

# Martin Harwitz

## Filming

January 10, 2001

**Dick Kane:** This is, um, uh, um, camera role 62, continuing on camera role 62, this coming up is gonna have to do with Martin Harwitz, and this is audio role 8.

**Dennis Boni:** I'm gonna mark this first one so after that we won't have to do this.

**K:** O.K., sure.

**D:** Mix tape.

**K:** This is Martin Harwitz

**D:** Marker please.

**K:** Marker.

(Marker goes off)

**Michael:** O.K., um, when were you born, where were you born?

**Martin Harwitz:** I was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, March 1931. Uh, my father was a professor of biochemistry at the University there. I had a sister, somewhat older. About, almost two years older. And, um, we lived right in the heart of Prague.

**M:** And your mother?

**H:** My mother, uh, had married my father in 1925. Uh, both of them came from textile families. And, um, my father was about seven years older than, than my mother. Had been born in 1896 so by the time I was born he was about, uh, 35. Uh, didn't seem very often, he came home for lunch, but he was in the laboratory almost all the time other than that and a very dedicated biochemist, research biochemist.

**M:** Give me a sense of the religious backgrounds of your family.

**H:** Both my father's family and my mother's, uh, were Jewish. Um, but my father who had been quite foresighted always in everything he did, um, felt that anti-Semitism was going to be a long time. Uh, before eradication. And, so, he, had my sister and me baptized. He felt, that, um, the only way to solve a problem in the long term perhaps was to simply say that, uh, integration into the mainstream was the only way to go forward. Particularly because he wasn't a very religious person. As a scientist, um, he saw things

very factually. Um, we never talked about religion at home. He never attended any services. And, there was, there was our family life.

**M:** Now, what stage in the game, what are your earliest recollections of the rise of Nazism? You were a young young child.

**H:** Well, I remember being in school, my parents had put me into first grade and, uh, this was 1937-38 and then the beginning of '39. And I remember some of the children who were German speaking, I was in Evangelical school, Lutheran school, and, um, I remember some of the children saying, "Oh it will be nice when the Germans come in." And I was outraged at that because we always were tremendously patriotic Czechs. My father was always considered himself Czech first, uh, anything else secondary, a treachery. And I couldn't understand that, uh, as a seven year, eight year old. Um, and then I remember on March 15 when the Germans had entered Prague, in 1939, we lived right opposite the railroad station, the main railroad station, it was a railroad station. And, I remember looking out the window at night, (coughs), it was snowy and I saw German soldiers standing there and a motorcycle with sidecar. And, this man was standing guard and I realized, I knew that that they had occupied Czechoslovakia.

**M:** Do you remember any conversations of your parents about leaving?

**H:** Um, there were some. I became aware of it quite late on and my father had been dismissed.

**M:** Use the form. There were some conversations about...

**H:** Oh, O.K., yes.

**M:** I don't mean to put words in your mouth but I need that.

**H:** (coughs). Yes, yes, O.K. Yes. Yes. Um, my parents talked rather little about leaving Czechoslovakia. My father had been dismissed from his job at the University as soon as the Germans had taken over the sedaten lands after Munich. And the, um, license that Negil Chamberlain gave out of Hitler to occupy those lands. And he was dismissed for being Jewish. Now he had no other way of supporting his family. He had always been a proud and, and, um very patriotic Czech and would not have, always said he would never have left his country. But, given that he couldn't support his family in Czechoslovakia, he felt he out to take a job outside and there was a professorship of biochemistry at the University of Istanbul at the medical faculty that had become, um, vacant. And so he, he journeyed to Turkey, liked what he saw, came back, and then I think it must have been some time in early or mid- March that my parents told my sister and me that, uh, we were going to move.

**M:** Were you aware that...

**D:** We need to reload here...

**Victoria:** We need to reload.

**M:** My next question was were you aware your parents were Jewish.

**V:** What's the next question?

**M:** Was he aware that his parents were Jewish.

(Tape stops, restarts)

**V:** I was or wasn't aware my parents were Jewish.

(People talk in background)

**D:** New camera role 63. Ok.

**M:** That's the type of help I need.

**H:** Yeah, yeah, I didn't become aware of my parents being Jewish...

**V:** Wait, wait, wait, wait..

**D:** Okay, rolling, give me the cue.

(People shuffle around for four seconds)

**M:** This is the one great advantage here. This is the quietest street we've been on in the entire time we've been filming.

