

Q We'll just go and talk for a while. Talk about the plant and talk about the situation. You often get a chance to sleep in on Saturdays?

A Yes. That's all I do is sleep on Saturdays to try to rest up for Monday. This is kind of rough man, living out in the city and I don't have no ride to get out there so I'm depending on somebody else to bring me back and forth. They got me on probation.

Q They got you on probation?

A I serve my thirty days.

Q For what?

A Attendance. See I'm under ten years and don't have to take my doctor's notes. I will have my ten years in July so they got to take everything that I throw. The whole idea was they wouldn't fair the contract, you know, the last contract. It just wasn't fair with it you know. Since I'm under ten years I'm under a different contract. People over ten years they are on a different contract. See what I'm saying?

Q Why don't you explain that a little more? Because I just realized it about six months ago when someone got thirty days off. They now have a two tier systems in terms of what is legitimate for you and what is legitimate for me for example for not coming to work. I took off yesterday to take the baby to the doctor. It was no problem. How does it work for you? You got how many years seniority now?

A I worked ten years on July 9th. When I get my ten years in I'll be on the same contract with people that worked over ten years. Okay so I really don't know how the contract

goes, but I know that it is wrong. Like the other day, this guy worked a year and a half and missed one day and came in there without a doctor note. They wrote him up a grievance for missing that one day. He hadn't missed a day in a year and a half. They are just tightening up on attendance. You know they really are tightening it up. You know I really don't understand. They are giving everybody time off like you know if their paper ain't right. They'll give them time off.

Q This guy had over ten years too?

A No.

Q Oh this guy had over ten years?

A 16-17 years. He hadn't missed a day in a year and a half. They wrote him up a grievance. It is just the whole idea man. They are trying to tighten up on this attendance, but they are messing with people who come in every day. You know it is just both ways. It is not right. Then I come in there and get hassled every day since I'm getting my ten years in like from the foremen. He knows I'm getting my ten years in so he hassles me and talking about what you missing. You missing bolts and I know I haven't missed nothing. It is just the idea I'm getting hassled because they know that it is getting time for me to get my ten years in.

Q They don't want you to get the ten years in?

A They are trying to mess with me so I'll just take a day off or I'll quit. If I miss a day they'll fire me. I've been fired before.

Q At the truck plant or the car plant?

A Truck plant about two months ago. I was walking down the

street when I came home from work and the police picked me up and you know just took me to jail and locked me up for twenty-four hours. I already had served thirty days so I knew that if I missed a day I was fired. I came in the next day and they fired me. The committee man he got me back the same day, but the whole idea they had me waiting six to seven hours down in labor relations to have me sweat you know. The whole idea man, they really rough man. It is not the same like it was eight or nine years ago. It is really different.

Q Do you remember what it was like when you hired in?

A Oh man you could miss a day or three or four days and come in and they wouldn't say nothing. You could give the foreman a hassle and tell him how you really feel. Heh just leave me alone. You could walk off the job. Now you can't do that now. You got to be careful how you talk to the foreman. It is just different man. I didn't finish high school. I got kicked out.

Q Which High School?

A I got kicked out for in the bathroom. So they caught me in the bathroom and when I got kicked out I've been at Ford's ever since. I started when I was eighteen and I've been there ever since. Another thing I was at the car plant and never in my life worked days until I got to the Michigan Truck Plant. You know that is a big difference. I've always been on afternoons. I've been on afternoons for eight years. When I got laid off for two months they called me to the truck plant. That was a big change you know getting up at four in the morning and start-

ing a new job at the truck plant. You know that was a big difference just getting up in the morning.

Q How do you wake up in the morning?

A Alarm clock.

Q Does it work? What do you think about when you wake up?

A Just laying in bed. I think I'm going to get fired today because I don't even want to get up. I don't like days man. I really don't. You don't have no say so because we all want shift that's the main thing. If it was up to me I'm for afternoons. I'd take afternoons over days. I don't really have no other skills so that's why I got to hang on building trucks. That's the only thing I have now. I don't have any other skill. If I get fired or laid off you know I just don't have no skill to do nothing else. I can't learn because the way I feel I don't have no skills now.

