

YASER AWADALLAH

Q You heard that the plant might be closed in 1990 and it might become the body shop for the new plant. I haven't heard that. I think that trucks are selling rather well and there is not that kind of competition from other...from Japan and from Europe as there in cars.

A Yeah, that is true, but I heard people say it's 1990 they shut the plant down and they will make the whole plant body shop for the next door. In case happening like that what happens to the people in the plant? If maybe they would transfer them to some other plant, but some people don't like the transfer some other plant. If they get the money for the whole seniority, I mean, how many...they work and they give you money and they go give them a choice.

Q I think it will depend on what is happening at that time. It depends they might give a choice to high seniority employees and they wouldn't give you the whole thing. They would give you part. That is what they have done in some other plants. You either get laid off, you are able to retire or you get transferred. Those are the three possibilities. So it is very unclear and I don't think they know 1990 yet. I think they are just still talking about it and I don't think any decision has been made.

A That is what we have heard right now you know.

Q Where did you hear that from?

A Some guys you know.

Q Yeah, but everybody talks.

A Some guy thought maybe 1990. I said 1990 is very soon coming you know.

Q They are talking about the Wayne Assembly Plant being closed down.

That is the plant they are talking about closing down.

A They are talking about trucks. I cannot understand why the truck. The truck we sell good you know. We have good market on truck.

Q That's right.

A And uh...even to now we are suppose to make change over in July and now there is up to September and that means we are doing very good.

And I believe this year, last five years, truck plant they do very good job and quality too.

Q Do you think it has gotten a lot better?

A It is a lot better.

Q How do you know that? Why do you think that?

A Because everybody, reallly everybody, they try hard to do a good job. Because I do. When some time I do the shocks job...

Q Explain exactly your job.

A It is my job as a shocks, the back shocks, okay when I did the shocks sometimes some of them reject so I don't put them in and right away I switch them to a good one. That means I do a good job. I don't let the shocks go in the truck bad. I let them go repairs or something like that. So I repair it before they catch them.

Q Did you used to that?

A Oh yeah.

Q You have been doing that all the time?

A All the time. All the time.

Q Do you think more people are doing that kind of quality work?

A I think the peopkle are doing that good job right now, you know. The way we see it, we see the repairers all the time stand up. They don't do nothing.

Q The repairmen just stand up.

A They stand up and they don't do nothing except they do some work, or they do the rivets. I am talking about our work, you know the rivets where they put the brackets and stuff like that. Some times the rivets come in bad too. Most of the people they do a very, very good job.

Q Are you proud of the work you do?

A Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

Q When did you hire in Yasser?

A 1972.

Q 1972.

A May 25, 1972. I am going on fifteen years. It is a long way. We were young when we hired, but now it is fifteen years older we have you know. We have some troubles some times, when you get sick and when you get injury and the company tries to force you to go back to work and I don't like that contract between the union and the company when you take sick leave or when you get sick you by their doctor you know. I don't like that. Because many doctors, you know everybody's doctor same you doctors' right? But different he gets paid under the table.

Q The third party doctor.

A The third party doctor gets paid under the table. Why? Because he tells you exactly what the company told him to tell you. If you get sick that is your body, right? Nobody feel bad except you. The doctor doesn't even know. The company doesn't care, but when you get sick...let's see...you work 10,11,12 years straight and you get sick so what happens if you take a couple of months off? If your doctor tells you do it because you have a pain or disc or you have broken legs or broken arm and sometimes you get a headache...your doctor will give you a couple of weeks or something

like that. The company sometimes they send you to a third party doctor. I don't like that.

Q Has that ever happenend to you?

A Yes. I don't like...

Q What happened?

A What happened to me when I took sick leave, I get injury from the company, the same job that I do I pick a box of nuts from the shelf. That time I think I was leave of absence...I do to Jordan and I come back a month and they give me ninety days, but what's happened is I take a month then I finish what I go for there and I come back to work. The human being when he gets to relax a month, when he comes back to work you know he gets...it is not like before...he is always to tired from the job.

Q You get out of shape?

A Yeah, so what happened I have nuts to stock my job. The nuts are over 40 lbs.

Q 40 lb. boxes.

A Yeah it is over 40 lbs. So I am always doing it you know, but that time I had neck tension so I picked it up and I had gloves and those gloves are new so when I didn't have so he slipped in my hand. I tried to catch them again and that's what I have the bin.

Q Oh you pulled your back out?

A Yes, but see I don't recognize the pain right away. I got some, but maybe it is gone you know. Maybe two days I go to see my doctor. The doctor informed me that I got a bad back and he started giving me a massage and I told him I can't get up in the morning like I used to be. I would get up you know with pain in my back and it is hard to straighten up. So I said what the hell is

going on? So I go to the doctor and told him what happened to me. He said well maybe you hurt your back on the job or something like that you know. I think when I picked up the nuts box that happened to me so, so, so and he said well you have to take a couple of weeks off until your muscles relax and he give me a massage in his office and he have pills. I said okay and he gave me a month. They accepted it. I go back and the doctor over there when he saw me like that, the company doctor checked my back...he used to be a man, not a lady.

Q Dr. Costello?

A I don't know his name and he told me yeah I could see you back, you got enough some kind of pain or something. When I have that, see that happened I think in 1974. It was when I used to work in the tailgate box. I used to pick them up all the time.

Q You used to pick up the tailgate all the time?

A Yeah I hurt myself from that, but see I go to hospital and I come home every time I get pain. I put myself in a hot tub here, relax because I don't want to take off. You know how expensive it is, the house payment and bills. So we didn't have enough money to take sick leave all the time. So I worked, because I like to work. I do not like to stay home. I don't want to go on sick leave for \$200.00. So I go to work and this is 1974 and this happened to me in 1984 when I take my sick leave and the doctor gave me a month and I changed it, I changed my doctor. Because somebody told me this is not a specialist for the back. I know some guy, doctor, specialist and he have his office and he is close to me...between Livernois and Davison. It is easy for me to go there. I was about to go to West Road and some place. I started go there and

that was a plant man and he examined me and he saw my pain and sent me to the hospital for x-ray. The x-ray in the hospital showed what caused the pain. I had like lower slipped disc. So this doctor be my surgeon and I go two times or three times a week. I went to the hospital for massage. I feel good because I like heat on my back. The company started push behind me. They sent me to their doctor on 7 Mile Road. I don't even know where it is. I had a hard time to find it. I go over there and I didn't like the doctor when he started questioning his patient like a detective.

Q Like interrogation.

A Like some detetive come and ask you for something you know. This is not the way the doctor do to his patient, okay he is a doctor from the company and the company sent you over there, but he is still a doctor to save, to check for human being right? Human being is supposed to be treated by. He is a doctor and he has to check and he have to talk nice to his patient. I don't like him in the first place even the way he starts to talk and he took me to x-ray. He checked it up and everything and his report to the company...I don't have anything wrong with me. He has to go back to work even with no what do you call it?

Q Restriction.

