

1983 Cleveland Ohio at the 50th anniversary convention of the Newspaper Guild. Being interviewed is Jonathon Eddy and I. L. Kanen also taking part in the interview will be Jim Sesnick of the guild reporter, William Miller of the Cleveland Plain dealer and Warner Pflug.

Pflug: Perhaps we can start maybe with you Mr. Eddy, if you could just for the record give us your name, your home town and just some of the offices you've held in the guild and then after Mr. Kanen does the same and perhaps the two of you can begin to tell us about some of the activities of the guild.

Eddy: Jonathon Eddy, Dickinson Center, New York. I was the first secretary of the New York Guild and of the National Organization of the executive secretary title. I had been changed later to executive vice president. Exact dates I don't know but I'm sure...

Pflug: Mr. Kanen.

Kanen: I'm Sy Kanen, I. L. Kanen. I live in Washington on Connecticut Avenue 4501 Connecticut. I've lived there for many years. I once lived in Cleveland and I was very actively involved in the organization of the Guild. I was one of the newspaper men who worked for the Cleveland News and when the depression came and all of us were disturbed about whether we were going to have a viably [unintelligible]. Mr. Roosevelt came up with a new deal our problem faced us was whether or not it could organize a trade union, they called it a guild in those days, we still were being ignored through the struggle for the rights of the newspaper man [unintelligible] ... at a decent salary.

Miller: What year was that?

Kanen: That's 1933, this is 1983 so this is the 50th anniversary and that's why I'm back. I came back in '28 I think that was there last anniversary the 25th and now this is the 50th.

Pflug: Well Mr. Eddy you were there at the beginning, perhaps you could fill us in on... of the guild and some of the people, particularly people who were active in the leadership of the guild at that time and some of the problems. For example, the hesitancy on the part of many of the people in the business to join a "labor union" in problems like that. Perhaps you could tell us about that.

Eddy: Well there were some few who thought we should be a professional organization but they never did do very much of the union leadership.

Miller: What was the real motivating factor of getting this union started at a time when unions were not looked upon as quite like they are today, particularly among white collar professions. What were the things that really got people to put there jobs on the line and sometimes the whole family?

Eddy: Economic interest.

Miller: Primarily economic. Supporting a family.

Eddy: Well you wanted basic wage, five day week, more control over the conditions [unintelligible]... work, pretty obvious stuff.

Miller: Now how did you personally get involved. What was your story, how did, did you come from a family that was involved in one way or another with unions or organizing.

Eddy: No, my father was a newspaper executive and extremely perturbed at my radical tendencies.

Miller: He was, huh.

Sesnick: Where was he on the executive.

Eddy: He was at various times the publisher of the New York evening journal, he was a Hurst man. The Boston....

Pflug: Did he ever speak to you anymore.

Eddy: Well it confirmed our father relationship in the least.

Miller: Was the New York evening journal publisher your dad?

Eddy: Technically yeah. Hurst, the Boston American, something called the London Budget which I vaguely remember which was a short existence.

Miller: What was, you're coming from this background of management if you will. Why then did you not think well I'll be like my dad and be an executive someday and make a lot of bucks and why did you decide to become the first official guild officer international wise?

Eddy: I don't know, maybe I was a little crazy.

Pflug: I'm sure there must have been more to it than that. How did you first then become involved in the organizing activities in New York when you started?

Eddy: When [unintelligible]... I got together.

Miller: You worked at the New York Times at the time.

Eddy: Yeah.

Miller: But that column that he wrote was that the kind of the spark in a way or not.

Eddy: Oh sure. He announced that he was going to have an open house in the department at a specific time for any interested in forming in.

Miller: You went to that meeting at his house.

Eddy: Oh sure. I went to that and subsequently...

Miller: Tell us about that first meeting. How was that first meeting. How many came and did he serve cocktails.

Eddy: I imagine he did. I don't remember I would be surprised if there is as many as twenty.

Pflug: How do you explain, Heywood Broun whom I understand was probably one of the best if not one of the best paid newspaper man in the country at the time and really having a good life if you want deciding that he was going to help organize a union of his fellow newspaper organization. It doesn't fit the usual pattern of a labor organizer or founder who really has got a problem of his own and he is searching for some solution.

Eddy: Oh I think Broun like most of the rest of us only maybe more so was an idealist. He was not a coward.

Pflug: I gather that. So he was one of the few idealist who's willing to act upon his ideals.

Kanen: Well, that's kind of putting the idealist down.

