

LISTMAN, Deborah Lynn

Q How old are you?

A 29

Q 29, okay. What's it like being a woman in the truck line?

A Ha! Ha! Ah, always on your toes, that's for sure. And, being a woman, you have to watch what you do and what you say. You don't want to give anybody the wrong impression of yourself or lead anybody on because some men in there --you gotta watch what you say, else they tend to think something's up, you know--ha!

Q What do you mean?

A Well, being a woman, it's rough because men look upon you as...I don't...it's hard to say. I may be wrong, you know. I may be wrong.

Q It's your views.

A But, maybe easy, you know--which is not the case with myself. But...I don't know....It's rough being a woman in this world.

Q It is hard. It is hard. Do you have any sort of....do you get like harrassed?

A Yeh, yeh.

Q Well, how does that happen?

A You get harrassment, you know. A lot of men, well, there's a few men around me that don't appreciate women in the factory. They ought to be home having to take care of babies and stuff like that.

Q Do they tell you this? How do you know?

A Yeh. I've been told, "You should stay home and raise your kids." You know, well, that's not the case these days.

Q You were just talking about how some folks in the plant don't really want women in the plant.

A Well, I know for sure, I've been told that the men I work with now don't appreciate women in the factory. I've been told that. That's why I feel uncomfortable with the two gentlemen that work before I do. I can't....I'd like

to talk to them, but I know how they feel. But, they didn't tell me. You know. But I've been told about, you know, how they felt about women working. But, these days, you know, it takes two people in the family to make anything connect here. And, so I go in and I do my job, punch in, punch out. You know, that's basically the thing to do in there, you know. And, if some men don't....you just try to ignore how they feel. I mean, you don't want to ignore....you can't ignore something like that. I'd feel the same way, you know. I should just be home, making my kids.....

Q You feel bad sometimes too?

A Sure! I do. But, I look on the reality of it and it's like, you've got to do it, you know. And, it's not just for you, but for the kids also, you know, and I'm sure when they get older, they'll understand things like that. Pretty soon she'll be doing it and I know he'll be doing it.

Q Do you think the guys make it difficult for you, because you're a woman? I mean like, do they try to make your job harder so that you might quit?

A They don't make the job harder. I think they psychologically make it harder for you. You know, and, it's not physically what they do, but mentally, you know.

Q I know, it seems that you get along real well with folks. You have always have a sort of a friendly attitude on the line.

A Oh yeah. Well, I try. I try to have a positive attitude with people and, if they give you negative, you know, you just brush that off. That's like how some of the men feel about women working in the factory. You brush it off. Ha! Ha!

Q Why don't you tell be exactly what your job is?

A I basically install water bottles.

Q What do you do?

A Water bottles.

Q What. You mean it's a switcher?

A The bottle itself, you know. You plug it in, build it up, put it. That's about it.

Q Does it take a long time? Is it a hard job or a pretty good job?

A It's steady. I've had some hard jobs. I've put in air conditioners, onto--you

know--the grill part on the I&D line. Wait, I'm confused here. I've had some pretty dirty jobs. I don't think there is any leniency toward women except basically the heavy jobs, you know, maybe they tend to keep those to the men.

Q So, you think the guys get that. Not too many tall guys get them either.

A I've had some dirty jobs. I worked...you know, I started at the Wayne Assembly.

Q I see. When did you start there?

A May 11, of '76.

Q And you were how old then?

A I was 18.

Q 18. Just got out of high school?

A I was still in high school!

Q How the heck did you do that?

A I turned 18 in '75, November of '75, and I didn't graduate until, you know, '76. But, it was like, we...it was only like three weeks left of school when I started and I had the opportunity....Well, my grandmother, she knew Joe Barsen, you remember Joe?

Q Joe Barsen from the plant? Sure, sure, sure....I know Joe....Vice President of the local.

A Yeah, so he got me in at that time. Well, I wanted to go to school, okay, and...

Q Then what?

A Well, at the time it was like I really didn't have any idea of what I wanted to do, you know, but my grandma was telling me that Ford's would pay for my school. And, I said, "Oh yeah?" So, I signed up and they called me. And, well actually, I gave it to my grandmother and she turned it in, you know, to Barsen,

and, from there on, I got the call, went in....And, when I got that call, it was like, Oh, okay, you know? So, I, it was afternoons....I made sure it was afternoons, because I did have three weeks of school left.

Q I see. So you were going to school in the day?

A Yeah. I would get off at 4:30. Well, let me tell you....the first night. That first night was something!

Q What was it like? Do you remember?

A Oh! I never hurt so bad in my whole entire.....I went home and we had, my sister and I, had a bunk bed, you know, and I laid there and I started crying and my mother came in. She said, "Why don't we rub your feet?" Oh God! Please! You know...I says, "I've never hurt like this in my life!" It was like,

Mom, comforted me and she'd say....well, my mother worked--for Ford's.

Q I see. At this plant?

A At Saline. So, she knew. But, she medically retired. So, she knew how I felt, I would imagine.

Q Yeah. I'm sure. How many years did she get in there?

A She had about nine years. She had heart problems. And, this was back, oh, long before even I started working at Ford's. And, so she knew. She knew how I felt, and she'd rub my feet, and tell me, you know, "This won't last. It'll go away. It's just muscles you haven't used." And I says, "Yeah, I know, biological....Ha! Ha! You know, and it was like, when I first walked in, I didn't...I really didn't expect....I didn't know what to expect. And, when I walked in it was like.....all these men! And, then here you got these howlers, you know, and they'd whistle or something....."

Q Howlers?

A Howlers. You know, when I first walked in. Well, you know. And, I said, "Oh my gosh!"

Q What do you think when the howlers watch you?

A I said, "I hope they don't attack me or something, you know." They guys said, well, after a while they'll stop, you know. And, as long as they don't attack me, I'll be alright. You know, I come to find out know, it's just to relieve a

little tension and whatever, you know. They see a woman walk by and it's something you know, they get out of their system, I guess. They don't see it too often or whatever, I don't know.

Q Sometimes, do you want to do something when they do that?

A I want to tell them to knock it off, you know. I don't see anything special about myself, you know, or anything like that. It's just that it is kind of annoying. It didn't stop for a long time until I found a route which Wayne Assembly has a tunnel underneath and that took me what back to where I needed to get out and right where my job was. That way I didn't have to go over all the lines and stuff like that.

Q You mean you had to go find another way to get to the line?

A Well I found that way. Someone told me about the tunnel when I started telling them how I didn't enjoy....I felt funny, you know. It's like, I didn't want it, you know....I didn't want them howling. So, they told me about this tunnel, and it runs under the Wayne Assembly back to where my job was. I hired in on what's called the bio-clock line.

Q Is it on Escorts? Or was it on Granadas then?

A That was Granadas. And, so that was my job. I started in Wayne Assembly. Then I got laid off and met Stuart.

Q When did you get laid off?