A No restrictions and I get mad. They forced me to go back to work and it is not my job, it is not the job I used to be. If anyone goes on sick leave and goes back to work they should give you the same job. They give me a hard time, from line to line and they put me one time in chassis. I started to bend too much. When I bend it hurts. Before lunch one hour I told them I wanted to go see

the medical, Thursday, he told me okay I got to call him up. They called the first day and he come back to me after one hour and he told me I forgot to tell you that the nurse she told me she had to change the water, the hot water over there, and I said okay when do you want to send me? Just give me another half hour. I give them another half hour.

Q And your back was hurting you all the time.

A I told them I wanted to go to First Aid. When I bend I cannot get up fast. I started to loose my balance, my legs start hurting.

Q Get numb.

A And he came and told me I forgot I came to tell you I called the doctor, she was lady, the lady....she told the boss don't bring him to the first aid because his report has nothing. What I wanted to find out what can they know, the doctor inside the factory or the boss or the union people, do not the patient or the workers doesn't go when they ask for first aid. That time I see Sam.

Q The union representative.

A He is not mine, but first when he came I asked him and I asked him so, so, so you know. I asked for medical and they refused to let me go. He told me they have the right to refuse to let you go because your third party doesn't have nothing for you. Temperature, you know I get so temperature, I get mad, I get nervous and even the black guy inside the labor relation...I don't know his name...the skinny guy...

Q Craig.

A He came, the boss called him and he came and he started on just like they don't care. They really don't care about...I feel they really don't care about Arabs when they work in the company hurt or not. Besides we work too many years there and I don't think so the

company have the right to make discrimination between white, black, Arab or any kind of when he works inside the company because all of them the same. They get the same pay.

Q Yeah that goes on a lot.

A And they don't let me go to the medical. They told me I am not allowed to go to the medical.

Q That is bullshit.

A Yeah. Then I started to fight back again. They sent me to the second opinion, third party doctor and this doctor he find in my back, he find disc and they give him a report this guy is normal, but he has something in his back, no bending, no twisting, no heavy over 25 lbs.

Q You won.

A They shut their mouth off.

Q That's right, but you had to keep fighting.

A So I go to my lawyer to sit with the company lawyer and he asked me what do you want from the company. I told him I don't need nothing from the company. I am not asking for money. I know I have a good job. They give me about \$35,000-\$40,000 a year. I am not asking for them to give me money, couple a thousand to let me go. I am working here. I like to work, but the only thing I want you to tell the company don't bother me and leave me alone and don't try to give me a hard time. When I ask for first aid they have to send me to first aid.

Q The rule according to the contract...

A I told them what kind of contract do we have? What kind of rules do we have?

9

Q Any time you need to go to medical...

A We are not slaves, this is the United States, we are not slave here. The slave times gone. We are not slave. We are human beings. We work hard for company. I am not working for somebody else. I am not working for my boss like the way everybody think. When the boss comes and you work for me. I am not work for him. He has his job, a boss, to watch everybody, but I am not work for him. I work for Ford Company. Those people they pay me. I am not work for the boss or supervisor or general foreman. They are bullshit all of them. Some get fired too. I am going there to work by rules, by contract, UAW and the company. That is what I believe.

Q Since you met with your lawyer they leave you alone now?

A They leave me alone. Heh I do good job. If you go to trim ask Smith.

Q I know.

A They told you about me. Everywhere I go they tell you I am good worker. Since I hired to now. So what when you get sick, I think the company they knows at labor relations, the guy in labor relations they knows what when he likes to work and what when he doesn't like to work. This is not what some you know like general supervisor he put the pressure. The general foreman, he put the pressure and the supervisor to tell him to go and put the pressure on this guy or this guy is my friend let him switch jobs. Or this guy he go with the supervisor he go drink beer outside, he go always fishing or hunting because they are two friends to take care of him. He doesn't pay him. We have to many utility people. The

company, we have one guy who work in the line about over two or three months now, he still cannot do the job. They always got a guy with him, the guy who helped him they take him from the job and teach him the job, they put him in the mix, but he's not mix...to me he is not mix man. The mix man has to help everybody, but he is stuck with this guy all the time. All day, twenty-four hours, he helped him. If he goes a little bit, two minutes, the guy go in the hole. This guy was on the job for over two months. I don't want to say over three months. Over two months and now he can't do the job. So when I ask for help no help.

Q They don't give you help.

A What I see, this two guys that seems to me, two guys work for one job. That means the company pay one job twice. The supervisor doesn't care, but hte company loose money.

Q Why does that bother you?

A It bothers me why everybody gets three days to do the job. I am not against this guy, but this guy he never do the job. They are supposed to find him another job.

Q I see.

A But this guy he always about four months on the job he cannot do it. Why always help him? And the supervisor he should know this company pay this guy money. One guy on a job, right? Now the company pays two guys and one job. That means the company loose \$80,000 a year for one job. I see the workers care about the company, how come always they say the supervisor doesn't care about the job.

Q So you have been there fifteen years now?

A Almost fifteen years.

11

Q Almost fifteen years. What has been the best part of working in the plant?

A Well I used to, the first time I was hired, I worked in trim. I worked in trim about ten years. I liked it. I liked my job there because I used to work relief man.

Q You were a relief man?

A In trim and afternoon when we was second shift, we had a lot of fun you know. There was no complaint about it. But like I said if you liked your job you didn't care where you worked. That is most important you know. Some people don't like to go to the body shop. Some people didn't like to go work in the frame line. Some people didn't like to go work in different departments.

Q You work in the frame line now right?

A I work in the frame line now, so it doesn't mean where you go maybe you find a hard job you know. You get overloaded and some guy he takes sick leave two or three months and they put you in the job because it is hard you know. You start talking about my job is hard, my job is overloaded...my, my, my...nobody care about you. They don't come and look how you work. If you fast enough with the job and you got little time, they come and put some more work on you. It doesn't fit, it seems to me it doesn't fit that way.

Q What do you think about when you are doing a job?

A Right now, what I am doing?

Q What do you think about, how do you pass the time of day?

A I'm singing.

Q You sing?

A I'm singing.

Q What kind of songs do you sing?

A Well I sing in Arab you know and talk to my sometime read something you know. You talk to yourself about in case you got some money what you gonna do, you are going to go and open your own business and something like that. Because you are not going to put yourself all the way down on the end of the line. You know I didn't have no education. I can't go learn computers. I can't go learn in a school or go in college to learn. See my English is broke. I read and write, maybe I read that this one like you read but some time I do not understand what they say.

Q What has been the hardest thing about...what has been the hardest thing for you to be a Palestian coming to the United States and working in the plant?

A There's nothing. It is not hard.

Q It hasn't been hard?

A It has not been hard. You know we can't go anywhere to work without no hard. We communicate easy than any human being in the world. We could learn the language very fast. That is they way I feel. We didn't make any discrimination at all between any kind of the people. You know you cannot live without people. You know between people and people is different. You know we should communicate together.

Q That's right.

