

James Jukela-Joe Rivers
(Age 74) Joe Weller

Finnish Socialist History

I. - Interviewer - Elvira Kanerva

JJ. - James Jukela

JJ. - My name is James Jukela, and I am seventy-four years of age, and I've been in the labor movement for over fifty years. I started in Vancouver, British Columbia where I was in the first strike as a nineteen year old boy.

I. - With what union?

JJ. - IWW. I got a job there for riding a carriage. They had fired a man at that job before and this head sire sure was giving me a rough time and I didn't know why. He asked me if I got the card, I says, "not yet, but as soon as I get paid I'll get me a card." And he said, "I'll advance you the money and you get the card now." And he started to give me a much smoother ride on that carriage. Anyway the strike lasted two weeks and the guy was called back and I lost my job but that was the best experience I had in the West Coast. But I think you would like to know more about what's happening in Detroit.

I. - No, no we're very interested in the IWW. Very interested. How this evolved into your becoming involved here...

JJ. - Well, at that time IWW especially in British Columbia was one of the most interesting organizing. They didn't have no bureaucrats in there. It was actually, members had decided everything. And they were good. All the lumber camps were already organized and if you went there without a card you wasn't there very long. And if you didn't join. But, they give you a chance to join up, IWW, and they fought. We used to carry a blanket on our back and after a few strikes why they got white linens in the camp. Actually that's where I got my inspiration to be. Course my father, I was born into it. Alcolcus Hall, he also said he was born into the

the revolutionary movement and the workingclass movement, But the basic, the most interesting thing is that strikes that you get into when we are young, you feel the power in you. You feel that you are doing something great. You're not doing something for yourself, you're doing something for your fellow man and that is the reason why I think everybody should have that experience to go through. Well we remember here, when we first started organizing the CIO; UAW, CIO.

I. - In Detroit?

JJ. - Yeah in Detroit. The, it was impossible. Everybody said it was impossible. But we had an experience on that already and I think that I had little bit to do with it but I just say little bit. At 1929, just before the crisis, everybody where I was working cut the- it was all piece work-cut the prices down almost half.

I. - The wages?

JJ. - Yeah, piece work.

I. - Oh, on piece work, that's right.

JJ.- And we, like my job I was getting dollar twenty-nine cents, they cut it to sixty-nine cents. Every other job the same way. One morning Phil Ramon and John Smesz and fella by name of Reynolds..

I. - Oh, Jack or Bud?

JJ. - I don't remember which one it was. Anyway..

I. - Bud I think.

JJ. - They were passing out leaflets. The Murray Body's going to cut wages. And I told Phil Ramon that, that-a-boy and he hand me one and he said, "now soon as you read what the wage is going to be why start hollering strike." We were on the third floor of Murray Body and bout nine o'clock that morning I start yelling, "let's strike

and everybody joined in on that floor. We went to the fifth floor and we came down with everybody coming down with us. There wasn't anybody left in the shop.

I. - Was that 1929?

JJ. - 1929. And it lasted, the strike lasted about a week and a half or maybe two weeks. But we had no other leaders but Phil Ramon and some of us helped. But that is where the Finnish Hall became centered. Fourteenth Street Hall. It was interesting because Phil Ramon said, "Where will we meet?" At the Finn Hall. I went over and asked the janitor if we could meet there, and we met there about four times. And the Finns were actually supporting the strike and there were a lot of Finns at Murray Body, though that were also members of the Fourteenth Street Hall. But anyway the final day of it the police came there with their horses we call Cossacks and those horses they can fight better than the policemen can. So they drove the horses in there and they made us move and they was gonna put a bunch of scabs to go in there but somebody got a bucket full of roller bearings and they threw them on the street and the horses couldn't move. They were stumbling all over, they had to take the horses out of there man by man. Next day the company says that we will recend that con., we will take..we will restore the same wages and the strike was ended. We won everything but union recognition, although we had eleven members in a trade union **Unity League** at the time.

I. - Oh, that was the name of the type of union you had then. That trade union league.

JJ. - Yeah. Then Briggs became the second strike. They'd done the same thing over there and we won there also. I wasn't participating there because I was in my own shop working. Well anyway they made foreman out of me because I was agitating too much. They figured that by making me a line foreman that I wouldn't have a chance. But that actually gave me a chance to organize these guys. We had quite a few members before we left and before the Murray Body closed in the trade union **Unity League**. But that was actually the basis for the labor movement in Detroit.

I. - CIO?

JJ. - Yeah., Detroit.

I. - Did the AFL also have a sheet metal workers or a metal workers union or auto workers union? And do you remember anything about this?

JJ. - Yes. I worked under them during the war

I. - Oh, yeah.

JJ. - One little shop.