(Someone coughs; a few people talk inaudibly in background)

**V:** ...a helicopter will come. (Laughs)

**D:** That's how you call the trucks and the National Guard in. O.K.

**M:** Suppose they don't start rioting next door we'll be all right.

**D:** Okay, great. And you guys can begin anytime.

**H:** O.K. I never became aware of my parents being Jewish until I was about 14. It was the end of the war. We, um, never talked about religion at home, and, although, in retrospect I knew that my grandmother had gone to the synagogue. But, in I, synagogues didn't mean anything to me because we never really spoke about religion and when we got to Turkey my father and mother had my sister and me have Saturday morning classes sort of Bible classes with a priest whom they had found. Uh, who would tell us the usual Bible stories and, um, they wanted us to at least know something about Protestantism,

which they couldn't teach us but if we were going to be Protestants they wanted us to know something about it. And so, I didn't pay much attention, I went to a school that, um, had about 120 boys, over 30 different nationalities, we had students from China, we had Turks, we had Mohammedans, we had Catholics, we had Jews, we had Protestants. Didn't make any difference, we didn't talk about it as children. It was sort of a, uh, a, a real melting pot. That's sort of a trite statement but that's what Istanbul was at that time.

**M:** When your family left, for, um, when your family left for Turkey, did they expect that they would be returning to Chzechslovakia?

**H:** I don't know whether my family expected ever to go back to Chzechoslovakia. I, I know that there was some thought given to that but my father also had applied for American immigration visas and since this was war time, or soon became war time there were very few applications from Czechoslovakia obviously. Um, we were high on the list of people who could come in after the end of the war. And my father had felt that he wanted my sister and me to at least go to college in America and perhaps then stay here because he felt this was the land of opportunity.

**M:** Tell us a little bit about life in Turkey.

**H:** Uh, uh, It was in many ways a wonderful life and in other ways it was a traumatic one. I remember my first day at school. My parents had wanted us to learn English, both my sister and me, and there was a school that was run by the British counsel. It was a school that tried to teach foreign children English well enough so that they could enter University in England. And so, um, my sister and I had been brought up on German and Czech but we went to these schools. I went to the boys school, the English high school for boys in Istanbul, she went to the English high school for girls in Istanbul and those schools by Turkish law had to teach half the day in Turkish and half the day in English so the worst day of my life, everything thing else has since then been easy I think, was going to school on that first day and having to learn two languages at once. It was quite traumatic.

**M:** So you went to school and you didn't speak English and you didn't speak Turkish.

**H:** That's right. I didn't speak English, I didn't speak Turkish. Luckily there was a boy there who spoke some German and so for the first few days I was allowed to communicate and he was allowed to translate for me. But the school, in order to teach us English had a very strict rule that if you didn't speak English, it was called the language rule. If you didn't speak English you got half an hours detention after school. And so very quickly you learn to speak English.

**M:** What was your father's adjustment to life in Istanbul? As you recall it.

**H:** My father, and the other professors who were there had to, had contractually to stop lecturing in Turkish after two years there. Uh, uh, many of them didn't manage to do that. My father, was very good at languages, he spoke seven or eight languages anyway, and

so he took lessons, and learned Turkish well enough to be able to lecture well within that two-year period. Before that he had a translator. He spoke German and translator translated into Turk but he soon lectured at the, his biochemistry lectures, in, in Turkish and then later on became involved in writing some of the first biochemical textbooks in Turkish for the medical students. Um, later on then that he was involved on commissions that actually established medical vocabularies in Czech, in, in Turkish. Um, every language has to establish it's own technical vocabulary. Turkey had never had that kind of, uh, scholarship, and, uh, medical experience, modern medical experience. So they had to establish a vocabulary and so there were commissions that provided new Turkish words and he was involved with that.

**M:** What do you mo, what do you remember about family life? Um, what language did you speak at home?

**H:** We spoke mainly German at home. I spoke English with my sister a lot because we both went to English schools. My best friend who lived in the same apartment building was Hungarian and our only common language was English, so, it was a mixture of different languages. On the streets we would speak Turkish. You'd hear Greek on the trams and the buses, uh, so, you got a, uh, and of course French. We had French in school from age of 10 on or so. So you were used to hearing a lot of different languages.

