

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:28,530

2  
00:00:28,530 --> 00:00:30,030  
How does it sound  
to you over there?

3  
00:00:30,030 --> 00:00:30,530  
OK--

4  
00:00:30,530 --> 00:00:33,230

5  
00:00:33,230 --> 00:00:36,746  
So, you hear a room noise?

6  
00:00:36,746 --> 00:00:37,246  
Yeah.

7  
00:00:37,246 --> 00:00:44,433

8  
00:00:44,433 --> 00:00:45,225  
It's that the pool?

9  
00:00:45,225 --> 00:00:50,450

10  
00:00:50,450 --> 00:00:52,394  
OK.

11  
00:00:52,394 --> 00:00:53,980  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

12  
00:00:53,980 --> 00:00:54,760  
[INAUDIBLE]

13  
00:00:54,760 --> 00:00:58,980

14

00:00:58,980 --> 00:01:00,430  
[INAUDIBLE] [? coming from. ?]

15

00:01:00,430 --> 00:01:02,670  
Yeah.

16

00:01:02,670 --> 00:01:04,629  
I think we're good to go.

17

00:01:04,629 --> 00:01:06,160  
Actually, let's just ask Mimi.

18

00:01:06,160 --> 00:01:07,660  
Maybe we can turn it off.

19

00:01:07,660 --> 00:01:09,930  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

20

00:01:09,930 --> 00:01:12,130  
Will we?

21

00:01:12,130 --> 00:01:13,870  
Just a moment.

22

00:01:13,870 --> 00:01:15,301  
Rolling on transcript.

23

00:01:15,301 --> 00:01:15,801  
OK.

24

00:01:15,801 --> 00:01:18,750

25

00:01:18,750 --> 00:01:22,410  
Can you tell me  
where you grew up

26

00:01:22,410 --> 00:01:24,855  
and how you ended up in Japan?

27

00:01:24,855 --> 00:01:27,700

28

00:01:27,700 --> 00:01:33,660

I was three years old in  
1916, when my parents--

29

00:01:33,660 --> 00:01:36,930

I was born in Lithuania  
in Vilna, Lithuania,

30

00:01:36,930 --> 00:01:39,330

when my parents decided--

31

00:01:39,330 --> 00:01:41,340

actually, they were  
forced to because they

32

00:01:41,340 --> 00:01:44,760

were worried about the  
anti-Jewish pogroms over there

33

00:01:44,760 --> 00:01:46,440

to leave Lithuania.

34

00:01:46,440 --> 00:01:48,760

And they went to Harbin, China.

35

00:01:48,760 --> 00:01:51,780

In those days, it was Manchuria.

36

00:01:51,780 --> 00:01:53,190

Why did they go to Manchuria?

37

00:01:53,190 --> 00:01:55,630

Why did they go to  
China of all the places?

38

00:01:55,630 --> 00:01:57,780

I often asked my  
father, and the answer

39

00:01:57,780 --> 00:02:00,130  
was there was no where  
else to go, number one,

40  
00:02:00,130 --> 00:02:05,850  
and, number two, my mother's  
sister, her husband,

41  
00:02:05,850 --> 00:02:10,380  
and their family already were in  
China for the last five years.

42  
00:02:10,380 --> 00:02:13,650  
He was originally a soldier  
in the Russian army,

43  
00:02:13,650 --> 00:02:18,805  
and when he was discharged  
he was allowed by the--

44  
00:02:18,805 --> 00:02:21,270  
the tsarist government  
in those days,

45  
00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:25,710  
in order to so-called  
Russify the part

46  
00:02:25,710 --> 00:02:29,820  
of China which they  
occupied, allowed the Jews

47  
00:02:29,820 --> 00:02:34,410  
to go there and have a  
religious life and communal life

48  
00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:36,330  
and everything  
without any problems.

49  
00:02:36,330 --> 00:02:38,640  
So, after being  
discharged from the army,

50

00:02:38,640 --> 00:02:41,310

he was working in  
supplying the Russian army

51

00:02:41,310 --> 00:02:43,360

with the livestock,  
whatever they needed,

52

00:02:43,360 --> 00:02:44,960

and he did pretty well.

53

00:02:44,960 --> 00:02:47,280

So there was nowhere else  
to go, and we went there.

54

00:02:47,280 --> 00:02:49,230

It took us 33 days.

55

00:02:49,230 --> 00:02:50,450

I was three years old.

56

00:02:50,450 --> 00:02:51,700

My brother was four years old.

57

00:02:51,700 --> 00:02:55,860

My father, my mother, and  
their parents to reach China.

58

00:02:55,860 --> 00:02:59,010

Now, after six years in  
China, my father was--

59

00:02:59,010 --> 00:03:01,170

I don't really remember  
what exactly he was doing,

60

00:03:01,170 --> 00:03:03,480

but we were making a decent  
living, more or less.

61

00:03:03,480 --> 00:03:07,140

I do remember we lived in

the outskirts of the town,

62  
00:03:07,140 --> 00:03:08,940  
and we had a cow.

63  
00:03:08,940 --> 00:03:14,010  
Father was milking the cow and  
selling the milk, and it was--

64  
00:03:14,010 --> 00:03:16,740  
as a children, I was growing  
up in a Jewish school.

65  
00:03:16,740 --> 00:03:19,600  
After about six  
years in that school,

66  
00:03:19,600 --> 00:03:21,150  
my father enrolled  
me and my brother

67  
00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:24,570  
in the Russian school, where  
I learned to speak Russian.

68  
00:03:24,570 --> 00:03:29,040  
Then in the year  
of 1929, I believe,

69  
00:03:29,040 --> 00:03:31,350  
after seven years in  
the Russian school,

70  
00:03:31,350 --> 00:03:34,590  
father decided that we should  
learn English because--

71  
00:03:34,590 --> 00:03:36,510  
he didn't speak any  
English at that time--

72  
00:03:36,510 --> 00:03:39,540  
because he understood that

the international language,

73

00:03:39,540 --> 00:03:44,590  
business language, was English,  
perhaps even higher education.

74

00:03:44,590 --> 00:03:47,650  
Going go to university one day,  
we could afford to do that.

75

00:03:47,650 --> 00:03:49,650  
So he sent us to Shanghai.

76

00:03:49,650 --> 00:03:51,960  
Shanghai was an  
international city.