A And all that war going to be fighting each other. When the people communicate with each other that is the peace coming from, from the people who communicate. I am not against any religions. I don't talk about any religions. If you got yours and I got mine. You believe some and I believe some. That is your life.

Q Do you think other people in the plant have been as accepting as you have been?

A I can't say that because some people in the plant and I was hurt to when something happened in the Middle East like remember when Iran take the hostages?

Q Yeah.

A Okay, what the Arabs people want in the United States? We work here so many years, we are citizens of the United States so why United States people, I don't say all of them, some of them...that's a few anyway, but those of you...the war between us that what caused problem. That what they give us a hard time, the way they talk.

Q What do you mean?

A They say heh Iranian why don't you go back to your country. Heh camel jockey why are you coming here? Why don't you go back to your country? We didn't shut our mouth, we stop him. We talked and said the United States is a free country. The same protect you the same to protect me when I came here and I am a citizen of the United States. The same as you who were born here they accepted me to be a citizen of the United States. I trust the United States. I respect the United States. I don't hate the United States. If I hated the United States I would go back. I don't have to live here. Everybody love the United States. Between governments, the governments that's them problem. I told you too many times between governments or leaders to leaders this is the problem coming. Leave them alone, but between me and you we work here on the line. We come to make a living. We are not coming to fight everyday. I see you more than I see my family.

Q That's true.

A I see you ten hours everyday. I can't see my family ten hours

everyday. So why we say Iranian or Libyan or Palestinian this is politics. I don't know what is going on here. I know I lost my house, I lost my home.

Q When? Tell me you came here in...?

A 1971.

Q 1971, what happened that you decided to come to the United States?

A Well I'll tell you how. I'll tell you how, after my mother she came here.

Q When did she come?

A She came in, I think, 1970. Okay with all my brothers and sisters they came here so I lived alone. I get from Jordan in 1970 before they came to the United States.

Q Your family left after the September massacre by King of the September?

A Yeah, that is the last time they had fighting between the revolution and the Jordan. I was before them go to Jordan.

Q I see.

A I didn't see the fight over there. I left to work.

Q In the oil fields?

A No, no, no, I go to work to find some kind of job, but I work over there as a mechanic you know. So my mother came here and she gave me papers like you got to bring me over here. So I came here in 1971. Since I stayed I got my job, I'm happy, I've been married.

Q You met your wife here?

A No I go back married. So I have my son. So what does the people...

Q So what do you think it is? Why do some of your coworkers make it difficult for you? What do you think goes on in their heads?

A In my head?

Q No, in their heads? Why do you think they call you camel jockey, go back to the Middle East?

A Because that is the news, they are coming from the TV all the time. They hate Arabs right away. You know they don't say what has happened in politics in all country in the Middle East that the people have nothing to do with it. Or the Arabs American people doesn't do nothing good. This is politics and they should, the news and the United States, let the American people knows the Arab coming here under the United States control, under their law and many, many Arabs they have citizens and they should know, tell them this you know. It was kind of hate without no stop that. When you come in the company you told me to come and chat. What do you expect me to say to you? I'm telling you I am not a camel jockey, but I proud to become a jockey 2,000 years ago. Why don't you go now to my country to see how we live over there? If you got a question to me and I answer it, I don't like it, don't tell me why don't you go back to your country.

Q Let me take a step further back. I want to get a sense of when you were a little boy, you are how old? You are about the same age as me, what are you...35?

A Right now I am 40.

Q You are 40, okay, I'm 38 already. So you were born in 1946, right after the war before...

A Two years.

Q Two years after the war before Israel was...

A The first half of our country.

Q What happened to your family during the 40's and 50's? What did

your parents do?

A Okay the 40's and 50's we was living in the west end. Okay this is the first half of our country that the Palestians country, this is 1948. What they call the west end 1967, okay this is west end, then my father he used to work with some business, okay they go...

Q What kind of business?

A Some little business there they sell windows and supplies, some thing like that you know, in Jordan and we moved to Jordan in 1956.

Q Why did you move?

A Because my father, his job over there.

Q His job changed.

A His job over there and we was about 1956 we go there. I was too young and I don't know what was too hard. We got big and big and we started to understand, we have country there and we lost it, you know Jewish and America and at that time it was British so we said maybe some day we could make peace you know. I never heard it. From 1948 to now we, they would search for peace and they never find it. They never find that peace. I don't against any Jews.

Q I am Jewish. Did you know that?

A I am not against, I have you I have friend Fred. I have too many Jewish people and I believe one thing the Jews and the Arabs is cousins no matter what, it's cousins. If we look behind too many, 2,000 years we are really cousins, but what the problem coming from the rich people. The rich people they never live in the country with peace. They always search for money, money, money and power. Not what causes the problem. Not even just in Palestine, it is all over. All over!

Q So if someone said to you and I'll say it because I want you to

have a chance to say what is important to you, well those Arabs did it again they hijacked another plane in Pakistan, do you think that is good? Are you in favor of that?

A Okay I heard yesterday on the news and they bring Ali Turkey for Libya and he denies. He said we didn't have nothing to do with it.

He said well that's what happened, maybe Libya, maybe Syria, maybe Iraq, maybe PO, they doesn't know what who caused all that problem, but I believe all Arabs government doesn't like the hijack or any terrorist, complete, but the people of the United States they never ask why those terrorist, what you call them terrorists, and I don't call them terrorists.

Q You don't call them terrorists? What do you call them?

A Uh, uh, I don't call them terrorists because they why they do that.

What kind of problem they caused him to do that? They don't come and ask them heh guys why you do that? They asked him, they have the answer to them. They say we lost our country and no one even tries to come in and recognize us if we are doing it.

Q I understand, I understand.

A No one in the United States...

Q Nobody asks why.

A Nobody asks why. The United States because they have the power to control everything. The Israels they have a power because the United States they back them up all the time. They have to do what they have to do, but adults they don't have to protect their house or fight for his land. This is what our people get mad for.

Q Nobody asks why.

A Nobody asks why what causes it.

A Even the Arab's government they didn't help Palestians. Those Palestians are some kind of animals, sickness and the whole world they have to destroy. Why United States, if there is a way they have super power, and they control the whole world and right now they back or they help Israel, say heh guys this country will know this country is Palestian, 2,000 years ago and I already know...I am 100% United States government they knows exactly this is Palestian.

Q It is Palestine.

A Jews come in, Israel come in, that's fine, but guys heh we don't like to make all the time trouble, fighting between human beings, between Jewish and Palestine. To kill each other and we watch, we don't like that. Guys we have to make certain if you it or not. Jewish go back to where you belong.

Q Where should they go?

A 1948. Go back there. This is a Palestian country and this is Jewish country and I have to take care of you...I mean America. I have to take care of that.

Q Let me ask you a question, how when you were young and your father had a good job as a business...you weren't thinking about oh you wanted to move to the United States.

A We never thought that.

Q That wasn't something you thought about.