Q Did you sign up for that apprenticeship program?

A No I didn't.

Q How come?

A Well for one reason you know, well I'm not going to say I'm a slow learner, but you know I'm just kind of slow in my reading and math. It make a big difference to me. So that's one problem.

Q Hassling and getting in a ride with someone else, how has this worked out? I know a lot of guys do it. Do you have any problems with the driver? You've got someone else driving right?

A Yes. This guys name is Sylvester. I don't think you know him. He is dependent. He comes in every day. He missed

eighteen days out of eighteen years. So he told me Lance if I die that is the only way you ain't going to get to work. He told me that. That's the best ride I ever had in my life.

Q What do you have to pay a week?

A \$25.00 a week. He cares what happens to me and I like that. Somebody who cares you know that is a big difference. It is hard to find people who really care.

Q That's great. Do you find that the management in the plant doesn't?

A No they doesn't. I mean we be having this E.I. meeting and this rap session and they really don't care. One thing about the truck plant they not man I know that for a fact. Everybody is for themselves over there. Like in the car plant we was all together you know. When we were at the car plant we might smoke a joint and somebody see the foreman and heh the foreman is coming you know. Everybody tries to look out, but over there at the car plant even the workers tell you heh man don't do that because I don't like it and I'm going to tell on you because you are doing that. You aren't suppose to do that, but the whole idea they not together over there. Everybody is trying to get the best job and sucking butt or whatever.

Q That's at the truck plant?

A The truck plant yeah. I don't like it over there. I really don't.

Q How many years did you spend at the car plant?

A Eight years.

Q What is interesting to me is I hear both sides. I hear folks who were originally hired at the truck plant and then went

to the car plant and that's what they say about the car plant. They were more together in the truck plant and they are worse in the car plant. Then they come back. I wonder if that has to do with being somewhere eight years. You got your buddies. People take care of each other a lot more. You're the new kid on the line. I don't know.

A I don't see that.

Q Maybe what you're saying Lance is it seems like the attitude of the management clamping down harder over the last year. Why do you think they are so uptight now? Are they alarmed about the business or the Japanese threat or what?

A Okay you might be right. The Japanese already know that they are kicking ass already and so that's why they begin those meetings every two or three months which I think they is talking about well we doing this and they doing that. Japanese are doing this and we doing that, but we need to tighten up. The main thing I think it is is attendance. That's what I think. Heh I think we are doing a good job on those trucks. I really think so because you already know if you miss one job they'll come down there and hassle you about that one job. I know one thing when I come to work I do my job. That's what I get paid for to come there and do my job. I don't come in there and mess around with my job. Other than that they come to me with other things. Just like Mr. Weiss you know you can't take an hour for lunch I mean for relief. I always take the first hour break and they stopped that because I used to go to the bathroom a couple times a day so they told me I can't take no hour break.

Q At one time? You used to take the whole morning break?

A Right. I know they are messing with me because I did that ever since I came to the truck plant. I take the first hour every day. My foreman name is Terry Praylor. He just got foreman about five months ago and he don't run his own. He let his other boss run it for him and that's not right. If you're a foreman you are suppose to run your own zone and don't worry about nobody else telling you what to do. The problem with him he don't run his own.

Q He let's other people push him around?

A Right.

Q Who is general foreman there?

A Abe Lucas. He is something else, the guy with a toothpick in his mouth.

Q Terry is a new foreman who has something like fourteen kids is that the story? Fourteen kids. Straight looking dude, black guy, shirt and tie and he looks like he is from another generation you know. He is totally responsible looking.

A I know one thing he is ignorant.

Q Is he? I never worked with him.

A Everybody on the line don't like him. I wrote Terry up every-day since last month. Every day I wrote him up, wrote him up, wrote him up. Everybody don't like him and when you can't work with your foreman it ain't going to work out.