77

00:03:51,960 --> 00:03:54,090  
I went there to a British  
school without knowing

78

00:03:54,090 --> 00:03:58,500  
a word of English, but lucky  
I was able to pick it up,

79

00:03:58,500 --> 00:04:00,000  
and then in about  
six months I could

80

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:01,710  
speak English pretty good.

81

00:04:01,710 --> 00:04:04,690  
And I got my first  
job when I was 16

82

00:04:04,690 --> 00:04:09,480  
in a firm that was importing  
textiles from England,

83

00:04:09,480 --> 00:04:11,910  
from Poland, from  
Czechoslovakia.

84  
00:04:11,910 --> 00:04:14,130  
And then Japan came  
into the picture

85  
00:04:14,130 --> 00:04:19,260  
as a manufacturing place for  
the manufactured textiles,

86  
00:04:19,260 --> 00:04:20,490  
woven textiles.

87  
00:04:20,490 --> 00:04:22,740  
I got the job, I learned a  
little bit of the language,

88  
00:04:22,740 --> 00:04:28,320  
and they sent me to Japan to  
open an office there in 1930.

89  
00:04:28,320 --> 00:04:29,760  
I was 17 years old.

90  
00:04:29,760 --> 00:04:31,530  
I went to Japan,  
opened an office,

91  
00:04:31,530 --> 00:04:35,460  
and I used to get samples  
of English materials

92  
00:04:35,460 --> 00:04:37,980  
from Shanghai,  
which I would bring

93  
00:04:37,980 --> 00:04:40,470  
to the Japanese  
suppliers, Japanese

94  
00:04:40,470 --> 00:04:42,540  
manufactures, to copy them.

95



00:04:42,540 --> 00:04:45,210  
And that's how I  
landed in Japan.

96  
00:04:45,210 --> 00:04:49,200  
I went back in 1936  
and got married.

97  
00:04:49,200 --> 00:04:53,340  
My late wife was  
also born in China.

98  
00:04:53,340 --> 00:04:57,480  
My children were born  
in China, and this

99  
00:04:57,480 --> 00:05:00,450  
is how I landed in  
Japan, in doing that job,

100  
00:05:00,450 --> 00:05:03,000  
and that's the time  
when we got organized.

101  
00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:04,980  
We had a small Jewish  
community there.

102  
00:05:04,980 --> 00:05:08,160  
We were organized,  
and then we started

103  
00:05:08,160 --> 00:05:10,530  
getting telegrams  
and information

104  
00:05:10,530 --> 00:05:14,700  
about the Jews fleeing  
from Poland to Lithuania.

105  
00:05:14,700 --> 00:05:19,170  
And from Lithuania they  
got Japanese transit visas,

106

00:05:19,170 --> 00:05:22,560  
and this is where the  
Jewish community was helping

107

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:26,010  
in getting those visas,  
guaranteeing their stay here,

108

00:05:26,010 --> 00:05:28,900  
and this is how we started.

109

00:05:28,900 --> 00:05:29,400  
OK--

110

00:05:29,400 --> 00:05:30,952  
Just getting a plane coming in.

111

00:05:30,952 --> 00:05:34,280

112

00:05:34,280 --> 00:05:34,780  
OK.

113

00:05:34,780 --> 00:05:36,150  
Rolling on transcript.

114

00:05:36,150 --> 00:05:38,380  
OK.

115

00:05:38,380 --> 00:05:43,330  
So, could you explain to me how  
you became involved with JEWCOM

116

00:05:43,330 --> 00:05:46,060  
and who funded JEWCOM?

117

00:05:46,060 --> 00:05:49,975  
And where did the  
name come from?

118

00:05:49,975 --> 00:05:54,440

In 1937 or '38--

119  
00:05:54,440 --> 00:05:56,240  
I think it was '38--

120  
00:05:56,240 --> 00:06:00,170  
we were a small Jewish  
community in Kobe, Japan.

121  
00:06:00,170 --> 00:06:03,200  
As I told you, I  
established an office.

122  
00:06:03,200 --> 00:06:06,590  
We were buying textiles from  
Japan, shipping to China.

123  
00:06:06,590 --> 00:06:10,880  
Some of the other people that  
lived there were doing almost

124  
00:06:10,880 --> 00:06:12,470  
in the same kind of business.

125  
00:06:12,470 --> 00:06:16,590  
About, I would say, 20 of us  
with the families with its own

126  
00:06:16,590 --> 00:06:19,400  
with children, wives,  
children, and we

127  
00:06:19,400 --> 00:06:23,570  
were just young people  
getting together,

128  
00:06:23,570 --> 00:06:27,290  
playing cards at night, and  
we were just getting together,

129  
00:06:27,290 --> 00:06:27,950  
social life.

130

00:06:27,950 --> 00:06:31,760

And then there was a gentleman  
by the name of Mr. Ponve.

131

00:06:31,760 --> 00:06:33,980

His original name  
was Ponevejsky.

132

00:06:33,980 --> 00:06:37,200

He was from Russia, also  
via China came to Japan.

133

00:06:37,200 --> 00:06:39,980

He also had an office  
buying textiles

134

00:06:39,980 --> 00:06:43,410

that were shipped to  
China to his brothers that

135

00:06:43,410 --> 00:06:44,540

lived in China.

136

00:06:44,540 --> 00:06:48,590

He was a very active  
man, a very fine man who

137

00:06:48,590 --> 00:06:53,250

wanted to organize things, and  
he got a few of us together

138

00:06:53,250 --> 00:06:55,310

and he said, look, we  
got to get organized.

139

00:06:55,310 --> 00:06:57,200

First thing, we're Jews.

140

00:06:57,200 --> 00:06:59,040

We have to have a synagogue.

141

00:06:59,040 --> 00:07:02,420

High holidays, Passover, and other holidays are coming.

142  
00:07:02,420 --> 00:07:03,290  
Let's get together.

143  
00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:05,600  
We got together about 15 of us.

144  
00:07:05,600 --> 00:07:08,810  
We talked about everything, and we decided that each one of us

145  
00:07:08,810 --> 00:07:11,450  
had to contribute so much money in monthly fees,

146  
00:07:11,450 --> 00:07:16,220  
and he invited a very interesting man.

147  
00:07:16,220 --> 00:07:18,210  
His name was Sam Evans.

148  
00:07:18,210 --> 00:07:22,250  
He was the only Jew that became a Japanese citizen.

