1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:41,850

2

00:00:41,850 --> 00:00:43,650 Brutalizer.

3

00:00:43,650 --> 00:00:47,100 Do you think that the forms of child raising

4

00:00:47,100 --> 00:00:49,740 and the Prussian aspect of Germany

5

00:00:49,740 --> 00:00:54,240 made a larger contribution, or made it more fertile ground?

6

00:00:54,240 --> 00:00:58,140 I'm thinking of some of Ellis Miller's work.

7

00:00:58,140 --> 00:01:07,770 Well, my notion is after all these sort of research

8

00:01:07,770 --> 00:01:15,870 and reflection is that the socialization process which

9

00:01:15,870 --> 00:01:20,340 took place in Germany and in some Central European countries

10

00:01:20,340 --> 00:01:25,650 as well apparently rendered people

11

00:01:25,650 --> 00:01:35,190 more susceptible to ideologies, totalitarian, absolutist 12 00:01:35,190 --> 00:01:37,230 ideologies.

13

00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:41,130 And that, I think, is a key issue,

14

00:01:41,130 --> 00:01:47,580 because people will not become destructive

15

00:01:47,580 --> 00:01:52,830 unless they are persuaded to be destructive.

16

00:01:52,830 --> 00:01:58,680 And this persuasion is only possible

17

00:01:58,680 --> 00:02:01,330 when I'm susceptible to it.

18

00:02:01,330 --> 00:02:04,440 And the idea is, for example, what

19

00:02:04,440 --> 00:02:09,810 I'm trying to do with my son, know that, indeed,

20

00:02:09,810 --> 00:02:13,860 do all I can so that they will question authority,

21

00:02:13,860 --> 00:02:18,540 that they will question belief systems which indeed are myth

22

00:02:18,540 --> 00:02:21,540 rather than just buy into it and let themselves 00:02:21,540 --> 00:02:23,170 be influenced by them.

00:02:23,170 --> 00:02:25,050 And I think that's something which we can do,

25

00:02:25,050 --> 00:02:29,700 and we can do by way of proper socialization.

26

00:02:29,700 --> 00:02:34,110 That is my conclusion.

27

00:02:34,110 --> 00:02:40,600 Now, I use myself as an example for that,

28

00:02:40,600 --> 00:02:44,710 because I didn't buy into any of these sort of ideologies

29

00:02:44,710 --> 00:02:52,840 may they be communist or any absolutist ideologies which

30

00:02:52,840 --> 00:03:03,220 make you see enemies in people who have heretofore been

31 00:03:03,220 --> 00:03:07,840 your friends or your neighbors.

32

00:03:07,840 --> 00:03:12,760 I'm not going to be persuaded to accept that,

33

00:03:12,760 --> 00:03:17,170 and I think that's what I'm doing with my students.

34

00:03:17,170 --> 00:03:19,180 I'm explaining all this to them, and I

35

00:03:19,180 --> 00:03:24,280 think it will be more difficult to persuade some of my students

36 00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:28,060 who have taken my classes or have been exposed

37

00:03:28,060 --> 00:03:30,680 to the Holocaust lecture series or what have

38 00:03:30,680 --> 00:03:34,660 you to become true believers.

39 00:03:34,660 --> 00:03:37,450 And so that's the crucial step.

40

00:03:37,450 --> 00:03:40,030 Step number one.

41

00:03:40,030 --> 00:03:43,930 And also, may I don't have much influence

42

00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:50,650 is to appeal to politicians to see to it that there will not

43

00:03:50,650 --> 00:03:59,560 be outlets which will be socially acceptable outlets

44

00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:01,150 to do harm to other people.

45

00:04:01,150 --> 00:04:05,240 And that includes the type of prisons, 00:04:05,240 --> 00:04:08,500 which are obviously counterproductive,

47

00:04:08,500 --> 00:04:12,790 and total institutions-- what we call total institutions--

48

00:04:12,790 --> 00:04:15,790 in which other people simply have

49

00:04:15,790 --> 00:04:18,730 to act upon assigned roles.

50

00:04:18,730 --> 00:04:24,130 These sort of things, once they exist,

51

00:04:24,130 --> 00:04:30,060 provide outlets for human disruptiveness.

52 00:04:30,060 --> 00:04:33,850 And I think if we are mindful of that,

53

00:04:33,850 --> 00:04:42,490 and if we bring up people who will see that, we can reduce

54

00:04:42,490 --> 00:04:47,320 the resolution of conflict, which we will have at all times

55 00:04:47,320 --> 00:04:50,320 with violent means to a minimum.

56 00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:56,740 And that's what I find to be one of my major life goals

57 00:04:56,740 --> 00:05:05,260

to attain in my role as educator or as an individual who

58 00:05:05,260 --> 00:05:06,250 speaks his mind.

59 00:05:06,250 --> 00:05:10,310

60 00:05:10,310 --> 00:05:12,800 I'm thinking how to go back and follow

61 00:05:12,800 --> 00:05:18,830 how you came to be the educator and involved

62

00:05:18,830 --> 00:05:21,620 in the Holocaust aspects that's on the state.

63

00:05:21,620 --> 00:05:27,290 But in the '50s, you went to Freiburg and did your doctoral

64

00:05:27,290 --> 00:05:30,440 work there, but you must have, I presume,

65

00:05:30,440 --> 00:05:35,770 come back to the United States somewhat after the doctorate

66 00:05:35,770 --> 00:05:37,350 was through or--

67 00:05:37,350 --> 00:05:38,710 Well, the same year actually.

68 00:05:38,710 --> 00:05:41,320 I finished my doctorate in '68, and that's

69 00:05:41,320 --> 00:05:43,210 when I came back to the United States

70

00:05:43,210 --> 00:05:47,050 to teach at Sonoma State.

71

00:05:47,050 --> 00:05:48,800 First, I had some choices.

72

00:05:48,800 --> 00:05:51,580 But I came there because of a colleague of mine

73

00:05:51,580 --> 00:05:54,620 with whom I initially taught at Berkeley,

74

00:05:54,620 --> 00:05:56,560 and he asked me to join him.

75 00:05:56,560 --> 00:05:58,480 But when I came, he had left.

76

00:05:58,480 --> 00:06:00,370 You know, he decided to leave, and so

77

00:06:00,370 --> 00:06:05,350 I actually assumed his position rather than the position which

78

00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:10,930 was available to me which was vacant,

79

00:06:10,930 --> 00:06:16,330 and which I think is a shame.

80

00:06:16,330 --> 00:06:20,530 But that's what happened, and then I-- 81 00:06:20,530 --> 00:06:21,850 In the sociology department?

82 00:06:21,850 --> 00:06:26,740 Yeah, and then I stayed for reasons which still escape me.

83

00:06:26,740 --> 00:06:31,180 Did you start right out teaching Holocaust-related courses?

84

00:06:31,180 --> 00:06:34,160 Not really, because first of all,

85

00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:37,220 I had to think about things.

86

00:06:37,220 --> 00:06:41,200 How to teach them and to what extent

87

00:06:41,200 --> 00:06:44,200 there would be interest in them.

88

00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:47,440 And to begin with, I don't think there was much interest,

89

00:06:47,440 --> 00:06:54,070 and what I think is the irony that most

90

00:06:54,070 --> 00:06:56,050 of my Jewish colleagues in the Department

91

00:06:56,050 --> 00:06:58,180 were the ones who were least interested and didn't 00:06:58,180 --> 00:07:00,400 want anything to do or certainly not supportive.

93

00:07:00,400 --> 00:07:03,520 They still are not supportive, and that is something

94

00:07:03,520 --> 00:07:08,363 which I think is unforgiving.

95

00:07:08,363 --> 00:07:10,030 Why do you think they're not supportive?

96

00:07:10,030 --> 00:07:11,020 I don't know.

97

00:07:11,020 --> 00:07:16,060 I think they are dreadfully ignorant and insensitive.

98

00:07:16,060 --> 00:07:19,390 Defensive against the [INAUDIBLE]..

99

00:07:19,390 --> 00:07:20,350 Insensitive.

100 00:07:20,350 --> 00:07:21,603 Well, I would say defensive.

101 00:07:21,603 --> 00:07:22,270 In other words--

102

00:07:22,270 --> 00:07:24,970 Defensive maybe too, but I have not

103

00:07:24,970 --> 00:07:31,960 encountered any more insensitive individuals than I've met there

104 00:07:31,960 --> 00:07:35,260 in terms of my profession, in contrast

105 00:07:35,260 --> 00:07:39,130 to people I've met elsewhere.

106

00:07:39,130 --> 00:07:41,980 Just like Philip Zimbardo who is exceedingly

107

00:07:41,980 --> 00:07:45,700 understands the problem and has devoted a great deal

108 00:07:45,700 --> 00:07:51,460 of his effort to share insight and share

109 00:07:51,460 --> 00:07:57,410 understanding to this sort of dreadful problem.

110 00:07:57,410 --> 00:07:58,960 So I haven't had any help whatsoever

111 00:07:58,960 --> 00:08:01,920 from the Department whatsoever.

112 00:08:01,920 --> 00:08:05,210 So when did you begin to teach--

113 00:08:05,210 --> 00:08:19,820 Well. I started the first class sometimes

114 00:08:19,820 --> 00:08:29,840 in the early '70s or mid '70s, and I had no takers.

115 00:08:29,840 --> 00:08:31,550 No one came.

116

00:08:31,550 --> 00:08:34,520 Did you just introduce this by yourself?

117 00:08:34,520 --> 00:08:36,470 Yeah, well, I just offered that.

118 00:08:36,470 --> 00:08:37,370 No one came.

119 00:08:37,370 --> 00:08:39,020 No one?

120 00:08:39,020 --> 00:08:43,730 And then I just was, of course, disappointed,

121

00:08:43,730 --> 00:08:48,170 and then I waited for a few years, and I started again,

122

00:08:48,170 --> 00:08:53,780 and then I think the class--

123

00:08:53,780 --> 00:08:58,362 the first one was when you came which was in 19--

124 00:08:58,362 --> 00:08:58,862 '84?

125 00:08:58,862 --> 00:09:01,550

126 00:09:01,550 --> 00:09:03,260 '84.

127 00:09:03,260 --> 00:09:06,800 And before that, I've had maybe one or two trials and nothing 128 00:09:06,800 --> 00:09:08,730 very much developed.

129 00:09:08,730 --> 00:09:12,380 And so the first more full fledged class

130 00:09:12,380 --> 00:09:15,530 with sufficient number of students

131 00:09:15,530 --> 00:09:17,720 was at that particular time.

132 00:09:17,720 --> 00:09:19,860 It was, as she said, 1984.

133 00:09:19,860 --> 00:09:22,640 About a dozen of us, I think.

134 00:09:22,640 --> 00:09:26,210 Did you have difficulty with the department or the university

135 00:09:26,210 --> 00:09:26,970 to teach this?

136 00:09:26,970 --> 00:09:28,850 Well, it just was uphill all the way.

137 00:09:28,850 --> 00:09:31,400

138 00:09:31,400 --> 00:09:34,940 And now, we have someone who is very supportive.

139 00:09:34,940 --> 00:09:38,780 We have a Dean who is very sympathetic who is a historian. 140 00:09:38,780 --> 00:09:40,055 And generally historians.

141 00:09:40,055 --> 00:09:42,320 They are much more sympathetic than any

142 00:09:42,320 --> 00:09:44,480

of the sociologists or psychologists

143 00:09:44,480 --> 00:09:46,880 I've encountered so far.

144 00:09:46,880 --> 00:09:50,700 And so they cooperate and are very supportive.

145 00:09:50,700 --> 00:09:52,500 And this Dean, who is a historian,

146 00:09:52,500 --> 00:09:57,890 is supportive and has been very, very kind to us

147 00:09:57,890 --> 00:10:02,330 in making things possible which other people I know,

148 00:10:02,330 --> 00:10:06,270 they are not at all interested in or just

149 00:10:06,270 --> 00:10:10,820 they felt was just unnecessary sort of reminders

150 00:10:10,820 --> 00:10:12,970 of unpleasantness.

151

00:10:12,970 --> 00:10:16,310 I find it very disappointing exceedingly.

152 00:10:16,310 --> 00:10:19,100 I mean, it's one of my great disappointments in life

153 00:10:19,100 --> 00:10:32,250 that I've dealt with people who are dreadfully myopic

154 00:10:32,250 --> 00:10:38,520 and limited in their vision.

155 00:10:38,520 --> 00:10:41,878

156 00:10:41,878 --> 00:10:43,420 And of course, it has something to do

157 00:10:43,420 --> 00:10:47,080 with the institution itself, because religion

158 00:10:47,080 --> 00:10:51,850 in which Sonoma State is and all that, in particular, it

159 00:10:51,850 --> 00:10:54,670 is a provincial place.

160 00:10:54,670 --> 00:10:56,710 I don't know, from what I understand,

161 00:10:56,710 --> 00:10:58,840 it would not be that different probably

162 00:10:58,840 --> 00:11:00,670 at San Francisco State. 163 00:11:00,670 --> 00:11:02,770 I don't know, but I have a feeling

164 00:11:02,770 --> 00:11:07,360 that in this part of the country,

165

00:11:07,360 --> 00:11:14,530 I don't think this is a subject which people would

166 00:11:14,530 --> 00:11:17,957 be interested in studying.

167

00:11:17,957 --> 00:11:20,290 Do you think there was anything special about the timing

168

00:11:20,290 --> 00:11:21,890 or the climate of things?

169

00:11:21,890 --> 00:11:24,250 Well, yes, I think that has something

170

00:11:24,250 --> 00:11:25,780 to do with it for sure.

171 00:11:25,780 --> 00:11:28,540 You know, the mood of the times.

172 00:11:28,540 --> 00:11:31,940 Dominant mood of the times which is changing.

173 00:11:31,940 --> 00:11:35,270 I think that has very much to do with it.

174 00:11:35,270 --> 00:11:39,820 But this burgeoning of interest in the mid 80s,

175

00:11:39,820 --> 00:11:43,570 I wonder if there was anything special happening that drew

176 00:11:43,570 --> 00:11:44,730 more students to the class.

177 00:11:44,730 --> 00:11:47,330

178 00:11:47,330 --> 00:11:50,020 Well, politically, you had Cambodia.

179

00:11:50,020 --> 00:11:54,220 You had genocide taking place in different parts of the world,

180 00:11:54,220 --> 00:11:56,890 and then some people consciously or subconsciously

181

00:11:56,890 --> 00:11:58,780 respond to that, and therefore, may

182

00:11:58,780 --> 00:12:01,240 be more susceptible to developing

183

00:12:01,240 --> 00:12:03,490 interest in the area.

184 00:12:03,490 --> 00:12:08,770 But by large, I found with the exception of a lecture series,

185 00:12:08,770 --> 00:12:11,500 and there we have people who just look forward 186 00:12:11,500 --> 00:12:16,840 to units, which they would fit into their curriculum.

187 00:12:16,840 --> 00:12:20,680 And that is something which happened just in the last year

188 00:12:20,680 --> 00:12:22,810 and will happen this year.

189 00:12:22,810 --> 00:12:25,720 So how we can fit that in, we are not terribly interested,

190 00:12:25,720 --> 00:12:27,567 and they are very upfront.

191 00:12:27,567 --> 00:12:29,650 They're not very interested in that, but you know,

192 00:12:29,650 --> 00:12:32,320 it just fits in, and so we might try to.

193 00:12:32,320 --> 00:12:35,870 Yes, in this case, we're talking about students in their 20s?

194 00:12:35,870 --> 00:12:37,240 Yes, mostly.

195 00:12:37,240 --> 00:12:38,240 And undergraduates?

196 00:12:38,240 --> 00:12:39,040 Mhm.

197 00:12:39,040 --> 00:12:42,490 And when did the Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

lecture series begin?

198

00:12:42,490 --> 00:12:45,530 About eight years ago.

199 00:12:45,530 --> 00:12:47,320 How did that get initiated?

200

00:12:47,320 --> 00:12:50,890 Well, that was initiated by the Alliance

201

00:12:50,890 --> 00:12:52,960 for the Study of the Holocaust, and that's

202

00:12:52,960 --> 00:12:58,480 a communal organization.

203

00:12:58,480 --> 00:13:05,900 Communal organization of American Jews who,

204

00:13:05,900 --> 00:13:09,820 for reasons which are not clear to me,

205

00:13:09,820 --> 00:13:12,015 just are motivated to do that.

206

00:13:12,015 --> 00:13:15,080 Well, I've got some notions, but I mean--

207

00:13:15,080 --> 00:13:16,390 Are you willing to say?

208 00:13:16,390 --> 00:13:18,040

Oh, well, I mean, --209

00:13:18,040 --> 00:13:21,010 may be guilt, because Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

they have not really

210

00:13:21,010 --> 00:13:33,220 done very much to assist those who were under pressure

211 00:13:33,220 --> 00:13:35,860 while they could.

212 00:13:35,860 --> 00:13:39,340 Some of them are fairly old

Some of them are fairly old and haven't done very much

213 00:13:39,340 --> 00:13:40,415 for anyone.

214

00:13:40,415 --> 00:13:42,640 They're not doing very much for me personally

215

00:13:42,640 --> 00:13:44,200 either for that matter.

216 00:13:44,200 --> 00:13:49,160

217

00:13:49,160 --> 00:13:58,480 So I think it's very guilt as some place in it.

218 00:13:58,480 --> 00:14:03,990 And so they do it and initiate it,

219 00:14:03,990 --> 00:14:11,520 because they felt that would be a useful outlet for making

220 00:14:11,520 --> 00:14:13,590 a contribution.

221 00:14:13,590 --> 00:14:18,850 Do they do anything else other than the lecture series?

222

00:14:18,850 --> 00:14:24,160 Well, they try to have events in the community, such as--

223 00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:26,680

224 00:14:26,680 --> 00:14:29,360 Yom HaShoah.

225 00:14:29,360 --> 00:14:30,460 Yom HaShoah and--

226 00:14:30,460 --> 00:14:31,630 Kristallnacht.

227 00:14:31,630 --> 00:14:33,280 And the Kristallnacht.

228 00:14:33,280 --> 00:14:36,430 Kristallnacht which commemorate and all these sort

229 00:14:36,430 --> 00:14:40,180 of things they try, which is not easy because not

230 00:14:40,180 --> 00:14:42,040 that many people are interested in it

231 00:14:42,040 --> 00:14:46,390 and want to hear about it.

232 00:14:46,390 --> 00:14:50,500 Some years ago, there was some interest in the local radio

233 00:14:50,500 --> 00:14:53,740 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection broadcast station interview with

us, and they were supportive,

234

00:14:53,740 --> 00:14:58,160 and they had one event which was exceedingly well attended.

235

00:14:58,160 --> 00:15:03,200 I couldn't go, but that was supposed to be very successful.

236

00:15:03,200 --> 00:15:04,540 So yes, they are trying.

237

00:15:04,540 --> 00:15:07,420 And then, of course, what now we will

238

00:15:07,420 --> 00:15:14,000 be trying to do simply because of the law, we hope to--

239

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:18,710 with the help of getting some money for it--

240

00:15:18,710 --> 00:15:22,570

241 00:15:22,570 --> 00:15:29,290 to have lectures or some sort of introduction

242

 $00:15:29,290 \rightarrow 00:15:34,180$ to the Holocaust for high school teachers.

243

00:15:34,180 --> 00:15:39,310 And so that might be something which may or may not

244 00:15:39,310 --> 00:15:41,170 develop by virtue of

the fact that this

245

00:15:41,170 --> 00:15:46,660 needs to be that is a law that this needs to be taught.

246

00:15:46,660 --> 00:15:51,610 So that may be a productive.

247

00:15:51,610 --> 00:15:55,570 But you see, there is also not that many people who

248

00:15:55,570 --> 00:15:59,050 are qualified to teach it properly, and it's

249

00:15:59,050 --> 00:16:03,100 not simply enough to tell you how it was in concentration

250

00:16:03,100 --> 00:16:07,180 camps, although it's fine, and I mean, it's important.

251

00:16:07,180 --> 00:16:11,680 But I think much too much time is

252

00:16:11,680 --> 00:16:16,540 spent on the descriptive part and not

253

00:16:16,540 --> 00:16:19,510 enough on the interpretative part.

254

00:16:19,510 --> 00:16:22,510 And that's what I'm trying to do,

255

00:16:22,510 --> 00:16:26,830 and that's not

always well received,

256

00:16:26,830 --> 00:16:29,950 because it is more complex.

257

00:16:29,950 --> 00:16:34,690 It is a bit more abstract and does not

258

00:16:34,690 --> 00:16:38,920 come out with all the gory stuff which kind of people

259

00:16:38,920 --> 00:16:43,420 like to hear because essentially the sensationalist

260

00:16:43,420 --> 00:16:47,890 and satisfies whatever curiosity they may have.

261

00:16:47,890 --> 00:16:53,650 And so we see that also in our students,

262

00:16:53,650 --> 00:17:01,060 because the students, when they respond to the student faculty

263

00:17:01,060 --> 00:17:05,890 assessment questionnaire, and the contents of the lecture

264

00:17:05,890 --> 00:17:11,589 series, they invariably say that the most meaningful

265

00:17:11,589 --> 00:17:16,780 or the most stimulating presentations

266 00:17:16,780 --> 00:17:20,980 were panels of survivors.