A It would be four years this April. I was only off for four weeks. So, that was what, '82?

Q So you were only off for four weeks?

A I was only off for four weeks.

Q So you were pretty lucky?

A I don't know about that! Ha, ha, ha! I was so hoping, you know, it would have given me the opportunity to look on, you know?

Q What do you mean?

A Well, it was like, I'm so used to what I'm doing, you know, the money I'm making

and I don't think I would just go up and quit, you know. Because, I don't believe I would find another job with the money that I get and benefits, and vacation time. I don't believe I would find something like that. So, I couldn't just up and quit, you know. Now, if I was laid off and had to, then I don't know.

Q What would you do? What would you do if you were laid off?

A I don't know. I really don't know. Like I said, I started school, and I wasn't doing as well as.....

Q You started some college classes?

A Yeah. I started school and it was rough. I had an 8:00 class and was getting off at 4:30.

Q In the morning? You had an 8:00 class in the morning?

A Yeah. And, it just didn't seem to be practical to do....to go in there and just not, you know, understanding what you were hearing, you know, and kind of handling what's going on, you know? I did it for a while and.....
So, I did it, and.....

Q How long did you go to school?

A I went for a couple of semester and then I quit. I had two or three classes. And then I decided... Well, you know, when I first got that first check, you know, it was like...Oh man! What am I going to do with all this money? I think it was the most I've made since I was going through high school, you know.

Q Do you know what it was...how much it was?

A No. I didn't even keep that first stub, you know? I kept it for a year, you know? Ha, ha! Then I came to think well, I don't need to go to...you know. Off and on, from that time on, I did take a few classes here and there you know, but nothing to amount to anything, you know. Well, I don't really know what I would do. You know, I don't know what I would do if I ever had to go out and find another job, you know.

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Q What do you think....you have....'76....you almost have 10 years...so you already.....

A I have 11 years in May.

Q You have 11 years in May. Um, do you think that you will be working at Ford's in five more years....ten more years?

A Well, if I survived the recession we had last, I believe I'll be here. If not, I'll be next door. Ha! Ha! You know, I have a feeling that there's no way they're going to let me.....I think I'm being punished for some reason.

Q What do you mean?

A I don't know. Maybe it was my lifestyle. I don't know. I had a wild lifestyle when I was growing, you know, in high school....

Q What's a wild lifestyle?

A I was always on the go, doing things, you know.

Q Where did you hang out? Where were you raised?

A Here in Wayne.

Q Here in Wayne, uh huh. Did you go to Wayne Memorial?

A Wayne Memorial, and I graduated. I graduated!!! Ha, ha, ha! I graduated three weeks....I think the teachers found out I started working at Ford's and.....I don't know how they found out, really. And they all felt sympathy because, maybe because I was sleeping on the tables and on the desks...I don't know.

Q Was your mom proud that you had gotten a job at Ford's?

A Moneywise. She thought I was secure, you know, with my future.

Q Your grandmother worked at Ford's too?

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A Yes, she did. She worked for Wayne Assembly. She didn't work long. She retired. She didn't work long there. She quit.

Q How about your dad?

A My dad worked for GM.

Q GM. So he was an auto....

A Yeh. He was a skilled tradesman.

Q Skilled tradesman. Uh huh.

A Welding, all that stuff.

Q Which plant did he work in?

A GM ED. Was it GM ED?

Q Willow Run?

A Yeh.

Q Uh huh.

A GM ED? No...that's....

Q AD....AD.....AD.

A Ha, ha! I get the finance company and GM mixed up here.

Q So you were raised in an auto plant, auto family?

A Right! I come from steel factory workers.

Q Who works in the steel?

A My great uncles.

Q Are they still working or are they laid off?

A Yeh, they're still working there.

Q Still working?

A They have their time in, but they're still doing it, you know? And, my grandfather was a supervisor for GM. Um... Gosh! I guess I come from a.....My brother works for GM.

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Q Your brother does?

A So, me and him do the (?) work.

Q What does your sister do?

A She's just a housewife, ha, ha.

Q That's a lot of work, right?

A Yeah. I feel like I'm having two jobs her myself.

Q Say a little more. What do you mean?

A Well, you know, with two kids and a husband and a house, and then having to work at Ford Motor Company. I mean, I have a like, like a 24 hour type...

Q Give me a sample of a couple of days....Let's say, an average Thursday.

A An average Thursday?

Q If you go to work--you get up.... What time do you get up?

A Five.

Q Uh huh.

A See, I can make it to work in...

Q Pretty quick!

A Ha! I could leave here and be on my job in five minutes.

Q And, how do the kids get ready for breakfast and stuff, and, childcare? Is Steve home, or....

A Well, Steve gets up at the same time. He starts later and he takes the children and drops them off at the sitter's at 6:30.

Q Where does he work?

A He works for TA-COM(?) TA-COM(?) subcontracts for the government and, ah...

Q Is it an assembly...a parts plant?

A No. He, ah, paper....He's got a warehouse full of papers he takes care of.

Q Uh huh. I see. Uh huh.

A And when people want to see certain paper documents, he gets them for them.

Q I see. Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh.

A And, basically, his job....

Q On one level, it's a fantastic relationship to be...to feel confident that he's gonna get the kids off and get them ready and take them to the childcare. Very few women would....

A Oh yeah, and you have to feel comfortable with your sitter also, which I do. She's, ah, she's in her early 40's and she has two kids that are out of school already, and she takes good care of them. I feel comfortable when I'm at work knowing that, you know, that situation is taken care of, you know. She bathes and feeds them, you know. Washes their clothes. If they come in, ah, you know.....

Q What do you have to pay her a week for the two children?

A Ah ha, we pay \$120.00.

Q \$120.00?

A \$120.00.

Q That's not so bad. I mean if....

A Well, no. If you pay the day care or someone....

Q That's right, you know, what we're paying.

A With two children, you know. Two babies, actually. She'll be three in June and Jeff's only ten months.

Q When you hired in at the plant.....Let me ask you a few questions...Working at the truck plant now, do you find much....Do older guys relate to you differently than younger guys? Do black guys relate to you differently from white guys? Is there much of a difference?

A Well, yeah, there is a difference.

Q How does that show itself?

A Well, in some situations, there is always the...Ha! Ha! Ha!

Q What do you mean?

A Well, there's, you know, the jokes and, you know, the dirty jokes and their attitudes andI think that the older men....The older men come out and--just right out--and say things you know...

Q What kind of things?

A Whereas the younger men will....They tell you how they feel about you, you know, like...."High baby. I think you're gorgeous." Stuff like that. Like, "Come on, I'm in love with ya!" Ha! Ha! Stuff like that. But, the younger men, ah, you know...they're not, you know. They just say, "Hi!".... you know, which is nice. I like that better. I could, you know, just say, "Hi!" But I also would like to, I don't know. You need friends in there because you gotta have.....You gotta have friends and, someday, I.....I want to get into the union, you know. I want to get into the union and, and, and....You try to be friendly with everybody, you know, you can, because their the people that are gonna someday put you in there you know. And, I just don't want people to take it the wrong way, you know, trying to be friendly....