149  
00:07:22,250 --> 00:07:24,200  
He lived in Japan for a long time.

150  
00:07:24,200 --> 00:07:28,640  
He was in chandlery business to the ships that

151  
00:07:28,640 --> 00:07:32,450  
were flying between Japan and America, England, et cetera.

152  
00:07:32,450 --> 00:07:35,520  
Sam Evans was a very interesting man.

153  
00:07:35,520 --> 00:07:38,390  
He was a very well-to-do man.

154  
00:07:38,390 --> 00:07:42,650  
When Mr. Ponve involved  
Mr. Evans to be helping us,

155  
00:07:42,650 --> 00:07:48,020  
together they put up some  
money, and we rented the home,

156  
00:07:48,020 --> 00:07:49,730  
a small home, two stories.

157  
00:07:49,730 --> 00:07:53,150  
Downstairs was a  
synagogue, which

158  
00:07:53,150 --> 00:07:55,700  
could hold about 40  
to 50 people, no more.

159  
00:07:55,700 --> 00:07:57,920  
Upstairs were two rooms.

160  
00:07:57,920 --> 00:08:00,410  
I guess next to the synagogue  
were a small office,

161  
00:08:00,410 --> 00:08:01,460  
like an office.

162  
00:08:01,460 --> 00:08:02,780  
We had it there.

163  
00:08:02,780 --> 00:08:06,440  
We were keeping documents,  
papers, et cetera,

164  
00:08:06,440 --> 00:08:11,120  
and the name of the organization

was called the Jewish Community

165

00:08:11,120 --> 00:08:15,440

of Japan, in brackets

Ashkenazim, because Ashkenazim

166

00:08:15,440 --> 00:08:17,960

are Russian Jews.

167

00:08:17,960 --> 00:08:20,510

There were also

quite a few people

168

00:08:20,510 --> 00:08:21,980

who lived in Kobe at that time.

169

00:08:21,980 --> 00:08:27,080

They were Sephardic Jews,

Jews from Egypt, Iraq, Syria.

170

00:08:27,080 --> 00:08:29,480

They had little to do

with us because they

171

00:08:29,480 --> 00:08:33,830

considered themselves in a

so specific higher scale.

172

00:08:33,830 --> 00:08:35,809

They were British

citizens, French citizens.

173

00:08:35,809 --> 00:08:38,240

Well, we were

absolutely stateless

174

00:08:38,240 --> 00:08:41,720

people, Russian immigrants

depending completely

175

00:08:41,720 --> 00:08:44,540

on the Japanese police

with the permits that

176  
00:08:44,540 --> 00:08:48,560  
were needed by us for traveling,  
for marriages, whatever

177  
00:08:48,560 --> 00:08:51,710  
we needed just to have  
an organized life.

178  
00:08:51,710 --> 00:08:58,690  
And for the purpose of  
telegraphing and using

179  
00:08:58,690 --> 00:09:01,590  
shorthand, the Jewish  
Community of Kobe

180  
00:09:01,590 --> 00:09:06,270  
became JEWCOM, and that's  
how the name JEWCOM was born.

181  
00:09:06,270 --> 00:09:10,320  
From 1938, '39, we were  
just having prayers

182  
00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:12,150  
there during the high holidays.

183  
00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:15,625  
We used to play cards, and the  
girls played mahjong upstairs.

184  
00:09:15,625 --> 00:09:17,250  
It was a little  
restaurant, and we just

185  
00:09:17,250 --> 00:09:22,290  
create-- it was a club, until  
we started getting requests

186  
00:09:22,290 --> 00:09:26,010  
and started getting  
telegrams from Lithuania.



187  
00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:27,960  
We knew there was a  
war going on in Europe.

188  
00:09:27,960 --> 00:09:32,880  
We knew that Poland was divided  
between Russia and Germany,

189  
00:09:32,880 --> 00:09:37,300  
but at that time Lithuania was  
still an independent country,

190  
00:09:37,300 --> 00:09:42,150  
and a number of Jews from  
Poland, mainly religious Jews,

191  
00:09:42,150 --> 00:09:44,400  
escaped to Lithuania.

192  
00:09:44,400 --> 00:09:45,090  
Not escaped.

193  
00:09:45,090 --> 00:09:47,280  
They actually smuggled  
themselves out,

194  
00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:51,660  
and then we started  
getting telegrams asking us

195  
00:09:51,660 --> 00:09:54,510  
if we, the Jewish  
community, could guarantee

196  
00:09:54,510 --> 00:09:58,360  
their transit via Japan.

197  
00:09:58,360 --> 00:10:00,930  
For that, we had  
to go to the police

198

00:10:00,930 --> 00:10:02,610  
and get their permission.

199

00:10:02,610 --> 00:10:06,030  
I remember very well one Sunday,  
Mr. Ponve, the president,

200

00:10:06,030 --> 00:10:08,340  
came to me and he asked  
me to be his secretary.

201

00:10:08,340 --> 00:10:11,250  
I was the only guy who could  
write and speak English

202

00:10:11,250 --> 00:10:13,030  
besides other languages.

203

00:10:13,030 --> 00:10:15,000  
So he asked me--

204

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:16,860  
he showed me a  
cable, which was--

205

00:10:16,860 --> 00:10:18,240  
I couldn't understand it.

206

00:10:18,240 --> 00:10:21,150  
From Lithuania, all  
the places which

207

00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:24,780  
said we have seven people  
names sounded German.

208

00:10:24,780 --> 00:10:26,510  
They were German Jews.

209

00:10:26,510 --> 00:10:29,790  
The need a Jewish  
community guarantee.

210

00:10:29,790 --> 00:10:32,340

All their transit through Japan.

211

00:10:32,340 --> 00:10:34,710

They were on the  
way to Argentina.

212

00:10:34,710 --> 00:10:36,000

They had visas.

213

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,500

They were financially able  
to support themselves.

214

00:10:40,500 --> 00:10:43,230

All they needed was that  
we should guarantee that

215

00:10:43,230 --> 00:10:46,800

during their stay waiting for  
the ship to go to Argentina,

216

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:49,200

that they were  
politically healthy,

217

00:10:49,200 --> 00:10:52,630

and that they didn't need  
any assistance, et cetera,

218

00:10:52,630 --> 00:10:53,130

et cetera.