A When we was young we never thought about coming to the United States. We never, never. I'll tell you something, when my father died it was 1964 okay, I take care of...I go work in his place to take care of my brother and sister was too young. I worked in 70, then everybody go and then they came to the United States. Nobody

looked for me over there. I have to come here to protect my family too. So the United States allowed us to come in. So we come.

Q Where do your brother and sister work?

A Now I got my sisters, all of them got married. I have my young brother, he got to the army and he get service two years and right now since 1983 until now I don't know where he is. I try to find him, but police doesn't help, the army doesn't help, the American Red Cross doesn't tell me where he go. The only thing they told me is he is discharged from the army in 1983.

Q You haven't seen him since then?

A No, no. I go to the Red Cross and they say we can't help you. You have to get a private detective. I say what the hell is going on? You are the police and I come to you. If anyone have trouble he comes to the police first and you have communications and you have telephone and everything you know to call him, computers. I give you the name and I give you the social security and you have to look at it. I don't care what country, I want my brother. They told me he is over twenty-five. I want my brother. I come to you guys to find my brother. I want my brother. My mother is sick and she was alone in her house. I want my brother for my mother. I don't know how to look for him.

Q Did you go see someone like Abdeen?

A Abdeen Jabar why?

Q I don't know, wouldn't he know where to help any?

A No I go to some lawyers and they told me we can't help you about that. You have got to go to the private detectives. So the private dectectives you need a lot of money.

Q You need lots of money.

A So why the police doesn't take care of that. The police should report. They have a computer to work for the whole United States and they have detectives like the FBI. Maybe they tell them this man is missing and his brother wants him. By social security number, they don't care. They never knew where he was.

Q Your sister is married to someone, where does he work? Does she work outside the home?

A No they doesn't work. One of them she get after eleven years she was here. And I don't know why, the law some people, she come young here. She can't read and write Arabic, which she was young here she went to school and she is only English. But when she get after eleven years she was here she go to quit, two years she lost her I don't know why. It is not suppose to. She lost her alien card you know and was his brother here and his daughter here, they make ham. They make it out of you know.

Q I see.

A They bring them here to make other arrangements for my sister. I don't know why they have to lost after eleven years. They are not suppose to ask you for alien card.

Q I don't know much about that.

A That is what all is happening man.

Q Since you have been in the plant, you have been in the plant fifteen years, has the union been able to help you or the employee involvement program? Do you get involved with that at all, the EI program?

A I don't like the EI program, it is nothing to do with it. When a guy gets trouble he doesn't go get trouble with the EI. He could get trouble with the company and the company give him big hassle and small trouble you go to the union.

Q The union has been helpful to you?

A Yes, a bit. I like the union.

Q Has it gotten better or worse, or changed over the years?

A It gets weak little bit.

Q Little bit weaker?

A Little bit weaker, not like before.

Q What was it like before?

A Like before 1975, you know before 1975 it was good, strong, but now you know he go to many too much.

Q How has that happened? You can tell everything. You think that that the union has gotten weaker since Ronald Reagan has become president?

A Yeah. Since Reagan everybody starts crying. I like Nixon. I don't care what he do.

Q You like Nixon?

A I like Nixon.

Q What did you like about Nixon?

A Well about Nixon everybody was war, every company offered them wide door for anyone to come to work, but after Nixon we all understood the Japs, starting going down, down, down. More people out of jobs and they always tell us they want to protect job, they want to make more job. We don't see that. Now you know five years now we work one shift, ten hours every day. Why we work ten hours a day and

and five or six days for one shift? What has happened to the next shift, second shift?

Q You don't like the over time?

A I don't like over time.

Q Why do you work it?

A Why do I work it? I have to. I have to because I don't have the right to say no I want to work eight years. The human being he can't work no ten hours, more than eight hours. Eight hours for your body, eight hours to rest again. Eight hours, they give you, you make a living. You make a living for eight hours. Well let somebody else do the other eight hours. It is better to walk in the street and there is lot of trouble in the street. Like you worked in hours, I didn't work in hours. I get laid off or something like that. I lost my house, I lost my family, I lost everything.

Q Did that happen to a lot of workers as well?

A Yeah.

Q Lot of lay off?

A A lot of people they lost their houses and they can't pay, they go on welfare. So what is happening if the United States doesn't have work, believe me the people they start to shoot each other from door to door. We have workers, still we have lay off, lot of shooting. Murder, rape, robbery and steal, every day you hear someone they go in the bank, someone go in the party store, someone you know kill, kill, kill. So what pissed me off sometime the United States they should be the clean, clear country. United

States is a free country. What the people think, people coming from the outside, they figure the United States is called a free country because everybody is free. They have the right to walk, to sit, to talk, to carry too many thousand dollars in pocket. Nobody touch it, but when they came here they found different. They found it different.

Q You thought that people think it would be very safe here.

A Very safe, but when they come here they can't even...they scare when they closed in their house, they scare. I am scared to leave my house alone, somebody break in. Next step, about the teenager...the teenager is the most trouble in this country.

Q Why do you think that is?

A Because nobody can touch him.

Q What do you mean?

A If you see a teenager here bother you, bother your wife, bother your sister, bother your son, if you want to go and stop him and slap his face because sometimes you know him, he is next door or something like that. When you slap his face or you want to fight, little bit like this, smash him a little bit, it doesn't mean you want to kill him...but when he go to the police because this teenager he start to sue you and then you go to jail or you go to court or something like that. This never happened in our country like that.

Q It didn't happen back in your country?

A I don't like that school. The way the school teach the kids. I want more strong teacher. I want more strong law. When the kids do something, the students do something we have to punish and to

punish his parents too because we see and you know a lot of cases in those schools with teenager guards, they shoot everybody and knives and drugs and stuff like that. The teacher can't say nothing about it. He can't even tell him what is going on. So why do we have school? The school to teach the students how to deal with other people. To teach them good. Not when he sees a student he have a knife. That teacher cannot say nothing. If the teacher slaps his face or he hits him, take him to jail. The teacher is something else. He is definitely a human being. The teacher you should everybody respect his teacher. You teach me one word and I'll be slave for you. Not when you teach me and you like to teach me and you say son I'm going to slap your face and I'll take you to jail. I'll shoot you over there. This is not the law. This is not the way you teach the people. That's why too many kids you show them in the street, is fucked up. The parents are drunk and they doesn't take care of their kids.

Q Do you find that those problems are going on in the, among your Arab, your Palestians?

A We don't have that.

Q You don't have that problem?

A We don't have that, we don't have. If I was teacher, if I was...

Q I mean here in the United States, the Palestians that are your child, well he is young yet. He is ten years old?

A Yes.

Q The teenagers are they acting in the same way as some of your neighbors children are beginning to act?

A No.

Q You are able to...

A Our children here, we don't teach the way the American teach their kids. We teach them, heh listen go to school, go play nice...good.

And you have to listen to your teacher. You have to do your homework and you have to do so so and we watch them all the time. See we have different conscious and different systems. If we kids and the girls, we watch the girls all the time. We don't let them go play outside. We don't let them go stay the night. We don't let them to allow boyfriend, girlfriend. So we teach them in our house, teach Arabic. There is no way any people who come to the United States, they teach their kids the same thing.