Q What do you mean? They think you're trying to come onto 'em?

A You say, you know, and want to talk, you know....just talk. And, it just doesn't seem to go anywhere. I mean, you know,....something about....You know, you want to carry a conversation, but it always turns around somehow, you know.

Q I'm gonna keep pushing. I have a sense of what you mean, and I want to hear your words, because it's an important dynamic in the place.

A Yeah, right. It, a....I don't know. IMaybe it's just myself thinking, you know, that you want to talk to a person and then they....you think.....Well, take, well....No, I don't want to.....

Q Give an example! I won't use names. You can use a name. I won't use the name. It doesn't matter.

A Well, let's take this one guy, you know, our....I like to go outside and, you know, just get the fresh air or something, you know, and.....And, you like to have someone to talk to and you go out with 'em, and then the one person thinks....well I like 'em. No! You know, come on, I just....This is going on for like.... A couple of months I been goin outside with a bunch of people you know, and then, and we all go over to someone else's vehicle and then they think.....I want to carry a conversation, but it gets.....it doesn't....it's not the kind of conversation I'd like to hold, you know, but then, it's someone to talk to, you know, besides the work around which you don't really carry a conversation, just some BS'n around you know. But, then, the person takes.... and then you can't go out with 'em outside anymore because they think....they like you.....and....

Q And then they get....they try to become a sexual thing?

A Right! Which it's not! Because I don't.....And, I don't think I tend to lead them onto to that direction, you know? I tend to have a conversation.

Q Guys live in their fantasies, unfortunately, right?

A You know, we all do. We have our fantasies, but...

Q With guys, it's more than that....Guys have to make this....HA! HA!
Well, I think it's true. I think that there's no doubt that folks....

A Do you understand what I'm saying? I mean....

Q I understand what you're saying. But, you know, in order to get a little picture, a little.....During lunch, for example, a bunch of folks go into someone's car, hang out, talk, have a sandwich.....

A And then you have....The next thing you know, someone's saying....

Q Someone's makin'.....

A Yeah. You know....How is she?.....She's been going outside with so and so....Something's going on.....And then it goes back, and then he thinks, yeah, maybe I am, you know?

Q Do you even begin to wonder, you know?

A Well, take for example.....I went outside with a guy who worked next to Phil when he was on scheduling. He had made a shelf for me. We shut down for break line one day and we'd gone out to get the shelf and I was gonna put it....you know, I hadn't seen it....He said I didn't have to....if I didn't like it I didn't have to buy it.

Q A shelf for the house?

A A shelf like I have in the living room. He said if I didn't like it, I don't have to take it, you know? So, I went out and looked at it and I liked it. And, the next thing you know, the next day....talk! So you feel, going out to a truck together....what's going on? Oh my God, please! You know, don't talk unless you know what exactly is going on.

Q So what do you tell someone?

A I tell 'em, well that's not the case! And, I say, well, if you don't believe it, fine, you know?

Q Do you think they're serious or they're just egging you on and just making conversation....so and so's going with so....It's like when you're in third grade, you know? Steffy and and Joe sittin in a tree...K-I-S-S-I-N-G.....

A I'm sure part of it's like that.

Q I'm not, therefore, saying it's okay.

A Yeah. Well, I'm sure some of it's like that.

Q Or some of it's like, people really think, "Yeah, she's really gettin it on with somebody."

A Yeah, I'm going out with 'em. I'm sure I've heard that before of some women doing things like that.

Q Well, some do, you know?

A I've been told some stories.

Q Not as many....

A Well, that's like I said, it could be something that's coming back like my situation. So how can I say whether or not it's true?

Q Does your husband worry about, or concerned...that you have to deal with this kind of stuff in the plant?

A Well, he's told me before that if I wanted to look for another job to do it. You know. I don't really....I tell him I work hard, you know. I work hard. He says, "I don't?" I said, "Well, I'm not saying you don't. I said, 'I work hard.'" I never really complain, you know, cause there's really nothin he can really do. I mean, men will be men. Or is that, boys will be boys? Whatever. So, I really can't complain cause I know it's something that happens in the plant. Okay, when you go into the place, you leave the place there.

Q You do?

A And I don't bring it home. Don't bring it home.

Q You don't discuss how your day was?

A No. I like to forget my days! Ha, ha, ha! I'm just there, you know. You're there and you go home and the same thing over and over.

Q Do you get much harrassment from the supervisors?

A Huh?

Q Originally, when women first came into the plant, there used to be a lot of harrassment by the guys as well as the supervisors. I mean, do you get.....?

A I've never been confronted with sex or anything like that from a supervisor. Never. They've never harrassed me to the point where if I don't give 'em..... then your job's fucked, you know? No, I never.

Q You said you were interested in the union?

A Yeah.

Q Why don't you talk a little bit more about it?

A I think basically just to get myself off the line. I think that would be one way to do it, you know, and maybe to use my brain a little more, you know, and do things to where I could think a little bit. Even though the union is, you know...dealing with problems is not easy, but, um, I think... I think I could, if I had the opportunity, that I could probably, you know, I could.....The union, I think, is the way besides going just to, either (or out?) of one of these companies, you know?

Q Howcome?

A Well, you gotta deal with the people and you gotta deal with your boss and, you know, you're right in the middle of things, you know. You're being pulled one way and another way, and.....I don't want that problem.

Q So you don't want to be a floor person?

A No. I'd, ah. Well, I think, well the union....Well you do deal with both company and the people also, but I think it's another different way and, where you don't, if something goes wrong then you don't get screwed back and forth. You know, your boss is yellin at you in one ear and your people were yellin at you the other way, you know?

Q Has the union helped you at all?

A Yeah.

Q In what way?

A Well, well they got all the money back that I had time off for.

Q How much was that?

A Two week's wages. This was back and forth. This was not all like a day here or two days here or three days here you know. And then they come to finding out they did have the problem. You know, it's like, we argued back and forth. Argued! Back and forth. And, I kept tellin 'em there was a problem. "No, we don't have no problem. We're given you time off." "Yeah. Come on, check into the problem first before you're gonna do anything."

Q When was this? Was this recently or....?

A This was before I went off to have my son.

Q So, it was two years ago?

A No. He's ten months. So, um, it was before the holidays last year.

Q A year and a little....

A I was taking a lot of time off for all these problems.

Q A little more than a year ago.

A Yeah.

Q This is already.....What happened to the?

A The appointment I had was with Bill Prater.....Ah, Terry Prater, and he's another man who doesn't appreciate women in the factory.

Q How do you know that?

A Ah, I've been told. And he told me I shouldn't work. This was before he became supervisor.

Q Well, he has twelve kids at home.

A 14.

Q 14 kids at home.

A No wonder mamma can't work, huh?