Q What did you write him up for?

A Working. Anything I see him do because he work all day. You know the foreman ain't suppose to work, but they do anyway. For me I can't even get a day off. We got six extra people on line and I got to beg five or six times that I would like Friday off. Let me think about it and then

I write him up for working and then he'll say no. Like on Friday I go to the plant manager to get Friday off. He got mad because I went over his head. Do you understand what I'm saying? He didn't like that. Abe Lucas the general foreman, he didn't like it. That's the whole idea of what you got to do to make things right.

Q When you take an hour break at seven o'clock what do you do?

A I get me something to eat and then go watch the news on TV and use the bathroom and I might take a little nap for about 15-20 minutes.

Q Where do you sleep? Where do you get your nap at?

A Right next to my job because they got those captain seats because the guy next to me put in those captain seats.

Q Those big cushiony seats?

A Right. So I take one of those seats down and stretch out.

Q What is your actual job on the line Lance? I've seen what you do and I know that you work consistently and one day I was laying down there trying to put that little bolt underneath, what are you doing from the minute you pick up a bolt to the gun paint a picture for us.

A Okay mine basically is shooting a ground wire on every truck and putting every big bolt on every truck and shooting a canister on every car. You know canister and lot of the screws. Just mainly the screws.

Q How many screws do you have to shoot?

A Three screws on every truck. I got to connect a couple hoses on every truck. So it is just little minor things, it keep you busy. One thing different when I was at the



car plant I didn't do every car. I was like a OP man. I just specially wired. I put in wires in the car. I might do three cars out of...no like two cars out of four cars you know. That was a big difference. I come over here and then do every truck. Over there they are building 74 cars an hour. I come over here and what are they building?

Q 48.

A 48 and I can't understand why they still like it over there they building 74 cars an hour and I get over here and they are building 48 trucks. I still like it over there man. When I was over next door I knew then about fifteen jobs and I don't like staying on one job. A<sup>T</sup> the truck plant I'm on one job and that's another thing I don't like. They really don't have too many good jobs over there.

Q You were in chassis over at the car plant?

A First when I got hired at the car plant I was in chassis. I got laid off for three months and then they put me in trim. I have been in trim ever since.

Q You got called back to the truck plant back on the job you are on now?

A Yeah, I've been on the job ever since.

Q How many guns do you have to use?

A I got two guns I use. I'll tell you something else that is different. At the car plant they got a whole lot of women. That makes a big difference. Over there in trim there ain't nothing but womens over there. I used to be glad to come in and work so I could say I'm working next to this girl here and I know how she is going to talk to me. Then over the truck plant we got about ten womens over there. We got about ten womens through the whole plant man.

Q What is better? Would you rather be talking with women than talking with George? What kind of difference? At the truck plant there has never been too many women just for a couple years. What is the difference?

A There is a big difference because sometimes a guy is in a bad mood over there, he ain't going to say too much and the people I work around I believe they got money bet on me man that I ain't going to make it. You know getting my ten years in. The whole idea is they are not together and some of them just don't like me. Like George and Tom they are black. I got Kenny right next to me and Chuck and they seem like they are prejudice. Chuck is our E.I. man. He don't ever work. He just always walk around and it seems he is just prejudice. Really bad to me. It is not going to work man.

Q The new contract is made for ten years like it used to be when I was hired in for ninety days. It used to be up until you got ninety days in you really had shake. Now they got people shaking up until ten years. You get paid the same thing as Kenny and....

A Yes. The only difference is they cut ours in half. They gave me one day off and then they gave me two weeks in a month.

Q We get one day three day a week, two weeks a month.

A Right. They just cut mine straight in half.

Q But then you go before a review board right?

A When I still had thirty days.

Q What was that like? Who was at the review board?

A I had to talk to the plant manager. The plant manager talked

with me and he already told he can't do nothing about it because there was somebody outside that wants my job bad. He already told me that it would be up to me if I wanted to work. If you have any problems I would like you to come down and talk with me. He did tell me that.