**M:** Were you aware of what was happening in Czechslovakia at that point? And what was happening in Germany?

**H:** We were.

**M:** With the war.

**H:** We were tremendously aware of the war. My parents had bought a good radio and we used to listen to the BBC news from London. And, so, even as children we always sat around and listened to the news. And, as far as I was concerned it was, it was mainly the war that we talked about. Um, Hitler's advancing, Hitler's running over country after country and then eventually a, um, feeling that perhaps he might be stopped, but we were, Istanbul was only about 100 miles from the nearest border of the, of Bulgaria, where the Germans already were. And I remember being quite worried about whether they would be invading. As a, as a child and I'd look out the window at the Momora and wonder whether, um, they were coming that night.

**M:** Was your father and mother, were your father and mother concerned about their family ... as time went on?

**H:** My mother was very concerned, uh, about her mother who, uh, who had stayed behind in Czechslovakia and also her brother. They both were deported to Tarazin. I don't know how much my mother knew about the exact their whereabouts but, but she definitely knew that they had been deported and felt very guilty about not having her mother in Turkey with us. And, she told me late in her life one time that she, that her

mother had been very difficult, sort of a meddling person, I think. I don't remember my grandmother very well except that we used to go there on Sundays in Prague and she always had chicken. Um, but she seemed to have been a meddling person and, and my mother just couldn't see bringing her to Turkey and having her live with us. And so, my parents offered to have my grandmother go to England. But she didn't want to go, she wanted to stay with her son, who was in Czechoslovakia. And so then they both were deported to Terazin and, uh, my grandmother died there. We think of natural causes, although it's not clear, and my, uh, uncle died, uh, on his way to Auschwitz or at Auschwitz, again it isn't clear. There's just a transport card, we don't know whether he ever arrived.

**M:** And your father's family?

**H:** On my father's side there also were a lot of relatives who were deported. And his father died of natural causes in the early 1940's. And, uh, his only remaining brother in Czechoslovakia managed to get out still. And so at the end of the war we had absolutely no relatives left. Uh, they either had immigrated or they had perished in the camps.

**M:** Tell us a little bit about, um, some of your parent's colleagues. Can you tell us about, um, uh, Professor Arndt?

**H:** Fritz Arndt was a tall, pipe-smoking, hamborg. Very much like a sea captain in demeanor and he liked to sort of flout that, I think also. And somewhat of a ladies man. I think older than, my, my, my father. Um, tremendously good humor. He used to sight poems from Villiamd Bush little dittz, little ditties, uh, in these cartoon books that Hamd Bush had written with clever, uh, little rhymes under them. And he had memorized many of those and so he used to regale my sister and me with, with those. And they lived in Ankara which was on the Bosphorus, right on, on the, on the shore. So we used to go there. Big treat was going there on Sundays and, and, having a chance to swim. Just jump into Bosphorus, swim as fast as you could to keep up with the current there and get out before you froze to death because it was pretty cold. And I was, I was pretty skinny runt. So, it was, it was, you know, just wonderful, going there.

**M:** Now your face has taken on a radiant character when you speak of, of, of Fritz Arndt. Do you really have very warm memories?

**H:** I have tremendously warm memories of him and, and many many other aspects of life growing up in Turkey. One of the nice things was that there are the four prince islands just outside the harbor of Istanbul. And the Momora sea at that time was crystal clear and beautiful blue. And on Sundays or Saturdays in summer we used to take a little steamer out to one of these, uh, Prince Islands, Kinerly, out of the first one. And it would take about an hour to get there maybe forty minutes, I forget. And then we'd walk over the top of the island to a little secluded place on the far side where nobody ever came to swim and we'd stretch out on rock there and, we'd go swimming. And, uh, just spent all day in the sun, it was wonderful spending time in the sun and, and **(Someone coughs in background)** we all got to be strong swimmers. My father would take his journals along

with him and while the rest of us were sunning ourselves or jumping into the water and diving or looking for fish, or, or all kinds of jellyfish, making sure they didn't sting us, he would be reading his biochemistry journals or writing something.