Q I guess not with 14 dogs at home.

A She's got 14 of 'em. So he, so, I'd say harrassed by him, cause he was the one that was doin' all the static there, you know. Where I'd tell him there was a problem.....

Q He's a new foreman too.

A Yeah he is. Well, apparently, he used to be a foreman a long time ago. Then, he was hollerin' RACIAL, you know? That's why he never got to stay foreman. So, he kept hollerin racial things, you know?

Q What do you mean, racial things?

A Well, from what I was told, he always thought it was discrimination against him, you know, because he was black. This is what I was told. And, that's what he pushed on. Cause, he really thought he should have gotten laid off, so he just cried RACIAL.

Q Your saying.....you're doing that with a smile....Do you really doubt that? You don't think it's true?

A No. I don't think these days.....I think people don't.....I'd say that in the '60s it would have been, you know. These are the '80s. People don't look on it like that any more. I think, for sure, they look at him as black, you know, but I don't think they'd.....I don't think that.....

Q You don't see the kind of treatment of blacks that we were used to 20 years ago? You don't see that in the current day?

A Well, like, it's hard to say, you know....I was young.

Q What your folks said and what you read about or heard stories about?

A No. I don't think they have any problems like that.

Q You're still smiling. What are you thinking about when you say that?

A Ha, Ha! Oh, nothing. It's so.....I can't....Well, I think a lot of black people think that there's still a racial thing. You know, it's like the park situation in Dearborn. Come on, me and you can't go in there either, unless you live in Dearborn. But, that's discriminating against us. I'm white. I mean, you know, I'm not yelling discrimination. But, they think... just cause they're black, they're yelling discrimination. It's true. You know.....me, Mexicans, whatever, who doesn't live in Dearborn can't go in there. You know.

Q On the unions.....What would you like to do in the union?

A Huh, huh, huh.

Q Two questions! What would you like to do as a job, if you can get elected?

A I know, at first you have to go up through the ranks I guess. You know, it's just like anything else....supervisor....general foreman....You gotta go up through the union. I guess we'd have to start with....I'd like to go right....No. I don't like to be president or anything like that, you know. Somewhere where I really didn't have to deal with the people themselves, you know. I could be.....I could.....I can deal with....Say, like, say like the committee man or something comes up to me, you know, and asks for advice or something that they can deal with probably and they could...I could give them suggestions or something like that. Up in the main office oryou know where they don't have to really deal with the people in the plant you know.

Q The folks on the line or the company? You don't wanna deal with folks on the line? You wanna get away?

A I wanna get away from the line. But, you can't do that in here. I figure I better, before I even think of the union, I might as well just get out there. Well, it's not a long time. Well, I think 11 years is a lot of time, but I think I'm naive and things. Whereas, you know, the union and the company, you know....

Q Do you go to union meetings?

A No. Huh, huh! But, you know, I think. I kind of think so, cause a lot of people don't go to the union meetings. Any of them that ever have, they go and go right back out...They don't have nobody there you know. And, I think if you read your manuals and just by experience alone, you know, the union.....You know, there's a bunch of nonsense anyway. They don't really accomplish anything like they do at the EI meetings. Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Q Do you go to EI meetings?

A Yeah, I go to EI meetings.

Q Howcome you go to EI meetings?

A I go to EI meetings. You get that early....you get that half-hour paid and, well, I've known some EI...certain areas, they do accomplish some things.

Q Do you have any examples?

A Well in the....since I've been back after I've been going to the EI meetings, and I've been.....Well, I haven't done the merry-go-round line there...when I first came back, after they transferred me....And, there, over there, it was Jeff Cooper and Dwayne and they had ideas, okay, to improve their area, of course, things, you know, for themselves and stuff. But, where I'm at now, I'm in a chassis line at the end. The, it seems like, okay....you want to go for coffee and

donuts, you're talking about, you know, and I just.....I'm the type of woman that, you know, if something comes up, sure I get in some suggestions. There's no harm, its just that they're eating the coffee and eating the donuts, you know.

Q Do you make any suggestions on things?

A I've.....I really have no...any suggestions. What can you do, you know?

Q The think I'm trying to understand....I could talk to 40 people and I'd probably get 40 different views.....is what value is the EI program?

A I think it's just to.....They say it's supposed to help you in the relationships with the company, you know, but....Come on! Put a new clock up, please! You know...

Q Is that what they did?

A That's what happened in one area I was in! We got a new clock and new picnic tables, you know.

Q You don't think much of this?

A No, I don't think much of this.

Q What would matter? What would be a difference? What would change relationships?

A With, with...towards EI?

Q Yeah, what would make EI mean something?

A That's what I don't.....I really don't know what EI is, you know? Is it just to get things for your area or.....I don't know what, you know?

Q What would make you.....

A The foremen don't....I think you're supposed to get a better relationship with the company through your foreman and let them know the problems you're having. Well, I've told some, like, of the problems I'm having and I've never really seen anything resolved.

Q What kind of problems do you have now?

A With something to do with the job or something, you know? But, it's like the foreman I got, you know, Rich?

Q Uh huh, Little Rich, uh huh.

A He's a little guy you know. I didn't think they'd get that dirty in there.....

Q What do you mean? What does he do?

A He talks dirty, you know.

Q Just cause he uses language? What's in an average conversation? What's it like?

A Okay. Let's take this for example. I was in there and I says, "Oh, I forgot my glasses." And, Larry Fisher.....

Q Larry Fisher, the general foreman?

A And, I says, "Oh, I can tell what kind of day this is gonna be." And then something about.....somehow a dream came up and Rich comes by and says, "Oh, what a wet dream?" I says, "No. I don't have to use those." Ha, ha, ha! I mean, I should have.....but, it's just that, you know.....the language, you know.....cause you have to come back, you know? But it's like, you get something told, but I don't appreciate it, you know. I like to have a decent conversation. But, he tends to, every time I say anything, he's got something dirty to say, you know. And, that sort of stupid stuff, you know?

Q I think mostly folks do come back.

A Come back. Or he'll he'll.....I don't like to be touched. I've had guys pat me on the but and I've turned around and threatened 'em that if they did it.....I give a warning. I've given 'em plenty of warning, "you do not touch me." I mean, "You can touch me, but not on any place that I don't, you know, want to be touched, like say, the but." They come by and pat me and I turn around and, "Hey, I'll give you one warning and, you do it again, and I'll try my best to get you fired. Because I'm not here to be a plaything you for you. I'm here, same as you are, to make a living and to support my kids, you know, and give 'em things that I had no privilege of." I come from a large family, you know. I had four brothers and one sister. And, we were the same as you, you know. A lot of my friends had a lot more than what we had, you know. So, I'm just here to do my job....8 hours....I'm not the person.....I'm sure there's a lot of girls that don't mind, but, I'm not one of 'em, you know, and I don't.....I tell 'em straight.

Q Uh huh, and then, what is it you do?

