaches had suggested.

283

00:19:39,110 --> 00:19:46,470

But I would say it was a  
focus, but not 100% so.

284

00:19:46,470 --> 00:19:52,800

And you mentioned  
that you had worked

285

00:19:52,800 --> 00:19:55,140

toward going to the Olympics.

286

00:19:55,140 --> 00:19:59,220  
Was that a real serious  
possibility in your mind?

287  
00:19:59,220 --> 00:20:00,480  
Yes it was.

288  
00:20:00,480 --> 00:20:06,030  
Going to the Olympics was a  
very serious focus at that time,

289  
00:20:06,030 --> 00:20:09,990  
and it was a focus on training  
and doing extra training

290  
00:20:09,990 --> 00:20:12,690  
and exercises to--

291  
00:20:12,690 --> 00:20:14,610  
and I was watching  
the performances

292  
00:20:14,610 --> 00:20:19,150  
all over the world, in  
my particular events,

293  
00:20:19,150 --> 00:20:20,940  
particularly.

294  
00:20:20,940 --> 00:20:26,100  
And yes, it was something  
that I was always thinking

295  
00:20:26,100 --> 00:20:29,280  
about when I was training.

296  
00:20:29,280 --> 00:20:32,550  
And I had hoped to  
make the Olympic team.

297  
00:20:32,550 --> 00:20:35,730

298

00:20:35,730 --> 00:20:39,090

So this must have been  
somewhat disappointing

299

00:20:39,090 --> 00:20:43,110

when, even though  
it was your choice,

300

00:20:43,110 --> 00:20:46,110

you weren't going  
to participate?

301

00:20:46,110 --> 00:20:48,690

It was.

302

00:20:48,690 --> 00:20:53,220

My boycotting the Olympics  
through the meetings

303

00:20:53,220 --> 00:21:02,910

I had with Rabbi Levy, yes,  
I was disappointed and felt

304

00:21:02,910 --> 00:21:07,440

that, that focus that I  
had, had all these years

305

00:21:07,440 --> 00:21:10,350

was going to materialize.

306

00:21:10,350 --> 00:21:13,080

But somehow or other, I felt  
that it was the right thing

307

00:21:13,080 --> 00:21:18,510

to do, and I never had any  
regrets about it one way

308

00:21:18,510 --> 00:21:20,580

or the other.

309

00:21:20,580 --> 00:21:24,270

What gave you that moral grounding?

310  
00:21:24,270 --> 00:21:33,240  
Well, I don't think the moral grounding, in relation to that,

311  
00:21:33,240 --> 00:21:35,300  
was not really a basic fact.

312  
00:21:35,300 --> 00:21:38,520  
I don't think it had anything to do with moral grounding.

313  
00:21:38,520 --> 00:21:42,990  
It was just a realization that was

314  
00:21:42,990 --> 00:21:45,730  
something that should be done.

315  
00:21:45,730 --> 00:21:48,840  
And I had great respect for Rabbi Levi.

316  
00:21:48,840 --> 00:21:51,930  
Because prior to meeting with him--

317  
00:21:51,930 --> 00:21:57,240  
although I had heard about the problems in Germany and what

318  
00:21:57,240 --> 00:21:57,900  
was going on--

319  
00:21:57,900 --> 00:22:03,690  
I didn't really have a detailed understanding of the problems

320  
00:22:03,690 --> 00:22:05,460  
there.

321  
00:22:05,460 --> 00:22:08,130  
And that meeting  
was really a shock

322  
00:22:08,130 --> 00:22:11,320  
to both Connors and myself.

323  
00:22:11,320 --> 00:22:14,250  
And it struck home  
to me that, that

324  
00:22:14,250 --> 00:22:18,090  
was something I wanted  
to do, after they

325  
00:22:18,090 --> 00:22:21,020  
explained the situation.

326  
00:22:21,020 --> 00:22:22,989  
How much time do we  
have on the tape?

327  
00:22:22,989 --> 00:22:23,850  
Eight minutes.

328  
00:22:23,850 --> 00:22:24,350  
Eight?

329  
00:22:24,350 --> 00:22:25,820  
OK.

330  
00:22:25,820 --> 00:22:27,290  
You talk about this meeting.

331  
00:22:27,290 --> 00:22:31,370  
Can you go into more detail  
about what they said to you,

332  
00:22:31,370 --> 00:22:36,810  
and what helped you  
make this choice?

333

00:22:36,810 --> 00:22:40,850

Well, the meeting  
with Rabbi Levi

334

00:22:40,850 --> 00:22:48,170

was at the Temple Israel  
Executive Board Room.

335

00:22:48,170 --> 00:22:53,930

And we weren't sure  
what he was going

336

00:22:53,930 --> 00:22:57,710

to tell us about what  
was happening in Germany.

337

00:22:57,710 --> 00:23:01,790

But the several board members  
of the men's committee,

338

00:23:01,790 --> 00:23:05,480

and the Rabbi, went  
into pretty good detail.