**M:** Tell us a little bit about, uh,

**D:** I wanna move you in a little if we could, Michael, closer...

**M:** Yeah, Yeah. Tell me a little about, uh, uh if you could about Mrs. Neumark.

**H:** The Neumarks lived on the Asian side, and, and I remember one time, uh, going to visit them, um, there. And, just my sister and I were along and Mrs. Neumark was a very well-built blond woman. They had two children, uh, Matthias Neumark and, uh, I think his sister was called Veronica. He, he was always called Piffy and and she was always called, uh, uh, Mickey, I think. And, so we all went into a rowboat, uh, uh, their mother was rowing along and took us out to where the water was deep and said, "O.K. kids you can jump in now." So we all jumped in except I didn't know how to swim and she didn't realize that and then dove in after me and, um, and pulled me out and apologized to my parents afterwards for having drunk up a good part of the Momora sea but otherwise being totally unscathed. Now later on I became a very strong swimmer and, and when I went to college then in the United States after the war I was on the swimming team and, you know, always enjoyed the water very much.

**M:** Do you want to tell us about Dr. Kantorovo or...

**H:** Kantoravitz? Dr. Kantoravitz was, uh, at the dental school. Professor of dentistry. And we used to go into the mountains sometimes in summer and also sometimes to ski on, on the other side of the Momora where there was a mountain about six thousand feet high, 2 kilometers but with a dire range. But I remember his being there one time, very energetic, squat, um, man, with, uh, built like a tank and very mobile. We used to go to him to have our teeth fixed and, and, put, fillings put in and so on. And I think he did it for us for free because we were colleagues, uh, children. But, he, since he always dealt with with Turkish people, he would shout, "Ke shatch shatsh!" Which meant "Open, open, open!" And, and so you never had to op, your mouth widely enough open for him and so I remember him always as the person standing in front of you there and looking into your mouth and shouting, "Ke atch atch atch!" And that was, uh, that was Kantoravitz in my memory.

**M:** You were a young, uh, what we'd say teenager during this period of time you were thirteen, fourteen, fifteen. Tell us a little bit about the Humlen girls.

**H:** Well, um there were three of them, actually, the youngest one was, I think, my sister's age. So when we got there I was eight, she was, I just turned eight when we had gotten, uh, got to, uh, Tur, uh, Turkey. Uh, my sister was about ten at the time or was just turning ten, um, and the youngest of the girls was my sister's age and then the others were, um, several years older. And, so, we didn't know too much about them because they already

were dating age. Um, one of the other girls who was older was the daughter of, um, the radiologist, um, Professor, um, Skaletcher and she used to give my sister and me lessons in how to do woodworking. Fret saws and things like that and that was really the first time I started knowing about working with my hands and I think I've done it ever since. But she sort of started us out. Eventually came to the United States and, uh, married a, um, auriologist, now lives in Princeton and her name is Ettinghausen.

**M:** Tell us about the Hirsches, uh, also.

**H:** Yeah, well there were two Professor Hirsches, and, uh, they were quite different. One of them was quite handsome and the other one was quite heavier built and maybe fat and so they used to be called Hirschlerber and Hirschlergore, uh, to distinguish them. And, uh, they were just sort of part of the community of immigrant professors there. They all knew each other well. We were the only Czechs if I remember correctly but there were a lot of Germans a lot of Austrians, a few Austrians. Not a lot.

**M:** Now did, uh, your being Czech, uh, retard your father's integration into this immigrant community, into this refugee community? Did it help your father's immigration, uh, integration?

**H:** Uh, my father was absolutely fluent in German. Um, had been a post-doc in Germany had taught at the German University in Prague which was the original Charles University that had been created many centuries earlier. One of the first Universities in Europe. And so he was totally fluent in German, spoke, uh, high German and had no difficulty at all in integrating into the community. Nor did we children because we were totally fluent in it and could speak with all the other German professors and Austrian professors.

**M:** And tell me a little bit about, uh, Clement, uh, Holtsmeister.

**H:** Well Holtsmeister I only saw occasionally. My best friend who in winter lived in the same apartment building as we did, um, had a summer place. His family had a, uh, on, near the Bosphorus, uh, that was shared with the Holtsmeisters. And, one day my friend Andrew and I strode into his attlier there and he saw the two boys, uh, the, the two of us, and, um, and took us aside and sort of showed us his drawings. And, and, he was just designing a cathedral for Brazil at the time. We didn't know that he had designed many of the buildings in Ankara, the capital of Turkey at the time. But he was, he had commissions from all over the world even though it was, we, uh, wartime. And that, I, I, heard later on that that cathedral design of his is quite famous but it never was built. But I remember seeing the drawings and him showing them to us.