A And Richie'd come by and.....He knows that I don't want it, but he'll come by and he'll pinch me on the leg or he'll pinch me, you know, touch me....Not to, you know.....but I still don't like it. I mean, after a while, you know?

Q So why don't you do something?

A What can you do? I mean, come on, you know. It's like, I feel, if I was to do something physical or something stupid like that....I mean, it's not stupid to me. It's not stupid to me.....but, to go out and start complaining that he's pinching me, you know, come on....

Q I'm willing to bet one of two things....If you would....

A He would stop, but then I'd get harrassed, I think, you know. So, am I taking the pinches or do I want to get the harrassment later or what?

Q It's a damn shame.

A Well, it's, I know....As long as he doesn't pat me on the but, you know....then, I tell him to stop, you know, but I don't.....Well, after he does it, he also keeps on going, so you don't have the time....I mean, he doesn't....when he does it, he does it on his way down...

Q He's just passing time. He don't care, you know.....But, it's still wrong!

A Yeah, but he doesn't stay there long enough.....He does it on the run, you know, walking by, you know, and he keeps going. He doesn't look back after I say stop, hey, you know, and he just keeps on going. It's like, he doesn't stand there long enough for me to really lay into him, you know, but, anyway.....

Q Do the guys, when you give 'em, that forthright statement, how do they....?.

A Well, the one guy I said it lately to, he turned and sai, "Oh, she must have got up on the wrong side of the bed."

Q Something wrong with you?

A Wrong side of the bed.

Q Cause I think that's being, you know.....you were saying about discrimination toward blacks and how you don't think there's too much, right? Most men would probably say, "Well there's not too much discrimination or harrassment of women now, cause it used to be a lot worse." And, now you're giving me some examples like, it's not the way

you'd like it, right? I mean, you're not.....I know, as a guy, I jump on a lot of the guys for doing what they do to the women in the Seal line. Of course, my history is sort of a little different from a lot of guys in the plant. I was involved in politics, the civil rights movement, anti-war movement, women's movement. So, it'sYou know, and I became sensitive to those kinds of issues, of people relating as human beings.

A I feel that if a woman wants to have men maul over her or anything like that, then that's her.....let 'em do it, you know. But, I mean, if they enjoy having men do.....

Q Do you think most women like it in the plant? That kind of harrassment? That kind of way to get by?

A I don't.

Q You don't?

A But, it's like I said, if other women like it, that's alright with them.

Q From your observations, do you think they do? We're not dealing with that many woman in our plant. There's only 20, 30, 40 tops.

A Not even that I don't think. Like 30? Not even that. I think when I came in I was only like 3.

Q You were like the third woman back, I think, after the layoffs.

A Well there was, actually, I think there was somewhere around four of us when I first came over there.

Q Do you think it's changed from the time you came over there in '80, when was it?

A '82.

Q '82 to '86-'87. Has it changed much--relationship? Ways guys relate to you?

A Yeah. Well, you know, you get to know the people you work with, you know, and naturally...

Q Uh huh, that changes it. If you said something to Rich, Little Rich, said "Hey, I don't want you ever touching me." You know, if you said, but "You talk to me just like you'd talk to another person on this planet.

A I think he'd laugh. I think he talks worse to some of the other women around the plant. I don't know, I think he'd just laugh, not taking me seriously.

Q I you went....this is the era of employee involvement....If you went to an EI meeting or you went to the union or you went to Les Tischler's office and said, "Look, it's not serious, but it's not necessary," what do you think would happen?

A I think I better go to him first because I, really, you know, I tell him to stop, but I haven't really, really talked to him about it, you know, ~~cause I don't have the time, you know. I mean, I'm sure I'm~~ gonna take time out to run over, you know, on my break and say, "Hey, listen, this is how it goes." And, he's always movin anyways, you know, and it's like I never can be the only worker out in the garage area. But he's really the only one that really bothers me, you know?

Q Do you think that the atmosphere in the plant....I guess my question is that the atmosphere exists in the plant where, because of employee involvement and these new relations between, I mean, the company sort of wants happy workers. They don't want you to feel intimidated or

scared like they used to....it doesn't seem anyway. It's debatable. Some people, Jeff Cooper would say that there's no doubt that that shouldn't be goin on. Um, so, my question is, is the atmosphere of employee involvement or the role of the union...do you think that could help you in this situation if you decided, like, you wanted to do something about it?

A Towards Rich or? Okay. No, I think they'd think it was silly, but they'd just say to take it to, you know, to him.

Q Why is it so important to you?

A To what?

Q That you don't want to

(BIG INTERRUPTION BY INTERVIEWEE'S CHILDREN)

Q Well I was just saying that....Well, let's just move to a different area and we'll come back later on that. Um, what do you think the trunk plant....has there been much automation coming into the truck plant from your perspective--new technology, robots....?

A Yeah. Well, there wasn't no robots when I first started and look what we got now.

Q What do you think of them? What do you think of the robots?

A I think, I think it'd be....Sure, it's fine right now, but...in the long run...it might cost 'em. But, it could save 'em money. I think.....I think it's taking jobs away, naturally.

Q Do you know any particular..... that it's taking jobs away...do you have any robots in your area or have you worked next to a robot since you've been in the area.

A No. I've never worked in an area where they had robots, but I've known people whose jobs have been taken away from 'em because of the robots, replacements with robots. But, I think eventually pretty much a lot of it will....I don't think they can, they can go all the way with robots. You gotta have people, people to take care of it and to make sure things go right. But, I don't think they will take they will taken the place of assembly.

Q How far do you think they can go?

A I think just bodywise. I think the welding-wise is just about as far as they can really go. Well, they got it going in the stock department, you know, material and handling and stuff. They're trying.

Q Trying it on the CO line.

A The air (?) line?

Q Next.

A Are they?

Q Next month, this month, next month.

A Oh, I didn't know that.

Q We got 'em in trim now, putting windshield sealer on the windshields.

A Is that right?

Q Yeah.

A Oh, I never been back there. Well, I think that way, that situation, but to actually, I don't know, could they put it--a car--together by robots? I mean...

Q I think they will try eventually. I think if it gets cost efficient, they'll do it. What, when working in the plant, do you think is cause when we only have one shift working and we're working ten hours a day, do you like the overtime? What do you think about the people that are laid off?

A I think, you get time and a half, okay, is that--over eight hours? I think that the eight hours is sufficient. I can't believe ten hours. I mean it suprised me how two extra hours really brings you down and tires you out. And, I think if it was a standard shift, eight hours, I think they might be makin more money too because they could produce more trucks. Well, like now, they wanna put those trucks out and they're still behind and, I think, they add another shift, you know, knock ten hours, eight hours a day, you know. I even like that four days a week pay day as well. I'd work ten hours...

Q For four days and you'd have three days off.

A Sure. I would like that. But, to bring people back, I would work eight hours a day, you know, and bring in another shift, you know.