Q Is it the head man?

A The head man. It is just the whole idea man. This kind of tight idea. You know it is not like it was eight or nine years ago. It is really rough. I used to come into the car plant and be glad to work, but now since I'm in the truck plant it is just different man.

Q You get up at 4 o'clock, grab a cup of coffee and hit the road. What time does Sylvester pick you up?

A I get up at 4 o'clock and be messing around. He get here about twenty to five. So I get up at 4 o'clock every day and he be out there, every day. He is a dependent rider.

Q You mentioned the women in the line over at the car plant. There you just started conversation, what, it just sort of happened? Because men and women just talk to each other and it sounds like you were saying there was more nicer conditions there....

A Okay you know when you work with a women and you be working ten hours every day and then you be glad to see a woman you know a woman might walk through the aisle and you might scream or whistle you know because you are glad to see her because you have been there all day. This is like your second home and the whole idea they just pass time away. You might have a woman next to you and you might be talking about sex and you know sex for ten hours heh. The time goes

by fast. She might be a good looking woman and you be happy just to work next to her because it makes a big difference if you talk or not. If you stay on the line and don't say nothing you know time goes by slow. You know that. It goes by slow and it makes a big difference. I do like working with womens.

Q Black and white women?

A Yes.

Q There is white women you sense that is prejudice when you were working?

A At the car plant?

Q Yes, where you were working.

A Not really. Everybody works together over there.

Q I know Canton is there and I know what you mean. I worked with him for a long time and I know his history.

A He is something else. I think his old man worked down with payroll. No timekeeper. His old man is a timekeeper.

Q Your kidding. Lou is his dad?

A Yeah I think he owns the plant to tell you the truth.

Q No Lou is not his dad.

A Yeah.

Q You're shitting me?

A The timekeeper.

Q I'll check that out. I'll be surprised.

A So there it is right there.

Q He's got 35 years in, an outrageous amount of time.

A Another thing about the truck plant they don't care what they put on that line. They got guys that are like 30 years old and 40. Give them the hard job and they don't

who as long as the line is running. They don't care if you are 50 or 100 just as long as you get on the line and go down. This is bad. I feel sorry for some of the old people on the line. They'd be really busting their ass.

Q So a lot of people are being put on jobs they just can't handle?

A Right and they know it. The reason that they do that is they want you to get frustrated and take time off and just quit. No it ain't going to be like that.

Q I see so that's the way they weed people out they don't like they put them in impossible jobs.

A And then they mess with them. It is not even that they just keep pestering them and make them go on medical. It is just bad. You know Tom ?

Q Yes.

A Okay this guy took three days off. He always go on his back and so they gave him two weeks off because they told him he can't bring another doctor note on his back.

Q He's got more time than I do. He's got twenty years.

A No Tommy's got fourteen years. What they are doing now if you miss a lot of time like you might miss a day a week they have you see a third party now. They don't care what your doctor says. They have you see a third party doctor. Tommy got two weeks off just because our doctor at the truck plant told him there was nothing wrong with his back so they gave him two weeks off.

Q What they are doing is trying to fire people for being incapable of working the line. They are medically incapable of being employed. So they fire them. It is a new firing

category. That they just started.

A That's what is is and it's bad too. I mean they don't care if you got 15 or 30 years. They are doing it to everybody man. I'll tell you the truth I'm really scared of next contract so I'm going to get involved next time when this contract talk comes. The union, you know, I think they sold us out man if you ask me. How can you split a contract. They treat me like I'm trying to get ninety days man. Do you see what I'm saying?

Q Yes.

A It is not right. They just sold us out.

Q Has the union been helpful to you?

A Some people.

Q Who?