**V:** Excuse me. We're going to reload now.

**D:** Great stuff.

(Tape stops. Starts again)



**H:** Yeah, okay.

**M:** And I'm gonna ask you and say what you want to say.

(Tape switches to other side)

**Dick Kane:** Test 1.

**D:** Everyone settle down, we're about to role.

**K:** Note that this is transcription tape for camera role 64. Um, Shenandoah films, uh, Desperate Hours interview, um, with Martin Harwitz. This is the second side of the interview with Martin Harwitz.

**M:** At speed, Dick?

**K:** At speed.

**D:** And you're going to stay close to my lens, Michael. O.K., that's great. And, anytime gentlemen.

**M:** You were gonna contravene us.

**H:** Well, it was a wonderful life in many ways for a, for a, young boy growing up because of the outdoors and, uh, and, and, the lovely climate, and the sea, and, and everything that went with it. At the same time, my father's salary, which had been very good when we came there in 1939 remained frozen at a time of great inflation in Turkey. And so by the time the war was winding down, 1944-45, my parents were selling furniture, selling paintings, um, things would disappear from the apartment. And, um, I think if the war had lasted much longer we would have had very little to live on. The salary that my father had no longer covered the rent, no longer covered the rent, uh, and ordinary living expenses. And certainly my mother was always darning socks and, uh, we led a, we led a frugal existence. But compared to what people in Central Europe had to suffer it was a wonderful place. There's no question.

**M:** How do you look back upon this? You've now lived, uh, you know, uh, a considerable life since. How do you look back on this period of time? What do you think it means to you?

**H:** I think the most important thing was, about that time, was seeing the many different nationalities of people who formed this academic world. Seeing the many different religions that the different boys in our school had, that were being practiced in Istanbul, in, in, in, in town. Growing up in a Mohamaded, Mohamaden culture as Christian slash Jewish families. Um, and getting a feeling that none of this was really all that important. It didn't matter what your religion was, it didn't matter what your country you came, was that you came from, it didn't matter what language you spoke. What mattered was, what

you could do, what you were, what you could contribute to society. And I think that has... I wasn't aware of it, I think at, at the time. But I think that's never really left me. I remember coming to this country and being terribly offended by the chauvinistic euphoria at the end of the war here. Where people would come up to me and say, "Oh you came from Czechoslovakia, it must be wonderful to be in this great democracy of ours. Aren't you happy to be here?" And we had always been very proud of the democracy that had been built up under Tomas Masurig in Czechoslovakia. I remember seeing his cortege when I was seven years old and his funeral took place and my father and mother taking us out into the streets because he was such a great man to all of us. And I couldn't see this. I thought, you know, these people don't know anything about the rest of the world, they only know themselves. And I was very disappointed. I'd always looked forward to coming to America as this great place that I knew through the magazines and the films and then I was disappointed by this very narrow view. People only spoke English. They only were, they only were aware of the English speaking world. They only were aware of this continent. And, you know, we had come with a totally different viewpoint.

**M:** And when you think of today, when you, uh, think back on the Holocaust, and your own very particular and very special experience during it. What, what strikes you with that?

**H:** I wasn't aware of the Holocaust really. One knew very little, maybe my parents knew more but didn't want, uh, disturb us children. I'm not sure. I know that my mother used to mourn for her mother and worry about her a lot. I assumed cause she was trapped in occupied, German occupied Czechoslovakia. I didn't know about concentration camps. Um, I don't think, they weren't talked about much. I just didn't know, I didn't become aware of it until well after the war when we all heard about what had gone on in the camps. And so, for us it was mainly the fear of the Germans coming and killing us. But not about camps specifically.

**M:** Take us, uh. You can shut the camera off. Take us for thirty seconds through the rest of your career just so we can finish up the Martin Harwitz stuff.

**H:** O.K. Well when I went to this country, came to this country, I went to the Bronx high school of science for a year. Then went to Oberlin College, um, worked very hard but was a terrible student. I mean I just didn't do well, um, uh, even though I kept trying very hard. Then when I got out of Oberlin I couldn't get an assistantship. I wanted to be a physicist. Went to Amherst College for a year to get some more background. Then I did get a fellowship to go to University of Michigan where I flunked out after two years for having no talent for science. I was then, uh, immediately grabbed by my draft board because this was the time of the Korean War. And because I had a master's degree in physics by that time I got sent out into Wheetok in Bikini and, uh, I was involved in testing hydrogen bombs and atomic bombs. So, you know what most people have never seen because of the atmospheric test ban treaty. The enormous power of these hydrogen bombs and, you know, got this feeling that, you know, saber rattling was just not a sport to be indulged in because they were just so frightening. And then having, having been out