Q Do you think folks around you on the line would like to work eight hours?

A I don't know. Some people really like that ten hours, you know. But, a lot of people I've talked to didn't like the ten hours. Usually, people who's wives work also, so they wouldn't mind if they cut back.

Q What's the hardest thing about workin those extra two hours?

A I think, I think the time you could spend more time with your kids, you know. I, by the time I get home, after picking up the kids.

Q Do you pick 'em up from Childcare?

A No. The sitter's.

Q The sitter's. That's different from Child.....

A By the time I get home, it's after 5:00 you know, and so.....Justin, he goes to bed at 7 or 8 o'clock at the latest. But, you know, that's only three hours. Three hours with your kid, you know.

Q Then, who makes dinner?

A I do.

Q You make dinner?

A Steven helps. He does the dishes. Ha, ha, ha. I'd rather make dinner than do dishes. Ha, ha. I feel a lot better after eating too.....if I do the cookin'. Ha, ha. When Steven was a bachelor, all he made was chicken and rice and the next day he had rice and chicken. Ha, ha, ha.

Q I make chicken and rice and fish and rice. And, what time do you go to sleep, or get into bed and start to relax? What time does the big one go to sleep?

A Usually, anywhere from 7 to 8 o'clock. By then, with what little time I have, I try to do what I can around here, nothing really, and I try to read a little bit.

Q What kind of things do you like to read?

A National Geographic, Redbook, you know, things to keep up on Health & Beauty, boy, which she needs a lot of, ah...That's about it. I enjoy National Geographic. I love the pictures. And the articles.

Q Do you have a subscription?

A Yeah. I like books on antiques and stuff.

Q What do you do on the weekends when you're not working a Saturday?

A I do my laundry and I do my grocery shopping. Well, at a time like this, I like to ski.

Q Cross country ski?

A Yeah. And I haven't really got to do it, you know, when I started having children...there's no time.

Q That changes the world, I know.

A Yeah, children....So, I'm not apt to just pick up and do it, you know, like I used to. There was a lot of things I was doing at times, like playing the guitar.

Q What kind of music do you like?

A Well, I like the acoustic guitars, so I was just basically just, like, folk music, you know, like Crosby, Stills & Nash, you know. I like rock & roll. I find my radio real comforting at work sometimes. I can just...

Q You bring a radio?

A Oh yeah. Well, yeah, I bring the radio. I leave it there, you know, locked up, and I turn that thing on and.....

Q What station? What kind of music do you listen to?

A WRIF.

Q Ah hah. Rock & Roll, all day, all day.

A Oh, well. Phil, he likes Country so, to give him a break, I'll put on the Country station. I don't mind. Sometimes. I like all music, but basically rock.

Q Do you like early rock or new rock?

A Yeah. I like rock & roll. I don't like heavy metal. Heavy metal--uh!

Q I went to the RATT concert last Friday.

A Did you? That's heavy metal.

Q A friend of mine's kid went and I went and took 'em. I put ear plugs on and I went to sleep for a half hour.

A Did you?

Q It was Friday night and we had to work Saturday.

A Uh huh.

Q Was that Tuesday?

A I don't like heavy...

Q I didn't like it. It was terrible. I though it was trash. I like old rock.

A Yeah, I like something that has something you can understand, you know?

Q There's a great folk festival in Ann Arbor next Saturday. It's the 31st, the 31st.

A Yeah, I read that in the....somewhere... I saw it. Ypsilanti has it, don't they?

Q I don't know if its Ypsi or Ann Arbor.

A It's Ypsi.

Q What do you think about at work to pass the time of day? How do you get through the day?

A I listen to my music.

Q Do you sing?

A Always. I boogie up and down the line. Ha, ha, ha! I don't know....I don't know...I feel wierd. I think, well, I make my day go by and what these guys do, I don't know. I like to hear a joke. I hear jokes. I like to hear a good joke. I basically, boogie up and down the line.

Q I mean, actually like dancin' and listen to music and singin' and doin the job?

A Doin' my job. Yeah.

Q Do people look at you wierd or is that a pretty natural way for people to work?

A Yeah a natural way---Hey, what's she doin?

Q Do you ever have like real bad days at work?

A Yeah, time goes by so slow I think, "Time stopped. What's going on here?"

Q What do you think makes a difference? What do you think makes that happen?

A I try to tell myself, it's no different. It's just the way I feel that day, you know. It's not the time going slow, it's just myself, you know. Um, I don't know. I don't understand, you know, I basically get a good night's sleep...tee hee.....I usually fall asleep around 9 or 10 o'clock at the latest. I can't stay up like he does, you know. And, I go up and read and what I do is I, well, I take Sarah upstairs with me, cause she's the kind of person you have to make her calm down before you try to put her to bed. So, we go upstairs and we'll read something together or we'll just talk, cause that's the little time we have.

Q When you were coming up as a kid.....let's go back a little....what's your ethnic background?

A Ah...

Q What are your grandparents?

A Ah, French.

Q French, uh huh.

A My mother is from the South.

Q What part of the South?

A Ah, West Virginia.

Q So, she was raised in the South?

A Yes. Yeah, her father was a coalminer--died young. Then they moved up here, my grandmother and them. My grandmother started working at Ford's. Then my mother....I was very young when my mom started working....

Q Do you have many memories of her working in the plant?

A I remember her getting up to go to work, yeah.

Q Do you feel like you're like repeating your mom?

A In a way, I am. I....

Q What's the good, the bad, and the ugly about that?

A I think the bad times were when we didn't really see enough of her or if both of them worked, you know. We had, what we called a "nanny." We had a nanny, you know.

Q What was that?

A An older woman. A sitter. And, you know, she took care of the house and everything, you know. And, ah, I just like I say, the time spent.

Q Well, let me ask you a question, first of all. Here you are, you're both working, both gone and....

A We exactly gone the same way and (hard to distinguish conversation because of child's constant interruptions)...

Q And, you gotta work ten hours.....Why don't people who know that they missed something when they were kids because there parents both had to work like that, at least get the union to say "Eight hours a day." Why don't people fight for this? Why don't you fight for it?

A No one's never really brought it up to.....I've talked to Archie about it. I've talked to Archie about eight hours a day.....What's going on here? People are out of work and here we're working ten hours a day...

Q I ran against....It's funny...I ran against Archie.

A Did you? Not the last time?

Q Yeah, the last time. I only got like 80 votes. But, I ran on an eight hour day and that we should immediately just stop running. But, those are not union issues, unfortunately. People don't see those as election issues. But, ah, what would you do? What would be the biggest changes you would make in the plant if you were the.....?

A I would try to get back....I don't know...help the situation...why they don't do things like that....I'd like to find out. And, not really getting any answers, just, you know, why here we are working ten hours, you know, when especially when we're going on six days a week, you know. Why? They want to make the trucks. They want to get them out, you know, as fast as they can, but we're not getting out enough for them. Why not put another shift in, you know?

