

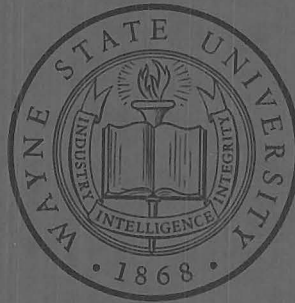
Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs

ORAL INTERVIEW

Mrs. Eleanor Macki

Norman McRae, Interviewer

March 26, 1970



Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan



ELEANOR MACKI

Interviewer - Norman McRae

Date: March 26, 1970

McRae - The first question I'd like to ask you, Mrs. Macki, is would you tell me something about your early life or your young life and possibly what made you join the Civil Rights Congress.

Mrs. M - I don't think there's anything in my early life that made me join the Civil Rights Congress, because I grew up in a quite conventional, typical American sort of way. The thing that made me join the Civil Rights Congress was, I think, as I remember, a friend of mine telling me about a bill that was going to be passed in the State Legislature that would censor not only movies, but books and bookstores, and meeting places, and practically every avenue of expression, and I hadn't known anything about this before. It struck me that this was completely wrong, and I joined with a number of other people in going up to Lansing, several times, to meet in the Legislative Chambers and just try by our force of numbers to keep them from passing the bill. And, of course, there were always people along who were speaking against the bill and from these speeches I learned a great deal that was very new to me.

McRae - Was this the Dunkel-Baldwin Bill?

Mrs. M - That was the Dunkel-Baldwin Bill, yes. By the time they finally got it passed, they'd had to take out most of the objectionable features of the bill, so that it didn't really have any teeth in it. I think they only tried to use it once, and then we managed to get it overthrown in the courts.

McRae - Would you tell me something about your upbringing, rather your rearing?

Mrs. M - Well, there was only one thing interesting in my childhood that I can remember, and that is that my father was Catholic and my mother was a Presbyterian. And I think they were fairly advanced for that time, because they had decided that the children would be nothing until they got old enough to decide for themselves. But my father had a sister who was rabidly Catholic, and she couldn't bear the thought of it, so she practically kidnapped us one Sunday and took us to church to have us baptised so that our souls wouldn't rot in Purgatory when we died. We weren't supposed to say anything, but my sister and I were both there and one of us must have let on, because the next Sunday, my mother took us both to the Presbyterian church to have it done properly. So I always maintain that the two of them cancelled themselves out, although I continued going to church and to Sunday School. In fact, when I was in, I think as late as my freshman year in college, I was teaching in a

Presbyterian Sunday School. But I think it was more for something to do than for any religious convictions then.

McRae - What college did you go to?

Mrs. M - I went to a thing called Detroit Teachers College, which was on the campus at Northwestern High School.

McRae - I see. ??????

Mrs. M - It merged into the College of the City of Detroit finally, and was no more. As I look back, it was a very weird excuse for a College, but I found very interesting. I managed to get a great deal out of it.

McRae - Could you tell me something about how life was for you in the period 1935 to 1945?

Mrs. M - Well, I was teaching school then, and those years were very exciting because in 1935 or '6, I can't remember which, I joined a teacher's union at its first open meeting at Northern High, and I had known several of the people who were involved in organizing it, but I wouldn't join it while it was underground. That seemed sort of wrong, but then they had an open meeting and I went to the meeting and joined the union. I was one of the youngest people in the union, evidently, because at one of my first union meetings, there was a request for someone to represent the union in the committee to organize a Second American Youth Congress, which was going to be held in Detroit. Dr. Bergman nominated me as one of the few in the room under thirty who could presumably adjust to the youth in the Youth Congress, and, again, I met a great many people who had a great many and different viewpoints and different ideas and found them extremely interesting. All of these things were sort of happening all at the same time, the union and the Youth Congress, and, in fact, I think that it was in the same summer that the Second American Youth Congress was held here. That summer and early fall, the agitation on the Dunkel-Baldwin Bill started and I became, I think it was the summer that I had met either in the union or the Youth Congress, who had told me about this new happening. And I went up there and it was very, very interesting. There was always something going on. The trips to Lansing culminated in an organization that was then called the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights. We had representatives from most of the language groups in Detroit, and from some of the union groups in Detroit, and many of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Progressive Party. All sorts of different kinds of people, very different, who would all come together and they were all concerned about inroads being made on civil rights. And it was really very exciting, very interesting.