267 00:17:20,980 --> 00:17:24,069 And generally, panels of people who

268 00:17:24,069 --> 00:17:27,310 are eyewitnesses of either liberator's and what have you.

269 00:17:27,310 --> 00:17:30,800 So they seemed to be the most popular,

270 00:17:30,800 --> 00:17:32,020 and that tells you something.

271 00:17:32,020 --> 00:17:33,520 That tells you something that people

272 00:17:33,520 --> 00:17:38,650 want to hear the descriptive part of that

273 00:17:38,650 --> 00:17:43,810 and not that much interest in the interpretation of it.

274 00:17:43,810 --> 00:17:48,090 Well, above the immediate experience, I think, probably--

275 00:17:48,090 --> 00:17:49,620 Oh, yes, well, I'm not discounting

276 00:17:49,620 --> 00:17:52,420 the importance of it, but I don't think they know.

277 00:17:52,420 --> 00:17:53,320 Yeah. 278 00:17:53,320 --> 00:17:55,330 Because it doesn't get us any farther.

279 00:17:55,330 --> 00:17:58,350 We need to understand what can be understood.

280 00:17:58,350 --> 00:18:00,490 You know, prevent.

281 00:18:00,490 --> 00:18:02,040 Otherwise, it's all for the birds.

282 00:18:02,040 --> 00:18:07,210 We stimulate emotions maybe and disturb people, yes.

283 00:18:07,210 --> 00:18:10,750 But I mean, it's not going to change anything.

284 00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:13,190 I feel like you're doing both though.

285 00:18:13,190 --> 00:18:16,420 Yes, I think you need to do both in order to make it clearer

286 00:18:16,420 --> 00:18:18,940 to the people, and that is something

287 00:18:18,940 --> 00:18:23,020 which I've seen also in my present class, the Holocaust

288 00:18:23,020 --> 00:18:23,770 and genocide. 00:18:23,770 --> 00:18:27,250 The sociology of Holocaust and genocide

290

00:18:27,250 --> 00:18:34,660 where I have young students, and they simply very quickly became

291

00:18:34,660 --> 00:18:40,240 very saturated with the abstract theories, which I consider

292

00:18:40,240 --> 00:18:41,830 to be exceedingly insightful.

293

00:18:41,830 --> 00:18:44,830 But I mean, their level of sophistication

294

00:18:44,830 --> 00:18:48,070 did not permit them to appreciate that.

295

00:18:48,070 --> 00:18:51,940 So then they staged a so to speak palace revolution

296

00:18:51,940 --> 00:18:54,550 and said, how are you going to talk about the real thing?

297

00:18:54,550 --> 00:18:57,250 You know, that should tell us about your experience and all

298

00:18:57,250 --> 00:18:57,750 that.

299

00:18:57,750 --> 00:19:02,470

300 00:19:02,470 --> 00:19:05,950 I'm not very happy

with it and just

301 00:19:05,950 --> 00:19:11,260 to make it possible for people to have an experience which

302 00:19:11,260 --> 00:19:16,190 will be meaningful by giving the descriptive stuff

303 00:19:16,190 --> 00:19:19,840 and also associated with the interpretation which

304 00:19:19,840 --> 00:19:22,750 will develop the insights necessary

305 00:19:22,750 --> 00:19:26,980 for them to act in everyday life to prevent

306 00:19:26,980 --> 00:19:28,720 is exceedingly difficult.

307 00:19:28,720 --> 00:19:33,030 And to develop a pedagogy which will do it

308 00:19:33,030 --> 00:19:36,340 is a work for a lifetime.

309 00:19:36,340 --> 00:19:40,120 And since we are the generation and I'm

310 00:19:40,120 --> 00:19:45,550 one of the younger ones, of survivors

311 00:19:45,550 --> 00:19:53,990 with one foot in the grave so to speak, 312 00:19:53,990 --> 00:19:55,870 I think we have to prepare for who

313 00:19:55,870 --> 00:20:06,460 is going to teach the students after we are gone.

314 00:20:06,460 --> 00:20:13,030 And not very many people are interested or capable

315 00:20:13,030 --> 00:20:19,390 or equipped to do that.

316 00:20:19,390 --> 00:20:22,390 I don't think there has been any preparation.

317 00:20:22,390 --> 00:20:25,720 So when we die, there will be books maybe

318 00:20:25,720 --> 00:20:28,510 which have been written, and there will be some stories,

319 00:20:28,510 --> 00:20:32,090 and there will be oral history, which is exceedingly important,

320 00:20:32,090 --> 00:20:36,730 which is, I think, the next best thing.

321 00:20:36,730 --> 00:20:40,643 The real stuff, and that is going

322 00:20:40,643 --> 00:20:41,810 to be exceedingly important. 323 00:20:41,810 --> 00:20:45,670 But other than that, I don't see very much.

324 00:20:45,670 --> 00:20:49,750 So the oral History project I think is something which cannot

325

00:20:49,750 --> 00:20:58,600 be overrated as an exceedingly important contribution.

326 00:20:58,600 --> 00:21:01,110 Yes.

327 00:21:01,110 --> 00:21:06,560 And that's why I'm willing to do what I can to do my share.

328 00:21:06,560 --> 00:21:07,620 And thank you.

329 00:21:07,620 --> 00:21:10,820

330 00:21:10,820 --> 00:21:15,440 But I'm not very optimistic in terms of other things

331 00:21:15,440 --> 00:21:18,680 which are being done to perpetuate

332 00:21:18,680 --> 00:21:21,170 the teaching of the Holocaust after we are gone.

333 00:21:21,170 --> 00:21:24,410 I'm not dreadfully optimistic as to who

334 00:21:24,410 --> 00:21:30,080 will assume that responsibility, if it will be assumed at all.

335

00:21:30,080 --> 00:21:32,900 Do you think this could happen again?

336

00:21:32,900 --> 00:21:33,980 Well, obvious.

337

00:21:33,980 --> 00:21:35,970 It's happening.

338

00:21:35,970 --> 00:21:37,660 It's happening all over the world.

339

00:21:37,660 --> 00:21:40,270 You just look at Iraq.

340

00:21:40,270 --> 00:21:41,716 You at Cambodia.

341

00:21:41,716 --> 00:21:45,510 You look at many places in Africa.

342

00:21:45,510 --> 00:21:47,170 You look at Turkey.

343 00:21:47,170 --> 00:21:50,410

344

00:21:50,410 --> 00:21:54,670 It's happening, and it will continue

345

00:21:54,670 --> 00:22:00,100 to happen until we will educate people

346 00:22:00,100 --> 00:22:01,560

who will become politicians.

347

00:22:01,560 --> 00:22:06,490 So I think that whole problem is that we have politicians

348 00:22:06,490 --> 00:22:10,660 who are utterly ignorant and unqualified to even begin

349

00:22:10,660 --> 00:22:13,710 to understand the complexities that are into power.

350 00:22:13,710 --> 00:22:15,910 That are into limelight.

351

00:22:15,910 --> 00:22:19,690 They are into satisfaction of their personal needs

352

00:22:19,690 --> 00:22:24,400 without being properly educated and socialized to assume

353

00:22:24,400 --> 00:22:31,750 the responsibility for this tremendously consequential role

354 00:22:31,750 --> 00:22:33,580 they assume.

355 00:22:33,580 --> 00:22:37,026 And talking about role models and people who

356 00:22:37,026 --> 00:22:39,280 really have attained that is--

357 00:22:39,280 --> 00:22:42,040 the one I keep on mentioning to people

358 00:22:42,040 --> 00:22:44,070 who will listen as Tomas Garrigue

359 00:22:44,070 --> 00:22:48,230 Masaryk, the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic.

360 00:22:48,230 --> 00:22:51,610 The sociologist, the humanist, the philosopher

361 00:22:51,610 --> 00:22:55,420 who was a philosopher king.

362 00:22:55,420 --> 00:22:58,360 In that case, he was a president.

363 00:22:58,360 --> 00:23:02,210 And to some extent, he was also very close to Woodrow Wilson.

364 00:23:02,210 --> 00:23:06,880 I think Woodrow Wilson had many of the attributes which

365 00:23:06,880 --> 00:23:11,080 are needed for someone who is a president.

366 00:23:11,080 --> 00:23:14,440 He became very very ill towards the end.

367 00:23:14,440 --> 00:23:17,560 But he had the vision and the understanding,

368 00:23:17,560 --> 00:23:20,800 and I think potential as a potential president Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

369 00:23:20,800 --> 00:23:24,010 who probably could have grown into his position.

370 00:23:24,010 --> 00:23:31,480 It was certainly John F Kennedy, whom I've encountered back

371 00:23:31,480 --> 00:23:33,610 at Berkeley when I was there when

372 00:23:33,610 --> 00:23:36,220 he got his honorary doctorate.

373 00:23:36,220 --> 00:23:39,820 I sat just [INAUDIBLE] and just observed him and didn't

374 00:23:39,820 --> 00:23:41,230 talk to him, of course.

375 00:23:41,230 --> 00:23:42,820 I didn't have a chance to talk to him.

376 00:23:42,820 --> 00:23:49,540 But anyway, just was able to and Adlai Stevenson

377 00:23:49,540 --> 00:23:51,850 was certainly one.

378 00:23:51,850 --> 00:23:55,180 But other than that, I think Harry, old Harry Truman,

379 00:23:55,180 --> 00:24:00,010 I think had potential and probably would

380 00:24:00,010 --> 00:24:01,750 have listened to some of the survivors

381 00:24:01,750 --> 00:24:05,260 if they had talked to him, but those people

382 00:24:05,260 --> 00:24:07,130 we've had in recent times forget it.

383 00:24:07,130 --> 00:24:10,990

384 00:24:10,990 --> 00:24:14,810 Just a sad commentary to what shouldn't be.

385 00:24:14,810 --> 00:24:26,900 And so I wish I could teach people who will have a--

386 00:24:26,900 --> 00:24:33,030 or could become potential leaders on a large level.

387 00:24:33,030 --> 00:24:39,480 And that obviously is other places [INAUDIBLE] university

388 00:24:39,480 --> 00:24:40,260 and Harvard.

389 00:24:40,260 --> 00:24:43,770 And I've made a terrible mistake that instead of Harvard, I

390 00:24:43,770 --> 00:24:48,480 went to Missouri, because I didn't know any better.

391 00:24:48,480 --> 00:24:54,090 An example is old Henry and he played it right.

392

00:24:54,090 --> 00:25:02,550 Look at his Secretary of State hid with an accent,

393

00:25:02,550 --> 00:25:03,888 and yet he made it.

394

00:25:03,888 --> 00:25:04,680 Why did he made it?

395

00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:06,560 Because he's been in war, certainly.

396

00:25:06,560 --> 00:25:10,140 He's a very good mind, and I think that he's that dreadfully

397

00:25:10,140 --> 00:25:10,860 ? adequate ?.

398

00:25:10,860 --> 00:25:12,690 I mean, that's another point.

399

00:25:12,690 --> 00:25:19,110 But he's a person who went through Harvard

400

00:25:19,110 --> 00:25:22,110 and made his contacts, and that is

401

00:25:22,110 --> 00:25:25,440 something I was reminded of when one

402

00:25:25,440 --> 00:25:30,450 of Hitler's very close associates at the time, 450 > 00.25.25.250 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:25:30,450 --> 00:25:35,220 until he came into power a few years after that,

404

00:25:35,220 --> 00:25:43,290 was a person who studied in the United States and at Harvard.

405

00:25:43,290 --> 00:25:50,280 And he then via England came to the United States,

406

00:25:50,280 --> 00:25:59,306 and because he got to know Roosevelt at the university,

407

00:25:59,306 --> 00:26:03,300 he was used as an informant and as a person

408

00:26:03,300 --> 00:26:10,920 to inform the president and the special position

409

00:26:10,920 --> 00:26:14,410 instead of being put into some sort of a business.

410

00:26:14,410 --> 00:26:15,480 [INAUDIBLE]

411 00:26:15,480 --> 00:26:25,230

He had a special status given to him by President Roosevelt

412 00:26:25,230 --> 00:26:28,740

by virtue of the fact that he was a Harvard

413 00:26:28,740 --> 00:26:33,000 man with tremendous contacts.

414 00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:37,350 And his name was Putzi Hanfstaengl,

415

00:26:37,350 --> 00:26:39,360 who has written a very interesting

416

00:26:39,360 --> 00:26:45,090 biographical account relating to the association,

417

00:26:45,090 --> 00:26:50,100 his association, to of Hitler, which

418

00:26:50,100 --> 00:26:53,220 I think first appeared in English before it actually

419

00:26:53,220 --> 00:26:54,150 appeared in German.

420

00:26:54,150 --> 00:26:58,410 It's exceedingly readable, and I think a very accurate account.

421

00:26:58,410 --> 00:27:00,870 So Putzi Hanfstaengl was a Harvard graduate,

422

00:27:00,870 --> 00:27:02,910 and that made all the difference even though he

423

00:27:02,910 --> 00:27:06,990 was a close associate of Hitler's and furthered

424

00:27:06,990 --> 00:27:09,750 the cause and all that until somehow

425 00:27:09,750 --> 00:27:15,810

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

because of his intelligence, he began to see some light.

426

00:27:15,810 --> 00:27:21,960 Not very much, and events simply triggered the fact

427

00:27:21,960 --> 00:27:27,510 that he felt obligated to escape Germany,

428

00:27:27,510 --> 00:27:34,410 because he felt his life was threatened by an event which

429

00:27:34,410 --> 00:27:39,480 was kind of a joke which they played with a Nazi Goring

430

00:27:39,480 --> 00:27:42,870 and they played a joke on him.

431

00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:47,580 And he took that very seriously, and in spite of assurances

432

00:27:47,580 --> 00:27:51,210 that it was a joke, He just felt that they were after him,

433 00:27:51,210 --> 00:27:52,990 and he may have been right.

434

00:27:52,990 --> 00:27:57,110 And so we escaped and via England

435

00:27:57,110 --> 00:28:00,540 came to the United States and became

436

00:28:00,540 --> 00:28:08,700 a wartime advisor, so to Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

speak, to the administration.

437

00:28:08,700 --> 00:28:10,590 Which makes me think, what do you

438

00:28:10,590 --> 00:28:16,920 think about the kind of worldwide threat

439

00:28:16,920 --> 00:28:21,540 of Nazi groups, i.e, those who escaped Germany and went

440

00:28:21,540 --> 00:28:24,090 to Latin America and different enclaves?

441

00:28:24,090 --> 00:28:30,180 Well, I think largely, they've assimilated,

442

00:28:30,180 --> 00:28:35,760 and certainly are still a very formidable influence

443

00:28:35,760 --> 00:28:40,620 in terms of making contributions to general--

444

00:28:40,620 --> 00:28:46,695 if you will rightist mood prevailing in these countries.

445

00:28:46,695 --> 00:28:48,570 I think they certainly are very much at home.

446 00:28:48,570 --> 00:28:51,420

447 00:28:51,420 --> 00:28:53,400 But I think their

influence is limited

448

00:28:53,400 --> 00:28:56,190 by virtue of the fact that most of these people--

449

00:28:56,190 --> 00:28:57,390 the old guard are dead.

450

00:28:57,390 --> 00:29:00,700 And by old age or disease, they're no longer around.

451

00:29:00,700 --> 00:29:05,190 So if I had, for example, not interviewed all these SS

452

00:29:05,190 --> 00:29:10,230 generals in time, very shortly afterwards, they all died.

453

00:29:10,230 --> 00:29:11,850 I wouldn't have had a chance to see

454

00:29:11,850 --> 00:29:14,160 and then I realized that very soon.

455

00:29:14,160 --> 00:29:18,430 And that was too late already almost when I started.

456

00:29:18,430 --> 00:29:19,990 I should have started much earlier,

457

00:29:19,990 --> 00:29:24,160 but I just simply didn't have the means to do that.

458 00:29:24,160 --> 00:29:31,480 And so I don't think they are any force anymore

459

00:29:31,480 --> 00:29:34,600 by virtue of the fact that they are not very much around,

460 00:29:34,600 --> 00:29:37,360 and I don't think their children will

461

00:29:37,360 --> 00:29:41,860 perpetuate anything extremist.

462 00:29:41,860 --> 00:29:57,250 But I'm more concerned about the young people who are

463

00:29:57,250 --> 00:29:59,530 susceptible to some of these ideologies,

464

00:29:59,530 --> 00:30:13,000 because of their low self-esteem and self-image, which is--

465

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:16,510 identity, which is an unpleasant one.

466

00:30:16,510 --> 00:30:21,610 And so they will be susceptible to any sort of ideology which

467 00:30:21,610 --> 00:30:24,287 tells them that they are superior and not inferior.

468 00:30:24,287 --> 00:30:25,870 So I mean, that's a tremendous danger,

469 00:30:25,870 --> 00:30:28,180 and I think that was very functional

470

00:30:28,180 --> 00:30:33,790 in the case of the Nazi Germany, because there you

471

00:30:33,790 --> 00:30:37,450 have a vanquished nation which used

472

00:30:37,450 --> 00:30:42,008 to play a very major role in European history well,

473

00:30:42,008 --> 00:30:45,390 you know was the war for the first time,

474

00:30:45,390 --> 00:30:47,260 because before that, they were very

475 00:30:47,260 --> 00:30:49,780 successful in winning the war.

476

00:30:49,780 --> 00:30:55,240 And having to come to terms with that--

477

00:30:55,240 --> 00:30:57,730 just in their identity and self-esteem.

478

00:30:57,730 --> 00:31:00,400

479

00:31:00,400 --> 00:31:11,560 So Hitler-- I think it's just unbelievably brilliant sort

480

00:31:11,560 --> 00:31:14,880 of stroke to say, hey, you're not inferior, you're superior.

481 00:31:14,880 --> 00:31:16,570 and you think yo're inferior and these

482 00:31:16,570 --> 00:31:20,110 are the scapegoats responsible for the misery,

483 00:31:20,110 --> 00:31:27,340 and you are victims because you are such fantastic people

484 00:31:27,340 --> 00:31:31,690 blemished with mischief, and that's because you're superior.

485 00:31:31,690 --> 00:31:34,510 Now if I feel inferior, I want to believe that--

486 00:31:34,510 --> 00:31:37,720 I certainly will accept that as an alternative--

487 00:31:37,720 --> 00:31:41,720 a viable alternative, and feel better.

488 00:31:41,720 --> 00:31:44,620 And I think that is the momentum which should not be forgotten.

489 00:31:44,620 --> 00:31:47,440 I think it's exceedingly-a very important ingredient

490 00:31:47,440 --> 00:31:50,920 in terms of detection of any sort of movement which

491 00:31:50,920 --> 00:31:53,920 resembles the sort of racist situation,

492

00:31:53,920 --> 00:32:00,100 because who are the people who are attracted to such belief

493

00:32:00,100 --> 00:32:00,730 systems--

494

00:32:00,730 --> 00:32:05,050 are people who are failures in some ways

495 00:32:05,050 --> 00:32:08,050 and have low self-esteem.

496

00:32:08,050 --> 00:32:13,720 Hitler certainly did, and most of his followers were losers.

497

00:32:13,720 --> 00:32:16,360 And so if I say you're not a loser, you are a winner

498

00:32:16,360 --> 00:32:19,422 and you're superior, my God, I'm going to jump on the bandwagon

499

00:32:19,422 --> 00:32:20,380 and feel better for it.

500

00:32:20,380 --> 00:32:23,230 And say what I can do I'm going to prove to you that I'm not

501

00:32:23,230 --> 00:32:28,690 a loser, that I'm indeed a superior person who's a winner.

502

00:32:28,690 --> 00:32:34,760 And I think that has been not sufficiently emphasized. 503 00:32:34,760 --> 00:32:40,670 Why indeed national socialism has been so successful,

504 00:32:40,670 --> 00:32:44,000 and was accepted by so many people.

505 00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:47,100

506 00:32:47,100 --> 00:32:50,860 I think you were going to talk about the connection

507 00:32:50,860 --> 00:32:53,450 of the CIA and the SS.

508 00:32:53,450 --> 00:33:03,130 Well, the very important thing that Karl Wolff cooperated with

509 00:33:03,130 --> 00:33:15,920 the CIA in the so-called special armistice in northern Italy,

510 00:33:15,920 --> 00:33:30,460 and the Allied forces, and that particular event shortened

511 00:33:30,460 --> 00:33:34,450 the war in northern Italy--

512 00:33:34,450 --> 00:33:42,790 by virtue of his cooperation with Allen Dulles,

513 00:33:42,790 --> 00:33:48,400 [who at that particular point was the American intelligence

514 00:33:48,400 --> 00:33:52,960 representative in Switzerland.

515

00:33:52,960 --> 00:33:57,670 And that particular operation is known as Operation Sunrise.

516 00:33:57,670 --> 00:34:02,020 And this particular documentary I

517 00:34:02,020 --> 00:34:05,800 was asked to work on two years ago

518 00:34:05,800 --> 00:34:12,520 was just being shown in Germany and Switzerland

519 00:34:12,520 --> 00:34:20,889 without me getting any explicit credit for it, although I've

520 00:34:20,889 --> 00:34:24,699 done a lot of research which was used and made

521 00:34:24,699 --> 00:34:26,260 available to them, because they've

522 00:34:26,260 --> 00:34:29,241 hired me to do that as a consultant Didn't

523 00:34:29,241 --> 00:34:31,330 get any credit for it.