Q Because it would cost more money.

A Well, they'd be making more trucks! They'd be making more money, you know. If there's such a big demand for them....I sometimes wonder....Where are all these trucks going to? I don't see them all the time. Where are they going to? I don't see a Ford truck.....It seems like with as many trucks and cars that I have made that they'd be going down Michigan Avenue one after another, you know.

Q Good idea.

A Going down Michigan Avenue. There goes a line of Escorts! There goes a line of trucks! You know..I just don't know..

Q Are you proud of your work? Are you proud to be an auto worker?

A Ah, no.

Q Why not?

A Cause I don't like it. I mean, I don't enjoy it. I think, I.....Well that's what they say with any job, though, you know...You do the same thing for a while, you know, and you just get tired of it. I mean, no matter what job it is. That's how I think I keep my sanity sometimes you know, I tell myself that no matter what I do I'd probably get tired of it.

Q Do you think you could make the job more enjoyable?

A I'm trying. Like, you know, listening to my music, trying to, you know, talk to people. That's about all you can basically do. I mean, you know, I look at my job and say, you know, "How can I make this more?" I think what I do is psychologically psyche myself, think about my kids. Think about what I could do if I work for a while, maybe take time off and go do something, you know...I try to think of things I could do.

Q What kind of things do you think about that you can do?

A Oh, like take a trip somewhere. I think about the trips I have done. You know.

Q Where have you gone?

A Hawaii.

Q Oh. You've been to Hawaii?

A Oh yeah. It's like going through labor.

Q What do you mean?

A You think of something pleasant. While you're going through labor.

Q What do you mean?

A Well, you try to think of something pleasant as you go through your pain. You know.

Q What kind of work do you want your children to do?

A I wouldn't want Sarah to do it. You know if he can handle it, fine. I would like to make sure that ...what I'm doing is saving for them. So they won't have it so bad like I did. I had to work.

Q You had to start work right after school?

A I had to work because my parents...you know...Some parents pay for a few years, their school you know and...so I had to work for, I've worked since I was 14. I never really had a summer off from work.

Q How do you save? Where?

A Credit union.

Q How does that work?

A The credit union? They deduct it out of my check. So I really don't see it, so ...

Q You don't go and take it out the next week?

A No. No. At least not so far.

Q That's what I do.

A Well, if I need it. But I really haven't gone.

Q How much do they take out a week?

A Out of the credit union? I've never gone.

Q No. How much do you put into the credit union

A Fifty dollars.

Q Every week you save fifty dollars and very rarely do you go.

A I've never gone.

Q Never. You must have saved a pretty penny by now?

A No not really. I just started.

Q Well that's good. And...What we're doing is saving for a house. I'm going back and having more taken out. I intend to when I get off early, you know, credit unions they got weird hours. That way you can't get it out. Well they close at 4:30.

Q They're open until 5:00 or 5:30 now

A Oh, 5:00. Oh yeah.

Q I go after work. I'm able to get my money out.

A I wanted to basically see how I could do without, you know. I know I can do it, as long as I don't get pregnant again.

Q Do you want a third child?

A Yeah we do, but not just now. To close together.

Q Where do you want to live if you bought a house?

A An open area.

Q What do you mean?

A I don't want to live like, well this is a nice area.

Q A nice street.

A Yeah. Somewhere around here or out where it is open. Somewhere like Geddes Road, out that way or even Romulus, they got open land. I want an old farm house.

Q You'd like an old farm house?

A Yeah.

Q What...In terms of being in the plant. You say you go out at lunch sometimes with some folks. Is there alot of drinking and drugs goin on?

A No. The people I know, there is alot of drinking going on. That's not the people I go out with. I go out to look. It's not as if I do it everyday. If I feel good I'll do it.

Q You say you know there's alot of drinking, how do you know? How does it interfere with production?

A Well they be doing it so long, I don't think it does interfere with production. You know.

Q You meet all kinds of young folks.

A Middle aged, young folks.

Q Does that bother you?

A I hate to see them, you know...I think it sort of a release for them, from...

Q Do you think they'll alcoholics or are they just drinking a little?

A Oh, there's some alcoholics.

Q What percentage of folks do you think?

A I say, well, the people I know I'd say ...

Q Think about the people around you, that's what I do. How many are alcoholics?

A I'd say, well about 10% of the people around me.

Q What...When you think of your childrens future, what dreams do you have for them?

A Well for Sarah I hope that she has a good education, marriage to the right person. Married to someone where she doesn't have to work. I'd like to see her stay at home.

Q Do you feel badly that you have to go to work?

A Yeah, oh yeah. I feel bad.

Q Do you ...

A I feel bad that I don't have the time. I feel bad ...

Q Sure.

A You know.

Q Do you think you are pretty independent woman?

A Yeah, oh yeah.

Q What do you think caused the auto crisis? What do you think about the

imports and the Japanese?

A I don't think they had much to do with it. They might have had a little part in it. People have...Well they could have been a big part of it. I think because they make a little nicer cars

Q Do you think they make nicer cars?

A I think the company here slacked off a little bit on how the cars are put together, you know, now they really crack down now.

Q Do you think the quality has changed?

A The quality is better.

Q How do you know that?

A How do I know it? I see them rolling off. Instead of being pulled off they are rolling off.

Q When they were pulled off, what did that mean before?

A When they were pulled off? Someone was doing big mistake here, you know? They just thought...at the time I didn't think there was any problems.

Q Do you think they are rolling more off now than they were then?

A Well yeah, they are making more an hour than they did then.

Q But I mean in terms of being pulled off verses being rolled off. In terms of quality changed from your perspective, from your area. Do you think you do a better job now than you did ten years ago? You have more interest in making sure the job gets done better?

A Oh yeah, then I won't get the flack from them.

Q What do you think changed? Was it because the Japanese were selling cars here or did you just get a little older, like you figure in the long run I might as well do it right. What went on?

A I wasn't accomplishing anything, I mean...

Q I was asking why you do a better job now than you did ten years ago when you hired in?

A Because, I didn't care. I was young, single. I took alot of time off.

Q One day a week, two days a week or three days a week?

A Oh, a week at a time.

Q A week at a time?

A Uh-huh. I really didn't care.

Q How much did you make that first year? Working full time.

A Oh, I made about 20,000 dollars.

Q And what do you make now working full time?

A For a full year? Oh I haven't worked a full year since that first job. Other things you can do.

Q I make more this year than ever before, which was only 24,000 dollars.

A I've made 21,000 dollars and I've only worked...

Q Before the baby was born.

A About five months before the baby was born.

Q Do you get full pay for that? Do you get paid for that or do you get medical?

A Well you know they got the new policy. That doctor up there is the doctor who was up there before I got him. He was a dirty old man.

Q Was he? Didn't he respect you?

A Well from what I've been told by the women in there, he's never done anything to me. When I was pregnant with Sarah I was off for a year. He abided by the restrictions which this doctor today, she didn't abide by the restrictions. And she sent me to another party doctor to who...