McRae - Mrs. Macki, do you remember Reverend Baldwins and Reverend Nocks? I'm having a great deal of difficulty finding a biography about the two gentlemen. Do you know anything about them, or what was your impression of them?

Mrs. M - Reverend Bollens was a very sincere libertarian, and, as I remember, he had functioned previously as a representative in Detroit of the American Civil Liberties Union. I think that was it. If that's

the one Robert Baldwin was connected with, and I think it was. There was no organization here, but he functioned as sort of a Detroit branch or arm for them. And he was very devoted to the preservation of civil liberties. More than that, I can't tell you very much, because, outside of the meetings of the group, I never knew him very much, never got to know him.

McRae - When did he leave the organization?

Mrs. M - This is where my sense of timing....I couldn't remember whether he was active for one year, three years, or ten. Really. I have....It all merges, I know that he left, and that before he left, Reverend Nocks was becoming very active. And he also seemed a very devoted person, very interested. And when Reverend Bollens left, it seemed fairly normal and natural to me that he stepped into the leadership and was elected to whatever position it was.

McRae - Do you remember Mr. Kemnitz, Milton Kemnitz?

Mrs. M - Very well, very well, I worked.....

McRae - Could you tell me something about him?

Mrs. M - Milt was a social worker in Ann Arbor, I believe, who had gotten into something progressive and been threatened with dismissal, and a group organized and saved his job. He and some other young man and he became interested in this general field. I don't know exactly how it developed, but at one time when there was need for an Executive Secretary, he was brought in as a possible person, and he functioned very, very well. He was the person who I think was responsible for getting Jack Raskin into the organization.

McRae - Do you remember LeBran Simmons?

Mrs. M - Yes, very well. I knew LeBran through the Civil Rights and also as very active in National Negro Congress, which I had joined somewhere along the.....somewhere.

McRae - along the line....

Mrs. M - Which year, I don't know. There's one person who's name doesn't come up very often, and, I guess, was, to me, the very outstanding person in the early days of the civil rights movement. That was Ovrum Masevick. Have you run into him?

McRae - No. Would you say it again?

Mrs. M - Ovrum Masevick.

McRae - No. I'm not....I think I've seen it, but.....

Mrs. M - He has never took a leading office, but he was, I think, really, responsible for a great deal of its early growth. He was, as I remember, he was in business in Detroit. He was a food broker. And he became interested in the civil rights group during this early period of the Dunkel-Baldwin fight, and became so interested that he would give up his business for

weeks at a time, when things got very difficult. He functioned more as, I think, Chairman of the Steering Committee rather than as Executive Secretary, or any of the, you know, really main offices. And he was an extremely capable organizer and he really was responsible for getting a lot of the union support that we got, for involving numbers of the union locals and getting them to send delegates to the conference. I thought, as I was going through the material before I turned it over to Professor Mason, very seldom his name appeared, and how really valuable his contribution was. He was not what you would call Jimmy Higgins guy, but he was very adept at organizing, bringing things off, planning things so that they worked,????

McRae - I thank you for that, because these are the things the documents do not reveal.

Mrs. M - No. I realized this, as I was going through, that the name very seldom appeared, cause he didn't get elected president, or secretary, or any of these offices, but...While he was there, I think the union representation really grew, and then it became tremendous. That was...was it before the Civil Rights Federation change? There were two changes. We functioned as the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights for one, two, three, I don't know how many years, and then became the Civil Rights Federation.

McRae - You were that until about 1946 or '47?

Mrs. M - Yeah.