Q Right.

A They teach them their own language.

Q Do you think your son...he is still young, so my questions are a little hard...do you think he...does he have mixed feelings? Does he get discriminated against at school?

A No.

Q Does he have mixed feelings about being a child of immigrants and some of his other friends...children of immigrants vs long time ago?

A No. You see I talk about my kids right now. Somebody ask me and say I'm American.

Q He says he is American?

A He told someone in school I'm American and I born here. He like it here too.

Q Has he ever been back home?

A Yeah. He was three times. I let him go three times there and visit her family. Because my family is here.

Q Your wife's family is from...

A From Jordan. Palestian, but from Jordan.

Q Was she in a refugee camp area or in...?

A No they have a house in Jordan now.

Q In Jordan, uh uh.

A They are from 1948 back, so when they get out the first time they go to the west bank, what you call the west bank. Then the second time her brothers and father used to work in Venezuela. Okay when the second time so they go to Jordan and her father and her brothers were in Venezuela. So her mother, she stayed with her mother and her sister in Jordan. Small protect there, I mean nobody touch. So they are still there.

Q But your son says that when someone asks him he is American.

A Yeah he is an American. You know he don't have the accent even.

Q Very little.

A Arab accent.

Q He says my name is Mike.

A His name is . He picks this name because some kids here they call him , but in the school it is easy to say Mike.

Q Sure.

A Easy to say Mike.

Q Which is what all immigrants and children of immigrants have done in the United States forever. You go to school and you say my name is Mike. You find a name that is easy.

A Now they call me Sam.

Q Sam? Is that what they call you?

A They call me Sam in the factory.

Q I didn't know that.

A Yeah they call me Sam. My name is Yasser, like you know, but sometimes it is hard to say it you know. Pick an easy name for you

and that is it. Especially with the last name. In our country we don't have that.

Q You don't have what?

A A nickname.

Q No nicknames?

A No. Like my son his name is . Sometimes they call me by my name, all right? Sometimes they call me by my son's name. Like Abbul, . Abbul means father.

Q Father of .

A By the first son you call your name.

Q I see.

A So what you got your son?

Q Micah, Micah.

A A girl, a boy?

Q Micah.

A That you call Abbul Micah.

Q Right, I'm the father of Micah.

A See that is what we say even in Jewish, it would be called by Ben.

Q Ben. Yeah.

A You know we come close to war, Arabs over there. The last time I heard from the news they say the Arabs, like 75 Arabs they talk and speak Hebrew. More Jewish talk and speak Arab. That's why the governments are scared too.

Q Oh sure.

A Why the Arabs talk more, the Jewish talk more in Arab?

Q Are you saying that the Israelis are talking Arabic, Arabics are talking Hebrew?

A But 75% from Arab talk more Hebrew and they talk and read and

write.

Q Right, that's right.

A But the Jewish they got law percentage from the Jewish people they talk and read and write Arab.

Q Right, right. What do you want for your son? What do you want for your son to do?

A Well I try to teach him, right now I take care of him, so you can't see in the future. My future and my son's future I think and I hope he is a doctor or engineer. I am not allowed him to go back to the factory. No way.

Q Why not, it has been good for you?

A It is good for me because I am a hard worker and I don't find myself education, but my I have to my son education to make him relax, to give him a better life all his life. So we try to save money and we work hard for our son.

Q Do you want him to stay in the United States?

A Well that is up to him.

Q It is up to him.

A It is up to him. If I have money, if I save money, maybe if I still work in the company until my retirement we go back to our country and that day my son he used to be in the college. See what is happening. When he finishes college I think the same time I'll be in retirement. That's up to him. He want to stay here to work as doctor, as engineer or as anything or he can go back with me over there to work.

Q Have you been able to save money?

A Yes we save money.

Q How have you been able to save?

A I save money, you know we don't spend too much money in our life. It is my house like that. It is too expensive house. Money people they say a lot of things and junk and couches and you know I got just the way I want it. I love the way we are right now. I have car like somebody else. My wife she have a car. We pay insurance, we pay bills, we pay house rent and something like that. What's left we put in our savings. I don't drink. I don't go to the bars. We don't traveling too much. We don't bowl or go in the leagues or something like that. I don't have a second house. You save some money. Why we save the money, because we care about our kids. My father lived without no money and when he died he left five people behind him, five young sisters and brothers. So without no money I had to take care of them and I had to work hard for them. I don't want to do that to my son. Because when you get married, you have, you got in your head, you have the responsibility to work for your wife and your children to make them safe in the future. As many people, they don't give a damn about their kids. This is our life. It doesn't mean married, heh let her go where she go or let him go where he go. No. We pay a lot of money for wives to stay home all the time.

Q Explain that to me.

A When we get married, we don't get married free. When we get married we go family to family to get them daughters, they accept us or me to get married to their daughter.

Q So you went to your daughter's family?

A Right.

Q I mean your wife's family and said I would like to marry your daughter.

A Right. They had given me a week to ask about me, how I am

doing...I have a job? Did I married? Did I go drink? Did I go in the bars? I go with the girls? They have to ask me, you know they ask other peoples. How is family? They are nice family? He can protect our daughter when he marries her. These are all the questions. You got a week when you get...so

Q When Jarrad was telling me he did that...

A Everything okay, they say okay, we have a custom, simple money. We talk about money now. How much money you want? Not to buy your daughter, but see sometime you have to give a father money, her father money to buy her clothes and jewelry. That's what most girls same thing. You can't go heh you buy everything. No, no. We have money, \$2,000, \$4,000 whatever all right? Sometimes if you are like cousins take it and you support her.

Q So you gave...

A You know the man he give a father of his bride money to start give her clothes, buy her clothes and jewelry.

Q It all goes back to the daughter.

A It goes back to you. Sometimes they pay more. Sometimes her father give her more than that. But this is a custom.

Q Right.

A Not like other, I think in India or Egypt...

Q What do they do?

A They give their daughter every thing. The man he doesn't have to pay nothing. See that's we are different custom.

Q I see.

A If you have a daughter and you are poor and you can't give her that much you know, she is stuck in your face and nobody marry her.

Q I see.

A A man he has to take care of everything. So why I give her my daughter, he can give me the money to get his wife some jewelry.

Q Are you active in our community center? Do you know the folks who work at excess or any?

A No I don't.

Q You don't relate to any of that?

A I don't go there. I don't like those what you talk about. I don't like to go there. I am not politics. Some people they have, politics or they have something to do with it. They have education and they like to help people. Doesn't have education see, they go there. But to me I am a factory man. After ten hours you don't have no where to go. You come home and you go to sleep.

Q Let me go back to the plant a little. Have you had some foremen that have been good to you?

A I believe that every foremen I have worked with is good. You know why because I don't bother.

Q You don't bother anybody?

A Maybe I work the whole ten hours and I don't say one word. I just keep myself on the job, do my job and that's it.

Q When you said you used to work afternoon shift in trim and relief and you were the relief man on the line, which line?