in the islands there for four months where there was no girl around ever within several thousand miles and reading a lot. I started reading popular book in astrophysics by Fred Hoyle, prominent astrophysicist and deciding when I got back to graduate school, and were, I went to MIT after that, finish up, that I, I was gonna minor in astrophysics. And then three years after getting out of the army I was post docking with Fred Hoyle, Cambridge University. Sort of, tremendous transformation from, um, reading something as, you know, uh, um, popular book by person and then having the chance to work with him. And then went to Cornell University, became a professor there. I got interested in also, the, and, and was doing astrophysics started early rocket programs, built liquid helium cold, the first liquid helium cold rocket payloads for infrared astronomy where you had to have telescopes so cold that the detectors wouldn't see the radiation from the telescope. You just look out into space and the only thing you saw was not the radiation from the telescope but from space. That was a real struggle. I did that for about ten years and now there are huge observatories that do these things that cost a billion dollars but we were getting by on a hundred thousand a year. And then I got interested in the history of astronomy and the history and philosophy of science and technology and studied a program of that at Cornell. Got interested in sort of public education along these lines and became director of the National Air and Space Museum through having flown on airplanes for high altitude astronomy observations. Having built rockets for that kind of thing, being involved with satellites for astronomical observations. It all fitted in to what the museum was doing and having a wonderful time there. I mean it was certainly the best job of my life even though we had the controversy about the Enola Gay. That, you know, certainly was far from pleasant, but, um, terrific job. And then after I resigned from there I've been involved with, uh, astronomical spacecraft ever since. So, that, that sort of is a postcard.

**M:** And, one more thing for us, if you would. Take us through your parent's, um, your parents came to the United States in 1946 as well?

**H:** No. Uh, my mother came here with my sister and me because we were too young to come by ourselves and, uh, she wanted to be here for us, uh, we were going to go to college. My father didn't have a job, uh, but was looking for one and then came in 1948. Went to Indiana University where my sister had been a student and they found out he was trying to find a job and eventually became actually a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was a very prominent biochemist. But the other big thing in my life really was meeting my wife when in I was coming out of the army and it's been a tremendously strong partnership for close to 44 years I mean, uh...

**M:** And your wife's background?

**H:** She also came from Czechslavokia but was Hungarian speaking so the only common language is, uh, really English, though she's learned Czech since then. I went back to Czechslovakia, worked there for a year after the Russian occupation in 1969-70 to sort of between academies in exchange so that because they couldn't come out we could go in and encourage them. I've worked in Germany a lot. Uh, I post docked in England. So I've gotten to be involved much more than other American scientists very early on with

international space efforts. And, um, again have sort of a much broader outlook from that point, just from the very early childhood experiences in international affairs, working internationally, knowing international communities in, and speaking a lot of different languages and feeling at home with different cultures that, that. And it sort of translated into our children also.

**V:** Do you have a question? So, uh, Martin just take a minute to think about this. You touched on it. How did that experience during those formative years affect you for the rest of your life as a human being? You were talking about the different cultures and it didn't matter about your religion. To this day do you carry some part of that with you? And if you could preface that.

**H:** Yeah.

**V:** O.K.

**H:** O.K. I think what's affected me, perhaps in the long term most by the experience, is respect for an international community with very different, uh, aspirations, cultural backgrounds, languages, uh, religious backgrounds, political convictions, um, and respecting each individual for what he or she could contribute in a constructive fashion. It shaped my view later in life when I started working as a professional astrophysicist and could work well with colleagues from other countries because I understood their, I could speak with them in their own language. We all were multi-lingual growing up. I could understand their cultures, I could fit in, I could live in a country for a year, have my children go to the local school, help them with their homework, uh, help them learn languages. And feel at home and have them feel that I was a colleague with whom they could easily talk. Uh, that there was no feeling of American superiority because we happened for a long time to have better instrumentation, more money for research and so on. That I valued them for the work they did within the context of their possibilities, financial as well as, um, um, cultural. And so that that has been I think a, a, a leading factor in, in the way I looked at things. Later when I became director of the National Air and Space museum again it made a difference. I wanted American children to grow up, not to be surprised by being taken over in one area of technology or another. Rocketry, or satellite work, or aviation as my colleagues in astronomy had been overtaken by Europeans or the Japanese and would get furious because they felt that these people had no right overtaking us and it must be because we didn't put enough money. Our government wasn't putting enough money into this. And so I arranged for, uh, one of the first things I did was to arrange for an exhibition of European space agency spacecraft. I wanted American youngsters to see that there's competition out there and they couldn't rest, uh, rest on American laurels if they wanted to, America to be the leading country in space work and in aviation they had to hustle because there were smart kids out there in Europe and Russia in the Pacific regions in Asia who would be competing with them and doing very well.