Pflug: Well there are many who indeed speak a good line, but when push comes to shove they're not there. As opposed to Broun who not only spoke the line but indeed who was actually doing the work and the organizing on the picket line and so on.

Eddy: Well Broun was an idealist but he didn't believe in too much work he was always available for the sort of stuff that a good many others didn't have the guts to do, that's what you mentioned the picket line.

Miller: He was also a socialist wasn't he or believed in a socialist...

Eddy: I'm aware that he was active in the socialist party and that he had participated

in socialist conventions or at least one. I really don't know much about that aspect of ...

Miller: That was probably part of the socialist background of his even though he was a top journalist in making a good buck which he thought he was putting out the material he still was a socialist who believed apparently believed in the masses, right and uplifting them. Didn't it come from that period particularly in the '30s there was a great deal of that.

Eddy: Oh we had one or two socialist municipals governments in those days I recall Milwaukee, and I think Freeport, Cleveland too.

Miller: Well the man in statue down on Public Square, Tom L. Johnson, was the man you remember very well. So you men talked yesterday about the convention that when you started organizing you were the first to go out in New York and begin signing up cards.

Eddy: I didn't make any such statement that may have been so.

Miller: But you did organize at the New York Times.

Eddy: Yes.

Miller: You went out and got a 175.

Eddy: That's my recollection.

Miller: Well, John were you the first to go out and sign them up or were others out there signing cards.

Eddy: No there was nobody else doing it.

Miller: So you were the first.

Eddy: I was the one who did it.

Miller: And as you said the first time you went into the Times office you signed up 175. That was the nucleus then that began it all?

Eddy: No, I think of similar things were going on in other cities [unintelligible]... in New York and everywhere.

Miller: But in New York and in other places in New York.

Eddy: Undoubtedly.

Sesnick: Jonathan, when in that kind of a virgin territory situation, do you remember how you went about trying to get people to sign cards. Did you operate inside the newsroom, ...

Eddy: Oh certainly, right in the sitting room. Where else?

Pflug: Did that present any problems? What did the management think about you walking around...

Eddy: They did not bother me. I suppose there was a lot of looking... but I was not penalized.

Pflug: I know in other industries, the auto industry ... if an organizer had tried that in the auto industry, he would've been out on the street with his cards thrown right after him. I'm somewhat suprised I guess...

Eddy: Well I don't recall any such instances.

Pflug: Well, Mr. Kanen, well this at the same time you were busy in Cleveland then, right.

Kanen: Well, I would like to tell my story it goes before that. My mother came over from a town called Galvestone sometime in the 1880's or 1890's I'm not sure. She became a member of the first cigar makers union so I was brought up always ... of a family that was concerned about the poor. All through history the rich get richer and poor get poorer [unintelligible]... and so I was animated to some extent motivated of course trade unions and because of that however in those days I was working for the Toronto Star I

wasn't interested in anything like that but I came over from the Toronto Star to Cleveland. Toronto was the city of the past and Cleveland was the future...

Pflug: When was that?

Kanen: I came from Toronto Star in 1926 and went to work on the Cleveland News and because I was the first college graduate, I had a B.A., to come to work at the Cleveland News I was immediately paid a very good salary and actually I became one of the highest paid people in the news, just as John Henry was a very high paid man working full time I think for the New York Times and so at the same time while I was working I became more and more conscious of the fact that the poor needed help and when the depression came I saw many, many people hungry and starving and the Cleveland City Council wasn't ready to put up money to take care of them I can remember that very well I began to become involved even though I had a decent salary myself I became involved in the poor. The more I thought just as my mother had been part of the union so I took something to become part of the union and so I think I told the much of the story last night that our people were poorly paid at the Cleveland News and very much small salaries and they looked to me to some extent, I was way up there, I was making \$85.00 a week which was a good salary in those days.

Pflug: The average salary was \$15.00, \$20.00.

Kanen: \$15.00, \$20.00 that sort of thing... we were actually then thought that we ought to do something about it when Roosevelt came in with his new deal and his NRA and we were aware of the fact that the publishers were going to fight us tooth and nail and we felt we ought take action and as I told the story last night, that we were sending petitioners, sending something down in New York to speak before the NRA which tried to and I said I don't think that's what we really need. I think we really need a trade union. I told my colleagues that we would call and get together on a Saturday at the ... Hotel [unintelligible]... I promise you that I'll offer the motion to create a union and that became [unintelligible]... but that was my involvement why I became so active in it despite the fact that I was well paid and that's it.