McRae - You know, I've found that for this particular period of time, that Civil Rights Federation is the most...the name you had the most...

Mrs. M - the longest...

McRae - The longest, right...But Civil Rights Congress became more prominent.

Mrs. M - Well, that was partly because of the times...

McRae - Right.

Mrs. M - and the attacks on the Congress. Partly because we were very instrumental in organizing the national organization that was formed at the time of the change.

McRae - ...at the time of the change. Something that I'm not quite clear on is the organization that Kemnitz led, the National.....

Mrs. M - That was the national organization. I don't remember the date you say. About '46.

McRae - Well, not the Civil Rights Congress, but you had different names, the National Conference of Civil Liberties...I have it written down, but I can't think of it. But it seems to me that he left Detroit and took ?????, took that job.

Mrs. M - What? I think he was Executive Secretary of the National Office of the Civil Rights Congress. I don't think it had another name. But I'm...

I'm not good on details, so I don't really remember. Wasn't it.... Do you remember that time at all?

McRae - No. I wasn't here.

Mrs. M - Well, my recollection was that we had a large convention in Detroit at which the National Civil Rights Congress was formed, and there were then branches sort of simultaneously formed of different groupings in Chicago, I think one in Philadelphia. They were called chapters. The one in New York functioned sort of in conjunction with the National Office, and never seemed to have an entity of its own, but there was one in the West Coast, somewhere, and sporadically in a few other places, but I can't remember; I just remember that they did function. Now, perhaps later, the name of the national organization may have changed, but I don't remember that.

McRae - Another question is could you tell me something how the Steering Committee meetings went and the monthly conference, your impressions of them?

Mrs. M - Well, the Steering Committee meetings would take up the things that had happened during the past, whatever it was, two weeks, month, period, and plan what we thought could be done about them, and usually come up with a series of recommendations that would be presented to the monthly conference for adaption and for implementing them. That's mainly how it went. Most of the people on the Steering Committee were not only active in the Steering Committee, but were sort of volunteer workers and helpers in the office and would make themselves available to help carry out proposals when they'd been adopted, so that the people on the Steering Committee were making the decisions and helping to carry them out at the same time.

McRae - The monthly meetings, could you.....?

Mrs. M - That's what we called the Conference. They usually start with a report from the Chairman of the Steering of the Steering Committee with recommendations and then there would be discussion from the floor and proposals for action, either to adopt what the Steering Committee had recommended or sometimes people would come up with other ideas for action. And, if it was anything more than called for them going on record or sending a letter, there would usually be a subcommittee or small committee set up there that would be in charge of carrying out whatever action it was that seemed necessary.

McRae - What part did Walter Bergman, Dr. Walter Bergman, play in the organization?

Mrs. M - Well, he was very active in the early days of the Civil Rights Congress. He was a representative, as I remember from the Socialist Party, and...

McRae - Could you speak up a little louder, please?

Mrs. M - Oh, I'm sorry. He was the representative from the Socialist Party, which he'd been very active in for many years then, and he was on the Steering Committee and very active in its work for quite a while. I

get the sort of recollection that he dropped out fairly early, and became less active and then finally withdrew.

McRae - Was it after the Dies Committee.....

Mrs. M - That's what I'm trying to think, whether it was in 1938 that he dropped out, or whether...see, again, I'm very hazy....there was a time at the beginning of the war when Reverend Bollens withdrew, and I'm not certain that Dr. Bergman didn't withdraw at that time, but, again, I'm not very sure, it's very hazy in my mind.

McRae - Could you tell me something about the feeling in the organization in regards to the Sojourn Truth incident that happened in 194....

Mrs. M - The housing?

McRae - Yes.

Mrs. M - Oh, the Civil Rights Congress was very, very much involved in that, and that was the time that I became first very well acquainted with Reverend Hill. He was very active in that. He supported wholeheartedly and sent observers to participate in all the marches and demonstrations. I, personally, went there ?????? on the Sojourner Truth-Housing Commission fight that came up. And???? represented the conference at a couple of them. Actually, there's a couple of my very infrequent speeches were used then. That was, to me, a very important fight that took place then, and it was one of the first times that I had run into trouble with my union. During all this time, I had been the representative of the teachers' union, the Detroit Federation of Teachers, elected to it.