A Okay like Hank. Everybody talk about how Hank don't know his job, but Hank is the one who got me back when I got fired. See he gave up a lot of things to get me back. I'll tell you something if anyone was defending me besides Hank I would have been fired. I already know this. After Hank got me back he put me to the side and said heh I got a son your age and I know how it is to be on the street. It is hard. It is really hard for a black man anyway trying to survive anyway. So he really talk with me and made me feel good because he cared. Like I say if it was anyone else I would have been fired man.

Q Hank is your regular committee man?

A Yeah.

Q Hank is a good guy. Do you know Larry Pool?

A I think he would have....

Q Larry is the other black committee man. You really picture the plant. I know that is not the way you want to spend Saturday morning talking about the plant sometimes.

A Yeah when I come home I don't bring the job home with me. I just forget all about it until I go back to the plant on Monday. That's one thing I do do. Don't think about the plant while I'm off. You know it is already bad enough going in there every day and getting all these hassles from foreman and general foremen and it is just not right.

Q What do you do when you come home from work? You get out at 4:30. Are you running to the time clock or do you walk slow?

A I just take my time. I take my time and punch myself out and change my shop jacket and then I head on home. I really don't like it man. I really don't like it how they are doing things out there. The only thing I can see is like I say they are just trying to fire people man. Especially people with time. They get a guy on the street with 15-20 years heh that's great to them. You know you don't get unemployment if you get fired. I think you get about three months or something and it ain't right.

Q Let's move to another part. There's three children?

A No my sister is babysitting so that's her daughters. She's got two daughters.

Q So they are your nieces. Do you have any children?

A No I don't have no kids.

Q You are living with your sister here?

A It is a family house. My mom stays upstairs.

Q I see. So you were raised here then?

A Oh yeah. This has been me right here.

Q Are you 28 now?

A I'm 28.

Q So you were born in 1958?

A Right.

Q What kind of work did your dad and mom do?

A My dad he booked on us. I remember my dad when I was small, but other than that I really don't remember him. My mom she worked in a lounge. That's about it.

Q You and your sister? Any other children?

A No.

Q So you worked pretty hard to keep it together.

A I'm number one worker okay. I know I'm doing some things I know I'm not suppose to be doing. Like I'm still messing up a little bit. I have a little problem, but I'm trying to get it together because I love mom and when she gone you be thinking about I should have done this and I should have did that. I don't want to be like that so I'm trying to get it together now. Like I am in the hole with bills and income taxes. I am in the hole. Since I've been on probation, this is my fourth month in a row.

Q So you're working slowly out of the hole?

A Yes.

Q Do you blow your money on the weekends?

A I blow my money, but it is just the idea of how I blow it.

Q You don't want to talk about it.

A No.

Q Okay.

A Well I'm doing it with my eyes open so I know I'm doing wrong. I know this already.



Q When you were coming up did you think you would work in an auto plant?

A No.

Q What did you think you would do?

A I really don't know. I knew when I was going to school I was good at using wood. I could make pictures you know. I was good at using wood. Right now I almost forgot how to make things because I haven't got tools a whole lot you know so you forget it and I definitely forgot it. So it's just been me at Ford's.. Like you say this is the last generation.

Q You're at the very bottom. Ten years is sort of the....

A Last generation.

Q Is that pretty scary?

A Yes it is, but you know when I first got hired in the plant I say well everybody needs cars. I thought that it was a guaranteed job. I didn't know they were going to lay off. They still got people with twenty years on the streets. Like at Chryslers. I know this already it is going to fold. I know this already.

Q What do you think would happen if you lost your job? What would you do?

A I don't even know man. I really don't.

Q Where do most of your friends that went through Chancey with you do? Some of your running friends or buddies that you hung out with from Chancey? What are they doing?

A Are you talking about the car plant?

Q No people that you went to high school with?