Pflug: Did you have any problem with many of the people in the Newspaper business, people you're trying to organize have any sort of hesitancy about becoming members of the trade union.

Kanen: Oh yeah, we had people on the staff ...

Pflug: Who considered themselves professionals and not workers.

Kanen: That didn't last very long, but you see I was a chairman of the constitution committee at some six conventions and we always had a debate, things ran tremendously smoothly yesterday, I think...

Pflug: I think everybody was surprised.

Kanen: Because newspaper men really have they all have there own opinions for some reason or another and in Cleveland News we had a substantial number of people who took the view that we were taking great risks and I never very well [unintelligible]... shaking his fist at me and saying look I have to feed my wife and two kids and I'm not going to go out on the street because of you and that was the kind of fiery debate we had and then we always had people at the early conventions the so-called journalist that the people felt that they should debate, demean, debase themselves by becoming members of a union. No. And this happened I think for about 4 or 5 years little by little people became conscious of the need to have a union. But even so there are always these terrific debates. As chairman of

the constitution committee I used to come in, we use to meet to consider amendments to the constitution of the Guild. We use to start our meetings around 2:00 in the afternoon and then we would come and report around 2:00. I will never forget and Broun was in the chair and I would always have to offer the proposals and so on. Well, while the debate was offered justly about the ITU they were practically unanimous and it was just one or two people who stood up and said no. But we always had a great backup and because everybody had his own ideal about what the Guild should be and we would never finish up until 2:00 in the morning and the only reason we could put it through at that time was because Broun was so exhausted, "He said look

Miller: Do you recall the date of that Saturday meeting, I know that's really reaching but that Saturday meeting when you got together.

Kanen: Well I think made the tape it was sometime, we met down in Washington that was in '33 in December. Now this meeting must have been sometime in October at the ... Hotel, I'm not absolutely sure.

Miller: But somewhere in the Fall.

Kanen: That's right, because it took some time before the meeting at the Willard Hotel, which is the most important one in the history of the Guild that's when Broun became president.

Miller: Just back a little, what was your mothers name?

Kanen: Rebecca.

Miller: Rebecca. How do you spell the town she came from?

Kanen: Bialostock. This sounds like one of the things when a kid gets on the air and you ask them to spell something, I'm not a perfect speller. Bialostock.

Miller: Russia.

Kanen: Yes. A lot of people came from Bialostock. My father came from and he was not a trade unionist, no I think he was on the other side. I think he wanted to make money.

Miller: So it was your mothers influence really.

Kanen: Yes, to some extent.

Miller: What about that first convention in Washington. Can you tell us a little bit about how that went?

Kanen: Well the majority of the people who had come there were really for a trade union, I think that's correct. There were some who came from, who were still thinking as the so-called journalist did and they didn't it should be a union but it ought to be some kind of professional organization which would protect the rights of newspapers, not in terms of money but in terms of what they did in relation to how they should write. Well at that session most of us were for Heywood Broun to be the new president. But there was fact in there that felt that Broun should not be president because they feared that once he became president he would immediately turn the Guild into a trade union and they didn't want a trade union. And so they thought Mr. Roosevelt would be very angry actually if Mr. Broun were to run for president because they hated to think that the Guild become trade union and I remember very well that Lloyd White, Lloyd White was a very interesting man because he worked I think as a photographer at one time in other words he knew all about unions and so we in Cleveland elected Lloyd White as the president of the first Cleveland Guild because we thought that he was the best informed man on these issues. And actually White made a

tremendous speech when he went to Washington, one of the best ones, urging ... before the NRA. But White wanted to become a candidate at this convention and two of them went outside, I think they went downstairs to have a drink which is what Broun could always do, and Broun says to White look I must be elected President at this convention I promise you however that at the end of six months I will resign and you can be president. And what for some reason or another one wouldn't want to accept that deal and he said no I'm going to be the candidate and so on. And then when the issue came up in the convention we include Bob Borton and myself were very upset because White had become a candidate against Broun, all of us thought that Broun was the man. So we voted against White and voted for Broun and he was elected by a very substantial ... I think that's pretty much the story...

Miller: You voted in the Bob Borton was it.

Kanen: Yeah, Bob Borton, yes.

Miller: Voted for, how many delegates from Cleveland were there?

Kanen: I thought there were 3, Bob Borton, Lloyd White and myself.

Miller: [unintelligible]

Kanen: Oh, I don't think the local had anything....