McRae - What was the ?????

Mrs. M - Steering Committee. of the

McRae - ?????

Mrs. M - Boy, but this was one place where I began to have trouble because there were a couple of people on the Executive Board of the Teachers' Union who lived in the area, somewhere, who were just typical middle-class whites, frightened to death, and that was one of the first times that the whole question of whether the Federation should be represented if the civil rights came up, and they finally withdrew their delegation, at which time I simply became a member at large of the Steering Committee, without any actual organizational backing.

McRae - Could you tell me something about parts you played in the Civil Rights Congress during the 1943 riot? I know it was very active then.

Mrs. M - Very. I remember I was teaching at Brown's school then, and the principle got word to the teachers that something was going on and everybody should go straight home and get home quickly and lock their doors.....

McRae - Where were you living then?

Mrs. M - I was living in the Art Center, right in back of the Art Institute.

I lived there a number of years. And, of course, instead of going home, I went to the Civil Rights Office, which was down in the Hoffman building, on Woodward, and found them very much concerned and very active. Jack had been rounding up a number of the leading Negro leaders in town for a meeting at the ??????branch Y, and we made our way over there, really through some pretty horrible scenes, as we came down Woodward and went across. We were driving, and we saw at least two Negro people just being beaten on the street by mobs who jumped off of street cars. And there was a meeting at the Y, it seemed to me, almost every day, but riot was continuing with pressure being put on the state government to do something to intervene, and finally, it seems to me they sent the National Guard in?

McRae - National Guard and some soldiers.

Mrs. M - That was one of the things I can remember being happen, seeing soldiers, because it seemed that was all that was needed to quiet at least the worst of the violence, because as they arrived in town, the quiet seemed to follow them right in. It was right after that, or soon after that, that the Congress organized the oh, I don't know what they call it, a seminar or aIt was a series of ten or twelve meetings, educational meetings on race relations with speakers from all fields - anthropologists came and led one session, and social workers, and religious people, trying to bring some life to the question of race relations in the city. I remember Gil Whitby spoke at one of the meetings, and somebody else, I can't remember....Oh! You know, Christopher Alston spoke at ???? and gave a very, very good historical presentation of the Negro people in America. That was my first real understanding of the, you know, the whole development of the ????? It was a very interesting series. It was fairly well attended; I can't say it had any earth-shaking results. They had a similar one the next year or the year before, I forget which, on the Jewish question, and then another one that was not quite as well worked out and didn't quite crystallize as well, on the ethnic groups in Detroit.

A PART SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CUT OUT HERE.

McRae - Mrs. Macki, could you give me your impressions of Reverend Hill?
Mrs. M - He was really one of the few preachers I could ever sit and listen to comfortably. He was, I think, sincerely, devoutly, really religious. And he made sense, and he was never afraid to go anywhere or do anything. Any stand, it didn't matter.

THIS PART HAS MUCH TOO MUCH STATIC TO POSSIBLY BE HEARD.

and I think he had, at the beginning, I don't know, because I was not a member of his church ever, I think he had some difficulty at first in bringing his church along with him, but he did, and he stuck with it, and even at the time of the Unamerican Activities Committee, when he was summoned there, there was never any question of his church going away from him or ganging up on him. They stood by him. He had several very pertinent remarks that he made on occasion. One of them was remarking on

how a lot of preachers and religious people promised you pie in the sky, but he wanted some of the pie right down here on earth for all the people that he knew, and all the people that were around. And then he had another very cute saying about people who criticized him for supporting the left wing, and he said every time he saw a bird flying, he could see very well that it had a right wing and it had a left wing, and he didn't see how it'd be able to keep going if it didn't have them both. And he was this kind of earthy, sort of human, person, who was not afraid to stand up and speak up for what he really believed in. He was a real experience to know.