A That's another thing all my friends around here all have

jobs at factories and I'm the only one that hung because they couldn't take the hassle of foreman coming in your face or arguing at you. Most guys tell me he told me to pick this up. You know I say heh they are going to do that. They are going to get in your face and argue with you to get you mad and fire you. They are going to do it anyway so this is the way you know you have to know how to do it. Most people can't take it. Take orders you know. Just like in the service. I've never been in the service, but if you can't take no order you couldn't even make it in the service. It is the same in the plant they are definitely going to give you orders, but you got to take them. You take so much they give you, but you got to take it. Just like in the service. If you can't get a day off you go see somebody else and if he don't give you the day off go see somebody else. Just work the channels. Other than that I'm the one that hung. All my friends had jobs at the factories.

Q Where did they work? Do you remember?

A They are not working. They are on the street selling dope or whatever. They are making money. They make \$400 a day and ain't no way they want to work. A guy makes \$400 a day selling dope on the street. They are not thinking about working man. But see I'm not the kind of guy to steal or rob. I'd rather work the hard way to get my money so that is why I'm at Ford's now. A lot of them guys steal and rob. I wouldn't be at Ford's now man.

Q So it seems like for everybody using dope there are two people selling it. I mean everybody is selling it.

A Everybody. Right now go down to the corner heh I got some

rocks. I mean I'll tell you it was getting so bad for me I hate to come home man. It is bad when you hate to come to your own house. I'll tell you the truth man I'm trying to move to Wayne so I get next to the job. Because I got to try to make things better for myself. They are already on me for attendance so I know if I come there late I'm fired. That's just the whole idea that I know I got to do. I already going to try and make a move to get closer to the plant. Try something different and make things better. I really don't like coming home.

Q What don't you like about it?

A One reason I had my own place, my own apartment and man I loved it man. I used to have womens coming through and I used to mess a lot with topless women. You know they used to come and dance for me and I'd sit back and watch and drink me a beer. See I can't do this because I got my people here.

Q I guess it would be pretty embarrassing if your mom walked out.

A My sister she stays here. I got a nice little hook up in the basement and I sleep there. I just get tired. I really do. They say once you leave mom's it's hard to come back. There are some things I can't do if I had own place. Like last night I had a little people coming over, music all day long kicking out, boom boom boom boom I'm down in the basement and I really couldn't sleep. If a man works every day he got to have at least a little privacy. I can't say nothing because she is my sister and she don't work. She ain't got nothing to do, but have friends come over.

Q How old is your sister?

A She is 28.

Q Your the same age?

A Yes we are the same age, just twelve months apart. She be in December and I be in January.

Q Lance what else besides the lack of privacy don't you like about coming home? Is it related to the street drug business?

A It has something to do with that too. Like I was by myself there are a lot of things my sister and my mom wouldn't know about me. They know things about me that I wish they never knew. So it makes a big difference to me. If I had my own place they wouldn't really know nothing that I do. Since I'm living with them they know. They just know some of my privacy. This is a big difference. I stay right here and come home every day so they know what you do and where you at. It is just a big difference. I haven't had a main women for about seven years. You know a steady woman. Some men be dating different womens and I'm getting tired of that to. I'm ready to get me a nice woman and probably even get married and have a couple of bad kids. Other than that, I really am trying to change you know because life is to short man. It really is. Then you have to worry about all these bomb sitting around here. It is kind of scary you know, but I try not to think about it. If you think about that it's like you never try and do nothing because you're worrying about this and that.

Q If you got married where do you think you would live?

A I know I wouldn't be in Detroit. I know that. I'd probably be in some open land. Wayne is open land. Somewhere in

Wayne, but not in Inkster. Maybe in parts of Romulus or Wayne. Something idfferent you know, but definitely not in Detroit. I've been here so long I already know about Detroit.

Q What do you think is going to happen to Detroit?

A I think we are going to have a riot man. I don't know what is going to happen. There are going to be a lot of young people getting killed or getting hurt because of dope. Just last night a guy got his car blew right down the street man because he is dealing with dope.

Q How many dope houses on this street?

A About ten or twelve. Not on this street, but around this area. Street by street. It is really bad.

Q It is like that in every neighborhood of the city.