[unintelligible] All of us feared that we might lose our jobs completely that was because the paper couldn't afford to pay us.

Miller: Did they take any reprisals against any of you when you were organizing?

Kanen: How did you think of that? The point is that after I've been one of the leaders in the formation of the Newspaper Guild and my paper was rather very decent and they didn't try to punish me or anything like that. But nevertheless [unintelligible] I was one of the top political editors. I was no longer going around to Columbus to cover the legislature, I was no longer able to write editorials and so I really did nothing for a while. I use to sit at my desk, certainly weren't going to fire me because [unintelligible] but at the same time there was nothing for me to do and then I thought of an idea, nobody on that staff understood public utilities. No one on that staff was mature enough or educated enough to take on that kind of deed. And so I went up to the city desk one day and I said look how would you like it if instead of sitting here in the office all the time doing nothing that I began to cover the public utilities. I use to ... gas company to clean the Cleveland railroad system and so on, the Sturgeons, very wealthy people owned it and so on and I was for public ownership. The telephone company was an example, telephone company always use to issue a press release telling their subscribers how much they had to pay in taxes and I got mad one day and went over to the [unintelligible] desk and I said next time one of these handouts comes in from the telephone company let me handle it the issue is not how much they have to pay in taxes, the real issue is how much they're making in profits. The telephone company [unintelligible] on the Cleveland News. The Cleveland ... the telephone company is not paying ... these are the profits they were making. So we had this kind of issue in taking over the Cleveland Railway System is one of the major issues and there was a man named Cyrus Seaton who ... the great liberal and he was one of the people who urged me on. He was one of the people who helped to take over the Railway System because the city of Cleveland did not have the money at that time to buy out the system. Basically I think this is the story that I cannot be precise about and so Cyrus Seaton encouraged me to do what I was doing and to fight for municipal ownership, municipal ownership of the railway system. Municipal ownership was slow in those days, the people were going to own their own utilities and another, municipal ownership of the light plant. There was a light plant

and we insisted on the illuminating system wanting to take it over and we insisted on municipal ownership and I remember again Cyrus Seaton said, "I'll back you on that." He was really a great man.

Miller: Yeah I know, I've interviewed him.

Pflug: Getting back to that first convention what are your recollections of it. As I understand it maybe not the first convention but within a short time after that there's a problem of the rest of the Guild locals and members being concerned about New York dominating the Guild and so on.

Eddy: There were some New York who were aware of that.

Miller: What were the burning issues at that convention. That first convention, what were the really burning issues?

Eddy: I don't there were any. We were there to formalize what we already ...

Miller: In other words establish an organization.

Eddy: Establish an organization with President, secretary and some means of procedure.

Pflug: When did the question of the affiliation with the AFL come up. Is that the next convention?

Eddy: I'm sure that your file, The Guild Reporter would be a better source of information on that.

Pflug: That again was a problem I gather, when it did come up whether the guild...

Eddy: I don't recall any great problem over it that affiliation but there may be I just subconsciously, I don't recall any great problem over it, affiliating it, it was a union from the start that's what Broun called for and the people were interested in it and that came forward.

Miller: What kind of personality was he, tell us a little about Broom. You know the legend grows but your the man who did the real ground work as it was. From an objective point of view, what kind of individual was he, he was a well met sorta fellow or what. What was his personality?

Eddy: I don't know how to reply to that.

Miller: He was a rather flamboyant fellow wasn't he in personality.

Eddy: Not obnoxiously so.

Miller: Not obnoxious but style so to speak. Apparently he had the ability to inspire people to do things, obviously he found the union.

Eddy: Definitely.

Pflug: How was he as a speaker, public speaker at conventions and so on.

Kanen: He was really a very eloquent speaker there is no doubt about that. He knew the language and he knew how to use it but the many anecdotes about Heywood Broun, I was telling one last night, actually the battle over the AF of L came around our 5th or 6th convention and it was not all that... there were some people [unintelligible]... who were opposed to the Guild... trade union so we did have a minority vote but the AF of L was pretty decisive. What Broun wanted really was to be accepted by the great mass of people. He was a leader [unintelligible]. I told the story last night how we finally got into the CIO. Then he said to and myself come on up I want to call we made it. He sat there ... and I sat with him and then finally he said I had a terrible dream last night, I had a nightmare and then suddenly I woke up and I said what did you do and he said I called room service. Then I said what did you do and he said I told them I wanted 12 brandys. Then

there was another occasion Roger Baldwin,... Cleveland local invited Broun and Roger Baldwin to come to a big mission in Cleveland in order to raise funds for the Newark Strike, which I think that was the name. Baldwin made that speech and everybody loved Roger Baldwin I think he lived until he was around 101.