McRae - Could you tell me something about the people or the service that many of the whites performed, for instance, in going through the manuscript, I know that there are a number of meetings that members of your organization infiltrated because they were white and could get home improvement; I know about checking out the meeting place of the Klan; and also, someone, or a number of people, did a fantastic job of taking statements from people in regards to the 1943 riots. Could you tell me something about the people who did that? Can you think of any...

Mrs. M - That was mostly Jack Raskin. Jack and people that he worked closely with. He was without any equal when it came to getting next to people in a funny situation and getting them to talk. You know, he could also send other people into these situations give them an idea of how to act, and how to find out things. There was, even back as far as the time of the Black Legion in Detroit, he was getting information on where they met and what they were planning and who they were, who were the leaders and who was responsible for different decisions. And it was....I was never involved in any of that; I knew that it was going on, STATIC, I knew that Jack was turning over information as he got it to city officials, or to anybody that he thought would be stirred into doing something about it. And sometimes, as I remember, sometimes some action would take place; other times, it just didn't seem to make any difference.

McRae - Could you tell me something about Mr. Raskin? The usual impression many people get that all heroes are 6'2", etc., but I noticed Mr. Raskin is not 6'2".

Mrs. M - When Jack Raskin came around the Civil Rights Office first, nobody thought he was ever going to ?????? He just seemed to be a bumbler to everybody. I think he still manages to give that impression very often; he's just a bumbling sort of good Charlie that doesn't quite know what's going on, but he caught on fairly quickly though not for a good period of time. Practically the only thing anybody would trust him with was the mimeograph machine, which was not in very good shape, and he could make it work when nobody else could. But he was persistent, he was interested, and devoted, and whatnot. It turned out that Milt was going to New York. To everybody's surprise, everybody seemed to agree that Jack was the person to take the Executive Secretary's job. I think most people were even surprised when they were proposing or voting for it, because a lot of people still had that impression of him, that first impression, that he was sort of six thumbs, a guy that didn't quite know what was going on. But it was a real privilege to work with Jack, because he had this fantastic feeling for people, people of any kind, from unions, from church groups,

from high society, from anywhere, he could relate to them, he could talk to them, he could get cooperation from a lot of people that nobody else would even have thought of approaching for cooperation. He was able to raise money from people that would give him the money only in the strictest secrecy, and he would never tell where it came from. And he didn't tell very many people where it came from. But he was a.... This was during the time when the Civil Rights Congress was learning to function on its own deficit. Which was all they ever had for a good long period of time.

McRae - Was this before you ????? of after?

Mrs. M - This was after. This was after the unions had...very many of them had withdrawn on account of the red baiting and because they'd gotten so powerful they didn't see any need for anybody at that time to help them.

McRae - Was this after the war?

Mrs. M - Before, during and after. It seems to me. I don't know. Time... It was during the war because one of the things that Jack was able to do very well was to get to a number involved in the organization for Russian war relief, which seemed a very necessary thing at the time. He was able to involve a great many people in that. It was a completely separate organization, but I know he influenced a great many people in that. It was a completely separate organization, but I know he influenced a great many people who'd never done anything really before to donate time and money to that. I'm trying to think of any other specific things. Somewhere in this period, I can't remember exactly when it was, that Haywood Patterson escaped from jail and arrived in Detroit. Do you remember Haywood Patterson, the Scottsboro Boys?

McRae - Right. Mr. Raskin showed me a book from Haywood Patterson's sister.

Mrs. M - Um hmmm.

McRae - He told me about your involvement in....

Mrs. M - Well, it was Jack's involvement. He had to keep it a secret, and I don't think more than two or three other people knew about it until it became public that Haywood had arrived in town and that whoever he got in contact with here had gotten to Jack. Jack had arranged to get him a job and to see that he was kept under cover as long as possible. We knew something was going on, but most of us didn't know what it was.