219

00:10:53,130 --> 00:10:56,315

Mr. Ponve went to the  
police, and they told him

220

00:10:56,315 --> 00:10:56,940

it's all right.

221

00:10:56,940 --> 00:10:57,732

You can cable them.

222  
00:10:57,732 --> 00:10:58,500  
They could come.

223  
00:10:58,500 --> 00:10:59,820  
And they came.

224  
00:10:59,820 --> 00:11:02,280  
I didn't ever see them.

225  
00:11:02,280 --> 00:11:04,050  
Once, I think I  
saw some of them.

226  
00:11:04,050 --> 00:11:05,730  
They were on their own.

227  
00:11:05,730 --> 00:11:08,160  
We hired a Lady, a  
German Jewish lady

228  
00:11:08,160 --> 00:11:11,340  
who lived in Kobe, Mrs.  
[? Hochheimer. ?] She spoke

229  
00:11:11,340 --> 00:11:13,530  
good German, of  
course, to help them

230  
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:16,470  
as much as they could because  
they didn't speak any English,

231  
00:11:16,470 --> 00:11:18,510  
only German, and she did.

232  
00:11:18,510 --> 00:11:19,540  
She took care of them.

233  
00:11:19,540 --> 00:11:22,560  
She met them at the ships,  
and she took them to Yokohama,

234  
00:11:22,560 --> 00:11:24,030  
and they were gone.

235  
00:11:24,030 --> 00:11:28,620  
After that, we started getting  
cables with number of names,

236  
00:11:28,620 --> 00:11:33,120  
and those were the Polish Jews  
that found their way to get

237  
00:11:33,120 --> 00:11:36,120  
Curaçao visas, to get  
Russian exit visas.

238  
00:11:36,120 --> 00:11:38,340  
Russia already  
occupied Lithuania.

239  
00:11:38,340 --> 00:11:42,900  
It became a  
Russian-Lithuanian republic,

240  
00:11:42,900 --> 00:11:48,950  
and we saw what was coming.

241  
00:11:48,950 --> 00:11:51,280  
We started getting  
many, many, many names,

242  
00:11:51,280 --> 00:11:56,440  
and it was our job, our duty,  
our desire to help them,

243  
00:11:56,440 --> 00:11:58,140  
and that's how it started.

244  
00:11:58,140 --> 00:12:02,550  
How did you get funding,  
or how did you help them?

245

00:12:02,550 --> 00:12:04,065  
And how did you--

246  
00:12:04,065 --> 00:12:07,450

247  
00:12:07,450 --> 00:12:07,950  
Well--

248  
00:12:07,950 --> 00:12:10,590  
How did you provide them  
with housing and things?

249  
00:12:10,590 --> 00:12:16,320  
We had a couple of our people,  
a couple of our members

250  
00:12:16,320 --> 00:12:20,160  
that were going around with  
the Japanese brokers looking

251  
00:12:20,160 --> 00:12:23,370  
for houses, not in Kobe  
itself because it was

252  
00:12:23,370 --> 00:12:24,990  
difficult to find homes there.

253  
00:12:24,990 --> 00:12:27,550  
When we found out we saw  
there were hundreds of people

254  
00:12:27,550 --> 00:12:30,430  
are coming, it became a  
very, very difficult problem,

255  
00:12:30,430 --> 00:12:34,830  
especially there were  
hundreds of Talmudic scholars,

256  
00:12:34,830 --> 00:12:35,820  
young people.

257

00:12:35,820 --> 00:12:37,810

They had to stay together.

258

00:12:37,810 --> 00:12:40,410

I remember very well  
we asked our friends

259

00:12:40,410 --> 00:12:43,950

to find homes and  
measure the floor

260

00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:46,830

because in Japanese homes in  
those days there was no floors.

261

00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:49,218

They were what they  
called straw mats.

262

00:12:49,218 --> 00:12:50,760

"Tatami", they called  
it in Japanese,

263

00:12:50,760 --> 00:12:52,920

and measured them  
so how many people

264

00:12:52,920 --> 00:12:55,330

we could put to sleep on the  
floor with so many people.

265

00:12:55,330 --> 00:12:58,780

I mean, no beds, nothing, and  
that that's how it started.

266

00:12:58,780 --> 00:13:00,030

It was not easy.

267

00:13:00,030 --> 00:13:04,080

Lucky, our ladies, a woman  
my late wife herself,

268

00:13:04,080 --> 00:13:05,440  
they got organized too.

269  
00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:08,170  
They collected clothes because  
some people were coming

270  
00:13:08,170 --> 00:13:09,930  
with children who needed help.

271  
00:13:09,930 --> 00:13:13,170  
Also, they were  
organized in such a way

272  
00:13:13,170 --> 00:13:15,750  
so that if medical  
assistance was required,

273  
00:13:15,750 --> 00:13:18,720  
children especially, they  
would get organized and take

274  
00:13:18,720 --> 00:13:20,850  
the children to the  
hospitals, to the doctors,

275  
00:13:20,850 --> 00:13:24,412  
and it was well organized.

276  
00:13:24,412 --> 00:13:25,250  
OK.

277  
00:13:25,250 --> 00:13:27,300  
And this is how we came.

278  
00:13:27,300 --> 00:13:31,450  
The Japanese police,  
water police so called,

279  
00:13:31,450 --> 00:13:33,700  
that used to go to  
the port of Tsuruga,



280

00:13:33,700 --> 00:13:37,360

where the ships were  
coming in from Vladivostok,

281

00:13:37,360 --> 00:13:43,440

they required that the Jewish  
community guarantee their stay.

282

00:13:43,440 --> 00:13:46,870

And the way we could do it  
is by putting our stamp.

283

00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:50,050

We had a metal stamp,  
the Jewish community,

284

00:13:50,050 --> 00:13:52,900

on it in Japanese, and  
in English, and Hebrew

285

00:13:52,900 --> 00:13:54,310

that we would stamp.

286

00:13:54,310 --> 00:13:58,780

So one of our members of our  
community would go to the dock

287

00:13:58,780 --> 00:14:02,050

to the ship to Tsuruga, and  
he would provide the stamp,

288

00:14:02,050 --> 00:14:07,090

guaranteeing each paper with  
their host community stamps.

289

00:14:07,090 --> 00:14:09,380

That's how we started.

290

00:14:09,380 --> 00:14:11,380

Must have been very expensive.

291

00:14:11,380 --> 00:14:12,280

Expensive?