524 00:34:31,330 --> 00:34:37,150 So during that Operation Sunrise, Wolf--

525 00:34:37,150 --> 00:34:40,030 who could see, of course, the sinking

526

00:34:40,030 --> 00:34:45,790 ship of Nazidom and his very vulnerable position--

527

00:34:45,790 --> 00:34:49,750 tried to save his skin and that of many other people,

528

00:34:49,750 --> 00:35:03,130 and turned from a fanatic Hitler supporter to a traitor

529

00:35:03,130 --> 00:35:09,310 by cooperating with Allen Dulles to have a special treaty.

530

00:35:09,310 --> 00:35:15,830 So that the German armed forces and the situation

531

00:35:15,830 --> 00:35:20,380 there would be ended.

532

00:35:20,380 --> 00:35:24,610 And he was one of the prime initiators

533

00:35:24,610 --> 00:35:27,520 against all sorts of obstacles, and even went to Hitler

534

00:35:27,520 --> 00:35:28,660 to get his approval.

535

00:35:28,660 --> 00:35:32,450 And made it very palatable to him

536

00:35:32,450 --> 00:35:34,300 so that he has more or less seen ok. 537 00:35:34,300 --> 00:35:40,390 Although Himmler and Ernst Hermann Himmler

538 00:35:40,390 --> 00:35:45,040 who was Heydrich's successor--

539

00:35:45,040 --> 00:35:48,640 very, very eager to see to it that he

540 00:35:48,640 --> 00:35:51,160 would be punished as a traitor.

541

00:35:51,160 --> 00:35:56,140 And so he was able to come to Hitler

542

00:35:56,140 --> 00:35:58,000 and persuade him that what he was doing

543

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:03,100 was in the interests of Germany, and put it in such a way

544

00:36:03,100 --> 00:36:06,580 as people see he's a very brave individual who

545 00:36:06,580 --> 00:36:08,560 was getting the so-called OK.

546 00:36:08,560 --> 00:36:14,080 And then continuing to do what he did-- namely,

547 00:36:14,080 --> 00:36:18,760 negotiate with Allies via Allen Dulles. 00:36:18,760 --> 00:36:21,790 And succeeded so that, indeed, they've

549

00:36:21,790 --> 00:36:30,220 had an armistice relatively before the general armistice,

550

00:36:30,220 --> 00:36:31,630 and thereby--

551

00:36:31,630 --> 00:36:35,350 and that goes to his credit, whatever his motives were--

552

00:36:35,350 --> 00:36:41,350 whereby thousands of people's lives were saved.

553

00:36:41,350 --> 00:36:45,340 And the interesting thing is also

554

00:36:45,340 --> 00:36:53,890 that he had almost a duel with Adolf Eichmann

555

00:36:53,890 --> 00:36:55,870 by virtue of the fact that he was trying

556

00:36:55,870 --> 00:37:03,190 to get some people who were being deported to prevent

557

00:37:03,190 --> 00:37:06,580 that other people were deported to [? just ?] get them

558 00:37:06,580 --> 00:37:10,750 exempted, or just see to it that they would not be deported.

00:37:10,750 --> 00:37:16,930 And intervened for these people who were not full-blooded,

560 00:37:16,930 --> 00:37:19,260 quote, unquote, again you know, who

561 00:37:19,260 --> 00:37:24,040 were not real full Jews, but partly Jews,

562 00:37:24,040 --> 00:37:26,200 but enough to be deported.

563 00:37:26,200 --> 00:37:28,810 And they almost had a duel because he intervened

564 00:37:28,810 --> 00:37:30,640 and Eichmann simply--

565 00:37:30,640 --> 00:37:35,800 even though he was a mere Lieutenant Colonel,

566 00:37:35,800 --> 00:37:39,915 and he was a full general.

567 00:37:39,915 --> 00:37:41,020 and Wolff was --

568 00:37:41,020 --> 00:37:44,770 simply wouldn't have any part of it, and almost came to a duel.

569 00:37:44,770 --> 00:37:47,109 And that's a fact because I discussed all these things

570 00:37:47,109 --> 00:37:47,776 with Karl Wolff. 571 00:37:47,776 --> 00:37:50,900

572

00:37:50,900 --> 00:37:56,950 So this was the first CIA connection.

573

00:37:56,950 --> 00:37:58,366 Is this the information that--

574 00:37:58,366 --> 00:38:00,880

575 00:38:00,880 --> 00:38:03,490 No, there was much more to it because--

576

00:38:03,490 --> 00:38:06,550 much more to it, some of which he told me,

577 00:38:06,550 --> 00:38:08,010 some of which he didn't.

578

00:38:08,010 --> 00:38:11,800 But that was the CIA connection which, at that time,

579

00:38:11,800 --> 00:38:17,170 was not CIA because it was CIC and what have you, and did not

580 00:38:17,170 --> 00:38:21,080 exist CIA [INAUDIBLE] only after the war.

581

00:38:21,080 --> 00:38:27,010 But that set-- that brought about the context of the SS

582 00:38:27,010 --> 00:38:29,770 what later became the CIA.

583 00:38:29,770 --> 00:38:32,260 And so that's how that developed.

584 00:38:32,260 --> 00:38:34,960 That was one of the first contacts.

585

00:38:34,960 --> 00:38:37,520 That was really a positive outcome.

586 00:38:37,520 --> 00:38:38,680 Yeah.

587 00:38:38,680 --> 00:38:41,750 In this case, it was a positive outcome.

588 00:38:41,750 --> 00:38:49,210 And so because of his contacts, he also

589

00:38:49,210 --> 00:38:55,450 was brought to the Nuremberg trial

590

00:38:55,450 --> 00:39:00,610 as a witness in full uniform, and he

591 00:39:00,610 --> 00:39:04,540 was the only one who came with his SS rank

592 00:39:04,540 --> 00:39:12,250 and full uniform because of these various contacts.

593 00:39:12,250 --> 00:39:19,300 Now also he was not accused and was not 594 00:39:19,300 --> 00:39:24,410 sentenced by the International Court for whatever he had done,

595 00:39:24,410 --> 00:39:28,120 which was known by virtue of his activity.

596 00:39:28,120 --> 00:39:31,990 And that only came up in the early '60s

597 00:39:31,990 --> 00:39:37,720 when he was very active and very successful in his business.

598 00:39:37,720 --> 00:39:44,410 But then because he was an ambitious individual,

599 00:39:44,410 --> 00:39:50,440 and missed the glory of his Nazi position

600 00:39:50,440 --> 00:39:54,410 as a very influential senior SS general,

601 00:39:54,410 --> 00:39:58,090 he then enjoyed giving interviews

602 00:39:58,090 --> 00:40:01,420 so that he would again be in some sort of a semblance

603 00:40:01,420 --> 00:40:02,890 of the limelight.

604 00:40:02,890 --> 00:40:07,210 And that brought his past to the attention of the legal 605 00:40:07,210 --> 00:40:10,160 authorities -- the criminal justice system,

606 00:40:10,160 --> 00:40:13,120 and they started to become very suspicious,

607 00:40:13,120 --> 00:40:16,000 and started digging until they found out that, yes,

608 00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:17,980 he was [? tainted ?] with mischief,

609 00:40:17,980 --> 00:40:24,250 and that he indeed assisted the Nazi authorities.

610 00:40:24,250 --> 00:40:28,120 So that was not his major occupation and function,

611 00:40:28,120 --> 00:40:32,830 but he intervened on the part of the SS Nazi authorities

612 00:40:32,830 --> 00:40:37,630 with the person he knew was in charge

613 00:40:37,630 --> 00:40:44,590 of the transportation system in Germany to make these boxcars--

614 00:40:44,590 --> 00:40:49,680 these cattle wagons available to the SS

615 00:40:49,680 --> 00:40:53,200 so that they could ship

616

00:40:53,200 --> 00:40:55,030 to Treblinka.

617 00:40:55,030 --> 00:40:57,840 And so that came up, and they found

618

00:40:57,840 --> 00:41:05,290 that this was the case because he wrote telegrams and had

619

00:41:05,290 --> 00:41:07,390 a communication with these people,

620

00:41:07,390 --> 00:41:13,460 and very specifically saying these things.

621 00:41:13,460 --> 00:41:18,670 And thanked the person who was in charge to whom he wrote--

622

00:41:18,670 --> 00:41:22,990 these communications-- thanked him for his cooperation.

623

00:41:22,990 --> 00:41:27,400 That he made indeed these boxcars available.

624

00:41:27,400 --> 00:41:30,940 And that was found, of course, in the documentation,

625

00:41:30,940 --> 00:41:40,630 and he was therefore accused of aiding the destruction of Jews

626 00:41:40,630 --> 00:41:44,500 who were sent to Germany,

and sentenced to 15 years.

627

00:41:44,500 --> 00:41:47,510 These other SS generals were not brought to the trials?

628

00:41:47,510 --> 00:41:48,010 Yes--

629

00:41:48,010 --> 00:41:48,940 They also--

630

00:41:48,940 --> 00:41:50,730 --as witnesses and what have you.

631

00:41:50,730 --> 00:41:52,090 But-- no, I mean charged.

632

00:41:52,090 --> 00:41:54,370 Oh, well, the charge--

633

00:41:54,370 --> 00:41:57,580 whoever they could find some documentation and all that,

634

00:41:57,580 --> 00:42:02,260 that is something which either happened locally

635

00:42:02,260 --> 00:42:08,710 in case of [Personal name] or through the center

636 00:42:08,710 --

00:42:08,710 --> 00:42:15,370 of the judicial system which brings war criminals-- that

637

00:42:15,370 --> 00:42:18,280 is to say criminals against humanity-- 00:42:18,280 --> 00:42:21,310 to justice, which is in Ludwig's book.

639

00:42:21,310 --> 00:42:26,130 And they have small fish and all that people

640

00:42:26,130 --> 00:42:30,730 who were responsible for crimes against humanity

641

00:42:30,730 --> 00:42:32,030 in concentration camps.

642

00:42:32,030 --> 00:42:33,790 They bring them to justice.

643

00:42:33,790 --> 00:42:39,110 And I was, for example--

644

00:42:39,110 --> 00:42:41,650 which was kind of a moot situation--

645

00:42:41,650 --> 00:42:46,140 I was a witness, and I was interviewed back in Freiberg By

646

00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:47,520 an --

647 00:42:47,520 --> 00:42:53,710

648

00:42:53,710 --> 00:43:04,660 attorney-- well, he was actually a state attorney--

649

00:43:04,660 --> 00:43:10,240 bear witness against Josef Mengele. 650 00:43:10,240 --> 00:43:12,940 And then I was also a witness, and I was interviewed

651 00:43:12,940 --> 00:43:17,500 by a very pro Nazi consul--

652

00:43:17,500 --> 00:43:22,690 or vice consul in San Francisco in connection with one

653

00:43:22,690 --> 00:43:26,380 of the concentration camps I was in to also be a witness,

654

00:43:26,380 --> 00:43:29,830 and give an account and this man was just so unbelievably

655

00:43:29,830 --> 00:43:31,780 hostile it was not even funny.

656

00:43:31,780 --> 00:43:34,862 And I told him a few things to just

657

00:43:34,862 --> 00:43:38,860 he was a all in all, a real SOB

658

00:43:38,860 --> 00:43:41,110 And you could see where his sympathy

659

00:43:41,110 --> 00:43:46,690 was, treating me just like you know and just unbelievable.

660 00:43:46,690 --> 00:43:49,180 And I really should have written a letter

661 00:43:49,180 --> 00:43:52,720 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

to the president of the Federal Republic of Germany,

662 00:43:52,720 --> 00:43:55,000 and complained about that.

663 00:43:55,000 --> 00:44:01,840 Anyway, so I was a witness in these two situations,

664 00:44:01,840 --> 00:44:04,430 and nothing has come of it.

665 00:44:04,430 --> 00:44:07,780 First of all, they didn't ahold of Josef Mengele.

666 00:44:07,780 --> 00:44:11,890 And secondly, although I know that he actually went back

667 00:44:11,890 --> 00:44:15,190 to Germany, and I know that from eyewitnesses with whom

668 00:44:15,190 --> 00:44:18,880 I talked from the town where I did some investigation

669 00:44:18,880 --> 00:44:22,750 in that town in Bavaria from where he actually came,

670 00:44:22,750 --> 00:44:28,140 and where his family had a very large organization which

671 00:44:28,140 --> 00:44:31,105 virtually employed many people of that Township.

672 00:44:31,105 --> 00:44:34,690 673 00:44:34,690 --> 00:44:39,970 All these sort of machinery, agricultural machinery--

674 00:44:39,970 --> 00:44:42,490 production of agricultural machinery.

675 00:44:42,490 --> 00:44:46,120 So he came back with impunity.

676 00:44:46,120 --> 00:44:48,060 And people saw him and nothing happened.

677 00:44:48,060 --> 00:44:54,200

678 00:44:54,200 --> 00:44:56,540 So I gather while you were teaching regularly

679 00:44:56,540 --> 00:44:58,960 at Sonoma State, several summers,

680 00:44:58,960 --> 00:45:01,340 you would go back to Germany and do research.

681 00:45:01,340 --> 00:45:01,840 Yeah.

682 00:45:01,840 --> 00:45:04,780 Well, also I had some Fulbright fellowships

683 00:45:04,780 --> 00:45:08,980 and I've had Alexander von Humboldt fellowship last year

684

00:45:08,980 --> 00:45:09,840 for three months.

685

00:45:09,840 --> 00:45:12,670 So I used that time to do whatever I can.

686

00:45:12,670 --> 00:45:15,190 But I mean that's all fine, and I

687

00:45:15,190 --> 00:45:19,990 guess it just requires a great deal of time to dig and find

688

00:45:19,990 --> 00:45:21,280 and all that.

689

00:45:21,280 --> 00:45:26,230 As I said, most of the people who really were perpetrators

690

00:45:26,230 --> 00:45:28,750 are all dead by now.

691

00:45:28,750 --> 00:45:34,090 And there are some still younger ones who are still around,

692

00:45:34,090 --> 00:45:37,840 and junior people-- relatively junior people by virtue

693

00:45:37,840 --> 00:45:42,430 of age who also know a great deal, and they're still around.

694

00:45:42,430 --> 00:45:48,730 And also I try to interview, and talk to, and visit,

695

00:45:48,730 --> 00:45:53,770 and do whatever I can in

order to learn from them

696

00:45:53,770 --> 00:45:56,230 what can be found out.

697

00:45:56,230 --> 00:46:02,470 And one of them is the editor in chief of the so-called

698

00:46:02,470 --> 00:46:13,300 [German magazine name] which was the official SS news

699 00:46:13,300 --> 00:46:15,130 report which came out.

700

00:46:15,130 --> 00:46:18,460 I think it was a weekly paper, and which had

701

00:46:18,460 --> 00:46:21,580 a circulation of one million.

702

00:46:21,580 --> 00:46:24,820 And he's still around, and he knows a great deal.

703

00:46:24,820 --> 00:46:27,170 But he's very defensive.

704

00:46:27,170 --> 00:46:33,130 And I was fortunate enough to have taped interviews

705

 $00:46:33,130 \rightarrow 00:46:36,940$ with him until the time, which was last year.

706

00:46:36,940 --> 00:46:40,510 Because of the broadcast, because of television 00:46:40,510 --> 00:46:47,140 appearances in Germany, found out about my background,

708

00:46:47,140 --> 00:46:51,740 and his wife became exceedingly hostile, although he wasn't.

709

00:46:51,740 --> 00:46:53,740 And that's something which is quite interesting.

710

00:46:53,740 --> 00:46:56,410 That some of the wives are very protective

711

00:46:56,410 --> 00:46:58,330 of their Nazi husbands.

712

00:46:58,330 --> 00:47:03,250 And the interesting thing is that the Nazi husbands shed

713 00:47:03,250 --> 00:47:10,420 their old wives, and they got a lot more recent editions

714 00:47:10,420 --> 00:47:13,510 of wives generation-wise.

715 00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:20,125 And many of whom have not even consciously experienced

716

00:47:20,125 --> 00:47:21,850 the Third Reich.

717 00:47:21,850 --> 00:47:23,440 And this one is one of them.

718 00:47:23,440 --> 00:47:26,006 A very attractive woman who with whom Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

719 00:47:26,006 --> 00:47:28,360 he procreate some children.

720 00:47:28,360 --> 00:47:30,230 And she's very protective of him,

721

00:47:30,230 --> 00:47:36,370 and so she really gave me a hard time when I was to see,

722

 $00:47:36,370 \rightarrow 00:47:39,052$ which he promised to do, and she prevented it.

723

00:47:39,052 --> 00:47:39,760 She prevented it.

724

00:47:39,760 --> 00:47:41,410 It was last summer.

725

00:47:41,410 --> 00:47:43,940 You mentioned a bit ago that at one point,

726

00:47:43,940 --> 00:47:46,450 you were interviewing someone with your wife.

727

00:47:46,450 --> 00:47:49,960 And I wonder, was your wife American?

728 00:47:49,960 --> 00:47:51,615 No, my wife was German.

729 00:47:51,615 --> 00:47:52,240 She was German.

730 00:47:52,240 --> 00:47:54,700 Yeah, and I met her at the University of Freiburg.

731

00:47:54,700 --> 00:47:55,990 I see.

732 00:47:55,990 --> 00:48:05,950 And so she knew Karl Wolff very well, and what -- through me,

733

00:48:05,950 --> 00:48:14,620 and through me, she also went with me to visit Albert Speer

734

00:48:14,620 --> 00:48:17,020 with whom I had a very interesting encounter--

735

00:48:17,020 --> 00:48:20,200 very lengthy and interesting encounter, correspondence,

736

00:48:20,200 --> 00:48:24,880 and numerous telephone conversations.

737

00:48:24,880 --> 00:48:32,440 And that is something which I've mentioned in one of my writings

738

00:48:32,440 --> 00:48:36,043 during this-- primarily my experience in concentration.

739 00:48:36,043 --> 00:48:39,290

740

00:48:39,290 --> 00:48:41,050 You interviewed Albert Speer also?

741 00:48:41,050 --> 00:48:42,620 Yeah, Albert Speer.

742 00:48:42,620 --> 00:48:45,410 On several occasions, I was with him--

743 00:48:45,410 --> 00:48:50,930 met with him in person twice, and had written communications

744

00:48:50,930 --> 00:48:57,930 with him, and several telephone conversations [INAUDIBLE]

745 00:48:57,930 --> 00:49:00,230 conversations.

746 00:49:00,230 --> 00:49:02,780 And what was your impression?

747

00:49:02,780 --> 00:49:04,520 Well, my impression is that he was

748 00:49:04,520 --> 00:49:11,210 a very highly intelligent person who was an expert manipulator.

749 00:49:11,210 --> 00:49:13,940

750 00:49:13,940 --> 00:49:21,800 And also I think showed some degree of regret,

751 00:49:21,800 --> 00:49:25,960 but in a way which was to his advantage, and he knew it.

752 00:49:25,960 --> 00:49:28,880 And he played that particular game very skillfully.

753 00:49:28,880 --> 00:49:36,940 754 00:49:36,940 --> 00:49:44,200 But I came in He just had a nice coffee and all this But he--

755 00:49:44,200 --> 00:49:47,660

756 00:49:47,660 --> 00:49:50,380 I could see in his eyes he was scared to death

757 00:49:50,380 --> 00:49:54,610 that I would just make a scene, and I could see

758 00:49:54,610 --> 00:49:57,580 that he was very apprehensive.

759 00:49:57,580 --> 00:50:02,105 And so I had to set him somehow at ease, because otherwise, he

760 00:50:02,105 --> 00:50:02,980 wouldn't have talked.

761 00:50:02,980 --> 00:50:05,590 He just thought that I would blast him.

762 00:50:05,590 --> 00:50:08,700 And in a way, I certainly said you

763 00:50:08,700 --> 00:50:11,690 were responsible for slave labor,

764 00:50:11,690 --> 00:50:13,930 and I think you were also my boss. 765 00:50:13,930 --> 00:50:16,480 He said, no, no, no very defensively-- no, I

766 00:50:16,480 --> 00:50:17,260 was not your boss.

767 00:50:17,260 --> 00:50:19,204 It was Hermann Goring.

768 00:50:19,204 --> 00:50:20,480 He was your boss.

769 00:50:20,480 --> 00:50:22,660 I was not-- that was not my--

770 00:50:22,660 --> 00:50:28,140 [INAUDIBLE] in that Bleichhammer when I was a slave laborer.

771 00:50:28,140 --> 00:50:30,555 That's not something-- it was not under my jurisdiction.

772 00:50:30,555 --> 00:50:34,660 It was Hermann's jurisdiction.

773 00:50:34,660 --> 00:50:36,190 Very defensive about that.

774 00:50:36,190 --> 00:50:41,380 And of course, he was the boss of other slave labor camps.

775 00:50:41,380 --> 00:50:46,060 They made rockets which thousands of people

776 00:50:46,060 --> 00:50:50,320 were killed, and worked to death. 777 00:50:50,320 --> 00:50:56,740 And so somehow, he played his cards very skillfully.