**M:** (interrupts him at "doing very well") So you were the first global and the first globalist then.

**H:** Yeah it was a global look at what the National Air and Space Museum ought to be teaching youngsters. Not everybody appreciated that because some people felt this was an American museum we ought to be showing mainly or solely what could be done in America; what had been done in American. But I felt that if we took that attitude it would be a disservice to the youngsters. They had to learn, if they were going to be competitors, that there were very strong people, imaginative people, capable people all of the u, all over the world.

**D:** I have one quick question if I could. You say that growing up your friends and you didn't, one of the things you claim from the whole experience was that you didn't place too heavy an emphasis on you cultural differences, on the differences in your language, in religion, etc. Do you think that part of that had to do with the unique way that Turkey behaved as a nation? Do you think that that's kind of a reflection of the fact that Turkey didn't place too heavy an emphasis on those distinctions also? I'm wondering if we could get a..

**V:** Alright, well what, what's the specific part of the question?

**H:** I understand it. I think, yeah.

**D:** Talk to Victoria, though, if you could.

**H:** The role that, uh, Turkish culture and thinking played in all of this I think I wasn't aware of at the time but of course they had accepted the Safartic Jews many centuries earlier and there was a feeling in Turkey, I think, that Armenians, Greeks, Jews had always contributed, uh, to the culture of the country. And during wartime the doors of the country were open to immigrants from many many different countries. I remember my best friend was Hungarian who lived in the same house as, as we did, um, two boys of our own age whom we played with a lot, uh, one of them was Jewish and after the war immigrated to Israel. His best friend was the son of the Egyptian consul. You know, Arabs, Jews, it didn't matter. We all sort of played together, we did our homework together. I remember we, in biology we had to go and get some things to dissect and, and an easy thing to dissect were cockroaches. And so we were assigned to bring some cockroaches in that we could dissect and so my best friend and I and a couple of others went to local bakery and asked them if we could have some cockroaches because we knew that they were rampant there. It was warm and just their kind of thing. Of course we got kicked out but after going to a number of bakeries we found one that said, "Yeah, take any number you want." And so we carefully, you know, stored them in glass jars and then, of course we didn't know how to kill them and I remembered that the Chinese used to have boiling oil for torture or something like that so we boiled up some oil and tossed them in there and, and it was a quick death but at least it preserved them so we could, we could, uh, dissect them.

**M:** Well this has been terrific.

**V:** O.K. Thank you.

**M:** Thank you very much.

**H:** Sure.

**M:** And do you have anything else you want to say?

**V:** And can you stay here and Vera can you go...

**H:** Um, Anything else.

**K:** Quiet please.

**H:** Yeah, I think the, the other influence on my life I think that that has been strong and and I think melded some extent by this feeling of internationalism is, uh, when I first came to the United States and eventually started dating. Of course was dating American girls always. Never occurred to me that I would be dating anybody from, um, Czechslovakia, in particular, there were so few anyway. Um, but when I was in the army I accidentally met a girl who was from from Czechoslovakia, although a different country, a, uh, different part Slovokia and she was Hungarian speaking. But I think the fact that we had such similar backgrounds and could envisage plum dumplings without ever eat, eating them, you know, and both liked goulash and things like that. And had similarly broad backgrounds and tolerances for different cultural points of view. Um, we've been married 44 years and she's put up with all my, you know, trips to rocket ranges to launch rockets that that would take three weeks longer than expected and and brought up our children when I was away on airplane expeditions to look at astronomical sources and put up with all kinds of calamities we went through when I was director of the Air and Space Museum in Washington. Um, it's been a very strong influence on my life.

**V:** O.K. Thank you.

**K:** Let me just record the room tone for 30 seconds.

**D:** Quiet please, room tone.

(Room tone)

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