Pflug: Yes, he died just recently.

Kanen: I remember him with the ACLU, thanks to Roger Baldwin, and Broun was up on that caucus as well and they were making a speech and everytime they'd stop for a moment he would drink something, it didn't look like pop he was drinking water but actually he was drinking gin. I have a mental picture but I don't really know what happened, sometimes your mind does this to you but he was beginning to sag and someone offered a motioned to adjourn. How much money we raised that night I don't know.

Eddy: Has the Guild reporter been published continuously since those days. How often does it come out?

Sesnick: Twice a month. When the editor goes on vacation it only comes out once a month.

Eddy: Is it that small of a staff?

Sesnick: Yeah. The editor and half of another person.

Pflug: What sort of publications were you able to get out in the early years. You were able to get at least a small newsletter around?

Eddy: Well we started out with memograph machine, I think that was the first investment we made at the Guild.

Pflug: Then you had to find some way to raise the money to mail these things I take it, the postage.

Miller: What were the dues in those days?

Miller: You talked yesterday about your first strike was the Seattle Post Intelligencer.

Eddy: No that was one of the first.

Miller: Which was the first do you recall.

Eddy: I think it was the Newark [unintelligible], but then again why ask me to dig into an old mans memory when you got all the stuff in your files.

Pflug: As I recall there was a whole string of them that seemed to be popping up almost one right after the other.

Eddy: There was plenty of trouble.

Miller: And then newspaper men were, as they still are often, pretty tough during those confrontations, etc. weren't they and that violence was heaped upon them often police etc. often the white collar was it not true, was as tough as any blue collar worker when it came to a strike. Is it true from you recollection.

Kanen: Well, now [unintelligible]. We had a problem in Loraine, Ohio where the publisher locked out the staff because they were trying to organize. Loraine was the kind of town at that time which didn't understand [unintelligible]. Brounom came to become involved in that battle. I remember he picketed and then I remember he went over to the place, one of the factories there, he picketed [unintelligible] and anybody who was a picket in those days was regarded as somebody need content. Bruce Catton who was a great writer but he was also the best and one of the first guildsman and he was the NEA so was Herb Locke and Bruce Catton were the two people on the staff of the NEA who insisted on a trade union and they were great from the very beginning in Cleveland and Bruce Catton and I also were involved in this line strike. He and I in white linen suits on a Saturday morning

picketed in Loraine, Ohio, and people thought we were crazy. Who were these people, here was Bruce authority on the civil war [unintelligible] I have always felt [unintelligible].

Miller: He became a reactionary?

Kanen: No he never did. He just died a couple of years ago. But Broun who insisted on picketing early in the morning and then I'll never forget this, he went down to public square. We wanted to attract a crowd but ... and I remember it was pouring, pouring rain and Broun stood there with a little platform ... we were drenched, drenched and he was hoisting the banner "Trade Union in Public Square in Cleveland" and that was the way he was. He took anything on, I think he might have picketed on Chicago, the first strike, well I could very well mean New York where there is, I can't think of the name, what is the name of outfit that provides babies clothes to women about to have children, it is a big place in New York who sells this stuff, but anyway the Guild was having a meeting and theres a Hurst strike out in Chicago at the time and the meeting of the ... and we were having lunch and Broun said, well, when we get through with lunch why don't we all go out and picket a bit. And there's this store now long ... and they sell these garments and we had a little picket line and we had somebody with great big megaphones saying, Ladies, you are helping ... Hurst run a strike in Chicago and I remember Broun ... somebody had a big flag at the beginning ... in circle outside this store because they were sending ... there store ... Hurst publications in the battle against the Newspaper Guild in Chicago. Ladies, Ladies you're unborn child will never forgive you if you use your income to pay in order to harm people to help with Randolph Hurst keep us... And as he went around suddenly the doors opened at this place and they brought out the most beautiful red chairs and put them down outside and it said, "Courtesy of the management would be glad if any member of the Newspaper Guild may sit here. I will never forget I broke the line and went over and sat down and ... I use to go picketing myself as member of the Guild, I picketed in Chicago, I remember picketing out in San Francisco.

Miller: What was the connection, this was in Nework, the baby wear, what was the connection with that with Hurst though I missed that?