778 00:50:56,740 --> 00:50:59,500 And he certainly was--

779

00:50:59,500 --> 00:51:02,050 just portrayed himself as a person

780

00:51:02,050 --> 00:51:04,510 with regrets, and to some extent,

781

00:51:04,510 --> 00:51:07,450 I gave him the benefit of the doubt.

782

00:51:07,450 --> 00:51:18,670 And not only that, but he also alluded to the fact

783

00:51:18,670 --> 00:51:25,390 that he was trying to assassinate Hitler,

784

00:51:25,390 --> 00:51:28,390 or thought about it, reflected on that,

785

00:51:28,390 --> 00:51:36,220 and wanted to put poisonous gas in the bunker in which he had

786

00:51:36,220 --> 00:51:42,430 this sort of air system which brought in fresh air,

787

00:51:42,430 --> 00:51:43,780 and he wanted to put--

00:51:43,780 --> 00:51:45,400 and all these sort of things.

789

00:51:45,400 --> 00:51:48,520 But I and the people who knew him just simply

790

00:51:48,520 --> 00:51:50,350 laughed because it was known he was

791

00:51:50,350 --> 00:51:57,550 a very enthusiastic supporter of Hitler, who was his mentor,

792

00:51:57,550 --> 00:52:02,710 and made it possible that he became what he had.

793

00:52:02,710 --> 00:52:04,600 And that was not because he was not

794 00:52:04,600 --> 00:52:08,740 a Nazi, or not a collaborator, or whatever he may be.

795 00:52:08,740 --> 00:52:10,210 Let's say he was an opportunist.

796 00:52:10,210 --> 00:52:14,390 Well, I mean, that doesn't make him any less guilty, does it?

797

00:52:14,390 --> 00:52:18,520 So then he somehow dissociated himself from his role

798 00:52:18,520 --> 00:52:21,940 as early enthusiastic supporter of Hitler.

799 00:52:21,940 --> 00:52:27,160 Well, obviously because when the going was getting tough,

800

 $00:52:27,160 \rightarrow 00:52:30,370$ and it was obvious that Germany had lost the war,

801 00:52:30,370 --> 00:52:32,830 all sorts of people tried to save their skin

802

00:52:32,830 --> 00:52:38,800 by making claims which were kind of laughable-- ridiculous.

803 00:52:38,800 --> 00:52:41,500 So no, i didnt' see -- and that's something which also I

804 00:52:41,500 --> 00:52:43,900 said, well--

805 00:52:43,900 --> 00:52:49,337 I even talked to the president of the Federal Republic Lubke

806 00:52:49,337 --> 00:52:53,950 and I was, and I was invited along with other Alexander von

807 00:52:53,950 --> 00:52:54,550 Humboldt--

808 00:52:54,550 --> 00:52:58,180

809 00:52:58,180 --> 00:53:02,050 people who had fellowships there.

810 00:53:02,050 --> 00:53:05,020 This Alexander von Humboldt fellow, he invited us, 811 00:53:05,020 --> 00:53:09,550 and he was a talkative individual, and all that.

812 00:53:09,550 --> 00:53:11,150 And he was accused--

813

00:53:11,150 --> 00:53:13,900 Heinrich Lubke the president, was

814 00:53:13,900 --> 00:53:20,600 accused of being responsible for constructing barracks

815

00:53:20,600 --> 00:53:25,570 in concentration camps, and he was publicly accused of that.

816

00:53:25,570 --> 00:53:29,810 And then I had a chance talking to him privately --

817

00:53:29,810 --> 00:53:33,610 in the White House in Germany.

818

00:53:33,610 --> 00:53:39,550 And I asked him, Mr. President, are these accusations--

819

00:53:39,550 --> 00:53:40,930 I'm very interested on research.

820 00:53:40,930 --> 00:53:42,250 I would like to know what--

821 00:53:42,250 --> 00:53:44,410 oh, well, let them talk.

822 00:53:44,410 --> 00:53:45,970 There's nothing to it. 823 00:53:45,970 --> 00:53:50,710 And if there is nothing to it, so it's very easy for you

824 00:53:50,710 --> 00:53:52,160 to say I'm not guilty.

825 00:53:52,160 --> 00:53:54,160

Why don't know you-- well, don't let them talk--

826 00:53:54,160 --> 00:53:55,690

I don't care.

827

00:53:55,690 --> 00:53:58,090 And then we discussed things further,

828

00:53:58,090 --> 00:53:59,960 and he was very evasive in a way.

829

00:53:59,960 --> 00:54:02,675 He said, obviously, that he was taken with [INAUDIBLE],,

830

00:54:02,675 --> 00:54:03,550 no question about it.

831

00:54:03,550 --> 00:54:06,265 He was not a dreadfully clever person to begin with--

832

00:54:06,265 --> 00:54:09,280 not a very intelligent individual.

833 00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:12,550 And then he said, well, Dr. Stein, or professor Stein, 00:54:12,550 --> 00:54:14,950 or whatever he said, there was only

835 00:54:14,950 --> 00:54:17,488 a handful of Nazis in Germany, and that was just

836 00:54:17,488 --> 00:54:19,655 about something which was just unrea;, unbelievable.

837 00:54:19,655 --> 00:54:22,510 A handful of Nazis in Germany.

838 00:54:22,510 --> 00:54:25,630 Heinrich, I quote him in my book.

839 00:54:25,630 --> 00:54:35,380 And so after the war, just like now, you go to Czechoslovakia,

840 00:54:35,380 --> 00:54:37,810 no one is a communist--

841

00:54:37,810 --> 00:54:39,507 and afterwards no one was a Nazi.

842 00:54:39,507 --> 00:54:40,174 I wasn't a Nazi.

843 00:54:40,174 --> 00:54:41,900 No one was a Nazi.

844 00:54:41,900 --> 00:54:43,480 You couldn't find any Nazis anymore.

845 00:54:43,480 --> 00:54:45,100 You can't find any communists. 846 00:54:45,100 --> 00:54:46,570 What about your wife?

847

00:54:46,570 --> 00:54:48,560 What were her politics as she understood

848

00:54:48,560 --> 00:54:50,560 them growing up in Germany?

849

00:54:50,560 --> 00:54:54,400 Well, I mean she was the daughter

850

00:54:54,400 --> 00:54:59,975 of a Prussian officer who was just an absolute chauvinist

851

00:54:59,975 --> 00:55:01,540 German chauvinist.

852 00:55:01,540 --> 00:55:04,720 And [INAUDIBLE] somehow, and I was very much aware of it.

853 00:55:04,720 --> 00:55:09,370 say, my God, what the hell am I getting into?

854 00:55:09,370 --> 00:55:12,135 And so, yes, she was--

855

00:55:12,135 --> 00:55:16,660 he was a person when she came after two or three years,

856

00:55:16,660 --> 00:55:18,860 or whatever-- went to see him and visit him.

857 00:55:18,860 --> 00:55:22,570 So instead of embracing her,

or kissing, or just what

858

00:55:22,570 --> 00:55:25,180 normal people will do, he just shook her hand.

859

00:55:25,180 --> 00:55:26,133 That's all.

860

00:55:26,133 --> 00:55:26,800 Nice to see you.

861

00:55:26,800 --> 00:55:29,313

862

00:55:29,313 --> 00:55:29,980 Nice to see you.

863

00:55:29,980 --> 00:55:31,000 How are you?

864 00:55:31,000 --> 00:55:31,780 That's all.

865

00:55:31,780 --> 00:55:35,410 Just absolutely no feelings, no nothing.

866

00:55:35,410 --> 00:55:37,300 And that's something which I should

867

00:55:37,300 --> 00:55:41,350 have taken more seriously.

868

00:55:41,350 --> 00:55:45,550 But I thought, well, Maybe once again..? overcome ?.

869 00:55:45,550 --> 00:55:46,810 What was her name?

870 00:55:46,810 --> 00:55:49,210 Ulrika.

871 00:55:49,210 --> 00:55:51,010 Was she your age also?

872 00:55:51,010 --> 00:55:53,250 No, she was not my age I'm happy to say.

873 00:55:53,250 --> 00:55:56,080 At least that part was not bad.

874 00:55:56,080 --> 00:55:59,080 No, she was 14 years younger than I.

875 00:55:59,080 --> 00:56:06,530 I liked to follow President Mararyk's advice to associate

876 00:56:06,530 --> 00:56:11,290 with women or somebody younger than I for reasons

877 00:56:11,290 --> 00:56:15,500 which do not escape me.

878 00:56:15,500 --> 00:56:19,250 And so when did you get married?

879 00:56:19,250 --> 00:56:22,040

880 00:56:22,040 --> 00:56:24,380 In '68.

881 00:56:24,380 --> 00:56:26,880 And when was your son born?

882 00:56:26,880 --> 00:56:27,380 883

00:56:27,380 --> 00:56:28,130 When was--

884 00:56:28,130 --> 00:56:32,210 My son was born in '79.

885

00:56:32,210 --> 00:56:35,820 So obviously, you were married for quite a while.

886 00:56:35,820 --> 00:56:37,850 Yeah, quite a while.

887 00:56:37,850 --> 00:56:39,260 What's your son's name?

888 00:56:39,260 --> 00:56:40,280 Ingemar.

889 00:56:40,280 --> 00:56:43,160

890 00:56:43,160 --> 00:56:44,990 Was he born in the United States?

891 00:56:44,990 --> 00:56:48,470 He was born in San Francisco I'm happy to say.

892 00:56:48,470 --> 00:56:52,250 And he just is totally identifying with that

893 00:56:52,250 --> 00:56:54,390 and very proud of it--

894 00:56:54,390 --> 00:56:57,200 that he was born in San Francisco. 895 00:56:57,200 --> 00:56:58,920 How did your wife--

896 00:56:58,920 --> 00:57:00,740 And on the 22nd of April.

897

00:57:00,740 --> 00:57:02,180 And I just really pushed it.

898

00:57:02,180 --> 00:57:04,550 I said, hey God, don't do it to me--

899

00:57:04,550 --> 00:57:06,770 that you would be born on the 20th of April.

900

00:57:06,770 --> 00:57:08,910 I couldn't take it.

901

00:57:08,910 --> 00:57:11,240 20th of April is Hitler's birthday in case

902

00:57:11,240 --> 00:57:13,580 you don't know.

903

00:57:13,580 --> 00:57:17,090 And so fortunately, he was born on the 22nd.

904

00:57:17,090 --> 00:57:21,320 And I said just hold on, hold on.

905

00:57:21,320 --> 00:57:23,510 Just give it a few days.

906 00:57:23,510 --> 00:57:25,250 [INAUDIBLE]

907 00:57:25,250 --> 00:57:27,730 Not a very pleasant memento.

908 00:57:27,730 --> 00:57:30,740

909 00:57:30,740 --> 00:57:33,950 How did your wife react to being in the United States?

910 00:57:33,950 --> 00:57:36,630 Well, not well because she didn't like them.

911 00:57:36,630 --> 00:57:37,130 She didn't?

912 00:57:37,130 --> 00:57:42,537

913 00:57:42,537 --> 00:57:44,620 It was not her cup of tea, and she never adjusted.

914 00:57:44,620 --> 00:57:52,360

915 00:57:52,360 --> 00:57:55,330 Did she have any interests of her own?

916 00:57:55,330 --> 00:57:57,085 I mean, certainly during that long period

917 00:57:57,085 --> 00:57:58,210 before your child was born.

918 00:57:58,210 --> 00:58:04,480 Well, primarily having an easy life relatively speaking. 919 00:58:04,480 --> 00:58:09,250 Not working too much and catering to her own interests,

920 00:58:09,250 --> 00:58:11,920 wherever they were.

921 00:58:11,920 --> 00:58:14,210 Did you about your Holocaust experiences?

922 00:58:14,210 --> 00:58:15,220 Oh, yeah, very much.

923 00:58:15,220 --> 00:58:19,210 I mean, she typed the entire book manuscript

924 00:58:19,210 --> 00:58:21,580 and many other manuscripts she typed,

925 00:58:21,580 --> 00:58:24,910 and did an excellent job, and helped me with editing,

926 00:58:24,910 --> 00:58:25,510 and all that.

927 00:58:25,510 --> 00:58:28,270 So she was very helpful in that.

928 00:58:28,270 --> 00:58:35,350 But she got very adamant that I should discontinue

929 00:58:35,350 --> 00:58:39,020 all these sort of things about the Third Reich,

930 00:58:39,020 --> 00:58:44,950 and she became saturated with Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

all that, and tired of it,

931

00:58:44,950 --> 00:58:50,290 and wanted me to just simply disassociate myself from that.

932

00:58:50,290 --> 00:58:52,600 And not just because of her feelings,

933

00:58:52,600 --> 00:58:56,990 but also she felt very genuinely that it

934 00:58:56,990 --> 00:58:59,000 would be also better for me.

935

00:58:59,000 --> 00:59:03,730 And so that was a bone of contention, because I --

936 00:59:03,730 --> 00:59:07,130 eventually, if I'd done what

I think I want to accomplish,

937

00:59:07,130 --> 00:59:10,075 then I have other interests and all that,

938

00:59:10,075 --> 00:59:16,750 and don't want to dwell on it permanently to be sure as long

939

00:59:16,750 --> 00:59:18,550 as--

940

00:59:18,550 --> 00:59:21,220 but there are certain things which I feel obligated.

941

00:59:21,220 --> 00:59:24,190 And I particularly feel obligated to those people 942

00:59:24,190 --> 00:59:27,470 who were very close to me and were my friends.

943

00:59:27,470 --> 00:59:32,230 And if they had lived, would have made very important

944

00:59:32,230 --> 00:59:33,980 contributions to humanity.

945

00:59:33,980 --> 00:59:37,150 I feel obligated to them to do what I can,

946

 $00:59:37,150 \rightarrow 00:59:41,560$ which is less than they could have done if they had lived.

947

00:59:41,560 --> 00:59:45,340 Because very many of these people were just outright

948

00:59:45,340 --> 00:59:46,900 geniuses.

949

00:59:46,900 --> 00:59:50,290 And I was very fortunate to be able to associate

950

00:59:50,290 --> 00:59:52,400 with them, particularly in Theresienstadt

951

00:59:52,400 --> 00:59:59,170 where we had a group of people under a kind of leadership

952

00:59:59,170 --> 01:00:00,350 of two people.

01:00:00,350 --> 01:00:03,510 One was Fredy Hirsch, Fredy Hirsch,

954

01:00:03,510 --> 01:00:07,030 and then the other one was Gustav Schorsch.

955

01:00:07,030 --> 01:00:10,720 And these people were absolutely role models

956

01:00:10,720 --> 01:00:14,050 to me and significant others, not only because

957

01:00:14,050 --> 01:00:17,530 of their humanity, but because the intellectual brilliance,

958

01:00:17,530 --> 01:00:22,840 and leadership, and backbone profile, and courage,

959

01:00:22,840 --> 01:00:23,980 you name it.

960

01:00:23,980 --> 01:00:28,060 And just about all together, 13 of us,

961

01:00:28,060 --> 01:00:30,460 and I'm the only one who survived.

962

01:00:30,460 --> 01:00:33,070 All the other ones died, including

963

01:00:33,070 --> 01:00:36,820 all the other leaders-- two of the particular youth groups. 01:00:36,820 --> 01:00:40,530 And that is an unbelievable loss.

965

01:00:40,530 --> 01:00:43,910 An unbelievable loss not only to me personally,

966

01:00:43,910 --> 01:00:45,880 but also because there were, what I would

967

01:00:45,880 --> 01:00:47,190 consider, the better people.

968

01:00:47,190 --> 01:00:51,550 And that also helped me somehow to consider the possibility

969

01:00:51,550 --> 01:00:55,150 that, indeed, that the other people have not returned,

970

01:00:55,150 --> 01:01:00,370 and that those of us left are not exactly

971

01:01:00,370 --> 01:01:03,580 the cream of the crop.

972

01:01:03,580 --> 01:01:07,750 And that's something which I suspect is the case.

973 01:01:07,750 --> 01:01:10,600

974 01:01:10,600 --> 01:01:13,690

In one sense, though, it seems to me

975 01:01:13,690 --> 01:01:17,800 that it may be very

meaningful for you

976

01:01:17,800 --> 01:01:22,240 to do the things in the world you do as their representative.

977 01:01:22,240 --> 01:01:25,450 Well, I mean that's what I said about their representative.

978 01:01:25,450 --> 01:01:28,730 I mean, I know that that's what they would want me to do.

979 01:01:28,730 --> 01:01:32,960 But I simply-- intellectually and otherwise I'm

980

01:01:32,960 --> 01:01:35,320 much more limited than they were, because they

981

01:01:35,320 --> 01:01:36,430 were the brilliant people.

982

01:01:36,430 --> 01:01:37,310 I'm not.

983

01:01:37,310 --> 01:01:45,820 And so that, to me, is very regrettable,

984

01:01:45,820 --> 01:01:48,130 because I think their contribution would

985

01:01:48,130 --> 01:01:51,160 have been far superior to whatever I can do.

986

01:01:51,160 --> 01:01:56,230 And being aware of that, I just feel very humble. 987 01:01:56,230 --> 01:02:00,520 But on the other hand, I'm trying to do what I can

988 01:02:00,520 --> 01:02:06,190 in spite of all the obstacles, which are put in my way.

989

01:02:06,190 --> 01:02:08,590 And there is no question that this is the case.

990

01:02:08,590 --> 01:02:12,760 And I've had little support from the Jewish circle, virtually

991

01:02:12,760 --> 01:02:13,880 none.

992

01:02:13,880 --> 01:02:17,710 I have very little support from my colleagues,

993

01:02:17,710 --> 01:02:22,400 and I'm just a lonely person in a desert,

994

01:02:22,400 --> 01:02:27,530 so to speak, with some few individuals who,

995

01:02:27,530 --> 01:02:30,550 for reasons of their own, are supportive,

996

01:02:30,550 --> 01:02:34,497 and they themselves are strong.

997

01:02:34,497 --> 01:02:35,080 Do you think--

998

01:02:35,080 --> 01:02:40,717 Like, for example, poor Mrs. [? Horowitz. ?]

999 01:02:40,717 --> 01:02:41,550 I'm saying Horowitz.

1000 01:02:41,550 --> 01:02:45,040 Broken accent.

1001 01:02:45,040 --> 01:02:49,360 So I mean, it's just a struggle, and I'm getting very tired

1002 01:02:49,360 --> 01:02:50,860 of that struggle.

1003 01:02:50,860 --> 01:02:53,080 Do you think this was the wedge that

1004 01:02:53,080 --> 01:02:56,350 came between you and your wife?

1005 01:02:56,350 --> 01:02:58,915 Well, yes, it was certainly an area , a wedge,

1006 01:02:58,915 --> 01:03:01,030 yes There's no question about that.

1007 01:03:01,030 --> 01:03:03,880

1008 01:03:03,880 --> 01:03:09,390 And I gather that Ingemar is living fairly nearby?

1009 01:03:09,390 --> 01:03:11,885 Well, very fairly nearby in Germany at this point. 1010 01:03:11,885 --> 01:03:12,510 Oh, in Germany?

1011 01:03:12,510 --> 01:03:15,300

1012 01:03:15,300 --> 01:03:17,500 So she returned to Germany with your son.

1013 01:03:17,500 --> 01:03:18,000 Yeah.

1014 01:03:18,000 --> 01:03:21,040

1015 01:03:21,040 --> 01:03:23,320 She wanted to return for quite a long time.

1016 01:03:23,320 --> 01:03:27,300

1017 01:03:27,300 --> 01:03:31,440 So you really lost his presence also.

1018 01:03:31,440 --> 01:03:36,270 That's right, which I think is a very serious matter, which

1019 01:03:36,270 --> 01:03:39,510 I never would have done to anyone,

1020 01:03:39,510 --> 01:03:41,340 under the circumstances especially.

1021 01:03:41,340 --> 01:03:43,740 I wouldn't have done. 1022 01:03:43,740 --> 01:03:46,470 But that's what is happening.

1023 01:03:46,470 --> 01:03:48,300 And how it will develop in the future?

1024

01:03:48,300 --> 01:03:49,860 Well, I've had him here last summer.

1025 01:03:49,860 --> 01:03:53,260

He didn't want to return.

1026 01:03:53,260 --> 01:03:56,580 And I said, well, I'm going to run away and wait

1027 01:03:56,580 --> 01:03:58,290 until the plane has left, and then

1028 01:03:58,290 --> 01:04:01,470 I'll come back and use the money for the plane ticket,

1029 01:04:01,470 --> 01:04:05,790 because he's so very European, very thrifty,

1030 01:04:05,790 --> 01:04:10,230 penny pincher because that's what he learned from me.

1031 01:04:10,230 --> 01:04:12,570 Penny pincher because that's what

1032 01:04:12,570 --> 01:04:15,570 has transpired by virtue of the divorce 01:04:15,570 --> 01:04:16,780 and things of that nature.

1034 01:04:16,780 --> 01:04:24,270 And I just lost both my existential security

1035 01:04:24,270 --> 01:04:25,380 for the third time.

1036 01:04:25,380 --> 01:04:27,540 Once under the Nazis, second time

1037 01:04:27,540 --> 01:04:31,590 under the communists, and third time because of the family

1038 01:04:31,590 --> 01:04:33,370 problem.