339

00:23:05,480 --> 00:23:08,360

But I don't remember  
all the items

340

00:23:08,360 --> 00:23:10,250

that they discussed  
particularly,

341

00:23:10,250 --> 00:23:13,040

but they told us about  
the terrible things

342

00:23:13,040 --> 00:23:18,870

that were going on in  
Germany and the Nazi regime.

343

00:23:18,870 --> 00:23:23,510

And it was there was a shocker  
to me and Norman Connors.

344

00:23:23,510 --> 00:23:28,190

And it just struck home  
that it was something

345

00:23:28,190 --> 00:23:31,280

that we should do,  
or consider doing.

346

00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:33,950

But I don't remember  
particularly

347

00:23:33,950 --> 00:23:38,680

all the gory details  
that they went into.

348

00:23:38,680 --> 00:23:41,810

Do you remember  
any of the details?

349

00:23:41,810 --> 00:23:42,495

Not really.

350

00:23:42,495 --> 00:23:45,610

351

00:23:45,610 --> 00:23:52,630

Something about book  
burning and taking away

352

00:23:52,630 --> 00:23:55,820

the rights of all of the Jews,  
and putting them in ghettos

353

00:23:55,820 --> 00:23:56,320

and--

354

00:23:56,320 --> 00:23:58,930

355

00:23:58,930 --> 00:24:00,160

I suppose it was--

356  
00:24:00,160 --> 00:24:04,180  
I don't remember if it was  
at that time or afterwards,

357  
00:24:04,180 --> 00:24:10,130  
but they mentioned about  
the killing of Jews.

358  
00:24:10,130 --> 00:24:16,150  
And all those details were  
pretty repulsive to us.

359  
00:24:16,150 --> 00:24:19,260

360  
00:24:19,260 --> 00:24:23,520  
Were there, at that  
point, to your knowledge,

361  
00:24:23,520 --> 00:24:26,700  
press statements or public  
statements about boycotting

362  
00:24:26,700 --> 00:24:29,310  
and about Germany?

363  
00:24:29,310 --> 00:24:30,624  
Yes, there were.

364  
00:24:30,624 --> 00:24:33,300

365  
00:24:33,300 --> 00:24:35,670  
There was publicity  
about the boycotting

366  
00:24:35,670 --> 00:24:39,810  
and discussions between  
the Olympic Committee.

367



00:24:39,810 --> 00:24:42,870

And there were some  
other groups that we

368

00:24:42,870 --> 00:24:46,590

thought had mentioned in  
the press about how they

369

00:24:46,590 --> 00:24:49,170

should boycott the Olympics.

370

00:24:49,170 --> 00:24:53,340

And there were other  
groups that said that they

371

00:24:53,340 --> 00:24:55,980

shouldn't boycott the Olympics.

372

00:24:55,980 --> 00:25:00,600

So I was just aware that there  
was a discussion going on

373

00:25:00,600 --> 00:25:05,425

about boycotting, but I wasn't  
aware of all the details

374

00:25:05,425 --> 00:25:05,925

involved.

375

00:25:05,925 --> 00:25:09,080

376

00:25:09,080 --> 00:25:12,770

Were you aware of other  
athletes who were considering

377

00:25:12,770 --> 00:25:14,990

boycotting?

378

00:25:14,990 --> 00:25:16,490

Not particularly.

379

00:25:16,490 --> 00:25:21,720  
I wasn't aware of any other  
athletes that I knew of.

380  
00:25:21,720 --> 00:25:23,870  
And I wouldn't be  
in contact with them

381  
00:25:23,870 --> 00:25:30,900  
other than through  
publicity in the papers.

382  
00:25:30,900 --> 00:25:33,590  
But I remember  
something about Stoler

383  
00:25:33,590 --> 00:25:40,220  
and those track athletes  
that were questioning

384  
00:25:40,220 --> 00:25:43,010  
about going to the Olympics.

385  
00:25:43,010 --> 00:25:46,130  
But I don't particularly  
remember the time frame

386  
00:25:46,130 --> 00:25:47,240  
in connection with that.

387  
00:25:47,240 --> 00:25:50,880  
But I do remember the  
discussion about it.

388  
00:25:50,880 --> 00:25:54,638

389  
00:25:54,638 --> 00:25:58,490  
Did the press, in some  
of these organizations

390  
00:25:58,490 --> 00:26:01,940  
who were talking about

boycotting, influence you?

391

00:26:01,940 --> 00:26:06,080

No, I don't think the  
press or the publicity

392

00:26:06,080 --> 00:26:07,640

influenced me in  
one way or the other

393

00:26:07,640 --> 00:26:12,620

because I wasn't  
aware at that time,

394

00:26:12,620 --> 00:26:19,460

in any great detail, the  
problems going on in Germany

395

00:26:19,460 --> 00:26:21,710

and the Nazis with the Jews.