McRae - What exactly.....

Mrs. M - Because it was very secret.

McRae - Could you tell me something about the cost of living during that period? As a teacher, how much were you making, and how much was rent and things of that nature?

Mrs. M - Well, let's see....Sometime during that period, was the time that the teacher's union almost went on strike. I don't know whether you were aware of that or not.

McRae - I think I was in Saginaw at that time. During this...'35 to '45, I was in Saginaw.

Mrs. M - Sometime in there, the Teachers' Union in Detroit was organized to walk out over the question of salaries, and I mean really quite well organized; we had a representative in practically every school, and most schools had a committee, and we'd gotten to the point of allotting picketing hours and setting up friendly houses in the neighborhoods to break to go in for coffee because it was in the winter, and the deadline came, and the day before, the boiler operators...Yeah, the boiler operators' union announced that if the teachers put a picket in front of any school, they would maintain a temperature of 40 degrees to keep the boilers????? no more. And so, we didn't go on strike. We got a very good salary adjustment at that time. I can't remember exactly, but I know that in '51, January of '51, at the midterm break, we got an increase, which, for the first time, brought my take-home salary to a hundred dollars a week. So, it'd probably been between sixty-five or seventy to eighty during most of this time. Around theI had reached the maximum, I think you reach the maximum in something like thirteen years, and I had reached that and only got a raise when the union managed to put through a demand and got it approved. My living expenses were never very high, because I almost always lived with somebody, with another girl, with another couple, with a couple, and, I don't know, these things just didn't register with me very much. I know that there were a lot of people that were having a problem, but I had never had any financial troubles, really, or lean periods, since my highschool days, when the depression hit our family very early, around '25 or '6, and it had been very, very tough, then.

McRae - What kind of work did you father do?

Mrs. M - He was a superintendent of construction, and he worked in Detroit, he worked for a number of large architects, he worked for ??????of Palmer, he worked on theHe was an architects' superintendent, who checked the specifications and so on, during construction....actual construction time. He worked on many of the school buildings in Detroit.

McRae - What high school did you go to?

Mrs. M - I went to Roosevelt High School in Keego Harbor.

McRae - Ohhh!

Mrs. M - And then I went to Pontiac High, graduated from Pontiac High. When I was in the....well, when I was in the seventh and eighth grades, we started going out to Cass Lake for the summers, and the year I graduated from grade school, we decided to stay out there, and we stayed there....formally lived there from then on, but I went to Northville High for one year and Pontiac for two, and then I came back to Detroit and went to teachers' college and lived with an aunt while I was going to school.

McRae - Sounds like my big experience. Usually, when you have an interview or anything like this, there is always something that you feel that the

interviewer should have asked. Is there a question that I should have asked, or something that you'd like to say that I have not covered and have not asked you about?

Mrs. M - Not in particular. I have a feeling that the thing that hasn't been touched on, and it's very hard for me to document, is the influence of the Civil Rights group during the organizing days of the auto industry, particularly in the very early days, when theIt doesn't seem like an awful lot, but, at the same time, it seemed very important at the time, the business of sending observers out to observe picket lines, and managing to get prominent enough people to go out and ?????The police departments were just a little bit more careful about breaking people's skulls, and having large meetings at which we brought very, very well known people into Detroit to speak on the right to organize and on the right to sit-in in theI remember a meeting where we got the leading Bishop of Detroit, Bishop Edgar Blake, to speak at ?????constitutional right to organize and sit-in, and ...It's a hard thing to draw a picture of, but there was always this continuing pressure to get people who were recognized, people who were known, to be committee to this and to identify with it, and to get publicity on this, so that there was a sort of way of educating people to what we thought,?????they weren't actually usurping property for no good reason, but that they had a right to be there and whether they were defending their rights, we brought a Congressman....Who was that wonderful Congressman from....Oh, John Bernard....we brought him in for a large public meeting....

McRae - from Minnesota?

Mrs. M - Yeah, from Minnesota....at the time of the organizing....