Kanen: They were apparently advertising Hurst papers, something like that.

Miller: Oh, advertising.

Kanen: Thats right.

Miller: Advertising and it was a boycott to stop.

These were the customers coming out that you were appealing to don't buy.

Kanen: Yes don't buy your babies... if you line yourself with Randolph Hurst. One of the funniest things, I never thought I'd look in a New York crowded place and here's Broun, and I was very embarrassed it was after ...

Miller: What years did you work at the ... You worked from '26 through what at the news before you decided to leave.

Kanen: In '43. [unintelligible]. I was not only interested in the Newspaper Guild I was also interested in Israel, the Israel Cadet. In 1943 all the able-bodied men in New York were being drafted to go to war and the Americans...counsel in New York didn't have a man to handle there press. I knew I was a newspaper man they heard me. I was president of the Cleveland Times district while I was in the Guild, by the way some of the people in the Guild couldn't understand why I was involved with ... what did I care about that and the worst of them I must say was ... in the Guild who use to drive me sometimes to think because I was in a Jewish homeland. At any rate I was invited to go to New York to

become the press officer of the American Signs Council and that was in '43 not only because there weren't enough people to handle the work but because that was the year of the Holocaust. And so from that time on I became involved very much in Israel, I had to turn my back entirely on the Newspaper Guild.

Pflug: You raised a point that maybe you could follow up on and that was the Communist in the Guild were a little concerned about your activities.

Kanen: We were concerned more about there activities.

Pflug: That's what I wanted to see if you could discuss. How strong was the party in the Guild in those days. Was it a major force or were they just more of a burden.

Kanen: There were a few of us in Cleveland who the Communist party tried to make us become members. I can never go into one or two members of the communist party...there was a man named John Williamson who was the Cleveland representative. I always wondered how they lived because he lived under very dark circumstances and Elmer Felharbor and and myself on one or two occasions attended Guild meetings but I never paid dues to the communist party, I never became a communist member. But they were very, very active this was a period in '33, 34 when a lot of people were hungry not only in the Guild and so they would turn to communism as perhaps the eutopian system perhaps somehow they would take care of the poor because the rich weren't. They were active in the Guild not only in Cleveland but in New York they were very active there. I remember leaving the communist leader one of the top people ... and he said one day we got in more trouble with the "Ghould" than with any other organization. Then the battle began in the Guild itself and there's a strong many of us who wanted to throw the communist out and expel from the Guild and this was a battle and some of the members, some of our best friends did identify with the communist party at those conventions. I remember that was a Donald Sullivan elected president at one time and I think the communist party got him, I'm not sure. But Crawford came into the picture and he became our candidate at big conventions and I remember I was at that final convention with him and I think that was the last. They were posing me, posing my election to but I managed somehow to survive that. Jonathon Andy, I remember they were also [unintelligible]... tried to throw him out. In fact we all supported Jon in that crisis. Bill Davy who had probably been involved in the early days because he had refused to go to war way, way back. He became one ... furious enemies.

Pflug: Was this a major problem within the Guild with the communist issue or was it... So many other unions were real split and could have gone either way.

Kanen: I was talking about New York. Milton ... Dick Pasch Morris Watson and I think most of these people were beginning[unintelligible]... And then I'll never forget it when the war began and struggled between Hitler when Hitler struck, communism became very unfortunate, very unpopular.

Pflug: I recall the story when they had either flipflop within one day because of the...

Kanen: Yes that's right they turned arounded. I remember that.

Pflug: Russia had the pact with German and suddenly Germany...

Kanen: What do you call that pact.

Pflug: Non-aggression pact.

Kanen: Yes the non-aggression pact and the communist party was all out

Pflug: Keeping America out of the war and then of course when Germany invaded

Russia they had to quit and shift gears.

Miller: There is something I have been curious about in Cleveland. Why was it that the Plain dealer did not, were not able to organize, you had the Cleveland press, right. Why is that?