I. - We talking about World War II.

JJ. - Yeah. So I feel that if the depression didn't hit at the time we would have had a big trade union Unity League before anybody before Reuther or any other leader was awakened for that. But the depression; all the shops were closed, the banks we closed and the people had to leave their old home towns for somewhere else. And that's what happened to me. I didn't have any money saved and I had to get out and look for another job. So we got a letter from Pine Mountain that people are starving to death and John Smesz says, "You're foot loose you go over there." Now the guy and I we went over there and started the demonstrations. We had one of the biggest demonstrations in Upper Michigan in Iron Mountain. Everybody from that county. What is it now I don't remember?

I. - I can't remember, I do too know the name of that. Is it Dickinson County?

JJ. - Dickinson County.

I. - Yeah, Dickinson County, I lived up there I should know.

JJ. - We had everybody, everybody., well they were starting to talk to people and they say, they haven't any meat, they haven't any bread or sugar for a month. And the County Commissioners won't do anything. So they were just ripe and ready there. We called

a meeting at the Italian Hall and that hall, just from mouth to mouth was packed with people and Jim Stevenson, we were the ones that, the only speakers. Stevenson...Stevens was chairman and I became speaker and then Monday morning, this was on Friday. Monday morning why, County Commissioners met and we went in there and later a lot. What happened was that, first thing when we went in they said, well we're going to take this for advisement but that's all they're going to talk to. I told them, you don't understand us there is ten thousand people outside who voted for you and they're going to vote you out too. When we got..finally agreed that four dollars and seventy-five cents for a couple and dollar for each child was the beginning of the...welfare.

I. - Welfare.

JJ. - Well in them days you could buy something with a dollar, that would be just an insult now.

I. - Now this organization that you went up there with...what was the name of that? The organization that organizes mass meetings and all.

JJ. - That was the Communist Party was the leaders and it was Unemployment Councils.

I. - The Unemployment Councils.

JJ. - And we had meetings there practically every night, even after we won. But bit by bit these people dropped out. Except those that was recruited into the party. They stayed and they and we whatever we were able to do..with the little abilities that Jim and I had. Jim belonged to the Proletarian Party. Did you ever hear about that?

I. - No. That's interesting.

JJ. - And he was the only member in Upper Michigan that belonged. There was quite an organization here in Detroit. But Jim was a very brilliant mind. But he brought that Proletarian Party from England. He was an Englishman he used to be an organizer of the miners and he belonged to the Proletarian Party in England.

I. - Was that a Socialist or a Marxist Party?

JJ. - Well, it is something like you'd say Trotsky.

I. - Oh, uh huh.

JJ. - Hem ha. So after that I was called to Wisconsin to the milk strike. I became footloose. Anybody that needed me, I was over there. That was the most militant strike that we ever had. We had people that owned, rich farmers and poor farmers, we had everybody included in that. That lasted about two months preparing for the big strike. And when we finally did it they closed everything except hospitals and baby's milk.

I. - Now are you talking about an Unemployment Council again that you worked for and the county strike.

JJ. - No, it was the United Farmers League.

I. - United Farmers League. Yeah, now you went in to organize for them. They called you? They called you?

JJ. - Yeah. They called Nelson Brothers, they're the most militant guys. They're the ones, they wrote them to Iron Mountain, that they need help. That's in my picture in Milwaukee Journal.

I. - Where were the Nelson Brothers?

JJ. - Oh, in Wisconsin. I don't know if they're living, I guess they're living. They're about my age. They could be living, yes.

I. - Do you know I live right near there. I live right there. Now I'm right on the Wisconsin border now I live in Milaminy. I would like to look these people up and see if they're there still. If nobody has their history we can get it over there. You know, of course, that I'm going to be going to the University of Minnesota to see what they have. Do you remember the Nelson Brothers first name?

JJ. - Steve was

I.-Nelson, and brother, huh.

JJ. - Yes.

I. - And that, at Owen Wisconsin. OK I'll write that down. Now and that was for the...what was the name of that organization?

JJ. - The United Farmers League.

I. - I wonder if that could have been the beginning of the United National Farmworkers Union?

JJ. - United Farmers League it was. They had started that organization in Merrill, Wisconsin. Art Tempson and Chuck Tempson was the ones that organized it.

I. - Tempson. Merrill's not too far from me. I'm hitting a gold mine by interviewing you.

JJ. - Art was a party man there. At one time there was a very difficult situation in China and they send him over there and I have never heard of him again.

I. - Oh, really?

JJ. - Yeah.

I. - Hmmm. So that's interesting.

JJ. - Chuck is still farming if he's still living. He's little older than I am.