292

00:14:12,280 --> 00:14:14,290

Well, at the beginning, if you were

293

00:14:14,290 --> 00:14:17,500

coming in the first 50, 60, or so, we could handle.

294

00:14:17,500 --> 00:14:21,350

But then we understood that it was impossible for us

295

00:14:21,350 --> 00:14:26,140

to financially support getting houses, and clothes, and food,

296

00:14:26,140 --> 00:14:27,110

and everything.

297

00:14:27,110 --> 00:14:29,830

So we sent a cable to the Joint Distribution Committee

298

00:14:29,830 --> 00:14:30,760

in New York.

299

00:14:30,760 --> 00:14:33,820

We knew of the existence of the Jewish organizations

300

00:14:33,820 --> 00:14:36,280

over there, and I remember very well

301

00:14:36,280 --> 00:14:38,920

the cable we got from them was, money no object.

302

00:14:38,920 --> 00:14:40,060

Save Jews.

303

00:14:40,060 --> 00:14:43,490

And they remitted us  
the first \$25,000,

304

00:14:43,490 --> 00:14:45,700

which was a lot of  
money in those days,

305

00:14:45,700 --> 00:14:46,820

and that's how it started.

306

00:14:46,820 --> 00:14:49,000

Then when the first  
group of refugees

307

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:51,970

started to come from  
Lithuania, in Lithuania

308

00:14:51,970 --> 00:14:54,520

the Jewish community  
was very organized,

309

00:14:54,520 --> 00:14:57,220

and representatives of  
the Joint Distribution

310

00:14:57,220 --> 00:15:00,820

and other traveling assistance  
organizations like HIAS,

311

00:15:00,820 --> 00:15:04,300

[INAUDIBLE] were there,  
the representatives from.

312

00:15:04,300 --> 00:15:07,810

And they came together  
with the refugees to Japan,

313

00:15:07,810 --> 00:15:11,350

and they got themselves  
organized to set everything up.

314

00:15:11,350 --> 00:15:14,110

And they kept their records because the orders

315

00:15:14,110 --> 00:15:19,150

were conjoined to financially support each refugee.

316

00:15:19,150 --> 00:15:22,300

The orders were to give each one of them one yen and \$0.10.

317

00:15:22,300 --> 00:15:26,800

In those days, it was about \$0.30, \$0.28 American money,

318

00:15:26,800 --> 00:15:30,430

and that was enough for a family of four or five for them to go

319

00:15:30,430 --> 00:15:35,150

and buy the food that they required for their existence,

320

00:15:35,150 --> 00:15:36,250

but that was interesting.

321

00:15:36,250 --> 00:15:39,910

In those days, already difficulties started in Japan.

322

00:15:39,910 --> 00:15:41,620

Everybody was rationed.

323

00:15:41,620 --> 00:15:42,370

Rice.

324

00:15:42,370 --> 00:15:44,360

Not only foreigners.

325

00:15:44,360 --> 00:15:47,260

Japanese also, so you

couldn't buy that much rice.

326  
00:15:47,260 --> 00:15:48,880  
You couldn't buy  
that much bread,

327  
00:15:48,880 --> 00:15:51,490  
but the representatives  
of the police came to us

328  
00:15:51,490 --> 00:15:53,890  
and they said, how  
many pounds of bread

329  
00:15:53,890 --> 00:15:55,090  
do you require every day?

330  
00:15:55,090 --> 00:15:57,910  
A pound per person,  
and every week

331  
00:15:57,910 --> 00:15:59,740  
we had to give them  
the numbers of people

332  
00:15:59,740 --> 00:16:03,190  
that we had living there,  
and every evening a truck

333  
00:16:03,190 --> 00:16:05,778  
would drive out with fresh  
bread, a pound per person.

334  
00:16:05,778 --> 00:16:07,570  
Of course, they had to  
pay for it something

335  
00:16:07,570 --> 00:16:13,330  
like 40 Japanese cents, which  
was like \$0.12 or something

336  
00:16:13,330 --> 00:16:15,310  
like that in American money.

337  
00:16:15,310 --> 00:16:19,162  
Why were the Japanese  
so accommodating?

338  
00:16:19,162 --> 00:16:22,700  
[SIGHS] I don't know.

339  
00:16:22,700 --> 00:16:23,420  
I don't know.

340  
00:16:23,420 --> 00:16:24,160  
I read the book.

341  
00:16:24,160 --> 00:16:25,240  
I'm sure you also did.

342  
00:16:25,240 --> 00:16:26,380  
The Fugu plan.

343  
00:16:26,380 --> 00:16:30,040  
He explains over there  
the so-called Fugu Plan,

344  
00:16:30,040 --> 00:16:34,870  
which was a plan  
that the Japanese--

345  
00:16:34,870 --> 00:16:37,670  
let's go a little bit back.

346  
00:16:37,670 --> 00:16:40,690  
In the Japanese culture, the way  
I read, the way I understood,

347  
00:16:40,690 --> 00:16:43,480  
it is a thing that  
is called giri.

348  
00:16:43,480 --> 00:16:47,110  
"Giri" in Japanese culture  
means, if I do you a favor,

349  
00:16:47,110 --> 00:16:49,190  
you owe me a giri.

350  
00:16:49,190 --> 00:16:50,750  
You owe me a better favor.

351  
00:16:50,750 --> 00:16:53,510  
That is in their  
culture, and they go back

352  
00:16:53,510 --> 00:16:58,803  
into the history in 1904  
during the Russo-Japanese War,

353  
00:16:58,803 --> 00:17:00,470  
the Japanese were  
running short of money

354  
00:17:00,470 --> 00:17:02,750  
to continue with  
the war, and they

355  
00:17:02,750 --> 00:17:05,420  
were afraid they were going to  
lose the war to the Russians.

356  
00:17:05,420 --> 00:17:10,910  
So they sent a man with the name  
of Takahashi, Baron Takahashi,

357  
00:17:10,910 --> 00:17:14,329  
to America to borrow some money.

358  
00:17:14,329 --> 00:17:18,500  
They needed a few  
hundred million dollars

359  
00:17:18,500 --> 00:17:22,520  
to continue with the war  
effort, and he was turned down,

360

00:17:22,520 --> 00:17:25,160  
this Baron Takahashi.