A Line one.

Q Line one, how did you have fun?

A Well with each other you know, like we have fun, you know lik I give you break, okay and you go outside and bring food, pepsi and something like that. It is not like now, it's afternoon more.

Q The afternoon shift was friendlier?

A Friendlier than the day shift. You know we would talk to each other and stuff like that. Not like that on the day shift. Everybody knows this is true. Afternoon shift is more friendly than the day shift.

Q How come?

A I don't know. Maybe because most of them big seniority, they act like that, or they think themselves big seniority that's it you know. I don't know.

Q There are a lot more supervisors around during the day shift. Lot more engineers and everybody running around.

A No they didn't have that many in the afternoons.

Q In the afternoons there are not that many.

A No. I don't know.

Q Why do you think there have been all the lay offs in the auto industry?

A Why?

Q Yeah. What do you think caused all the lay offs?

A Well I call this is the game they play, so if every company says we have good profit then we lose money, but the company they like to save money and that's why to put the pressure on the people to work ten hours every day or six or seven hours a week. To make more money and save money.

Q Why did they start doing that?

A They want to save money. They want to save money for themselves.

Q But they didn't do that in 1975.

A 1975 is different, maybe the government doesn't like that. The government doesn't care about the people, they go on the street or they go on welfare or something like that. Because a lot of people

they go on welfare and they are not allowed to be on welfare. Because a lot of people get welfare money and then they are working someplace else, under the table. The government money costs us tax. The employees, workers, they pay more tax than the businessman people.

Q Sure. My question is why do you think, you know when you came here and started working the plant, both shifts were working, they were hiring people and anybody could get a job in the auto plants. Now they can't.

A That's the Japanese, you know cars. Japanese cars they sell all over the world and I think it is cheaper than in the United States. And the United States they are starting to complain about that. So my question, if you start complaining about something why bring them here? Why do you let them allow to buy companies here? Why you deal with him? And I don't know. They make a game of the name for the people. They say it is always the Japanese responsibility for our economy, for our auto workers. I believe most of them is American company there.

Q American companies that bring the Japanese cars over?

A Like Chrysler. Like my car. I have a four door Chrysler, but this car Chrysler Japanese engine. So why do they bring them from here to here? Cheap, cheap. I mean cheap labor over there, or something they want to cost them more money when they bring them over here. The government lost money because the government they have to pay money, welfare for the people who are not working. Government should control everything.

Q So you think the government has not been doing there job?

A No. I'll tell you the truth, no. If I confront Reagan I would say he is not doing his job. He is doing his job just for the rich

people to get more rich, but the people know who are poor he doesn't even see them. He doesn't see those kind of people and those people they are protected by the United States. The poor people they protect the United States because the poor people all of them are workers. They work hard, besides they are soliders too. That what Reagan and his government they have to look first. The poor people when the grow up with feeling for them country, they stand good for their country, but when government start like what kind of animals they have and walk on him, when them kids grow up they the United States government.

Q So you think people who are being laid off, their kids, that Reagan by doing what he is doing is make Americans hate America because of the American government?

A That's right. Because of the government, not the country. You know when my kids they grow up and I told them why don't you have no money, and I said because of the government they doesn't care of us. So when they grow they say goddam government. We are America why does Reagan send billions of dollars outside? Heh you have a lot of people without work and need help here. It's like the farmers, like the farmers there, this is the farmers best part of the country and they give us food. Why doesn't help him? Do you hear a couple of guys they kill themselves in the farmers. He always comes and shakes his head in the TV and say well we do that and we do that and he never did. Just when somebody out of this country, other nation, need the money, heh we have to do it and he gives them the check. This money belong to us, not belong to Reagan. He should fight for him when you...lot of people doesn't like that.

Q Why do you think he won by so many votes then? The American people must like that.

A Heh wait a minute, it's in Egypt, Sudan he won 99/99. Do you think the whole people like him? None of them vote for him.

Q But here they voted for him.

A How do we know? How do we know how he win? I know the whole plant where we work, they don't want to vote for him. Too many people wanted to vote for him. How he win? I don't know.

Q What do you think about all the automation? Do you have any robots where you work? Or any new machines?

A No my line doesn't have, but I saw one of them in body shop. In welding.

Q It welds?

A In the body shop. I heard they want to bring one for the tires. I don't know if they put one in yet or not, but they want to put one in tires.

Q Robots for the tires?

A I don't know if they bring them over and start work on them yet. Well I tell you if they want to start to put the robot in for the company then let the robot buy the cars. If we have a good strong people and a good strong union they don't let too many robots inside the company, because it costs people jobs you know.

Q Based on what you were saying before about in your culture that women stay home and raise the family, take care of the home and raise the child, was it hard to work in the plant next to women, because you had a lot of women in trim in the afternoon shift in 1975, 1976, what did you think of that? How did that work out for

you?

A Okay to me, the woman should take care of their house. They give them too much freedom for the woman. The woman start working in companies just like a man and they can't do it. They can't do it the same man as he does. Besides they have trouble with their husbands if they are married because when the first check they have in their hand for \$400-\$500 they say what the hell I don't need my husband. If her husband say anything she says get out of here I don't want you. So what he gonna do, it is like she has a dog and she don't like that dog and she throw him out. If he go to the court, the court comes on the side of the woman. Heh what you got?

You got this house. This is for your wife. Oh your money have it for you. I don't like that too. I don't think I am against any woman to be free, but not the way they act like now because all the money...like me and my wife, my wife she doesn't work. Everything here is mine right? Because I work for it hard. It is my money. What she has the house and cars and stuff like that...It's my money! But when we get divorced she go to court and court I'll bet you she give her everything and let me raise my son too.

Q But she works hard too right? She works hard to raise you, to take care of your house? To take care of your child?

A No sir that is her job.

Q It is your job to provide the money.

A That's her job to be in the house.

Q But she works hard, is my only question.

A I work hard more than her.

Q I see.

A To raise her up, to let her live here. The woman job, this by God,

Q Oh the job was posted.

A And she said I saw it I'll take it. General foreman at that time was Ken Reilly and I swear I used to be good with him and he used to friend...so I told him what he do sometime in the lines.

Q You help out.

A I help him too much because he come from upstairs, downstairs and doesn't know nothing. So I told him since I saw that job and the labor relations give it to me.

Q Labor relations gave you the job after you signed up for it, okay?

A And he get mad. He came and told me why you sign that job. You told me you don't want to be a utility. I said I didn't tell you I didn't want to be a utility. I sign it like somebody else. Maybe somebody else got more seniority than me. Besides I know the whole job, so why you get mad at me? I think he want to give to Kathy because Kathy and him used to go out and stuff like that. And I get mad too, when you get temperature we can't stop ourselves.

Q Tempers get hot.