McRae - This professor that I had, Professor Sidney Fine, who is...he's a very demanding man, but he's also a great historian, and he seems to be interested in history, not from the elitist point of view. He's just written a book called Sit-Down, where he has written about the 1937 strike, and there was a review in on the Detroit newspapers, and it's rather expensive, but it's a very interesting book, and maybe if you might want to get it at the library....

Mrs. M - I would like to read it. I've read several treatments of it.

McRae - His, I dare say, is the best documented, because he's a meticulous researcher, and he interviewed a model of people, just as I'm doing, but probably much better than I'm doing, ????? participants, to get their opinions, and opinions from people from opposing camps, opposing points of view, but this whole area, to me, and I kind of grew up in it, 'cause I remember I was in grade school during the period ????? sit-down strike in Saginaw, while usually most...my stepfather worked in, my dad died when I was four, my mother remarried when I was nine, but my stepfather worked in the plant, and I think we ate hamburger and beans every day, and... but I didn't understand the old, what, taking an honest history. It never dawned CUT OUT radical people, the left wing, if you please, the contribution they made.

Mrs. M - Oh, it was...There just wouldn't have been any union, I don't think, if it hadn't been for the radical organizers at the beginning, because it was a terrifically tough situation to crack. I remember when

the sit-down strike broke in Flint, the teachers union had organized a very fancy outing to Grayling. They chartered a railroad car for a ski trip up to Grayling, and I borrowed snow trousers and arranged to rent skis up there, I guess, and we had signed up to go up during, I think it was either that Thursday or Friday night that the sit-down strike broke in Flint, and I tore up there as fast as I could. I had been living with a lady, sharing an apartment, and she was called up to work in the office in Flint, at the auto workers office, she worked for Robert Travis, who was really the kingpin in getting things started then, and I rushed up with her and spent the weekend there, making out membership cards and hand lettering names on thousands...When the thing broke, everybody signed up, just in droves, they had applications to join...coming in so fast that they had to take care of them, and I spend almost the whole weekend just sitting and lettering names on newly printed cards that were being given out. It was a very exciting time.

McRae - Is there any other reminiscences that you might like to share with me at this time, or share with me and the tape?

Mrs. M - Well, I can remember...I've told this story five or six times, I guess, ...when we had to show a union card to get in to the city of Flint. And that was the day the sit-down strike was over and the guys were coming out of the plants. They'd won, and we heard that that day while I was in school, somebody brought the word in to me that they had won and that they would be coming out. And so I rushed home and started for Flint with two guys. Henry Bernstein was one, and I can't remember, for the life of me, who the other one was. Anyway, we drove up to Flint, and we got to the place where Dort Boulevard comes into....

McRae - I remember Dort?????....

Mrs. M - Well, at that time, it was the entrance to Flint, and there was a police car there, sending people both ways, and he motioned us to go one way or other and we drove up and said that we wanted to go into town, and he said, "You can't go in," and we said, "Well, we want to go in," and he said, "Well, you can't go in; the union's taken over the town, and it's not safe to go in." And we said, "Well, we're union members." And he said, very leery....So I dug out my American Federation of Teachers membership card, and Henry got out his Artists Union card, and the other guy was a reporter for something and he had a Newspaper Guild card, and we showed our union cards, and he scratched his head, and said, "Well, I don't want to be responsible, but if you want to go, you go on, that way." And we got there in time to see them come out of the plants. With their ^{heads} down to here, they looked just like the kids do nowadays. There was a lot them that had just not shaved all the time they were there. That was quite an exciting day.

McRae - Are there any other statements you'd like to make?

Mrs. M - No, I don't think I've talked this much in twenty years. I think I'm sort of talked out. I don't know....I know that, if I had a better memory for times, I could make much more sense out of it. I've always been that way. Decades run together, and I don't know which one came first.

McRae - I want to thank you, because it's been very informative for me.

Mrs. M - Well, I hope you got something out of it, CUT OUT