361  
00:17:25,160 --> 00:17:28,520  
And the story is that  
at one dinner party

362  
00:17:28,520 --> 00:17:31,200  
he was sitting next to a  
man and he was very upset.

363  
00:17:31,200 --> 00:17:33,980  
He said I failed in my  
mission, so the man asked him

364  
00:17:33,980 --> 00:17:34,897  
what was your mission.

365  
00:17:34,897 --> 00:17:36,730  
He says I came to borrow  
money, and he says,

366  
00:17:36,730 --> 00:17:38,030  
what do you need the money for?

367  
00:17:38,030 --> 00:17:39,860  
He says, well, we're  
having a war with Russian.

368  
00:17:39,860 --> 00:17:42,050  
He says you're having a war  
with the Russians, yeah?

369  
00:17:42,050 --> 00:17:42,740  
Yes.

370  
00:17:42,740 --> 00:17:45,050  
This man goes by  
the name of Schiff.

371  
00:17:45,050 --> 00:17:49,490  
He was a very, very  
well-known financier in--



372  
00:17:49,490 --> 00:17:52,280  
[INAUDIBLE] Law was the  
name of the financial firm

373  
00:17:52,280 --> 00:17:55,520  
in New York, a  
banking firm, and he

374  
00:17:55,520 --> 00:17:58,610  
offered the Japanese  
government a loan

375  
00:17:58,610 --> 00:18:02,120  
of the money that required for  
them to continue with the war

376  
00:18:02,120 --> 00:18:03,260  
effort.

377  
00:18:03,260 --> 00:18:06,500  
And by that some of my  
Japanese friend told me

378  
00:18:06,500 --> 00:18:10,130  
Japanese owed the  
Jewish people a giri.

379  
00:18:10,130 --> 00:18:11,930  
They needed them  
a favor which was

380  
00:18:11,930 --> 00:18:16,160  
done to them to continue the war  
and to why did Mr. Hirsch offer

381  
00:18:16,160 --> 00:18:19,640  
them the money to offer them  
the money, because at that time

382  
00:18:19,640 --> 00:18:24,620  
there were terrible pogroms,  
killings of Jews in Kishinev,

383  
00:18:24,620 --> 00:18:27,620  
which is now Romania,  
I believe, and it was

384  
00:18:27,620 --> 00:18:30,230  
a very scary time for the Jews.

385  
00:18:30,230 --> 00:18:34,670  
Jews were murdered, and this  
man who was Jewish, Mr. Schiff,

386  
00:18:34,670 --> 00:18:37,190  
said you only need the money  
to fight the Russians, huh?

387  
00:18:37,190 --> 00:18:38,060  
He says yes.

388  
00:18:38,060 --> 00:18:40,940  
I'm a Jew, and I'm going  
to help you, and he did.

389  
00:18:40,940 --> 00:18:44,570  
I think there were four loans  
that came through for hundreds

390  
00:18:44,570 --> 00:18:45,710  
of millions of dollars.

391  
00:18:45,710 --> 00:18:46,610  
Whoa.

392  
00:18:46,610 --> 00:18:48,330  
And the Japanese  
never forgot it.

393  
00:18:48,330 --> 00:18:50,780  
So one of the  
things that I think

394  
00:18:50,780 --> 00:18:52,790

was that they wanted to  
pay the Jews somehow,

395  
00:18:52,790 --> 00:18:56,360  
and the second thing is  
that there was a plan, which

396  
00:18:56,360 --> 00:18:59,960  
was evolved during the many  
years when Hitler started

397  
00:18:59,960 --> 00:19:05,690  
his anti-Jewish things in  
Germany, to bring 50,000 German

398  
00:19:05,690 --> 00:19:10,070  
Jews to settle them in  
Manchuria, which was then

399  
00:19:10,070 --> 00:19:13,700  
occupied by the Japanese  
on the border with Russia.

400  
00:19:13,700 --> 00:19:15,360  
The Japanese at  
that time, I think,

401  
00:19:15,360 --> 00:19:18,620  
thought that was going to be  
a war with Russia one day,

402  
00:19:18,620 --> 00:19:20,832  
and they wanted to  
have some people that

403  
00:19:20,832 --> 00:19:22,790  
were living on the border  
they could eventually

404  
00:19:22,790 --> 00:19:27,320  
use as soldiers but at the  
same time that would develop

405

00:19:27,320 --> 00:19:29,990  
the place, develop the country,  
and at the same time they were

406  
00:19:29,990 --> 00:19:32,157  
so sure that if the Jews  
were there, whether they're

407  
00:19:32,157 --> 00:19:35,570  
from Germany or Austria, the  
American Jews who helped them.

408  
00:19:35,570 --> 00:19:38,330  
And that was one of the reasons  
they were good to the Jews

409  
00:19:38,330 --> 00:19:39,840  
as to show them.

410  
00:19:39,840 --> 00:19:45,320  
I remember very well  
in 1940 or '41 there

411  
00:19:45,320 --> 00:19:50,090  
was a party in the house of  
president, Mr. Ponve, who

412  
00:19:50,090 --> 00:19:52,340  
was on his way to America.

413  
00:19:52,340 --> 00:19:55,670  
He was leaving, and  
there was a dinner party

414  
00:19:55,670 --> 00:19:59,510  
at which were present  
the governor of the Hyogo

415  
00:19:59,510 --> 00:20:01,940  
Prefecture, where we lived,  
and other representatives

416  
00:20:01,940 --> 00:20:04,070

of the Japanese police  
and authorities.

417  
00:20:04,070 --> 00:20:08,180  
There was one man who was  
in [INAUDIBLE] uniform,

418  
00:20:08,180 --> 00:20:13,910  
but I was told later that he was  
a major of the Japanese army,

419  
00:20:13,910 --> 00:20:15,950  
and they made speeches.

420  
00:20:15,950 --> 00:20:18,410  
Ponve thanked them  
for being so attentive

421  
00:20:18,410 --> 00:20:21,680  
and a reception allowing  
the Jews to come to Japan.

422  
00:20:21,680 --> 00:20:23,570  
And he said, you're  
going to America.

423  
00:20:23,570 --> 00:20:25,790  
Tell your American and  
Jewish brothers there

424  
00:20:25,790 --> 00:20:27,980  
how good we are  
to you, that they

425  
00:20:27,980 --> 00:20:31,240  
should reciprocate in some way.

426  
00:20:31,240 --> 00:20:34,860  
It's history, but  
it never worked out.