1039 01:04:33,370 --> 01:04:36,990 So now it's too late for me to start again financially,

1040 01:04:36,990 --> 01:04:39,000 and just to recuperate is virtually

1041 01:04:39,000 --> 01:04:41,250 impossible at this point--

1042 01:04:41,250 --> 01:04:42,255 my age.

1043 01:04:42,255 --> 01:04:44,880 Well, financially-- do you mean emotionally and psychologically

1044 01:04:44,880 --> 01:04:45,660 as well?

1045

01:04:45,660 --> 01:04:48,150 Well, that too, but I'm financially-- emotionally

1046

01:04:48,150 --> 01:04:53,080 and psychologically, but also financially because everything

1047

01:04:53,080 --> 01:04:56,430 which I worked for, which was quite nice and comfortable,

1048

01:04:56,430 --> 01:05:00,960 just goes to attorney fees or to some of the things.

1049

01:05:00,960 --> 01:05:03,790 Dividing off of property and all that sort of thing,

1050

01:05:03,790 --> 01:05:05,670 and very little is going to be left.

1051

01:05:05,670 --> 01:05:11,040 And to live on that is going to be a very, very difficult thing

1052

01:05:11,040 --> 01:05:11,830 to do.

1053

01:05:11,830 --> 01:05:14,130 So did you actually get divorced yet?

1054

01:05:14,130 --> 01:05:15,360 I'm in the process.

1055

01:05:15,360 --> 01:05:15,900 Right now?

1056 01:05:15,900 --> 01:05:16,400 Yeah.

1057 01:05:16,400 --> 01:05:18,900 But you sound as though you've been separated for a while.

1058 01:05:18,900 --> 01:05:19,400 Oh, yeah.

1059 01:05:19,400 --> 01:05:23,190 We've been separated for a while, off and on.

1060 01:05:23,190 --> 01:05:24,090 But now--

1061 01:05:24,090 --> 01:05:27,570 And all the time she went back to Germany [INAUDIBLE]..

1062 01:05:27,570 --> 01:05:30,180

1063 01:05:30,180 --> 01:05:32,590 And how often are you seeing your son?

1064 01:05:32,590 --> 01:05:34,920 Well, as often as I can.

1065 01:05:34,920 --> 01:05:40,710 Just once a year, usually during the summer

1066 01:05:40,710 --> 01:05:44,820 because he goes to school there, and he can't come.

1067 01:05:44,820 --> 01:05:49,920 And I can't go there.

1068 01:05:49,920 --> 01:05:54,930 But so far, I've been able to see him more than normally

1069 01:05:54,930 --> 01:05:59,160 by virtue of the fact that I have these sort of assignments

1070 01:05:59,160 --> 01:06:01,920 back in Europe, and which were paid.

1071 01:06:01,920 --> 01:06:05,610 So financially, it was feasible because they paid the trip,

1072 01:06:05,610 --> 01:06:08,598 and they paid for my stay there, and I was

1073 01:06:08,598 --> 01:06:10,980 able to make a bit of money.

1074 01:06:10,980 --> 01:06:13,125 But that may cease.

1075

01:06:13,125 --> 01:06:17,370 That may-- it's not something which I can depend.

1076 01:06:17,370 --> 01:06:21,000

Have you talked with Ingemar about your Holocaust

1077 01:06:21,000 --> 01:06:21,510 experiences?

1078 01:06:21,510 --> 01:06:22,010 Oh, yes.

1079 01:06:22,010 --> 01:06:23,880 I've talked to him the first time.

1080

01:06:23,880 --> 01:06:28,905 I've-- of course, he's seen my books when they left in '89.

1081 01:06:28,905 --> 01:06:31,800

1082 01:06:31,800 --> 01:06:34,300 So he's seen my books, and Hitler, and all that.

1083 01:06:34,300 --> 01:06:36,300 And so you know, looks at some of them.

1084 01:06:36,300 --> 01:06:41,970 And I-- but I didn't force it on him at all.

1085 01:06:41,970 --> 01:06:46,770 I just took it just step-by-step.

1086 01:06:46,770 --> 01:06:51,210 And when he was interested-- now when he came back last summer,

1087 01:06:51,210 --> 01:06:56,370 I showed him a movie which I participated in, and was

1088 01:06:56,370 --> 01:06:59,080 a consultant, and was doing--

1089 01:06:59,080 --> 01:07:05,970 which was Hitler, Man or Myth.

1090 01:07:05,970 --> 01:07:10,740 And I showed that to him, and I showed

1091 01:07:10,740 --> 01:07:14,250 him the short strip 50 minutes of liberation

1092

01:07:14,250 --> 01:07:15,408 of concentration camps.

1093 01:07:15,408 --> 01:07:17,700 And he said, why did you show me these terrible things?

1094

01:07:17,700 --> 01:07:22,410 I said, well I just feel that it's just about time

1095

01:07:22,410 --> 01:07:24,420 that you know what I've been through,

1096

01:07:24,420 --> 01:07:26,820 and we can talk about it.

1097

01:07:26,820 --> 01:07:30,540 And he talks, and is getting more and more interested in it.

1098

01:07:30,540 --> 01:07:34,380 And he reads and said in class and all

1099

01:07:34,380 --> 01:07:36,160 that, I've read this and about--

1100

01:07:36,160 --> 01:07:36,660 all this.

1101

01:07:36,660 --> 01:07:38,940 And so he just keeps on telling me.

1102 01:07:38,940 --> 01:07:43,860 But again, I'm very careful not to force it on him.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

01:07:43,860 --> 01:07:47,610 Last summer, I felt it was time that he would face up

1104

01:07:47,610 --> 01:07:50,640 to some of the things so that he gets

1105

01:07:50,640 --> 01:07:52,710 some sort of a feeling for it in fact,

1106

01:07:52,710 --> 01:07:57,840 because my wife never talked about it to him-- about that.

1107

01:07:57,840 --> 01:08:01,940 And somehow, tends to avoid this, and deemphasizes

1108

01:08:01,940 --> 01:08:04,620 [INAUDIBLE].

1109 01:08:04,620 --> 01:08:09,780 And I feel that I don't want to emphasize it,

1110 01:08:09,780 --> 01:08:11,490 but I don't want to deemphasize it.

1111 01:08:11,490 --> 01:08:15,270 So that I respond to him and I think he's ready for it,

1112 01:08:15,270 --> 01:08:18,660 and not burdening him unnecessarily when he cannot

1113 01:08:18,660 --> 01:08:19,732 digest it.

1114 01:08:19,732 --> 01:08:21,149 But I think it's important that he

1115 01:08:21,149 --> 01:08:24,660 knows what I've been through, and also

1116 01:08:24,660 --> 01:08:26,310 what role the Germans had played.

1117 01:08:26,310 --> 01:08:29,399 And I think that will in essence influence him

1118 01:08:29,399 --> 01:08:36,660 because chances are that he will want to come here

1119 01:08:36,660 --> 01:08:38,770 for higher education, one, and two,

1120 01:08:38,770 --> 01:08:42,240 also live here permanently rather than in Germany.

1121 01:08:42,240 --> 01:08:44,729 But again, that is not something which I would force.

1122 01:08:44,729 --> 01:08:47,340 I hope that this will develop--

1123 01:08:47,340 --> 01:08:48,960 whatever is best for him.

1124 01:08:48,960 --> 01:08:54,120 And I know this place is right now--

1125 01:08:54,120 --> 01:08:59,010 we don't have much of a rosy future

1126 01:08:59,010 --> 01:09:01,529 to look forward at this point.

1127 01:09:01,529 --> 01:09:03,420 So there you go.

1128 01:09:03,420 --> 01:09:05,279 So I mean, it's a problem.

1129 01:09:05,279 --> 01:09:08,910 Certainly, Germany is everything [INAUDIBLE]

1130 01:09:08,910 --> 01:09:11,430 for so many reasons.

1131 01:09:11,430 --> 01:09:14,290 So it's a problem.

1132 01:09:14,290 --> 01:09:16,620 Is he learning about this in German schools too?

1133 01:09:16,620 --> 01:09:17,479 Hmm?

1134 01:09:17,479 --> 01:09:19,479 Is he learning in German schools too about this?

1135 01:09:19,479 --> 01:09:23,691 Well, he hasn't so far, no, because it was not part

1136 01:09:23,691 --> 01:09:24,899 of the thing. you know but --

1137 01:09:24,899 --> 01:09:28,830 I think now, he's an age where they probably will you know. 1138 01:09:28,830 --> 01:09:32,100 and he'll let me know about that for sure, he knows.

1139 01:09:32,100 --> 01:09:37,260 And I talk to him over the phone every two weeks for at least

1140 01:09:37,260 --> 01:09:38,100 an hour--

1141 01:09:38,100 --> 01:09:39,750 just about an hour anyway.

1142 01:09:39,750 --> 01:09:41,910 And he writes to me, and we write to him.

1143 01:09:41,910 --> 01:09:45,660 He doesn't write much because he's dreadful lazy.

1144 01:09:45,660 --> 01:09:47,850 People who are very, very intelligent,

1145 01:09:47,850 --> 01:09:51,810 and that is a handicap because if things

1146 01:09:51,810 --> 01:09:55,470 don't come easy to him, it just simply leaves them.

1147 01:09:55,470 --> 01:09:57,660 because everything tends to come easy to him,

1148 01:09:57,660 --> 01:09:59,910 and he's not used to working hard. 1149 01:09:59,910 --> 01:10:03,190 He's got kind of a lazy streak.

1150 01:10:03,190 --> 01:10:06,990 And so writing-- he doesn't like to write very much.

1151 01:10:06,990 --> 01:10:11,680 And he wrote me because he enjoys using the typewriter.

1152 01:10:11,680 --> 01:10:13,920 So now I guess because he has now

1153 01:10:13,920 --> 01:10:16,540 reason to do something which he enjoys,

1154 01:10:16,540 --> 01:10:19,073 he probably will be writing more.

1155 01:10:19,073 --> 01:10:20,240 you know this sort of thing.

1156 01:10:20,240 --> 01:10:23,730

1157 01:10:23,730 --> 01:10:27,510 I think I'd like to take a moment

1158 01:10:27,510 --> 01:10:30,840 and ask if other people would like to ask you anything.

1159 01:10:30,840 --> 01:10:32,110 up to this point before we--

1160 01:10:32,110 --> 01:10:33,810 Yeah. 1161 01:10:33,810 --> 01:10:36,165 How about you, Brian?

1162 01:10:36,165 --> 01:10:39,090 [INAUDIBLE] notes here.

1163 01:10:39,090 --> 01:10:42,330 When you were talking about the--

1164 01:10:42,330 --> 01:10:44,730 I'm interested in how you perceive

1165 01:10:44,730 --> 01:10:49,830 a kind of a schizoid character to the German people

1166 01:10:49,830 --> 01:10:52,110 at the time that you were doing your interviews.

1167 01:10:52,110 --> 01:10:56,100 This-- how do you account for their need

1168 01:10:56,100 --> 01:11:00,330 to both purge themselves of their guilt-- at the same time,

1169 01:11:00,330 --> 01:11:05,100 perpetuate some of the myth of the past?

1170 01:11:05,100 --> 01:11:08,040

1171 01:11:08,040 --> 01:11:11,280 Well, I think that's an understandable question, 01:11:11,280 --> 01:11:15,300 primarily because they live in two different realities.

1173 01:11:15,300 --> 01:11:19,260 They lived in Nazi Germany, which

1174 01:11:19,260 --> 01:11:24,090 was a very specific surreal reality--

1175 01:11:24,090 --> 01:11:26,700 not at that particular time, but looking

1176 01:11:26,700 --> 01:11:29,190 back today, it is surreal.

1177 01:11:29,190 --> 01:11:34,230 And so they-- their major professional life

1178 01:11:34,230 --> 01:11:41,350 and their success stems from Nazi Germany on one hand.

1179 01:11:41,350 --> 01:11:44,520 But Nazi Germany did not prevail,

1180 01:11:44,520 --> 01:11:48,990 and they had to adjust to a new reality which is the quasi--

1181 01:11:48,990 --> 01:11:51,260 and I'm stressing quasi--

1182 01:11:51,260 --> 01:11:54,360 democratic we have to which they had to adjust.

1183 01:11:54,360 --> 01:11:59,230 So they sit between two chairs, so to speak,

1184 01:11:59,230 --> 01:12:00,720 because they had to--

1185 01:12:00,720 --> 01:12:01,650 they were functional.

1186 01:12:01,650 --> 01:12:03,660 They had to remain functioning in these two

1187 01:12:03,660 --> 01:12:05,010 different realities.

1188 01:12:05,010 --> 01:12:09,480 And that, I think, is the reason,

1189 01:12:09,480 --> 01:12:13,920 or that is perhaps the reason why they are schizoid,

1190 01:12:13,920 --> 01:12:17,250 because they had to adjust to the new reality,

1191 01:12:17,250 --> 01:12:23,940 yet could not quite cut the umbilical cord with Nazi

1192 01:12:23,940 --> 01:12:30,930 Germany simply because that is where they were in limelight,

1193 01:12:30,930 --> 01:12:34,080 and that's where they were exceedingly powerful,

1194 01:12:34,080 --> 01:12:43,050 and that's where they enjoyed the glory of which disappeared 1195 01:12:43,050 --> 01:12:46,770 after they lost World War II.

1196 01:12:46,770 --> 01:12:53,370 And had to adjust to new realities which were not

1197 01:12:53,370 --> 01:12:58,020 as meaningful, and certainly not as rewarding,

1198 01:12:58,020 --> 01:12:59,480 as the Nazi reality.

1199 01:12:59,480 --> 01:13:01,950 So that makes sense to me why they would be schizoid,

1200 01:13:01,950 --> 01:13:02,910 which they are.

1201 01:13:02,910 --> 01:13:05,100 In so many ways, I think that's indeed

1202 01:13:05,100 --> 01:13:07,890 what they are because they live in two worlds.

1203 01:13:07,890 --> 01:13:10,320 You think that their willingness to repudiate the past

1204 01:13:10,320 --> 01:13:12,600 was hampered in the decade following

1205 01:13:12,600 --> 01:13:14,340 the war by groups like the CIA who were

1206

01:13:14,340 --> 01:13:16,230 willing to deal with them and--

1207

01:13:16,230 --> 01:13:18,690 Well, in a way, yes, because so many of them

1208 01:13:18,690 --> 01:13:28,340 were used by the CIA because of the anti-communist fear.

1209

01:13:28,340 --> 01:13:30,150 That is to say the communist fear

1210 01:13:30,150 --> 01:13:32,890 and the anti-communist activities.

1211 01:13:32,890 --> 01:13:43,075 And because that was more of a situational event--

1212 01:13:43,075 --> 01:13:47,380

1213 01:13:47,380 --> 01:13:50,932 transcended all the other previous considerations.

1214 01:13:50,932 --> 01:13:53,265 And therefore, they didn't care whether some of the Nazi

1215 01:13:53,265 --> 01:13:55,980 was was tainted with mischief as long as he

1216 01:13:55,980 --> 01:13:59,730 served their purposes at that particular time.

1217 01:13:59,730 --> 01:14:02,340 Because there is no morality attached to it or whatever.

1218 01:14:02,340 --> 01:14:03,870 I mean, it's just--

1219 01:14:03,870 --> 01:14:05,520 no morality I don't particularly.

1220

01:14:05,520 --> 01:14:10,200 And I wrote about these things in one

1221

01:14:10,200 --> 01:14:11,730 of the books [INAUDIBLE].

1222

01:14:11,730 --> 01:14:15,780 And just there is no morality.

1223

01:14:15,780 --> 01:14:18,240 It's just a totally opportunistic thing

1224

01:14:18,240 --> 01:14:20,850 which they think they'll do in order

1225

01:14:20,850 --> 01:14:22,330 to further the United States.

1226 01:14:22,330 --> 01:14:25,530 I think they've caused more damage to the United States

1227 01:14:25,530 --> 01:14:29,760 than anything else apart from the financial losses, which

1228 01:14:29,760 --> 01:14:33,550 is enormous in terms of-- 01:14:33,550 --> 01:14:34,050 so--

1230 01:14:34,050 --> 01:14:38,980

1231 01:14:38,980 --> 01:14:41,310 From a sociologists point of view,

1232 01:14:41,310 --> 01:14:44,010 how do you view the phenomena of someone

1233 01:14:44,010 --> 01:14:47,670 like David Duke who has repudiated his past,

1234 01:14:47,670 --> 01:14:52,620 but is not believed by the public?

1235 01:14:52,620 --> 01:14:58,500 It just-- he's no reborn Christian,

1236 01:14:58,500 --> 01:15:02,700 and I don't to what extent it is authentic or not.

1237 01:15:02,700 --> 01:15:06,540 I think the man is-- in terms of the type of long history

1238 01:15:06,540 --> 01:15:11,480 of activity, and in the Klan and other thing,

1239 01:15:11,480 --> 01:15:15,540 You know, not a very viable individual is in my eyes.

1240 01:15:15,540 --> 01:15:19,200 I don't care how many times he's been reborn.

1241 01:15:19,200 --> 01:15:23,430 Well, I mean, the other thing, it's a barometer of our times.

1242 01:15:23,430 --> 01:15:26,880 And if a person actually can become a serious candidate

1243 01:15:26,880 --> 01:15:30,250 for the governorship with this sort of background, I mean,

1244 01:15:30,250 --> 01:15:34,830 that's enough to really cause you to stop and think

1245

01:15:34,830 --> 01:15:40,380 what is going on in any case as far

1246 01:15:40,380 --> 01:15:45,900 as the attraction people of that ilk have.

1247 01:15:45,900 --> 01:15:49,650 And I think that's a very serious matter.

1248 01:15:49,650 --> 01:15:52,770 It tells us something about our times.

1249 01:15:52,770 --> 01:15:54,630 And it's typical also because if you

1250 01:15:54,630 --> 01:16:00,990 got the socioeconomic upheaval, all these people

1251

01:16:00,990 --> 01:16:02,880 will come out of the woodwork because there's

1252

01:16:02,880 --> 01:16:05,400 a call for that.

1253

01:16:05,400 --> 01:16:08,640 People need to find scapegoats for their misery,

1254

01:16:08,640 --> 01:16:12,846 and these people will provide it.

1255

01:16:12,846 --> 01:16:16,740 Do you think people who have gotten

1256

01:16:16,740 --> 01:16:19,650 caught up in this type of ideology

1257

01:16:19,650 --> 01:16:23,812 are precluded from a political life afterwards?

1258

01:16:23,812 --> 01:16:26,145 I'm thinking particularly of someone like Kurt Waldheim.

1259 01:16:26,145 --> 01:16:28,680

1260 01:16:28,680 --> 01:16:31,290 Well, I mean, I don't know whether they should be rewarded

1261 01:16:31,290 --> 01:16:35,490 with all these positions of power,

1262 01:16:35,490 --> 01:16:38,430 because obviously in the past, they

1263 01:16:38,430 --> 01:16:43,030 have not been very credible in handling it responsibly.

1264 01:16:43,030 --> 01:16:44,580 And I don't know whether they--

1265 01:16:44,580 --> 01:16:49,110 I'm not-- and I've talked to some SS people about that too.

1266 01:16:49,110 --> 01:16:52,710 And said, hey, we have got a right as anyone else

1267 01:16:52,710 --> 01:16:55,270 to see the errors of our way.

1268 01:16:55,270 --> 01:16:58,020 And I think we need to look at it also this way.

1269

01:16:58,020 --> 01:17:02,490 And I'm not doubting that some people genuinely have seen

1270 01:17:02,490 --> 01:17:06,210 the errors of their way, except that I think we'll get to --

1271 01:17:06,210 --> 01:17:09,000 you talked about Speer a little bit earlier--

1272 01:17:09,000 --> 01:17:10,540 a moment ago.

1273 01:17:10,540 --> 01:17:15,090 And Speer was playing very, very clever cards 1274 01:17:15,090 --> 01:17:18,170 in order to get off the hook.

1275 01:17:18,170 --> 01:17:22,710 And you can also make believe something which you then

1276 01:17:22,710 --> 01:17:27,210 will believe yourself is not a lie, but is the truth.

1277 01:17:27,210 --> 01:17:31,710 You can repeat it so many times that you can persuade yourself

1278 01·17·31 7

01:17:31,710 --> 01:17:35,160 that you are speaking the truth, although you played

1279 01:17:35,160 --> 01:17:39,900 a very sophisticated con game.

1280 01:17:39,900 --> 01:17:44,140 And so I like to look at the people very carefully.

1281 01:17:44,140 --> 01:17:48,300 So one thing which I say-which is not something which

1282 01:17:48,300 --> 01:17:53,490 I'm the one who discovered--

1283 01:17:53,490 --> 01:17:56,490 Bernard Shaw and other people--

1284 01:17:56,490 --> 01:17:59,250 we have a situation-that's something

1285 01:17:59,250 --> 01:18:03,270 which I tell my students very frequently, where you take

1286 01:18:03,270 --> 01:18:07,560 a civil service position, and you have

1287 01:18:07,560 --> 01:18:09,900 to pass civil service tests.

1288 01:18:09,900 --> 01:18:12,750 Now we have politicians, and we've got senators,

1289 01:18:12,750 --> 01:18:15,000 and we've got people in the highest positions,

1290 01:18:15,000 --> 01:18:17,740 and they're not given any tests.