A I know it is really bad. That's why I don't have no kids because I know it is hard for me already. If I had a kid I'd want the best for him. These kids that are coming up these days they got to have their smarts because it is really going to be hard for them. It is really going to be hard for young kids. We are not getting the training like we are suppose to and computers and they are keeping a lot of things away from us. I know this.

Q How do you characterize the management and people at the top who work for Ford's? These people are somehow responsible for the line you work on, what is really bad about it?

A The only thing I know they want is production out that door. It just seems like they try to think they care about the workers and try to kick us up. We even got the little TV's out there so we tell the Dow Jones, how much profit and you

know and this how to do things how to get us to keep up, but it doesn't fool me because I know what they want. They just want production out that door. If you miss a day of work... they own you. A guy missed one day out of a year and a half and give him an R & W for missing one day. Heh there it is right there. They don't really care. I'm surprised to hear that. A guy missed a day in a year and a half and they're going to write him up. That is bad. When I get my ten years in and I'm still scared.

Q I heard once you get your ten years in it doesn't change that day. You know who went through the same thing is that guy up the line from you a few jobs.

A Spencer?

Q No. A white guy with long blonde hair. I worked with him for years and can't remember his name. You should talk with him because after he got his ten years then he had something too.

A Okay I know who you are talking about.

Q Dwayne. That's right. Has the job changed much in the two years you have been at the truck plant?

A No they just added another hole. And another thing about them jobs out there, like Kenny, the guy I was talking about earlier, that's not even a job he is doing. I see they come around to my job and he is still sitting down reading the newspaper. They are not fair how they are splitting up the jobs. The company jobs on the line are the only big jobs. They gave me a couple hoses to hook up and didn't give him nothing on his job and he knows that his job is gravy. I just didn't understand that either.

Q Why do some people get gravy jobs and others don't?

A For one reason, how do you call it? Suck asses or people who's family worked there, you know that is one reason. Like Kenny he do come in every day. You just got to know people that is the way it is. It makes a big difference.

Q Would you rather be working in another department?

A I'd rather be working in the car plant to tell you the truth, on afternoons. I loved afternoons. Because when I got up I was ready to work.

Q When you got off of work you didn't go right to sleep?

A Oh yeah you go right to sleep because you get up at 4:30 in the morning and you be so tired. You might not even want to take a bath you're so tired. You know you go straight to bed, but you get up on time. You even have a couple of hours, three hours, to take care of your business and you don't mess around. On days man, I do not like days.

Q What time do you go to sleep? Working days?

A When I first started working at the truck plant I used to have to force myself to sleep man about twelve o'clock and I knew I had to get up at four. Right now since I'm on probation I don't hang out on the street. I come home and watch TV or lay down and go to bed about eight or nine. Just lay down. I know I'll probably go to sleep by eleven if I just be laying down because if you don't move around it is the same thing as getting your rest. As long as you are moving around you are messing up your rest. When I got my thirty days off I just walked down the street, talking to this guy and police took me to jail. They can keep you for

twenty-four hours if you haven't done nothing. I get so scared for me when I go down to the store and see a police I run home because I know that I can get stopped by police and know go down to jail because I know I get fired this time. If I miss a day I know I'm fired. They can't get me back. I know this.

Q So that is why when you first started at the truck plant you got your first break for the hour so you could sleep because you go to sleep at twelve o'clock at night?

A I'm so used to getting....I was at the car plant and I always got the first break all the time. I was so used to getting first and nobody likes it. So it be no problem, can I have the first break? Yeah man no problem. So I used to have the first break. I ain't because I wanted to sleep I just liked first break.

Q Do you take a lunch to work?

A Once in a while when I don't have no money.

Q Otherwise you hit the cafeteria?

A I try not to hit that place because it costs so much. Man if you get a full meal man it costs about \$5.00. It is not worth it. So like on Tuesdays and Thursdays sausage man bring in sausage. So that is \$1.50 to get one of them big long sausage for \$1.50. It is huge.

Q Somebody from work brings it in?