427  
00:20:34,860 --> 00:20:38,800  
They were thinking of

bringing in 50,000 Jews

428  
00:20:38,800 --> 00:20:41,680  
to make the so-called  
Israel in Manchuria,

429  
00:20:41,680 --> 00:20:44,980  
but it never worked out because  
the American Jews did not

430  
00:20:44,980 --> 00:20:49,450  
go for it because they were  
already very anti-Japanese

431  
00:20:49,450 --> 00:20:54,610  
because the Japanese were going  
deeper into China, atrocities

432  
00:20:54,610 --> 00:20:57,920  
against the Chinese, and they  
were very much against them.

433  
00:20:57,920 --> 00:20:59,140  
So it didn't work out.

434  
00:20:59,140 --> 00:21:00,980  
Why did they do it?

435  
00:21:00,980 --> 00:21:03,730  
It was called the Fugu  
Plan, the plan that

436  
00:21:03,730 --> 00:21:08,450  
hopefully would be workable,  
but it never worked out.

437  
00:21:08,450 --> 00:21:09,250  
OK.

438  
00:21:09,250 --> 00:21:10,360  
Why did they do it?

439

00:21:10,360 --> 00:21:13,960  
To me, I think I will  
die with this question

440  
00:21:13,960 --> 00:21:15,330  
that I will never answer.

441  
00:21:15,330 --> 00:21:20,820  
Really, really why they  
did it, but they did,

442  
00:21:20,820 --> 00:21:22,770  
and the Japanese  
consul gave the visas.

443  
00:21:22,770 --> 00:21:25,530  
Why did they give the  
visas, transit visas

444  
00:21:25,530 --> 00:21:28,030  
which he was told not to give?

445  
00:21:28,030 --> 00:21:30,620  
He was instructed to  
stop issuing visas,

446  
00:21:30,620 --> 00:21:32,580  
but they kept on issuing visas.

447  
00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:33,450  
Why?

448  
00:21:33,450 --> 00:21:34,900  
I don't know.

449  
00:21:34,900 --> 00:21:37,870  
I don't think anybody  
knows the real truth.

450  
00:21:37,870 --> 00:21:39,130  
It's for politics.

451

00:21:39,130 --> 00:21:42,570  
It's whatever.

452  
00:21:42,570 --> 00:21:43,380  
OK, very good.

453  
00:21:43,380 --> 00:21:46,338

454  
00:21:46,338 --> 00:21:47,324  
Let's see.

455  
00:21:47,324 --> 00:21:51,270

456  
00:21:51,270 --> 00:21:55,210  
What was it like for  
all these refugees

457  
00:21:55,210 --> 00:21:56,560  
to come to Kobe, Japan?

458  
00:21:56,560 --> 00:21:57,940  
What do you think it was like?

459  
00:21:57,940 --> 00:21:59,260  
Were they full of fear?

460  
00:21:59,260 --> 00:22:01,270  
Were they happy?

461  
00:22:01,270 --> 00:22:02,738  
They were full of fear.

462  
00:22:02,738 --> 00:22:03,280  
They didn't--

463  
00:22:03,280 --> 00:22:06,030  
You have to tell me who  
you're talking about.

464



00:22:06,030 --> 00:22:06,530  
OK.

465  
00:22:06,530 --> 00:22:09,420  
You have to start with  
who you're talking about.

466  
00:22:09,420 --> 00:22:11,450  
In other words, the  
refugees who came to Japan.

467  
00:22:11,450 --> 00:22:14,428  
You have to start with  
something like that.

468  
00:22:14,428 --> 00:22:16,220  
When the refugees  
started to come to Japan,

469  
00:22:16,220 --> 00:22:17,300  
I met some of them.

470  
00:22:17,300 --> 00:22:18,070  
I spoke to them.

471  
00:22:18,070 --> 00:22:20,948  
They said they were running  
away, they were afraid,

472  
00:22:20,948 --> 00:22:23,240  
they didn't know where to  
go, and that's the only place

473  
00:22:23,240 --> 00:22:23,760  
where to go.

474  
00:22:23,760 --> 00:22:24,890  
That's one reason.

475  
00:22:24,890 --> 00:22:27,200  
Another reason was they  
thought-- they hoped.

476

00:22:27,200 --> 00:22:29,900

Everybody had  
relatives in America.

477

00:22:29,900 --> 00:22:31,970

That's the only place  
they could go was Japan,

478

00:22:31,970 --> 00:22:34,340

and the only way that  
could go to America,

479

00:22:34,340 --> 00:22:37,160

if they would get the  
visas to come to America,

480

00:22:37,160 --> 00:22:38,870

would be from Japan.

481

00:22:38,870 --> 00:22:39,900

That was another reason.

482

00:22:39,900 --> 00:22:43,163

483

00:22:43,163 --> 00:22:44,580

But what do you  
think it was like?

484

00:22:44,580 --> 00:22:52,170

Do you think that they  
were happy or full of fear?

485

00:22:52,170 --> 00:22:55,090

They were scared,  
they were anxious,

486

00:22:55,090 --> 00:22:57,930

but I saw some of them.

487

00:22:57,930 --> 00:23:01,290

They would come to the community

to the JEWCOM for their mail

488

00:23:01,290 --> 00:23:02,490

or for some problems.

489

00:23:02,490 --> 00:23:05,580

They had some problems--

food problems,

490

00:23:05,580 --> 00:23:07,710

immigration problems--

and we could help them.

491

00:23:07,710 --> 00:23:08,400

We helped.

492

00:23:08,400 --> 00:23:10,800

We tried to help them

as much as we could,

493

00:23:10,800 --> 00:23:17,060

and they were worried what's

going to happen with us.

494

00:23:17,060 --> 00:23:18,430

We didn't know at that time.

495

00:23:18,430 --> 00:23:20,830

Remember it was 1940 or '41.

496

00:23:20,830 --> 00:23:22,810

It was before the Holocaust.

497

00:23:22,810 --> 00:23:26,020

They knew that Jews were

being oppressed and put

498

00:23:26,020 --> 00:23:28,810

into camps in Germany,

Austria, and Poland,

499

00:23:28,810 --> 00:23:33,700

but I don't think anyone at  
that time knew what was coming,

500  
00:23:33,700 --> 00:23:35,770  
that the Holocaust was coming.