1291 01:18:17,740 --> 01:18:20,430 I think we should look into their background,

1292

01:18:20,430 --> 01:18:23,100 and I think their autobiographies

1293

01:18:23,100 --> 01:18:26,520 or their biographies should be developed

1294

01:18:26,520 --> 01:18:28,380 very carefully by experts.

1295

01:18:28,380 --> 01:18:31,630 And I think they should pass tests themselves to what extent

1296

01:18:31,630 --> 01:18:36,630 they have qualifications which they claim to have.

1297 01:18:36,630 --> 01:18:40,170 And to be sure, many people would fail miserably.

1298 01:18:40,170 --> 01:18:42,900 And to me, it's just simply totally unbelievable

1299 01:18:42,900 --> 01:18:45,900 that if I work in some sort of a two bit job

1300 01:18:45,900 --> 01:18:49,080 in the civil service, I have to pass civil service examination.

1301 01:18:49,080 --> 01:18:51,540 Those people will become the most powerful people.

1302 01:18:51,540 --> 01:18:53,280 We just take their word for it.

1303 01:18:53,280 --> 01:18:55,200 I mean, it's just absolutely unbelievable.

1304 01:18:55,200 --> 01:18:57,555 It's scandalous.

1305 01:18:57,555 --> 01:18:58,500 It's incredible.

1306 01:18:58,500 --> 01:19:02,180 It's ridiculous.

1307 01:19:02,180 --> 01:19:03,670 And it's not that much of a deal,

1308 01:19:03,670 --> 01:19:05,410 because we've got enough expertise

1309 01:19:05,410 --> 01:19:10,840 to develop these tests, and administer them.

1310 01:19:10,840 --> 01:19:14,350 And people who are really experts in the field,

1311 01:19:14,350 --> 01:19:19,570 and do it in a way which will be exceedingly objective.

1312 01:19:19,570 --> 01:19:22,000 Why on earth don't we do it?

1313 01:19:22,000 --> 01:19:23,140 It's totally inconsistent.

1314 01:19:23,140 --> 01:19:25,660 Well, it's obviously because the powerful--

1315 01:19:25,660 --> 01:19:29,000 those people who have a potential to be powerful

1316 01:19:29,000 --> 01:19:33,353 can avoid all this sort of unpleasantness.

1317 01:19:33,353 --> 01:19:35,020 We live in a political climate right now

1318 01:19:35,020 --> 01:19:39,820 that seems to be trying to cleanse the system.

1319 01:19:39,820 --> 01:19:41,830 Finding it very hard to find candidates

1320

01:19:41,830 --> 01:19:45,400 for the high court that haven't had some kind of indiscretion

1321 01:19:45,400 --> 01:19:47,740 in their background.

1322 01:19:47,740 --> 01:19:50,470 The Kennedy administration-- there

1323 01:19:50,470 --> 01:19:53,800 have been innuendos about that for 20 years now.

1324

01:19:53,800 --> 01:19:56,838 How do you view that from a sociologists point of view?

1325 01:19:56,838 --> 01:19:57,880

What do you mean Kennedy?

1326

01:19:57,880 --> 01:20:00,670 I don't know specifically what you're alluding to?

1327

01:20:00,670 --> 01:20:04,090 His connection with the mafia and--

1328

01:20:04,090 --> 01:20:06,700 Well, I don't know whether he had connections with the mafia

1329

01:20:06,700 --> 01:20:07,930 directly.

1330 01:20:07,930 --> 01:20:09,070 I doubt it very much. 01:20:09,070 --> 01:20:11,740 I think he had a girlfriend who was--

1332 01:20:11,740 --> 01:20:13,180 or the various girlfriends.

1333 01:20:13,180 --> 01:20:14,740 The chances are that someone will

1334 01:20:14,740 --> 01:20:17,670 have had a mafia connection.

1335 01:20:17,670 --> 01:20:20,390 You know it's a realistic possiblity.

1336 01:20:20,390 --> 01:20:25,930 And the other ones-- the youngest was being kind

1337 01:20:25,930 --> 01:20:28,210 of the least gifted one--

1338 01:20:28,210 --> 01:20:30,115 I mean, he's got lots of connections too,

1339 01:20:30,115 --> 01:20:32,020 and these connections are the only thing

1340 01:20:32,020 --> 01:20:34,493 which he has been very successful in,

1341 01:20:34,493 --> 01:20:35,660 I guess, in a way, you know.

1342 01:20:35,660 --> 01:20:41,170 But not in terms of contribution to politics 1343 01:20:41,170 --> 01:20:44,340 in the United States necessarily.

1344 01:20:44,340 --> 01:20:55,230 But many people are precisely very doubtful moral character,

1345 01:20:55,230 --> 01:20:59,370 and very subject to corruption if not already corrupt.

1346 01:20:59,370 --> 01:21:02,640 And if we permit them to become our leaders,

1347 01:21:02,640 --> 01:21:06,630 I think it tells something about ourselves that we permit it.

1348 01:21:06,630 --> 01:21:13,500 And I think ever since Kennedy's assassination, it's been--

1349 01:21:13,500 --> 01:21:16,740

everything else has deteriorated.

1350 01:21:16,740 --> 01:21:18,270 And I think Kennedy--

1351 01:21:18,270 --> 01:21:20,370 I don't care whether he was a womanizer or not--

1352 01:21:20,370 --> 01:21:24,850 I think he had a potential as statesman.

1353 01:21:24,850 --> 01:21:27,850 I mean, I'm not a judge of his personal life, 1354 01:21:27,850 --> 01:21:29,500 and I don't want to be as long as he

1355 01:21:29,500 --> 01:21:33,040 has done things which are responsible, and learned,

1356 01:21:33,040 --> 01:21:33,700 and improved.

1357 01:21:33,700 --> 01:21:37,480 And I think he would have gone into a very

1358 01:21:37,480 --> 01:21:42,708 substantive and important statesman.

1359 01:21:42,708 --> 01:21:46,380

1360 01:21:46,380 --> 01:21:48,400 That's all I had.

1361 01:21:48,400 --> 01:21:49,070 How about you?

1362 01:21:49,070 --> 01:21:50,740 Do you have anything to analyze?

1363 01:21:50,740 --> 01:21:53,510 Carol, do you have any questions or comments?

1364 01:21:53,510 --> 01:21:54,800 I have two last things.

1365 01:21:54,800 --> 01:21:57,020 I think we've done really well covering a lot. 1366 01:21:57,020 --> 01:22:00,060 But two things I've just been pondering here.

1367 01:22:00,060 --> 01:22:03,530 One is that the tattoo that you have

1368 01:22:03,530 --> 01:22:07,220 on your arm which is characteristic of a survivor,

1369 01:22:07,220 --> 01:22:08,660 and which--

1370 01:22:08,660 --> 01:22:11,330 Auschwitz survivor.

1371 01:22:11,330 --> 01:22:13,490 Specific the other ones were--

1372 01:22:13,490 --> 01:22:14,300 Different-- yeah.

1373 01:22:14,300 --> 01:22:17,070 No, no, because I've got two numbers.

1374 01:22:17,070 --> 01:22:19,700 I've got the Dachau number which is not a tattoo,

1375 01:22:19,700 --> 01:22:23,550 but is a number which I was given when I came to Dachau.

1376 01:22:23,550 --> 01:22:25,430 And then I got to Auschwitz.

1377 01:22:25,430 --> 01:22:28,370 And the notion of the tattoo is that people with a tattoo

1378

01:22:28,370 --> 01:22:29,910 were not to get out ever.

1379 01:22:29,910 --> 01:22:32,510

1380 01:22:32,510 --> 01:22:33,440 That was the notion.

1381 01:22:33,440 --> 01:22:36,350 That these people were there until they died,

1382 01:22:36,350 --> 01:22:38,030 and never to be release.

1383 01:22:38,030 --> 01:22:40,240 So in a sense it's a mark of death.

1384 01:22:40,240 --> 01:22:42,170 Yeah, absolutely.

1385 01:22:42,170 --> 01:22:46,160 And in my generation, one of the things that has happened to me

1386 01:22:46,160 --> 01:22:49,070 is that wherever I go, when I see people--

1387 01:22:49,070 --> 01:22:51,710 and I do see people from time to time--

1388 01:22:51,710 --> 01:22:53,600 I mean, I was in Vienna, I saw one,

1389 01:22:53,600 --> 01:22:56,487 I was in Lucerne, Switzerland, I saw one.

1390

01:22:56,487 --> 01:22:57,320 When I was just in--

1391

01:22:57,320 --> 01:22:58,260 You were in Lucerne?

1392

01:22:58,260 --> 01:22:58,760 Really?

1393

01:22:58,760 --> 01:22:59,480 Yeah.

1394

01:22:59,480 --> 01:23:01,250 When I was in--

1395

01:23:01,250 --> 01:23:04,340 yeah, and I talked to him.

1396 01:23:04,340 --> 01:23:05,930 Excuse me-- not Lucerne--

1397

01:23:05,930 --> 01:23:09,650 on the way to Lucerne on the train.

1398

01:23:09,650 --> 01:23:12,127 In New York, I just saw one-- a tailor--

1399

01:23:12,127 --> 01:23:12,710 and we talked.

1400

01:23:12,710 --> 01:23:14,180 He was from Mauthausen.

1401

01:23:14,180 --> 01:23:16,910 And it had such a powerful effect on me 1402 01:23:16,910 --> 01:23:18,640 whenever I see someone with--

1403

01:23:18,640 --> 01:23:20,883 But he didn't have a tattoo-it was because he's not

1404

01:23:20,883 --> 01:23:21,550 from Mauthausen?

1405

01:23:21,550 --> 01:23:22,050 Did he?

1406 01:23:22,050 --> 01:23:23,487 Hew must have been in Auschwitz.

1407

01:23:23,487 --> 01:23:24,320 That's what he said.

1408

01:23:24,320 --> 01:23:25,580 Well, he was in Auschwitz, but he

1409

01:23:25,580 --> 01:23:26,600 says he got it at Mauthausen.

1410 01:23:26,600 --> 01:23:27,238 Oh, yeah.

1411 01:23:27,238 --> 01:23:29,030 But I mean, the tattoo he got in Auschwitz.

1412 01:23:29,030 --> 01:23:29,990 It was different than yours.

1413 01:23:29,990 --> 01:23:31,490 I think it had a "B" in front of it.

1414 01:23:31,490 --> 01:23:32,730

Yeah, because he came later.

1415 01:23:32,730 --> 01:23:33,230 Yeah.

1416 01:23:33,230 --> 01:23:34,605 But anyway, what I wanted to talk

1417 01:23:34,605 --> 01:23:37,220 about was that I feel that knowing you

1418 01:23:37,220 --> 01:23:39,470 and any other survivors that I've known,

1419

01:23:39,470 --> 01:23:41,000 there's just something so--

1420

01:23:41,000 --> 01:23:43,088 the impact of having a tattoo on your arm,

1421

01:23:43,088 --> 01:23:44,630 and going through your life with this

1422

01:23:44,630 --> 01:23:47,130 on your arm for your whole lifetime.

1423

01:23:47,130 --> 01:23:51,500 I mean, you've had it for most of your lifetime as an adult.

1424

01:23:51,500 --> 01:23:53,360 And I know you've mentioned to me

1425 01:23:53,360 --> 01:23:56,480 several times the effect of having to hide it, 1426 01:23:56,480 --> 01:23:57,090 for instance.

1427 01:23:57,090 --> 01:23:58,940 When one of these generals asked you to go swimming

1428 01:23:58,940 --> 01:24:01,020 on a hot day, and you couldn't take off your shirt,

1429 01:24:01,020 --> 01:24:02,480 so you had to not go swimming because then

1430 01:24:02,480 --> 01:24:03,980 you would reveal you were a survivor

1431 01:24:03,980 --> 01:24:05,207 in this tricky situation.

1432 01:24:05,207 --> 01:24:06,540 Yeah, it was a tricky situation.

1433 01:24:06,540 --> 01:24:09,440 And you've talked to me about--

1434 01:24:09,440 --> 01:24:13,250 Also during the summer when I was asked to go to SS rally,

1435 01:24:13,250 --> 01:24:19,910 and I was also a guest of honor therefore, because I was --

1436 01:24:19,910 --> 01:24:23,960 a general-- SS general who invited me.

1437 01:24:23,960 --> 01:24:27,380 And I sat at the table for the honored people,

1438

01:24:27,380 --> 01:24:31,250 and I was perspiring-something dreadfully hot.

1439

01:24:31,250 --> 01:24:33,020 And I couldn't take off my-- and that

1440

01:24:33,020 --> 01:24:36,020 was an SS rally of about 1,500 people,

1441

01:24:36,020 --> 01:24:38,360 and I had to address them.

1442

01:24:38,360 --> 01:24:41,030 So you can see how I must have sweated, particularly

1443

01:24:41,030 --> 01:24:46,010 to say something which reflected my persuasion,

1444

01:24:46,010 --> 01:24:50,060 and did not antagonize them too much,

1445

01:24:50,060 --> 01:24:52,670 because I had 1,500 or something--

1446

01:24:52,670 --> 01:24:53,840 1,500 to 1.

1447

01:24:53,840 --> 01:24:58,842 They could have clobbered me with some degree of ease.

1448

01:24:58,842 --> 01:25:00,800 And then I was thinking Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

of the time you told me

1449 01:25:00,800 --> 01:25:04,070 when you were, I think, in New York applying for a job,

1450 01:25:04,070 --> 01:25:06,530 and a woman said, don't tell people

1451 01:25:06,530 --> 01:25:08,480 you're a survivor-- you will not get employed.

1452 01:25:08,480 --> 01:25:09,022 That's right.

1453 01:25:09,022 --> 01:25:10,199 And this was in--

1454 01:25:10,199 --> 01:25:12,574 I don't know if it was the '60s when it was that you were

1455 01:25:12,574 --> 01:25:13,074 [INAUDIBLE].

1456 01:25:13,074 --> 01:25:16,070 That was in the '50s.

1457 01:25:16,070 --> 01:25:17,343 In the '50s?

1458 01:25:17,343 --> 01:25:19,010 Did you ever consider having it removed?

1459 01:25:19,010 --> 01:25:21,862

1460 01:25:21,862 --> 01:25:23,570 Well, I discussed it Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

--- that actually --

1461

01:25:23,570 --> 01:25:27,900 with my father and my father's solution was that he put

1462

01:25:27,900 --> 01:25:34,820 a Band-Aid over it.

1463

01:25:34,820 --> 01:25:37,750 And then I was in a very tricky situation

1464

01:25:37,750 --> 01:25:40,070 last year, so I put a Band-Aid.

1465

01:25:40,070 --> 01:25:42,650 I remember that I put a Band-Aid over that,

1466

01:25:42,650 --> 01:25:44,180 and they immediately were like, what

1467

01:25:44,180 --> 01:25:45,980 have you done to yourself-what happened to you?

1468

01:25:45,980 --> 01:25:47,438 It must have been a large Band-Aid.

1469

01:25:47,438 --> 01:25:49,230 Well, a small one-- a relatively small one.

1470 01:25:49,230 --> 01:25:50,105 What happened to you?

1471 01:25:50,105 --> 01:25:51,600 You can not-- that's OK. 01:25:51,600 --> 01:25:54,080 I mean, it's not-- your normal sized Band-Aid.

1473

01:25:54,080 --> 01:25:56,570 And so they asked me what happened to you?

1474

01:25:56,570 --> 01:26:01,220 oh my god, I said, oh, well, it's nothing.

1475

01:26:01,220 --> 01:26:03,000 It's nothing-- right.

1476 01:26:03,000 --> 01:26:03,500 [INAUDIBLE]

1477 01:26:03,500 --> 01:26:05,780 Anyway, so-- but I never you see --

1478 01:26:05,780 --> 01:26:07,270 the thing is because it would be--

1479 01:26:07,270 --> 01:26:09,170 it would go against my grain.

1480 01:26:09,170 --> 01:26:10,640 I have nothing to be ashamed of.

1481 01:26:10,640 --> 01:26:15,080 I didn't do anything which I would have to be ashamed of,

1482 01:26:15,080 --> 01:26:16,860 and that's not my problem.

1483 01:26:16,860 --> 01:26:20,360 The only thing-- some people respond to it differently. 1484 01:26:20,360 --> 01:26:26,360 One person in Austria when I was there two years ago with

1485 01:26:26,360 --> 01:26:29,420 my son-- or last year, as a matter of fact, with my son--

1486 01:26:29,420 --> 01:26:32,840 and so he said oh, it's GI Joe.

1487 01:26:32,840 --> 01:26:35,030 You've got whatever they thought was the number.

1488 01:26:35,030 --> 01:26:36,410 you know, he didn't [INAUDIBLE].

1489 01:26:36,410 --> 01:26:39,080 And another one when I went swimming back in Freiburg they

1490 01:26:39,080 --> 01:26:41,420 said, hey, I know what you're wearing.

1491 01:26:41,420 --> 01:26:44,030 I know because my brother was also-- my older

1492 01:26:44,030 --> 01:26:45,952 brother was also in the SS.

1493 01:26:45,952 --> 01:26:46,916 [LAUGHTER]

1494 01:26:46,916 --> 01:26:47,880 Oh, no.

1495 01:26:47,880 --> 01:26:51,260 1496 01:26:51,260 --> 01:26:53,840 And some you get a different interpretation.

1497 01:26:53,840 --> 01:26:55,940 And they call it say, hey, what is it--

1498 01:26:55,940 --> 01:26:57,260 you know a telephone number?

1499 01:26:57,260 --> 01:26:58,935 I say, sure, you can call it.

1500 01:26:58,935 --> 01:27:01,108 [LAUGHTER]

1501 01:27:01,108 --> 01:27:03,650 Well, it's wonderful you have such a sense of humor about it.

1502 01:27:03,650 --> 01:27:06,800 But I guess my point was that it has a terrific impact on me

1503 01:27:06,800 --> 01:27:07,960 when I see [INAUDIBLE].

1504 01:27:07,960 --> 01:27:09,085 Well, I'm sorry about that.

1505 01:27:09,085 --> 01:27:09,890 [INAUDIBLE]

1506 01:27:09,890 --> 01:27:12,110 Don't be.

1507 01:27:12,110 --> 01:27:14,180 Because to me, it feels--

1508 01:27:14,180 --> 01:27:17,062 there are some people that find it a taboo subject.

1509 01:27:17,062 --> 01:27:18,020 They don't bring it up.

1510 01:27:18,020 --> 01:27:19,790 They look at you, they know that you're a survivor,

1511 01:27:19,790 --> 01:27:20,795 and they're afraid to bring it up.

1512 01:27:20,795 --> 01:27:22,070 Yeah, I get these sort of glances.

1513 01:27:22,070 --> 01:27:23,880 People respond to you in all kinds of ways.

1514 01:27:23,880 --> 01:27:26,217 Some people are hostile because you're wearing it--

1515 01:27:26,217 --> 01:27:27,050 because you have it.

1516 01:27:27,050 --> 01:27:28,940 Some people are supportive and sympathetic,

1517 01:27:28,940 --> 01:27:31,070 and immediately drawn to you because of it.

1518 01:27:31,070 --> 01:27:34,520 And then other people look the other way

1519 01:27:34,520 --> 01:27:36,860 because it's kind of disgusting to them.

1520 01:27:36,860 --> 01:27:37,790 That's right.

1521 01:27:37,790 --> 01:27:40,970 And I guess that--

1522 01:27:40,970 --> 01:27:43,560 I have grin and bear it.

1523 01:27:43,560 --> 01:27:46,790

1524 01:27:46,790 --> 01:27:49,790 And that, to me, is one of my least problems

1525 01:27:49,790 --> 01:27:53,240 to be perfectly honest with you.

1526 01:27:53,240 --> 01:27:56,382 Well, yes, I understand that, except that I was thinking

1527 01:27:56,382 --> 01:27:58,340 of it in terms of how you go through your life,

1528 01:27:58,340 --> 01:28:01,340 and it's unavoidable unless you put your shirt on,

1529 01:28:01,340 --> 01:28:02,486 or your jacket.

1530 01:28:02,486 --> 01:28:04,610 I can handle that.

1531 01:28:04,610 --> 01:28:07,730 I won't have any more serious problems in life. 1532 01:28:07,730 --> 01:28:10,520 I tell you I'm well off.

1533 01:28:10,520 --> 01:28:12,860 Speaking of that, one of the things

1534 01:28:12,860 --> 01:28:15,980 that I wanted to kind of recap was

1535 01:28:15,980 --> 01:28:21,560 what you feel have been kind of lifelong-- other kinds

1536 01:28:21,560 --> 01:28:22,130 of scars.

1537 01:28:22,130 --> 01:28:25,460 I know you talked about the grieving for your mother

1538 01:28:25,460 --> 01:28:26,720 and the sense of family.

1539 01:28:26,720 --> 01:28:29,720 That this has been a lifelong impact on you.

1540 01:28:29,720 --> 01:28:32,580 I mean, it's about impossible to imagine a different life

1541 01:28:32,580 --> 01:28:38,870 than the one has had, have there been other--

1542 01:28:38,870 --> 01:28:39,500 Yeah, well--

1543 01:28:39,500 --> 01:28:40,340

[INAUDIBLE]

1544 01:28:40,340 --> 01:28:43,160 --I suffered a-- you see, I'm a very athletic person,

1545 01:28:43,160 --> 01:28:46,080 and I was a very athletic person, and I excelled.