A That's it, because he is wrong. The way he talk to me is wrong. He don't even have to come and ask me and he start push, okay I took that job and he start push Oscar. You know that black guy Oscar? Oscar is a suck ass, I'm telling you that. He is scared of supervisors. He is not allowed to be a supervisor. He start push Oscar behind me. Oscar was in the whole and we put the boxes over there to repair it. I don't touch it. I don't touch the box to repair it, they put it over here, put it over there and I say what the hell is going on? He don't want me to be a utility. Heh you my boss you don't want me, just let me go. You don't have to harm like that way. He told me no I think my general foreman he push me

harder. Wait a minute now. I said listen this is a house business, not a whore business. If you that take her to your goddam house and do whatever you do with her, but here is house business. I took my job from labor relations, not from you. You don't want me go to labor relations and say I don't want this guy to be a utility. She got six months and she don't know nothing. I got over five years and I know the whole jobs. He got mad and stuff like that. I don't care about him. I do my job. What he do, Robbie Donaldson, black guy, okay he used to be a utility and he go on sick leave for so many...

Q What does utility do?

A Utility do, he has to cover the jobs.

Q Covers the job.

A Sometime they used to put a box in a hole to repair it and he got to repair it. He sweep the line and stuff like that.

Q He is an extra man?

A Like an extra man?

Q You were a utility for line #1?

A I was for the box line.

Q For the box line and line #1.

A Box line.

Q Box line.

A There wasn't a line #1.

Q Oh.

A There wasn't a line #1.

Q Like now. Then what are the jobs on the box line? I want to get a picture of it.

A The job in the box line, we do the box. We put the tailgate.

Q You put the tailgate on the box.

A We put the chrome around the tires.

Q Chrome around the tires.

A The lights.

Q I see.

A Chrome on the side.

Q So you are going to attach all those things and you know all the different guns and all the different tools.

A Right.

Q I see, okay.

A So that is what happens and then...

Q So they were trying to put you on a permanent job and let this new hiree who is a woman do the utility, when they didn't need anybody to do the jobs. So she was going to walk around sweeping the floor, but if they needed someone they would find you again.

A Okay and after a while they put her supervisor.

Q They made her a supervisor?

A They made her a supervisor, how, I don't know how.

Q Did you ever want to be a supervisor?

A No. My English language doesn't let me. I know how the lines be worked, but I can't...

Q Would you like to be a foreman?

A No. I don't want to be heart attack. I don't want a heart attack, from those it is too much. I saw a lot of people get heart attack or nervous and stuff like that. Besides it makes too much nervous. When I see you hollar at me for nothing I can just say thank you.

Q Say more about that. You have seen people get heart attacks.

A I see a lot of people get heart attacks from the supervisor because they put the pressure on you.

Q Who do you remember?

A I don't know. Dick Brown. Dick Brown, almost he get over, they put the pressure on him one time and he collapsed. The line was no good. There was a lot of shit on the line and the general foreman put the pressure on him. They start blame him. They don't find what the cause the line trouble. Why people should not shit. The boss he can't do the whole thing. The boss wasn't working the line with everyone and they put the pressure on him and he can't take it. He go downstairs and started crying. I told him heh you don't have to be crying. If they put the pressure on you just take sick leave. Go ahead and take sick leave goddam it and don't let them put the pressure on you.

Q Take sick leave yeah.

A They transferred him from line to line and now he works in our area. In the frame line and this is the last chance he has and then he gets fired.

Q Everybody is blaming everybody, just like a lot of your coworkers blame you for the Iranian hostages.

A That is the same thing.

Q Nobody looks at what happens.

A No, no, nobody even . Is that man Iranian? No he is not, why? Is this man he cause that particular trouble. Is the people of the United States go cause trouble over there. Why should we blame him. We have too many American, I mean, what you call it, just regular people, work over there and nobody harm. The only one you harm, politics. They make themselves bitch, like a big shit all of the time. Those what you have to harm, not me, not you. We don't know nothing about politics. Politics name, we don't know

what's that. Why should we harm each other?

Q What job would you like to be doing in the plant now?

A I don't know.

Q Is there any, do you think you will stay on the job you are on for a while?

A Yeah. I think I will stay on my job for a while to see what's have a change, now after changeover. Too many think you have to discuss you know. I wish sometime I speak good English. We was sitting in the cafeteria talking, talking about the way we should look at our future and the kid's future and parents get drunk and teenagers are cool and how they always act like they are tough for small children you know. Why Detroit is different to others? Why is Detroit city different than the Dearborn city? Why over there they have too many problems and Dearborn doesn't have no problem? When Dearborn resident call the police you see too many police come right away. Why in Detroit when you call the police for help and after two or three hours they come to you? You know why?

Q This is what you talk about in the cafeteria at lunch?

A Yeah.

Q Who do you eat with?

A The people who work over there and we just have breaks together.

Q Do you usually eat with folks?

A Different.

Q Different kind of folks, white, black, yellow? Anybody?

A Yeah. Anyone.

Q Do you sometimes uh...how many other Palestians are there in the plant?

A There is not too many like before. Most of them they quit. Most

of them they get teed off.

Q Yeah, what is there about twenty now?

A We don't have that many.

Q Not even twenty.

A No, no, no.

Q It used to be 60-70.

A 75 something like that, but now most of them are next door.

Q Yeah.

A They go next door and most of them go and open up their business. After they get teed off they say heh what the hell are we staying in the company. We are not going to work for \$200.

Q What kind of businesses?

A Most of them party stores, some of them died too.

Q Some died.

A Some of them died. You know _____ and _____ he used to work line #2. Some of them die from robbery.

Q They shot.

A They shot from robbery. _____ died from motorcycle. Yesterday we had one guy die, he work at General Motor. He is 50 years old and today we got another funeral.

Q You go to a lot of funerals?

A Yeah. Yesterday we had one and today we had one.

Q So you spend a lot of weekends going to funerals.

A Most of them on the weekends or weddings. Next week we have weddings. We are supposed to this week have it, because that man yesterday he died because the family is close to each other. I take yesterday off. The boss give me yesterday off because this man I have to be with him. A lot of people are coming from the

outside too.

Q From other cities?

A Yeah.

Q Like you said you went to Buffalo for a funeral one time. You went to New York.

A Chicago.

Q Chicago for a funeral.

A And we go to Cleveland. We go there for a wedding.

Q Gerard's brother got married, did you go to his wedding?

A No. Oh the young one, he don't invite no one.

Q He didn't invite no one.

A No, no he doesn't invite no one, the young one.

Q When you were little and what your father died when you were very young, how old were you?

A About 16.

Q 16. I was going to say before your dad died what did you dream about? Did you ever have a chance to wonder what you would do?

A You know something in our country it is different than here about the kids here how they dream. They don't even think about to get money or something like that. They always think about play.

Q Play, back home? Back home they think about playing?

A They go outside because it is safe there. Your father works and he gets you money and gets you what you want, clothes. We don't have enough toys like now. Really we didn't have enough toys like now. Bicycles, and toys and this and that, robots, like what we bring our kids now, right now, but we enjoy it. We love to live there. Even like I say when I get my retirement, all right if I have \$500 a month guarantee I go back.

Q You have that now. You have that guaranteed now.