501  
00:23:35,770 --> 00:23:39,970  
And they were just running  
away, and they came to Japan,

502  
00:23:39,970 --> 00:23:42,160  
and I'll never forget.

503  
00:23:42,160 --> 00:23:46,720  
I went twice to Tsuruga  
to meet some of them

504  
00:23:46,720 --> 00:23:49,450  
with the stamp to put  
on their documents,

505  
00:23:49,450 --> 00:23:53,650  
and the ship was coming close,  
and I was the only foreigner

506  
00:23:53,650 --> 00:23:57,220  
among the Japanese  
police and customs people

507  
00:23:57,220 --> 00:24:00,130  
that were sitting there  
to check their documents.

508  
00:24:00,130 --> 00:24:04,330  
And I could see this ship,  
and it was a small ship,

509  
00:24:04,330 --> 00:24:07,270  
and there were people crammed,  
small children, women,

510  
00:24:07,270 --> 00:24:07,870  
old people.

511  
00:24:07,870 --> 00:24:10,240  
You know, it was  
a pitiful sight,

512  
00:24:10,240 --> 00:24:12,370  
and I could see they were  
talking to each other

513  
00:24:12,370 --> 00:24:14,690  
and pointing to me.

514  
00:24:14,690 --> 00:24:17,150  
I was the only foreigner  
that was there.

515  
00:24:17,150 --> 00:24:19,300  
Then finally the ship  
came back [INAUDIBLE]..

516  
00:24:19,300 --> 00:24:22,480  
They were disembarking, and  
one of them comes up to me

517  
00:24:22,480 --> 00:24:25,480  
and says to me in  
Jewish, are you a Jew?

518  
00:24:25,480 --> 00:24:26,530  
I said yes.

519  
00:24:26,530 --> 00:24:27,730  
A Japanese Jew?

520  
00:24:27,730 --> 00:24:28,780  
I said yes.

521  
00:24:28,780 --> 00:24:30,760  
He says I got a big problem.

522  
00:24:30,760 --> 00:24:32,080  
I said, what is your problem?

523  
00:24:32,080 --> 00:24:32,990  
Don't talk to me now.

524  
00:24:32,990 --> 00:24:34,570  
The Japanese are watching us.

525  
00:24:34,570 --> 00:24:35,530  
Get in line.

526  
00:24:35,530 --> 00:24:37,730  
Whatever there is a  
problem, we'll see.

527  
00:24:37,730 --> 00:24:38,920  
We can straighten it out.

528  
00:24:38,920 --> 00:24:42,960  
He says, no, it's a  
matter of life and death.

529  
00:24:42,960 --> 00:24:44,550  
So I said, I tell you what.

530  
00:24:44,550 --> 00:24:46,900  
You go to the bathroom  
over there and wait for me.

531  
00:24:46,900 --> 00:24:49,620  
I'll be there, and  
tell me your problem.

532  
00:24:49,620 --> 00:24:51,660  
I went there.

533  
00:24:51,660 --> 00:24:53,323  
The guy was crying.

534  
00:24:53,323 --> 00:24:54,240  
I said, what happened?

535

00:24:54,240 --> 00:24:54,780  
What's the matter?

536  
00:24:54,780 --> 00:24:55,530  
Are you all right?

537  
00:24:55,530 --> 00:24:59,040  
He says I'm all right, but  
all my documents are false.

538  
00:24:59,040 --> 00:25:01,020  
The Japanese visa is false.

539  
00:25:01,020 --> 00:25:02,760  
The Curaçao transit visa.

540  
00:25:02,760 --> 00:25:04,020  
Everything is false.

541  
00:25:04,020 --> 00:25:07,080  
They'll find out, and they'll  
send me back to Russia.

542  
00:25:07,080 --> 00:25:09,640  
I said, well, get in  
line and don't worry.

543  
00:25:09,640 --> 00:25:11,070  
When the time  
comes closer, we'll

544  
00:25:11,070 --> 00:25:13,890  
see what we can do  
because I already knew.

545  
00:25:13,890 --> 00:25:16,625  
I was told that some of  
the visas were false,

546  
00:25:16,625 --> 00:25:18,000  
some of the  
documents were false,

547

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:20,280

and somehow the Japanese  
closed their eyes

548

00:25:20,280 --> 00:25:22,680

and let these people through.

549

00:25:22,680 --> 00:25:23,340

Anyway.

550

00:25:23,340 --> 00:25:25,680

When I came back, a Japanese  
policeman came up to me

551

00:25:25,680 --> 00:25:27,810

and he says, what  
were you doing talking

552

00:25:27,810 --> 00:25:29,370

to this man in the bathroom?

553

00:25:29,370 --> 00:25:32,100

I said, well, he was  
not feeling well.

554

00:25:32,100 --> 00:25:34,250

I had to give him some medicine.

555

00:25:34,250 --> 00:25:35,500

Did you give him the medicine?

556

00:25:35,500 --> 00:25:37,680

Yeah, I gave him some  
aspirin or something.

557

00:25:37,680 --> 00:25:39,180

OK.

558

00:25:39,180 --> 00:25:40,020

He was in line.

559



00:25:40,020 --> 00:25:41,470  
He was shivering, the poor guy.

560  
00:25:41,470 --> 00:25:44,310  
The others were also  
worried, but it all

561  
00:25:44,310 --> 00:25:47,430  
went through all right  
because we put that stamp.

562  
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:51,690  
I think that was  
guaranteeing their stay.

563  
00:25:51,690 --> 00:25:54,640  
10 days, two weeks, three  
weeks, whatever was necessary.

564  
00:25:54,640 --> 00:25:56,760  
They were staying in Japan.

565  
00:25:56,760 --> 00:25:59,300  
I'll never know the real  
answer why they did.

566  
00:25:59,300 --> 00:26:01,920  
It's hard to say why.

567  
00:26:01,920 --> 00:26:04,188  
It's history.

568  
00:26:04,188 --> 00:26:05,180  
OK.

569  
00:26:05,180 --> 00:26:07,220  
Do you have enough?

570  
00:26:07,220 --> 00:26:07,720  
Two things.

571  
00:26:07,720 --> 00:26:10,690

I just ran out of  
transcript tape,

572  
00:26:10,690 --> 00:26:12,610  
and I'm just hearing  
a little something.

573  
00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:14,790  
I'm not sure if it's--

574  
00:26:14,790 --> 00:28:13,291