1546 01:28:46,080 --> 01:28:50,930 As a matter of fact, excelled very favorably competing

1547 01:28:50,930 --> 01:28:55,070 with German kids of my age.

1548

01:28:55,070 --> 01:29:00,440 And then I was one of the role models in terms of gym,

1549 01:29:00,440 --> 01:29:03,060 and workout, and what have you.

1550

01:29:03,060 --> 01:29:07,550 So when I lost my toes, it was a very traumatic experience

1551

01:29:07,550 --> 01:29:12,050 not just merely because it may impede all the sports--

1552

01:29:12,050 --> 01:29:13,880 which it has--

1553

01:29:13,880 --> 01:29:17,180 I still could swim, and that's one of my major sports,

1554 01:29:17,180 --> 01:29:21,270 except it's getting more expensive because I don't live

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1555 01:29:21,270 --> 01:29:24,380 in a region where you can swim in the ocean,

1556 01:29:24,380 --> 01:29:28,250 and I don't particularly like to swim in spittoons.

1557 01:29:28,250 --> 01:29:38,480 And so the problem is that it is also an aesthetic scar.

1558 01:29:38,480 --> 01:29:40,490 And I suffered from that very much,

1559 01:29:40,490 --> 01:29:43,200 particularly with my relationship to women.

1560 01:29:43,200 --> 01:29:46,340 And I was very self-- and still very self-conscious

1561 01:29:46,340 --> 01:29:50,390 of that, because I feel that this is an imposition.

1562 01:29:50,390 --> 01:29:52,550 Although, some people are generous enough

1563 01:29:52,550 --> 01:29:53,900 and don't view it that way.

1564 01:29:53,900 --> 01:29:57,110 Certainly, my wife didn't mind that,

1565 01:29:57,110 --> 01:29:59,990 and I give her a lot of credit for that, Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1566 01:29:59,990 --> 01:30:04,280 and some other ladies with whom I had an encounter didn't.

1567 01:30:04,280 --> 01:30:08,400 But I mean, it would bother me for sure.

1568

01:30:08,400 --> 01:30:10,310 I don't to what extent it would bother me

1569

01:30:10,310 --> 01:30:11,990 that I would not have an association

1570

01:30:11,990 --> 01:30:14,570 or intimate relationship, but it could.

1571

01:30:14,570 --> 01:30:17,210 And I certainly don't exclude that possibility.

1572

01:30:17,210 --> 01:30:22,370 So that, to me, is a very important handicap which I--

1573

01:30:22,370 --> 01:30:23,915 particularly, when I was young, it

1574

 $01:30:23,915 \rightarrow 01:30:28,430$ was, to me, very difficult for me to go to the beach.

1575 01:30:28,430 --> 01:30:32,600 I always had some sort of tennis shoes or some moccasins

1576 01:30:32,600 --> 01:30:34,850 or something, because I didn't want to-- 1577 01:30:34,850 --> 01:30:37,520 and it actually happened.

1578 01:30:37,520 --> 01:30:44,180 Back in Maui in January, I was there by myself,

1579 01:30:44,180 --> 01:30:49,010 and now I'm seasoned, and somehow I

1580 01:30:49,010 --> 01:30:52,740 don't care that much anymore for some reason or another.

1581

01:30:52,740 --> 01:30:57,050 And there are some young kids at the ocean and the beach,

1582

01:30:57,050 --> 01:30:59,420 and then I was taking a shower.

1583

01:30:59,420 --> 01:31:01,280 It was a cold shower after you come

1584

01:31:01,280 --> 01:31:04,610 from being out of the ocean, and it's sort of a beach resort

1585

01:31:04,610 --> 01:31:05,940 situation.

1586 01:31:05,940 --> 01:31:07,850 Some small kids said--

1587 01:31:07,850 --> 01:31:09,965 and they looked-look what he's got--

1588 01:31:09,965 --> 01:31:12,180 look at his feet and all this sort of thing.

1589 01:31:12,180 --> 01:31:13,370 So I was reminded of that.

1590 01:31:13,370 --> 01:31:17,810 I mean, I find it very curious and charming in a way that they

1591 01:31:17,810 --> 01:31:22,130 responded the way they did-in some sort of a very nice way

1592 01:31:22,130 --> 01:31:27,260 in a way-- in -- awe of that, and somehow in an nice--

1593 01:31:27,260 --> 01:31:31,040 not in a vulgar, but kind of admired--

1594 01:31:31,040 --> 01:31:35,330 look at this strange things.

1595 01:31:35,330 --> 01:31:38,940 And but I was reminded of that.

1596 01:31:38,940 --> 01:31:41,210 Years ago, it would have embarrassed me--

1597 01:31:41,210 --> 01:31:44,450 it would have bothered me.

1598 01:31:44,450 --> 01:31:48,440 Now it doesn't anymore because I don't care that much anymore

1599 01:31:48,440 --> 01:31:49,580 for some reason or other. 01:31:49,580 --> 01:31:52,040 But aesthetically, yes, it is something

1601

01:31:52,040 --> 01:31:54,170 which I consider to be a flaw-- a very

1602

01:31:54,170 --> 01:31:55,655 serious one-- a handicap.

1603 01:31:55,655 --> 01:31:59,200

1604 01:31:59,200 --> 01:32:01,640 One more last question, and that is-- it's

1605

01:32:01,640 --> 01:32:05,630 not a question, although you may take it that way.

1606

01:32:05,630 --> 01:32:08,630 I'm concerned because from working with you for these

1607

01:32:08,630 --> 01:32:12,330 eight years, or however long we've been working together,

1608 01:32:12,330 --> 01:32:14,570 even though I value your work very highly,

1609

01:32:14,570 --> 01:32:18,980 and I think that you've done a remarkable job of transforming

1610 01:32:18,980 --> 01:32:24,770 your experience into constructive social work,

1611 01:32:24,770 --> 01:32:27,480 and in your educational endeavors and so forth--

1612 01:32:27,480 --> 01:32:29,210 media endeavors--

1613 01:32:29,210 --> 01:32:35,450 I find that you continue to feel that your work has not quite

1614 01:32:35,450 --> 01:32:39,200 made the mark, hasn't quite accomplished what you would

1615 01:32:39,200 --> 01:32:42,590 hope, hasn't quite gotten the attention that you

1616 01:32:42,590 --> 01:32:46,290 would hope for, and I continue to be troubled by this.

1617 01:32:46,290 --> 01:32:47,282 I'm not--

1618 01:32:47,282 --> 01:32:47,780 I continue to be troubled by it.

1619 01:32:47,780 --> 01:32:48,280 Yeah.

1620 01:32:48,280 --> 01:32:50,540 I'm not sure if there is something specific

1621 01:32:50,540 --> 01:32:53,240 we can do about it, because it may just be a matter of time

1622 01:32:53,240 --> 01:32:56,555 before enough people understand what you've done, before they Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1623 01:32:56,555 --> 01:32:59,180 understand what you've tried to accomplish, the kind of courage

1624 01:32:59,180 --> 01:33:01,305 that you've had to have going into these situations

1625 01:33:01,305 --> 01:33:04,940 with large groups of Nazis and all this kind of thing.

1626 01:33:04,940 --> 01:33:08,450

1627 01:33:08,450 --> 01:33:11,060 But it does trouble me a lot that you

1628 01:33:11,060 --> 01:33:14,450 would feel that you almost have to disparage yourself,

1629 01:33:14,450 --> 01:33:15,260 that you--

1630 01:33:15,260 --> 01:33:18,740 Sonoma State instead of Harvard, or that you've not

1631 01:33:18,740 --> 01:33:22,490 done as well as other brilliant people in your past would have.

1632 01:33:22,490 --> 01:33:25,677 Because I would like to see you contented with the amount

1633 01:33:25,677 --> 01:33:26,510 of work you've done.

1634 01:33:26,510 --> 01:33:28,190 You've published all these things,

1635 01:33:28,190 --> 01:33:30,440 you've done all this media work.

1636 01:33:30,440 --> 01:33:31,860 Somehow, it's not quite enough.

1637 01:33:31,860 --> 01:33:33,183 And I guess I'm asking--

1638 01:33:33,183 --> 01:33:35,600 I'm not contented and you're not going to talk me into it.

1639 01:33:35,600 --> 01:33:37,010 No, I'm not trying to.

1640 01:33:37,010 --> 01:33:39,720 I would never do that.

1641 01:33:39,720 --> 01:33:41,690 What would it take?

1642 01:33:41,690 --> 01:33:45,930 Well, first of all, get that type of recognition

1643 01:33:45,930 --> 01:33:51,780 which would generate support on a massive scale

1644 01:33:51,780 --> 01:33:53,900 so that one really could go forward

1645 01:33:53,900 --> 01:33:56,240 with some sort of major research so

1646 01:33:56,240 --> 01:33:59,540 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

that I could finish the thing before I kick the bucket.

1647 01:33:59,540 --> 01:34:02,750 That, to me, is very important, and that has not happened.

1648 01:34:02,750 --> 01:34:05,780 Because you can see yourself after knowing me for that many

1649 01:34:05,780 --> 01:34:08,850 years, you see, well, whom do I have as a co-worker or someone

1650 01:34:08,850 --> 01:34:09,350 I work--

1651 01:34:09,350 --> 01:34:11,420 well, the best-- one of my best assistants--

1652 01:34:11,420 --> 01:34:13,490 you are the best I've had so far.

1653 01:34:13,490 --> 01:34:16,940 And then I have to say that my best ? assistance ?

1654 01:34:16,940 --> 01:34:18,290 are from SS people.

1655 01:34:18,290 --> 01:34:20,090 They are the ones who really support me,

1656 01:34:20,090 --> 01:34:21,710 and that's kind of ironic.

1657 01:34:21,710 --> 01:34:24,050 All the Yids around here, they just ignore me. 1658 01:34:24,050 --> 01:34:27,500

1659 01:34:27,500 --> 01:34:28,000 Why?

1660

01:34:28,000 --> 01:34:31,980 Because I'm dealing not with the dead people, because that's

1661

01:34:31,980 --> 01:34:32,760 what they prefer.

1662

01:34:32,760 --> 01:34:34,860 That's something which I'd like to mention.

1663

01:34:34,860 --> 01:34:37,260 That it's much easier to deal with dead people

1664 01:34:37,260 --> 01:34:41,730 than living survivors, because they don't talk back,

1665 01:34:41,730 --> 01:34:43,350 and they are not a burden.

1666 01:34:43,350 --> 01:34:47,160 I just simply buy and create some awful monuments, and say

1667

01:34:47,160 --> 01:34:48,360 now I've done my duty--

1668 01:34:48,360 --> 01:34:51,320

1669 01:34:51,320 --> 01:34:53,820 done my duty and my responsibility. 1670 01:34:53,820 --> 01:34:55,650 It's easy way out.

1671 01:34:55,650 --> 01:34:57,900 And I see that particularly in American Yids,

1672 01:34:57,900 --> 01:35:03,030 which I don't find particularly very attractive, because they

1673 01:35:03,030 --> 01:35:07,590 have ignored and continue to ignore the survivors.

1674 01:35:07,590 --> 01:35:10,680 They haven't done a thing for them,

1675 01:35:10,680 --> 01:35:13,980 or very little, if anything.

1676 01:35:13,980 --> 01:35:16,221 And I find that totally intolerable.

1677 01:35:16,221 --> 01:35:19,200

1678 01:35:19,200 --> 01:35:20,700 You mean American Jews [INAUDIBLE]..

1679 01:35:20,700 --> 01:35:21,450 That's right.

1680 01:35:21,450 --> 01:35:23,940 The American Jewish population in general.

1681 01:35:23,940 --> 01:35:25,560 1682 01:35:25,560 --> 01:35:27,570 Nothing.

1683 01:35:27,570 --> 01:35:29,670 I don't remember that I've been ever

1684 01:35:29,670 --> 01:35:35,160 invited by a Jewish group with the exception of one

1685 01:35:35,160 --> 01:35:38,070 when we went together back in the--

1686 01:35:38,070 --> 01:35:40,020 what was it-- back in Santa Rosa--

1687 01:35:40,020 --> 01:35:40,955 the ? pink palace ?.

1688 01:35:40,955 --> 01:35:41,580 B'nai B'rith.

1689 01:35:41,580 --> 01:35:45,690 B'nai B'rith, and they gave me some sort of minor recognition.

1690 01:35:45,690 --> 01:35:47,520 I give them that.

1691 01:35:47,520 --> 01:35:52,080 But other than that, I have not been invited to any--

1692 01:35:52,080 --> 01:35:57,270 by any people whom I'm working with, any of the people who--

1693

01:35:57,270 --> 01:35:58,800 the alliance or anything.

1694

01:35:58,800 --> 01:36:00,720 Not a single people asked, well, how

1695

01:36:00,720 --> 01:36:03,030 are you doing, or be interested in some sort.

1696

01:36:03,030 --> 01:36:05,910 Not a thing.

1697 01:36:05,910 --> 01:36:06,960 And that is something.

1698 01:36:06,960 --> 01:36:11,340 Ever since I-- in New York, when I came to talk to them well,

1699 01:36:11,340 --> 01:36:13,860

come back later, maybe you come back again, or--

1700

01:36:13,860 --> 01:36:15,770 nothing has been done for me ever.

1701 01:36:15,770 --> 01:36:18,590

1702 01:36:18,590 --> 01:36:19,420 So it's easier.

1703 01:36:19,420 --> 01:36:23,420 That's why I say it's easier to build monuments

1704 01:36:23,420 --> 01:36:30,650 for those who are dead, because then you have done your duty, 1705 01:36:30,650 --> 01:36:34,680 and you can ignore those who are alive and cumbersome.

1706 01:36:34,680 --> 01:36:39,830 And very many of the scarred and traumatized survivors

1707 01:36:39,830 --> 01:36:41,166 are cumbersome.

1708 01:36:41,166 --> 01:36:44,080

1709 01:36:44,080 --> 01:36:44,800 No question.

1710 01:36:44,800 --> 01:36:46,810 And therefore, they are being ignored--

1711 01:36:46,810 --> 01:36:47,830 one of the reasons.

1712 01:36:47,830 --> 01:36:50,168

1713 01:36:50,168 --> 01:36:51,460 I don't have to deal with them.

1714 01:36:51,460 --> 01:36:54,160 And that's one thing which I think is inexcusable.

1715 01:36:54,160 --> 01:36:57,020

1716 01:36:57,020 --> 01:37:01,820 What about the question of social life between survivors? 01:37:01,820 --> 01:37:02,870 That's another thing.

1718

01:37:02,870 --> 01:37:06,040 For example, when you go to Europe and all that,

1719

01:37:06,040 --> 01:37:09,230 the social life between survivors is much better.

1720

01:37:09,230 --> 01:37:17,180 Here, it is not bonded, it doesn't take place

1721

01:37:17,180 --> 01:37:21,470 very frequently, they don't relate to each other

1722

01:37:21,470 --> 01:37:24,470 very frequently.

1723 01:37:24,470 --> 01:37:28,550 There's no real meaningful support group of survivors.

1724 01:37:28,550 --> 01:37:31,250

1725 01:37:31,250 --> 01:37:34,500 It is something which is exceedingly problematic,

1726 01:37:34,500 --> 01:37:38,510 and I've been in some groups, and they fell apart,

1727 01:37:38,510 --> 01:37:40,970 and you don't hear from them ever again.

1728 01:37:40,970 --> 01:37:42,830 It's something which is very strange.

1729 01:37:42,830 --> 01:37:45,450

1730 01:37:45,450 --> 01:37:47,910 The only explanation I have that they simply

1731 01:37:47,910 --> 01:37:50,940 haven't come to terms with their own fate, which

1732 01:37:50,940 --> 01:37:54,570 is a possibility, and don't want to be reminded of it.

1733 01:37:54,570 --> 01:37:57,930 And therefore, they may want to avoid each other,

1734 01:37:57,930 --> 01:37:59,790 because they don't want to be reminded

1735 01:37:59,790 --> 01:38:02,370 of a situation which they haven't quite

1736 01:38:02,370 --> 01:38:05,640 come to terms with.

1737 01:38:05,640 --> 01:38:07,650 That's one of many explanations.

1738 01:38:07,650 --> 01:38:10,950

1739 01:38:10,950 --> 01:38:14,010 Also I think that very many of the survivors 01:38:14,010 --> 01:38:17,550 have not been very successful existentially

1741 01:38:17,550 --> 01:38:22,560 and educationally.

1742 01:38:22,560 --> 01:38:28,410 So that their communication skills are not that great.

1743 01:38:28,410 --> 01:38:33,030 And then also there are very many different nationalities,

1744 01:38:33,030 --> 01:38:36,060 some of which have very little in common in terms

1745 01:38:36,060 --> 01:38:38,200 of interests and all that.

1746 01:38:38,200 --> 01:38:44,130 So that's another reason apart from geographic distances.

1747 01:38:44,130 --> 01:38:47,520

1748 01:38:47,520 --> 01:38:50,920 And there's no real place for them to congregate.

1749 01:38:50,920 --> 01:38:53,730 They don't have a place to go to.

1750 01:38:53,730 --> 01:38:57,490 If someone-- instead of some sort of bloody monuments--

1751 01:38:57,490 --> 01:39:01,470 and I mean bloody monuments-- they would build a place where

1752

01:39:01,470 --> 01:39:05,970 people could come and perhaps also stay overnight

1753 01:39:05,970 --> 01:39:11,637 or possibly retire, then they would have a place to go.

1754 01:39:11,637 --> 01:39:13,470 They would have a home, and very many people

1755 01:39:13,470 --> 01:39:16,500 don't have a home in the real sense of the word.

1756 01:39:16,500 --> 01:39:19,320 And that's where I think the money should go instead

1757 01:39:19,320 --> 01:39:24,420 of some idiotic monuments which don't mean very much at all,

1758 01:39:24,420 --> 01:39:29,010 and don't do anyone any good in a very concrete sense.

1759 01:39:29,010 --> 01:39:31,950 But that has not-- no one has thought of that.

1760 01:39:31,950 --> 01:39:34,950 And with all the rich people here

1761 01:39:34,950 --> 01:39:40,320 who could afford it with ease--

1762 01:39:40,320 --> 01:39:42,270 inexcusable.

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

1763 01:39:42,270 --> 01:39:45,300 Thoughtless-- just a thoughtless as they were during World War

1764 01:39:45,300 --> 01:39:47,878 II when they didn't come to any aid whatsoever,

1765 01:39:47,878 --> 01:39:49,920 and were ashamed that-and, as a matter of fact,

1766 01:39:49,920 --> 01:39:51,390 opposed to the fact--

1767 01:39:51,390 --> 01:39:55,200 that some European Jews would come to the United States

1768 01:39:55,200 --> 01:39:58,500 in order to enhance anti-Semitism.

1769 01:39:58,500 --> 01:40:03,800

1770 01:40:03,800 --> 01:40:06,710 I was wondering-- I remember you making a reference back

1771 01:40:06,710 --> 01:40:15,150 some time ago to a group carried on by [INAUDIBLE]..

1772 01:40:15,150 --> 01:40:15,650 Yeah.

1773 01:40:15,650 --> 01:40:18,350 Well, that is a group which I was referring to.

1774

01:40:18,350 --> 01:40:21,390 It was a totally unsuccessful group.

1775 01:40:21,390 --> 01:40:23,450 I considered it to be totally unsuccessful.

1776 01:40:23,450 --> 01:40:26,690 The only two-- there were two people who [INAUDIBLE],,

1777 01:40:26,690 --> 01:40:28,250 and they wanted to continue.

1778 01:40:28,250 --> 01:40:30,740 All the other ones had left because they

1779 01:40:30,740 --> 01:40:32,760 felt they just didn't do anything,

1780 01:40:32,760 --> 01:40:36,180 and it went several years.

1781 01:40:36,180 --> 01:40:39,650 And just was absolutely nothing-- nothing

1782 01:40:39,650 --> 01:40:43,610 which would have changed their predicament.

1783 01:40:43,610 --> 01:40:47,860 Nice talks and all that, but nothing of permanence

1784 01:40:47,860 --> 01:40:53,630 has developed which would have changed predicament.

1785 01:40:53,630 --> 01:40:55,280 And no social relationships?

1786

01:40:55,280 --> 01:40:56,930 Socially, none-- zero.

1787 01:40:56,930 --> 01:41:00,240

1788 01:41:00,240 --> 01:41:05,800 Perhaps more among women than among men.

1789 01:41:05,800 --> 01:41:06,910 No relationships for--

1790 01:41:06,910 --> 01:41:07,410 Yeah.

1791 01:41:07,410 --> 01:41:10,050

1792 01:41:10,050 --> 01:41:12,060 And there is a Berkeley group.

1793

01:41:12,060 --> 01:41:16,320 They have somehow met and continue to meet,

1794 01:41:16,320 --> 01:41:18,660 and I think are active, and I think

1795 01:41:18,660 --> 01:41:21,420 that may be the consequence of some of the encounters

1796 01:41:21,420 --> 01:41:26,430 they've had within the [INAUDIBLE]..

1797 01:41:26,430 --> 01:41:28,620 But you don't participate in Berkeley group?

1798

01:41:28,620 --> 01:41:30,330 Well, I mean, it's a--

1799

01:41:30,330 --> 01:41:32,910 I've not been asked really, number one.