Kanen: They all came to ... the people and I had talked with Ralph Donaldson, the Plain dealer, we were both in Columbus at that time covering Columbus when the banks closed and everything closed down and Donaldson and I were the only people that could afford to go out to dinner that night. We ate at a very fancy restaurant called the Marymore Restaurant in Columbus and I talked then to Al Thompson about the fact that it was time we had some kind of trade union. This was during the time that the banks closed and Roosevelt was coming in and Donaldson thought it was a pretty good idea. He said so that three men from the Plain dealer and three men from the news and three men from the Cleveland Press issued the call for that to leave the ... Hotel when we first decided to attempt the trade union. I offered the motion to create the trade union and which surprised them because I was such an underpaid reporter and Donaldson in the beginning they didn't want a trade union they wanted each local to be called locals I think but they each to be there own bosses instead of having one strong central guild trade union we would have three independent locals each of which would carry on its own bargaining and without having to refer to people.... Donaldson and two other people were coming to our meetings and then that's kind a rascal person and at one of these sessions as I recall it Carlan had ... to call Ralph Donaldson a stooge for the management at which point Donaldson [unintelligible] and for a long time they had there own union. [unintelligible] at the Plain dealer and this went on for nine or ten years and the last thing I did for the American Newspaper Guild was to, they called me in [unintelligible] and asked me whether I would negotiate a chapter in the Plain dealer and I use to have to meet with Paul Belamy all the time and Paul Belamy was the grandson of I think of [unintelligible] I can never remember which it was he wrote but Belamy use to always call me that was the way... The very last thing I did was to negotiate a contract to cover the plain union employees and that was in '42 or '43 about the same time I was leaving to undertake the new assignment which was to create [unintelligible].

Miller: So they then joined the national union at that time.

Kanen: Uh huh.

Miller: I see. So you had initially the Cleveland Press and the News and they were the last to come in because of this slight attack, Donaldson...

Kanen: And whoever dreamed that the Cleveland News didn't last very long the Plain Union took it over. But who ever dreamed that the news would go on through and finally the Cleveland Press would go on. this was a paper that was spectacular leadership...

Sesnick: Mr. Eddy maybe just a second back up. We have in the office of TNT a card signed by Broun as the president of a New York reporters union or something like that in 1928. Do you which apparently was an unsuccessful attempt to start a union, I think it was even in fact called a union or might have been called an association. Do you have any memory of that?

Eddy: I don't.

Sesnick: Did either of you gentlemen go to the White House with Broun and the other people from that first Washington convention?

Eddy: Well I don't know. I was at the White House several times but not with

Broun. It was about vaguely a member, NRA board that dealt with.... I visited in their treasury ... and also...

Pflug: How did you find working on that NRA... and so on. Did that work or was it just a lot of frustration and not much really...

Eddy: I don't have any recollection of a except maybe a little publicity with the Guild report.

Pflug: I gathered that all the publishers or most of them are trying to draw up the codes for their particular newspaper did there best to circumvent whatever was trying to be accomplished in terms of representation for employee groups and so on. It must have been an ongoing battle with the publishers and you try to satisfy the requirements of the code and yet never quite do it.

Eddy: I can't make any useful comment on that.

Sesnick: I remember seeing when it was ... of the anniversary about a year ago of Roosevelt birth or death, I think it was birth. I remember looking up some things back in the '33 or '40 guild reporters and I think I remember a mention of that Hyde Park meeting that you mentioned with Roosevelt. This had something to do with whether or not Roosevelt was going to throw in behind and finally support the issuants of coverage of our people underneath the NRA.

Eddy: Well you know I'm sorry, but I just don't remember why I was there. I remember very clearly the Roosevelt receiving me in his ... arm chair and I've seen the time of day that If I wanted to know why I was there I would have to get the important newspaper ... That's why I say don't ask me the dates and facts all I can give you the ...

Miller: How did Cleveland become a local number 1 you explained a little bit about that last night, but how did Cleveland become a local one.

Eddy: Well I was aware that the feeling that New Yorkers thought that they were the hardship in trying to take over and I was also aware that you had a formal organization before we got around to that point. I believe from what I hear now that Cleveland took some other action along that line and addition to that organization I don't know but anyways I remember that there was a very ... in New York shouldn't try to be a hot shot in everything.

Miller: You issued the first charter of the local. Was there a charter or so?

Eddy: There couldn't have been any charters until after the Washington meeting and again I don't remember the details of that. I do remember the one, two, three business about the Cleveland twin cities in New York.

Kanen: The point about it is that people in the providences always seem to think [unintelligible] they always felt that they looked down on us. I think that has something to do with it. We always at conventions, the New York Guild was always very popular because all of us provencial people didn't like combination from these people in New York who knew everything and we didn't know much. On the other hand I must say this that we were so imbued with this newspaper Cleveland editorial employees association, we sent Ashclap into town, I went into Toledo and I went into Akron and places like these trying to organize people in those towns to become involved in the Guild and the trade union. So we were very active people in Cleveland those for number one who served a great deal of the praise for what it was setting out to do, it was one of the aggressive agencies. On the other hand always....tending that the New York Guild was trying to dominate us in convention after convention and you could see the people in the providences ganging up to vote against

the New York Guild.