A I mean give me that retirement pay.

Q That you have. You could quit now and get \$500 a month.

A From what?

Q From Fords, but you wouldn't get it until you are 55 years old.

A See.

Q Yeah, but you have that when you are 55.

A When I get 55 I have two years to go for retirement.

Q Well then you will get more, but I am just saying...

A If I have it right now, right now I would quit and I would go back to Jordan to live. I don't care, Israel destroys this country okay. I mean over there. I live there.

Q So if you could get \$500 a month you would go back home?

A Because wherever you born you love.

Q Sure.

A It doesn't mean I hate this country. Believe me this is, I don't care if you are a Jew, communist, American or Indian, but this is the best country in the whole world to take care of them people. No hungry people here. We have, but not like other countries.

Q It is a very wealthy country.

A The thing I like about the United States because they take taxes from you to fund people who doesn't have and all people take care of.

Q Which gets you more upset, giving money to that or giving money to Israel to...

A I'll tell you something, what United States gives to Israel is not mine.

Q Why not? Why do you say it is not yours?

A I mean the United States when they give money to Israel, to support Israel it is not my job or my business to tell them to stop. I

know the United States they give Israel too much money, too much fighters, too much tankers, weapons, to kill. I'm telling you.

Q I know, I know, I know.

A To kill our people, but you think our people doesn't have the right to defend themselves or their land?

Q I think they do.

A If you come in my house right now, what happens if you got a gun and you take me out, what do you expect me to do say thank you?

Q So tell me how come it is more upsetting to you that there are some people who are on welfare who don't deserve it that get your money than the Israel government? That's what I don't understand.

A Okay some people, this is between government to government.

Q With your money is my point.

A Yeah, but I am talking about the welfare cheater. It is different.

You need the money. They should come find. I'm telling you to make sure 100% you need the money, but so many families...like I got about six or seven kids behind me and I don't have no jobs so I go on welfare, right? They come and give me welfare, but they never ask or come and find where your husband go. Is your husband a worker? Does he give you the money? The welfare people they can get gold and too expensive furniture or cars or something like that, right? Where is the money coming from? They should some way to get some money or some other....

Q You also agree there are some people who need it, right?

A They have people who need it. I don't say they doesn't have people who need it. They have too many people who need it, but most...some people that doesn't need and still they collect it from the welfare. That is what costs the state.

Q Is this black, white, Arab?

A I don't just say one. It is all of them the same thing. It used to be good, but now everybody why he work and he get welfare. Well I do the same thing.

Q What do you think is going to happen to the truck plant in the next ten years?

A Like I say maybe four years. Nobody knows what happens in the future. Maybe this year, 1987, the market

Q Is there anything you can do about it?

A No.

Q Would you give up more of your wages? Would you give up concessions in your next contract?

A They can't lower the price down. They can't put the inflation down. They can't put the interest down. What is the difference? They can't lower the tax down.

Q The government, the government.

A The government always they have to.

Q Not Ford Motor Company, but the government.

A Not Ford Motor Company. Ford Motor Company if they let you work, heh they doesn't care, they want the money.

Q But when they get the money, don't they get the money from paying you less?

A No. They get the same thing if inflation go down, tax go down, then it mean they lose money when you get . I remember in 1970 you know they used to for twenty bucks, complete right? And we only was making \$170 a week. Now we make \$500 and it seems to me like the same thing. Now you could buy a refrigerator for \$100, it used to be \$20. Now it is \$100-\$150 you

can do good. And you buy coffee, about the electric, about the gas, when I came here 23¢ a gallon for gas.

Q Now it is a dollar.

A Special in Detroit, you pay for the water, you spend about \$12 water and they come about 36, how do they come to that...tax, sewage and stuff like that. Heat, gas...

Q Do you watch movies on the VCR?

A I watch Arabic movies. I got three of them. I got good picture, you call them...a family picture. Old fashioned, when I get two brothers they have company over there and each one of them have a daughter and one of them have a man and they make a deal between each other to let son and daughter get married. They get them engaged and the guy he go to Europe to finish his college. And over there he meets some girl, some Egyptian, same as his nationality and he marries her. Five years, he got one baby and coming back the trouble starts. See they let you know what the difference is between her old fashion and the new generations. How the old fashioned control their kids, when their kids get away from them for a while they see themselves free to do whatever they have to do. That is a good picture.

Q Now where did you get that?

A From the video store here.

Q Are there many films in Arabic?

A He got about 5-6 video stores around.

Q And films in Arabic?

A Oh yeah.

Q Who makes them?

A They come from over there. They come from Egypt, from Jordan,

Lebanon.

Q Right on video.

A right on video.

Q What kind of movies does your son like? Are you going to have him watch that film with you?

A Okay my son he doesn't like to watch those because he doesn't understand.

Q He is too young.

A He is too young to understand the people and how they live over there or something like that, but he has his own TV because he understand American more than he understand Arab. He talk to me you know and we talk in Arab. We teach him Arab. We take him to the school.

Q Would you like him to marry an Arab?

A Yes.

Q What percentage of the school is Arab? In his Elementary school?

A Okay they have Arabs, but the last year now because it is only just the fifth grade. We got to take him downstairs and I heard it is bad school.

Q Bad school, so what are you going to do?

A I don't know. I think I want to move to Dearborn. That's why Detroit lose a lot of...

Q A lot of people, a lot of people, schools are terrible.

A I don't know why.

Q So you move to Dearborn and

A And it costs a lot of money for us or something like that.

Q You bought this house, is this your house? What did you pay for it?

A I pay \$18,000.

Q So when you move to Dearborn it will be...

A Something like \$60,000. Like I pay for the name that's all. I like Detroit, it is nice. I like to live in Detroit. Detroit is a cheap place to live, but coming back again the laws, some laws in Detroit I don't like.

Q What is the hardest thing about working in the plant? What is the hardest, most difficult, most painful?

A Like I said the workers around here don't care about it.

Q The work is not hard. It doesn't wear you out? It doesn't exhaust you?

A At least nobody hound you, nobody bother you. That is what the most pressure coming to your heart and to your mind. You go to work and you get somebody pressuring you and heh what the hell.

Q Leave you alone and you do your job.

A Leave the people alone and give him a little help. If he got some hard job, try to understand what kind of pressure is bothering him. Take it away from him and let him do the job.

Q Do you think most people would like to do their job and be left alone?

A Be left alone. If the supervisor, general foreman, or the company time makers you know understand what the problem. They used to give me the same job and more work. I the shocks and I give it to one guy, plus I do some others.

Q What else do you do? You put one shock on, you take the shocks out the rack, put one shock on and give another shock to the other person and you test them before you put them on?

51

A I don't test them.

Q You make sure they are okay. You stretch them out. Okay what else do you do?

A I put the rubber for the front shocks. I hook the wires. I tie the break line.

Q The break line together to the frame.

A Together you know, pipes together. So they try to give me some more work. I say listen I know my job is not hard, but I have to be fast all the time. I have to be ahead of the other guy, because if I be behind...