1800

01:41:32,910 --> 01:41:34,830 And number two, even if I'd be asked,

1801 01:41:34,830 --> 01:41:37,260 I don't know whether I could avail myself

1802 01:41:37,260 --> 01:41:39,540 of this sort of invitation by virtue of the fact

1803

01:41:39,540 --> 01:41:42,120 that I just don't have the time to travel

1804

01:41:42,120 --> 01:41:43,110 this sort of distance.

1805

01:41:43,110 --> 01:41:45,990 I've got very close and dear friends in Berkeley,

1806

01:41:45,990 --> 01:41:49,130 and one of my best friends and colleagues

1807

01:41:49,130 --> 01:41:53,130 is living now in Berkeley, and I hardly see him anymore.

1808 01:41:53,130 --> 01:41:55,990 It's not because we have lost interest in each other.

1809 01:41:55,990 --> 01:41:57,616 On the contrary.

1810 01:41:57,616 --> 01:41:58,116 ?

1811 01:41:58,116 --> 01:42:00,264 Do you ever... ?.

1812 01:42:00,264 --> 01:42:01,200 Go ahead.

1813 01:42:01,200 --> 01:42:07,710 My question has to do with this concept of European survivors

1814 01:42:07,710 --> 01:42:12,510 seem to bond more successfully than American survivors.

1815 01:42:12,510 --> 01:42:16,200 One of-- my question has to do with Americans relationship

1816 01:42:16,200 --> 01:42:17,400 with history.

1817 01:42:17,400 --> 01:42:19,740 We're a very young country.

1818 01:42:19,740 --> 01:42:22,170 Do you think that one of the reasons why

1819 01:42:22,170 --> 01:42:24,720 we don't pay attention when we should

1820 01:42:24,720 --> 01:42:26,790 is that we don't seem to understand 1821 01:42:26,790 --> 01:42:31,260 the concept of history and that linear quality

1822 01:42:31,260 --> 01:42:35,590 that Europeans seem to grasp a little bit better?

1823 01:42:35,590 --> 01:42:37,620 I don't know whether this is the reason why

1824 01:42:37,620 --> 01:42:41,610 people who are survivors tend to congregate

1825 01:42:41,610 --> 01:42:45,540 more readily back in Europe.

1826 01:42:45,540 --> 01:42:47,430 What I think maybe should be said

1827 01:42:47,430 --> 01:42:49,140 that most of these people who have

1828 01:42:49,140 --> 01:42:53,160 more functioning and functional organizations back in Europe

1829 01:42:53,160 --> 01:42:56,520 are primarily people are non-Jewish inmates.

1830 01:42:56,520 --> 01:42:59,550 And they were there for political reasons,

1831 01:42:59,550 --> 01:43:03,060 which motivated them differently to stick together simply 1832 01:43:03,060 --> 01:43:04,950 because they had common persuasion.

1833 01:43:04,950 --> 01:43:07,560 Either they may have been political, or religious,

1834 01:43:07,560 --> 01:43:10,500 or whatever-- or homosexual [INAUDIBLE]..

1835 01:43:10,500 --> 01:43:14,540 And therefore, they have something in common.

1836 01:43:14,540 --> 01:43:16,710 They fought for something, and all Jews were there

1837 01:43:16,710 --> 01:43:18,960 because they're Jews.

1838 01:43:18,960 --> 01:43:23,310 And therefore, they don't really look back at their presence

1839 01:43:23,310 --> 01:43:24,690 there as heroes.

1840 01:43:24,690 --> 01:43:28,260 They've never-- survivors are not viewed-- really,

1841 01:43:28,260 --> 01:43:33,870 survivors are not viewed as heroes either by the Israelis.

1842 01:43:33,870 --> 01:43:37,680 Heroes are viewed as people who were rescuers. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1843 01:43:37,680 --> 01:43:40,050 They are the heroes and not the survivors, you see,

1844 01:43:40,050 --> 01:43:41,830 and they are the ones who are celebrated.

1845 01:43:41,830 --> 01:43:43,680 The survivors are being kicked about.

1846 01:43:43,680 --> 01:43:46,650

1847 01:43:46,650 --> 01:43:49,290 Simply because they-- well, [INAUDIBLE] of course--

1848 01:43:49,290 --> 01:43:50,830 I was in the underground.

1849 01:43:50,830 --> 01:43:52,740 I didn't do very much, but I certainly

1850 01:43:52,740 --> 01:43:56,190 was doing something when I was a boy scout and all that.

1851 01:43:56,190 --> 01:43:58,740 And we did so a lot of things, and I certainly

1852 01:43:58,740 --> 01:44:00,180 did what I could.

1853 01:44:00,180 --> 01:44:01,860 Also in the camp.

1854 01:44:01,860 --> 01:44:04,950 And certainly did quite a bit of sabotage.

1855

 $01:44:04,950 \rightarrow 01:44:08,130$ There's no question about it, but didn't go beyond that.

1856 01:44:08,130 --> 01:44:10,050 And I risked my life, yes.

1857

01:44:10,050 --> 01:44:12,300 No question-- on very numerous occasions,

1858 01:44:12,300 --> 01:44:17,880 particularly in the slave labor situation

1859 01:44:17,880 --> 01:44:24,140 back in the syn fuel plant in Bleihhammer

1860 01:44:24,140 --> 01:44:27,930 where I did a lot of sabotaging and a lot of things which

1861 01:44:27,930 --> 01:44:31,960 would have just-- a minor infraction of that,

1862 01:44:31,960 --> 01:44:34,560 if they had caught me, I would have hung.

1863 01:44:34,560 --> 01:44:37,260 There is no question because people

1864 01:44:37,260 --> 01:44:41,460 were hung for lesser reasons than what I'd done.

1865 01:44:41,460 --> 01:44:43,500 But they are not Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

viewed as heroes

1866

01:44:43,500 --> 01:44:47,670 because they didn't fight for it, because they're victims.

1867

01:44:47,670 --> 01:44:49,620 But merely because they are victims

1868

01:44:49,620 --> 01:44:52,590 doesn't mean they were not heroic victims.

1869

01:44:52,590 --> 01:44:55,920 And many of them were indeed very heroic victims.

1870

01:44:55,920 --> 01:44:59,550 And for practical purposes were heroes.

1871

 $01:44:59,550 \rightarrow 01:45:02,130$ But they are not because of what they had done,

1872

01:45:02,130 --> 01:45:06,910 but what they were born into, and that makes a difference.

1873 01:45:06,910 --> 01:45:09,300 So if they didn't have very much in common

1874 01:45:09,300 --> 01:45:11,400 prior to the concentration camp, they

1875 01:45:11,400 --> 01:45:14,160 don't have very much in common since they

1876 01:45:14,160 --> 01:45:16,440 were in a concentration camp.

1877

01:45:16,440 --> 01:45:18,840 And that is just a few reasons.

1878 01:45:18,840 --> 01:45:22,560 I'm sure there are more why there is not

1879

01:45:22,560 --> 01:45:25,950 a very homogeneous--

1880

01:45:25,950 --> 01:45:29,970 some sort of closely knit type of group of survivors.

1881

01:45:29,970 --> 01:45:32,910 And it's very unfortunate, because I'm sure they could.

1882

01:45:32,910 --> 01:45:37,270 I made some friends, and I've had a friend of mine--

1883

01:45:37,270 --> 01:45:41,790 and that is a terrible tragedy--

1884

01:45:41,790 --> 01:45:44,370 as so many other ones--

1885

01:45:44,370 --> 01:45:48,372 similarly situated ones-- who was in the same camp.

1886

01:45:48,372 --> 01:45:49,830 Although, I never got to know him--

1887 01:45:49,830 --> 01:45:52,450 he certainly don't remember that we had met--

1888

01:45:52,450 --> 01:45:55,020 and he was at the syn fuel plant also.

1889

01:45:55,020 --> 01:46:01,255 And just a few years ago, he committed suicide,

1890

01:46:01,255 --> 01:46:03,100 and hung himself in his garage--

1891

01:46:03,100 --> 01:46:06,550 in the garage of his house because of

1892

01:46:06,550 --> 01:46:11,076 understandable problems which he had, and so many others.

1893

01:46:11,076 --> 01:46:13,420 He was a very healthy person.

1894 01:46:13,420 --> 01:46:16,120 Nothing wrong with him physically except a great deal

1895 01:46:16,120 --> 01:46:18,880 of despair and abandonment.

1896 01:46:18,880 --> 01:46:21,690 And that's what I'm particularly stressing-- abandonment.

1897 01:46:21,690 --> 01:46:23,740 And because people feel abandoned--

1898 01:46:23,740 --> 01:46:27,160 and I certainly in some way do feel abandoned--

1899 01:46:27,160 --> 01:46:29,050 you don't get any support because no one

1900

01:46:29,050 --> 01:46:31,960 gives a damn whether you were abandoned or not, how you feel.

1901 01:46:31,960 --> 01:46:35,360 And this is particularly in the United States here.

1902

01:46:35,360 --> 01:46:37,450 Elsewhere, I think it's not as bad.

1903 01:46:37,450 --> 01:46:41,770 I find it-- even in Germany when I'm among friends,

1904 01:46:41,770 --> 01:46:44,830 they are much more supportive than those people

1905 01:46:44,830 --> 01:46:46,330 I've encountered here.

1906

01:46:46,330 --> 01:46:49,440 And that's really-- if that is not an irony,

1907

01:46:49,440 --> 01:46:50,500 I don't know what is.

1908 01:46:50,500 --> 01:46:57,115

1909

01:46:57,115 --> 01:46:59,970 Is there some message you would like

1910

01:46:59,970 --> 01:47:07,110 to leave or some comments you would like to make? 1911 01:47:07,110 --> 01:47:08,850 Well, the message is do something

1912 01:47:08,850 --> 01:47:10,520 before it is too late.

1913 01:47:10,520 --> 01:47:14,150

1914 01:47:14,150 --> 01:47:19,040 Don't build monuments, build places

1915 01:47:19,040 --> 01:47:23,210 where people can live, and congregate, and interact,

1916 01:47:23,210 --> 01:47:24,280 and find support.

1917 01:47:24,280 --> 01:47:27,170

1918 01:47:27,170 --> 01:47:27,760 Good point.

1919 01:47:27,760 --> 01:47:31,520

1920 01:47:31,520 --> 01:47:33,290 And one more thing [INAUDIBLE].

1921 01:47:33,290 --> 01:47:38,700 Do you think that the child raising methods in Germany

1922 01:47:38,700 --> 01:47:39,900 changed in any way?

1923 01:47:39,900 --> 01:47:40,640 Absolutely.

1924 01:47:40,640 --> 01:47:41,540 You do?

1925 01:47:41,540 --> 01:47:43,640 Absolutely.

1926 01:47:43,640 --> 01:47:45,180 In what ways?

1927 01:47:45,180 --> 01:47:48,980 Well, I mean first of all, they are less authoritarian.

1928 01:47:48,980 --> 01:47:53,780 And secondly, I think they are being more critical

1929 01:47:53,780 --> 01:47:56,300 towards authority.

1930 01:47:56,300 --> 01:48:00,060 And I think they teach them useful stuff,

1931 01:48:00,060 --> 01:48:03,660 which I think can make all the difference.

1932 01:48:03,660 --> 01:48:06,660 And I think much more substantive.

1933 01:48:06,660 --> 01:48:09,530 And that's one of the things why I have not really

1934 01:48:09,530 --> 01:48:13,250 seriously opposed my son going to school back

1935

01:48:13,250 --> 01:48:16,100 in Germany, simply because I think

1936

01:48:16,100 --> 01:48:22,310 he's getting a more proper education-- better

1937

01:48:22,310 --> 01:48:25,400 education than he would get here even if I would be able,

1938

01:48:25,400 --> 01:48:29,600 which I am not, to pay for a private school.

1939

01:48:29,600 --> 01:48:33,140 And that is one thing which makes it more palatable to me

1940

01:48:33,140 --> 01:48:34,350 that he's there.

1941 01:48:34.

01:48:34,350 --> 01:48:37,520 And so as far as that is concerned,

1942

01:48:37,520 --> 01:48:44,870 I think there is a great deal of progress, particularly

1943

01:48:44,870 --> 01:48:46,870 those people who are more sophisticated,

1944

01:48:46,870 --> 01:48:51,350 educated, with quite a few exceptions to the rule.

1945 01:48:51,350 --> 01:48:55,340 But I think many of the people have seen and realized

1946

01:48:55,340 --> 01:48:59,730 the errors of their way, and try to somehow learn from the past.

1947

01:48:59,730 --> 01:49:02,540 And I think, very much to do with that--

1948

01:49:02,540 --> 01:49:07,100 the media have played a very, very important educational--

1949

01:49:07,100 --> 01:49:11,060 because in terms of my discussion with young people,

1950

01:49:11,060 --> 01:49:18,520 and also what I see, there is so much shown

1951

01:49:18,520 --> 01:49:23,290 and excellent quality about the Holocaust discussions

1952

01:49:23,290 --> 01:49:27,940 and all that, which I think is only to be seen here

1953

01:49:27,940 --> 01:49:30,460 on public television if--

1954

01:49:30,460 --> 01:49:32,590 and that also takes place here.

1955

01:49:32,590 --> 01:49:36,280 But not many people watch public television.

1956 01:49:36,280 --> 01:49:38,350 But there, it is not public--

1957 01:49:38,350 --> 01:49:43,840 television is for because there is no commercial television,

1958

01:49:43,840 --> 01:49:47,650 so therefore, many people are exposed to that.

1959

01:49:47,650 --> 01:49:50,140 And some people also complain about the fact

1960

01:49:50,140 --> 01:49:54,190 that they are overfed with Holocaust material,

1961 01:49:54,190 --> 01:49:56,410 and they complain about that.

1962

01:49:56,410 --> 01:50:00,130 But what I've seen is primarily of high quality.

1963

01:50:00,130 --> 01:50:03,040 I participate in production of some of these things

1964

01:50:03,040 --> 01:50:05,970 myself as a consultant.

1965

01:50:05,970 --> 01:50:16,620 And I think there's a great significant contribution, which

1966

01:50:16,620 --> 01:50:19,740 is made towards developing insight and understanding

1967

01:50:19,740 --> 01:50:24,900 about things which should be reflected on.

1968

01:50:24,900 --> 01:50:27,697 What do you think about this growing xenophobia and-- 1969 01:50:27,697 --> 01:50:29,280 Well, I mean that is something which--

1970 01:50:29,280 --> 01:50:30,090 --violence?

1971

01:50:30,090 --> 01:50:34,020 --is primarily due to the changed socioeconomic

1972

01:50:34,020 --> 01:50:38,080 situation, and also that East Germany--

1973

01:50:38,080 --> 01:50:43,170 and that's something which I've been very fearful of and warned

1974

01:50:43,170 --> 01:50:45,330 against in a way when I was interviewed.

1975

01:50:45,330 --> 01:50:50,160 I just thought what I think is important to recognize--

1976

01:50:50,160 --> 01:50:54,630 that East Germany was bypassed by any Democratic process

1977

01:50:54,630 --> 01:51:01,810 to begin with, and remained a totalitarian regime.

1978 01:51:01,810 --> 01:51:04,590 And by virtue of the fact that it has,

1979 01:51:04,590 --> 01:51:12,330 they have quite a distance to go before they catch up. 1980 01:51:12,330 --> 01:51:14,460 And the disparity between these two

1981 01:51:14,460 --> 01:51:19,860 Germanies politically, socially, economically, skill-wise,

1982 01:51:19,860 --> 01:51:21,900 professionally, and otherwise is going

1983 01:51:21,900 --> 01:51:25,590 to take quite some time before it's going to be even keel.

1984 01:51:25,590 --> 01:51:29,370 And so this tension is precisely reflected

1985 01:51:29,370 --> 01:51:33,090 in the skinheads, and the xenophobia,

1986 01:51:33,090 --> 01:51:38,550 and the behavior of those people who indeed are of--

1987 01:51:38,550 --> 01:51:41,790 come from a large extent East Germany

1988 01:51:41,790 --> 01:51:43,830 also, because there is unemployment

1989 01:51:43,830 --> 01:51:45,390 for the first time.

1990 01:51:45,390 --> 01:51:48,340 And they brought in a lot of foreign workers from elsewhere, 1991 01:51:48,340 --> 01:51:49,890 and now they can't get rid of them,

1992 01:51:49,890 --> 01:51:52,860 and now they have unemployment, and they have unemployed people

1993 01:51:52,860 --> 01:51:56,520 in East Germany who now say we don't have jobs,

1994 01:51:56,520 --> 01:51:57,720 and here are the Turks.

1995

01:51:57,720 --> 01:52:02,390 And the Jews are no issue because in Germany, you

1996

01:52:02,390 --> 01:52:06,930 don't have more than 45,000 Jews living there, particularly

1997

01:52:06,930 --> 01:52:10,740 in urban areas and not rural areas--

1998 01:52:10,740 --> 01:52:12,960 Frankfurt and so forth.

1999 01:52:12,960 --> 01:52:14,760 And so they are not--

2000 01:52:14,760 --> 01:52:15,972 there are no real issue.

2001 01:52:15,972 --> 01:52:17,430 But there are other foreign workers

2002 01:52:17,430 --> 01:52:20,250 in large numbers such as the Turks,

2003

01:52:20,250 --> 01:52:23,610 and the beginning also Gypsies, and other people somehow

2004

01:52:23,610 --> 01:52:26,640 have not assimilated-are the targets.

2005

01:52:26,640 --> 01:52:29,430 And Vietnamese or some other people who

2006 01:52:29,430 --> 01:52:34,230

came there and have not been properly integrated.

2007

01:52:34,230 --> 01:52:37,290 So that is something which has very much

2008

01:52:37,290 --> 01:52:41,730 to do with the disparity, and also because

2009

01:52:41,730 --> 01:52:44,430 of the changed economic conditions

2010 01:52:44,430 --> 01:52:48,370 in West Germany due to the fact that they now

2011 01:52:48,370 --> 01:52:52,980 have an additional burden which they underestimated

2012 01:52:52,980 --> 01:52:55,990 in terms of what sort of burden it really will turn out to be. 01:52:55,990 --> 01:52:59,520 And it was just an unbelievable mistake the way

2014 01:52:59,520 --> 01:53:00,490 they've done it.

2015 01:53:00,490 --> 01:53:03,660 Well, it was a political issue, and also

2016 01:53:03,660 --> 01:53:07,110 an issue of those people who wanted to have the glory,

2017 01:53:07,110 --> 01:53:11,430 and wanted to be in history as those who unified Germany

2018 01:53:11,430 --> 01:53:12,030 again.

2019 01:53:12,030 --> 01:53:14,294 But for what reason, for what price?

2020 01:53:14,294 --> 01:53:16,650 And that's something which they don't

2021 01:53:16,650 --> 01:53:19,710 see because the present chancellor is

2022 01:53:19,710 --> 01:53:25,366 a person of very limited scope and limited intelligence.

2023 01:53:25,366 --> 01:53:29,100

2024 01:53:29,100 --> 01:53:31,660 Is there anything else you would like to add?

2025 01:53:31,660 --> 01:53:33,360 Well, I think I have added all I could.

2026 01:53:33,360 --> 01:53:36,690 And it's just-other than that, I

2027 01:53:36,690 --> 01:53:41,550 think the only positive thing which I've experienced

2028 01:53:41,550 --> 01:53:44,520 in circles here-in Jewish circles

2029 01:53:44,520 --> 01:53:51,660 is precisely the sort of Oral History Project which I think

2030 01:53:51,660 --> 01:53:56,640 will, hopefully, play a very important role after we

2031 01:53:56,640 --> 01:54:02,850 have been reduced to ashes.

2032 01:54:02,850 --> 01:54:05,940 And I think it should be continued and maybe

2033 01:54:05,940 --> 01:54:07,060 developed further.

2034 01:54:07,060 --> 01:54:10,980 And I think as I said, something needs to be done

2035 01:54:10,980 --> 01:54:15,930 with those people who survived.

2037 01:54:20,940 --> 01:54:24,450 have not-- and sometimes, wish they had not survived.

2038

01:54:24,450 --> 01:54:27,450 And I think something needs to be done about that.

2039

01:54:27,450 --> 01:54:30,600 And the people who have neglected them

2040

01:54:30,600 --> 01:54:32,280 and have looked the other way, I think,

2041

01:54:32,280 --> 01:54:36,660 should stop in their tracks, and see what can be done,

2042

01:54:36,660 --> 01:54:40,650 and what sort of contribution they can make towards making

2043

01:54:40,650 --> 01:54:43,680 their life-- or the rest of their life for the few years

2044

01:54:43,680 --> 01:54:48,270 they may still live, make it a little bit more livable.

2045

01:54:48,270 --> 01:54:50,530 I hope so too.

2046

01:54:50,530 --> 01:54:53,778 And thank you very, very much for contributing 2047 01:54:53,778 --> 01:54:54,820 all your time and energy.

2048 01:54:54,820 --> 01:54:55,903 You are more than welcome.

2049 01:54:55,903 --> 01:54:56,940 It has been a pleasure.

2050 01:54:56,940 --> 01:54:59,563 It's very excellent interview

2051 01:54:59,563 --> 01:55:03,500 [SIDE CONVERSATION]

2052 01:55:03,500 --> 01:57:13,000

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.