Pflug: In terms of numbers would it be a large number of delegates from New York I assume that they would have the largest block...

Kanen: Substantial number as one place. But then there were a lot of small places...

Pflug: Would gang up on New York.

Kanen: It was a conflict.

Miller: When it was called the Cleveland Newspaper Association...

Kanen: It was called the Cleveland Editorial Employees Association.

Miller: Cleveland Editorial...

Kanen: Employees Association. And that was at that meeting in the ... Hotel

Miller: Where you made the motion.

Kanen: Where I offered the motion.

Miller: Who seconded it? Did you have your second all lined up.

Kanen: Since nine people had called for this it was unanimous. Nine people had issued the call for this on this action in the call for the need [unintelligible]... It might have been someone who knows, I don't even know how to form a motion.

Miller: How many total people do you recall, just a approximately...

Kanen: I think 103. We thought that's a pretty good turn out but... wasn't all that good because I think at that time about 350 newspaper who might have been in town, Cleveland Press, the Cleveland News who might have come, if you felt like getting up on a Sunday.

Miller: Can you recall just all the names of those nine people. How many of the nine can you recall just for our records?

Kanen: L. Roberts, Ashcraft, Phail Harper, John Reese...

As you look out in Mr. Reese book I helped him write [unintelligible] everything I could in the history as I knew it. But I gave him the names at that time and they're in his book, I can't think of the page number.

Miller: What do you think the future is of the Newspaper business?

Kanen: [unintelligible] The future of the newspapers and photographer and so on. I don't understand all this business about ... computers and so on. I can't tell you what starts my car. When I was in college I was studying philosophy no less. I wasn't sure on what made my car go, I still don't.

Miller: Why pessimistic about it, I mean other than that technology has changed. Do you think newspapers will not exist in the future.

Kanen: My name is Isiah. I'm a prophet.

Pflug: What do you think is going to happen in the newspaper business Mr. Eddy? Are you as pessimistic?

Eddy: Seems to me that the concentration in one or two mediums in the enormous metropolis inhibits the function of the free press. This has been going on for all of my lifetime just as you could remember when there were several papers in Cleveland, I as a New Yorker can recall when there were at least 24 daily newspapers in general circulation in New York.

Pflug: So you see a decline in the number of newspaper as really nothing new its just an ongoing cycle for several years.

Eddy: Well the average person doesn't have much means of expression and newspaper it necessarily freedom of the press if it is going to mean anything for the average

man whose got to depend upon the publications of vast variety and really a newspapers today while they still convey a picture of society and the world cannot adequately it seems to me reflect needs of the people. The same of course is true to even bigger extent of television and radio. It seems to me that all of your freedom of the press lies more and more on the specialized periodicals.

Miller: That's where the hope is, huh.

Sesnick: What did you think yesterday when you were sitting there and I guess we got one more hurdle to overcome and maybe we will have a merger of the old ITU and young upstart Guild. Do you have any thoughts on the...

Eddy: I didn't try to really cover it in the two minutes but it was like a stone wall, the attitude of the cracked unions in the early days. The first place they didn't think that intellectuals made suitable trade union material and the printing crafts unions were the elite of the american labor movement and they didn't intend to share any perogatives or undertake any burdens. They were nice to us but the energy had to come from within our own ranks. I take it that even today the merger is made possible largely by trials and tribulations of the printing crafts themselves. Its a tradition that goes back maybe 150 years or more.

Miller: Are you both, what are your opinions on merger? Would you have voted for it yesterday?

Eddy: Oh indeed, indeed. Where are the other crafts?

Sesnick: They just finished a merger.

Eddy: Amongst themselves?

Sesnick: Yeah. There is now one other union representing the printing crafts.

Eddy: Inevitably there will be some who want to cut out the funny business and get all together.

Pflug: Thats an interesting way of putting it. The funny business.

Miller: Philosophically I imagine from the early days that the ideal of one union, the power that one union would bring in negotiations was part of your thoughts wasn't it.

Eddy: Certainly, yeah.

Miller: Just from the practical standpoint wasn't it or not?

Eddy: Yes there were people who didn't think the trade unionism was compatible with professional competence. It was the same people who didn't see any point in our being to cozy with the