396

00:26:21,710 --> 00:26:24,740

I knew there were problems  
and they were serious,

397

00:26:24,740 --> 00:26:29,810

but I wasn't aware  
of all the details.

398

00:26:29,810 --> 00:26:32,870

Now when you decided to  
boycott, was this primarily

399

00:26:32,870 --> 00:26:37,100

to take a stand or was there  
any concern about your safety

400

00:26:37,100 --> 00:26:38,210

in going over there?

401

00:26:38,210 --> 00:26:41,480

No, I wasn't worried  
at all about safety.

402  
00:26:41,480 --> 00:26:49,850  
But the reason I  
boycotted it was entirely

403  
00:26:49,850 --> 00:26:55,390  
a result of the meeting  
with Rabbi Levi.

404  
00:26:55,390 --> 00:26:59,515  
That was the essential  
dominant factor involved.

405  
00:26:59,515 --> 00:27:02,630

406  
00:27:02,630 --> 00:27:06,260  
Did you consider this  
a substantial sacrifice

407  
00:27:06,260 --> 00:27:06,850  
on your part?

408  
00:27:06,850 --> 00:27:10,670  
I mean, you had been working  
for this for a long time.

409  
00:27:10,670 --> 00:27:14,930  
Well, boycotting the  
Olympics was a sacrifice

410  
00:27:14,930 --> 00:27:19,175  
because I had always wanted  
to be in the Olympics.

411  
00:27:19,175 --> 00:27:21,800

412  
00:27:21,800 --> 00:27:26,310  
But I didn't consider it as--

413  
00:27:26,310 --> 00:27:30,140

once we made up our mind  
and was aware of what

414  
00:27:30,140 --> 00:27:34,040  
was going on there,  
I didn't look at it

415  
00:27:34,040 --> 00:27:38,120  
particularly as a  
sacrifice, although it was.

416  
00:27:38,120 --> 00:27:41,890  
But I didn't consider  
it a terrible blow.

417  
00:27:41,890 --> 00:27:44,860

418  
00:27:44,860 --> 00:27:48,640  
Once you made the  
decision to boycott,

419  
00:27:48,640 --> 00:27:53,200  
were you asked to, or did you,  
make any public statements

420  
00:27:53,200 --> 00:27:56,050  
in an effort to  
influence other people?

421  
00:27:56,050 --> 00:27:57,250  
No.

422  
00:27:57,250 --> 00:28:00,310  
We never made any  
public statements

423  
00:28:00,310 --> 00:28:06,555  
or indicated what  
steps we had taken.

424  
00:28:06,555 --> 00:28:08,680  
I mean, you were in a pretty

high-profile position.

425

00:28:08,680 --> 00:28:11,630

You were captain of  
varsity track at Harvard.

426

00:28:11,630 --> 00:28:14,170

I'm surprised that someone  
didn't come to you and say,

427

00:28:14,170 --> 00:28:15,730

will you speak out  
for this boycott?

428

00:28:15,730 --> 00:28:18,370

429

00:28:18,370 --> 00:28:24,310

Well, after we  
boycotted the Olympics,

430

00:28:24,310 --> 00:28:29,470

no one came to speak  
to us or ask us if we'd

431

00:28:29,470 --> 00:28:32,530

make any statements about it.

432

00:28:32,530 --> 00:28:37,390

And I don't think anyone  
knew particularly that we

433

00:28:37,390 --> 00:28:42,040

did boycott it because there  
was no publicity about it,

434

00:28:42,040 --> 00:28:44,800

one way or the other.

435

00:28:44,800 --> 00:28:48,700

The only publicity we had was  
when I spoke to the track coach

436  
00:28:48,700 --> 00:28:50,120  
at Harvard.

437  
00:28:50,120 --> 00:28:54,130  
His name was Yako Mikola.

438  
00:28:54,130 --> 00:28:56,980  
He was the assistant coach.

439  
00:28:56,980 --> 00:29:01,270  
He was-- in 1936, he  
was the track coach.

440  
00:29:01,270 --> 00:29:05,330  
And we told him  
about our intention

441  
00:29:05,330 --> 00:29:09,193  
and he tried to persuade  
us not to do it.

442  
00:29:09,193 --> 00:29:11,110  
He said he didn't think  
we would do much good,

443  
00:29:11,110 --> 00:29:16,000  
and we should try to  
go to the final tryouts

444  
00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:19,180  
and try to make the team.

445  
00:29:19,180 --> 00:29:23,540  
But we didn't want to do that.

446  
00:29:23,540 --> 00:29:26,650  
And that was the only  
conversation we really

447  
00:29:26,650 --> 00:29:31,480  
had about it, publicity wise.

448

00:29:31,480 --> 00:29:33,970

I'm going to stop  
right now because we

449

00:29:33,970 --> 00:29:36,210

need to change the tape.

450

00:29:36,210 --> 00:31:06,347