A Every Tuesday and Thursday. One Wednesdays, Kenny goes and gets chicken for people that he wants to some time. Some time he cuts me off the list because I did something to him. Things like that you know. I love chicken. Everybody likes chicken. I say Kenny are you going to get me chicken today?



Well I'll think about it and then when Wednesday comes, well I rode my motor bike in so I can't carry so many boxes. I know he is just doing that because I made him mad one day. I'll tell you how I made him mad. He is kind of nasty. He spit on the line and you know you got to work. He had to have a door in there so I checked on him about him spitting on the line and then he went down to labor relations to talk about it. That makes me throw up man. I got to see that and watch it and try to do my job and you got a hunk of spit on the line. It just throws me off. That is nasty man. So that is really what we got into it about spitting on the line. That is really bad. Heh I ain't going to be stepping in it.

Q So you went down to labor relations or he went down to labor relations?

A Both of us.

Q To discuss it?

A Yeah. I told them I'm not going to do no job if I see some spit on the line. I told him man. He said right we all have to work in that man. Ever since then he pat me on my back as we're talking, but you know this guy he is not right. He thinks he owns the plant if you ask me.

Q Well when he worked in paint he did. He was sort of the utility man that just ran around and did nothing. Did nothing. That's how he was. He didn't do anything. He'd be out of there at two o'clock when we'd get out at four. He'd have a two hour lunch. He has had that for a long time. Wednesday is chicken day. What do they charge now?

A I think \$2.45 but he just charges \$3.00.

Q He charges a pick up fee?

A Yeah. He charges.

Q I didn't know that.

A He ain't right. He charges everybody \$3.00 because since he is riding and getting it. Instead of saying everybody together man you know. If I'm going I'd be glad to get you a box of chicken. If I was driving I wouldn't even ask him I'd go and get my own chicken. That's what he do man he charges \$3.00 especially on Wednesday. So we ain't getting no special.

Q Then a lot of guys get chicken on Wednesdays?

A Oh yeah.

Q There's not much automation or robots near you.

A No just in copy. Did you see the little robot that they got? They got a little flasher going to the final line to the copy line. I seen it when they were hooking it up. They got a little robot pushing the copy all the way down to the final line.

Q I didn't see this. Where is this? What does it do?

A It carries a load of the copy to the final line.

Q So it is a line feeder?

A Yeah. It takes the reflectors, it follows the reflectors on the cylinder. They got it hanging down all the way into the final line.

Q I didn't even know they did that.

A It don't give nobody no hassle. I heard this new model we are building man, it'll be cutting out a whole lot of people man. I don't think it will take that many people to build this new truck.

Q I know what they are doing is like all the harnesses and the wiring is coming all made together from the parts supplier plant. So it will come all assembled. So things with hoses on them will come with the hoses if it is possible. One general question...you talked about the bombs around and things like that...when you think of national politics or the way things are going do you have any kind of general feelings about .

A Well that's one thing I don't keep up with politics because I don't know too much about it. I do watch a lot of news, but other than that I don't know too much. It already scares me when I be thinking about these bombs around here. It is kind of confusing to me. So I don't keep up with that. Sometimes I'm glad I don't. Sometimes what you don't know can't hurt you. What you know can't hurt you too, but other than that I don't keep up with that.

Q Were you excited about the Jesse Jackson campaign at all?

A I really was happy about that. I knew he wasn't going to win, but the whole idea that he had power enough to try. Just to know that black people can try if they really want to do something like that they can do it. He was the last two or three right? We knew he wasn't going to win, but the whole idea that he tried made me feel good and really rapping and talking. He really talks. He makes people think and fast talking. Just the whole idea that he tried. I was glad to see him really do it.

Q It was a fantastic thing to see him speak at U of D. I don't know if you saw him. It was tremendous. To see on young kids face, children, their age, their eyes just lit

up. It was the most exciting thing I've seen in the city for fifteen years.

A I'm glad he did it. He knew he wasn't going to win, but the whole idea that he tried.