Q What do you mean?

A But the restrictions that my doctor gave me wouldn't really bother me in any way, like eight hours a day, you know or standing.

Q This is after you had the baby?

A No, before.

Q Before you had the baby? While you were pregnant?

A I had to work. That's the thing I didn't want to work. I didn't work at all during my pregnancy. I worked with adjustments.

Q Up until?

A I was miserable. It was miserable. And I couldn't believe that doctor, a female doctor...But she wouldn't abide by the other female doctor. The restrictions...

Q You went through one pregnancy and the doctor said it was okay for you to have restrictions and therefore you were on medical leave. And the second child you weren't allowed to do that?

A Yeah, it was like miserable, miserable. Working and standing like that. That's why I got problems like I do. That was another problem when I got.

Q What's it like being pregnant in the A frame?

A I'd ache, my feet would hurt. They would swell. They had me pushed up against the truck, I'd feel nauseous like, you know, eventually they transferred me to where I work leaned up against the truck.

Q Did you have to fight for that? Or did the union help you?

A The union had to help me.

Q How long did it take?

A Well, a couple of weeks. Then I was transferred over to the engine

line, which there I didn't have a job. It was to the point I could go home 2-3 times a week.

Q You didn't have a job. You were an extra person?

A Yeah.

Q So you would volunteer to go home? But you wouldn't get paid?

A No. But at that time I didn't care. I'd work a couple times a week, that was fine with me. But I had to work, what about four months before I was transferred to engine line so I worked until I was the last few days and then I took a holiday or just a personal time and then I took about two weeks before I was due, she allowed me to go on medical.

Q What about this new law, how does it effect you? Do you know?

A That, well see what happened was some pregnant women wanted to work, but be restricted. But the company wouldn't let them. So they put up a big stink about it, so they work. But with restriction.

Q What do you think is the fair way to go with pregnant women in an auto plant? In 1986 not 1922.

A I think they should have the time off, if they are sure they're not gonna have dozens of kids. You know, take advantage of it. I think they should have the necessary time, which I believe the government, but not with pay. I think we should have the time off so it wouldn't affect them. Which I believe the government has already put into law.

Q So you can't be fired for...

A You can't be fired and you can't be , from what I heard, you don't lose no time. You're allowed five years off and come back and you still have those five years seniority. You know what I mean? No lose your

senority, not lose time but still build senority even though you're off.

Q Sounds fair to me.

A I think they did pass it. It was tough.

Q How did the guys relate to you when you were pregnant? Was that hard for you?

A You didn't feel right anyways. You know you didn't feel attractive. Your husband...you know it was alright. And it gets disgusting, you know. My sister is due any time now. I look at that big stomach and it just makes me sick. It's the grossest thing. I need to have someone call you fatso or stuff like that it doesn't help you.

Q So you got called names like fatso?

A Well yeah, some in a way. You shouldn't be here. I know it, tell that doctor that.

Q They wouldn't fight for you. They wouldn't fight to change that rule. They wouldn't with you or along side of you to change that would they?

A Well the union did.

Q What at Wayne, Michigan. What are some concerns you have? Things about the country or things about the state. What do you think about Reagan and Iran?

A Well he sure does contradict himself. The government always is contradicting themselves. They always try to fool the people, until they get caught and then they try to change. We don't really know nothing. You know. The government, I feel the country is losing it's strength. It's not as strong as it once was. It's hard to say.

Q When you say strength, what do you mean?

A Well to go into the hostage situation. Russia would go right in there, that's Russia. US does something like that and it's degrading, how appalling. Something like that. I don't know. It's hard to say. I don't like talking about it.

Q Okay. Do you go to church?

A No. I don't, I don't mind talking about religion. I was brought up Baptist, but Steve is Catholic.

Q Steve is Catholic?

A Yeah. And I was brought up Baptist. I'm not religious...

Q Fundamentalist?

A I don't know. Religion is kinda of I don't know...We were created, evolution and all that stuff.

Q What do you think about the folks that walk around carrying their bibles everyplace?

A I don't have no problem with them. Like I say to each their own. If they're gay, whatever they want to do. I have no problems. People tend to have their own opinions about things. As long as they don't bother me any I don't worry about them. But...

Q What...Are there many gay folks in the plant?

A Not that I know of. Next door I know a few. In my one area where I worked over there, there was one, a big black guy. I don't know he ... He didn't like it when I called him Joanne. And he'd let you know. It was odd seeing a big man....

Q Did he take alot of harassment? Did people joke with him?

A I don't think they harassed him. I don't think they did.

Q No. I see.

A Whatever.

Q But he was definitely a guy? He must of been gay.

A But...I worked right by him. He carried his purse and everything. It was interesting. He'd come up to me and ask me certain things, you know.

Q He'd come over and talk to you?

A I have an uncle that's gay. And I've been around. So it wasn't really the first time, it didn't bother me.

Q Steve works in a factory, in a ?

A No. He is what is called a warehouse. He is what we call a...He handles documents which you have to have a clearance.

Q Secret clearance?

A Yeah. He would get it for him. Like all these secrets.

Q I see. He searches the warehouse for papers?

A Right. And he delivers them or whatever.

Q Is it a union job?

A No.

Q Union protection? Good benefits?

A Well, now he does. He's been there awhile. The company's is getting better. The government...

Q Is your pay about equal?

A Is the pay about equal to the government?

Q No. Do you make about equal pay?

A He makes a couple of dollars less than I do.

Q Does that create any hassle? In the house?

Q Is there any ego involved in that?

A Everybodies is involved. It don't really bother me. He always brings up, cause he's always giving me money. And he'll say you make more money than I do. I'm always giving you money. But other than that. His money pays for everthing.

Q How do you work that? How do you handle that?

A I have my own account and he has his.

Q How do you divide the bills?

A When we get paid, he gets certain bills and I get certain bills.

Q And it works out?

A Yeah. It works out. You can't keep a job unless you're a professional person. To make that kind of money.

Q What do you mean? You can't get a job like we have?

A I mean like the money we make. The money we make we've had have to be at least a professional like a lawyer or doctor. Make more to make better money. President of a company or something.

Q Is that why you stayed there?

A The money? Yeah. It's the only reason isn't it? It ain't the company.

Q I've been thinking about getting out. I'm gonna teach history in high school.

A Oh, yeah? Steve wants to go to be a teacher. He lacks only a couple of credits.

Q I just went back April 20th.

A I keep telling Steven he should go back.

Q And I ...

A Well if it's something you enjoy.

Q That's for sure. If they closed up the plant or moved the plant to Mexico. How far would you follow Ford Motor Co.? In order to keep working in the auto plant?

A I don't think I'd go to far. You know, all my close family is here. I wouldn't go to Mexico. What do they make .54 per hour? Something like that. No way! Steven's brother lives in Mexico. He found a woman. She's English. No I don't think I'd leave.