I. - Would this have been Iron Mountain and this Owen, Wisconsin thing. Would that have been in about 1930?

JJ. - Yeah, 1931 I guess-Milk Strike.

I. - OK. And then what did you do after the milk strike? That went on how long was that? Two years?

JJ. - Then I got a letter...Emil Miguy was running for mayor in Crosby, Minnesota and Bill Sniderman sent me over there to help him get elected.

I. - Who sent you over there?

JJ. - Bill Sniderman, district organizer Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I. - Now you're talking about the Party, the Communist Party.

JJ. - Yes. You know about Miguy; he was the first Communist Mayor in this country.

I. - Yes, in Minnesota. You know a lot of these things just sort of faded away out of my memory but when people bring them up I remember. You have excellent recall.

JJ. - Yes. Well then from there we organized those hunger marches. We had good hunger march to county seat, the state...

I. - You're talking about Minnesota now.

JJ. - Minnesota. This machine is going now?

I. - Yes,
I. - ~~but~~ I write some of this down, It takes them a while they may not get this typed for 6 months. And I live right there and as long as I'm going to be going into Wisconsin, I want to put this down. This is good.

JJ. -Well how long are we going to discuss this, I have something that I want to bring out. It's the fact that I finally..

I. - I have until noon and it's only 10 o'clock. So if you have someplace to go...

JJ. - I became county leader of the Party in Minnesota, Hennepin. I was the county organizer of the Party. Also a member of the

Trade Union Labor Union and we organized, James Flower and I we organized, the tunnel workers were just starting over there and when Roosevelt says if I was a worker the first thing I would do I'd join the union and we had a very easy going. We organized all the tunnel workers.

I. - Into what union?

JJ. - Building Trades. I joined it first and paid fifty dollars to get in and they call hot carries.

I. - Oh.

JJ. - ...and then start fighting to cut it down, the initiation fees down to ten dollars for a month. We had four meeting in a month and finally we got it down for thirty days, ten dollars. When we took the gang over to union meeting we had over thousand new members and they only had two hundred and fifty members in the Labor...Hot Carriers Union. Well nobody looks at..Mr. McHaffy as the leader they look at me as the leader and James Flower, because we are the ones that organize the tunnel and we control that union.

I. - Where were they digging the tunnel?

JJ. - Sewers for St. Paul and Minneapolis. But then I could have become the president of that local or sec..yeah president. I got a call to the party office on William Green's right hand man and he says, "I understand you're going to run to become the president of the local." I said, "Yes." "Well let me tell you this, we are going to revoke the charter as soon as you are elected." Then I got into a hot with the party organizer by name of Ross. He said, "You're scared to take that chance." So we got into such an argument about it that I almost was kicked out but luckily Browder came there at the time and he says, "You're right."

I. - You didn't want to run for president?

JJ. -Now, but I made a deal with him that I'll be the special organizer with the same wages as the..Mr. Haffey was getting. You should have seen a lot of disappointed faces when I says I nominated Mr. Haffey. And you could hear them boo. Well anyway we became a.. but I was working day and night as I was a county organizer of the Party and I was also a union organizer where I got my wages. And every morning I'd go into the party office and I'd have something to do all day and then I'd have to go back to the union office, I had a meeting every night. I had a nervous breakdown.

I. - What year was this about?

JJ. - 1934, 35. 1935. And then Fydia came and asked me to go into the Finnish Workers. I was just beaten up completely, I thought I was gonna go nuts.

I. - Now are you talking about..what kind of Finnish Workers... Oh, Finnish...

JJ. - To come to Detroit _____.

I. - Oh, for the Finnish...

JJ. -Yeah, you remember me when I was the head of the Finnish organization here. Well I came here just in time when the sit-down strikes were and most people like Kurika and Bill..I can't think of these people's names. They became active unionists; Kurika at Fords and Bill at Briggs.

I. - Bill who?

JJ. - He just died recently, Bill...It'll come to me but I can't think of it right now.

I. - _____ Ganda, oh Ganda.

JJ. - Ganda, yes. You know him.

II. - Yes I know them all.

JJ. - And Adamasala, and Locañel, there were all in the different shops. So we were able to, in most of our meetings that we had we were able to bring out this organizational process to them and they were taking it to their shopmates and that was the beginning of the sit-down strikes.

I. - This was from...you were having Communist, well you were having Finnish Socialist Meetings really. I mean educational?

JJ. - Finnish, yeah. . Finnish Federation.

I. - _____

JJ. - Yes.

I. - Which would be the workers organization.

JJ. - Yes.

I. - They were actually, they've actually been considered Socialists.

JJ. - Well no. It was independent organization at that time. It at one time was a communist organization. When the Communist Party became legal party it had to have so many members. The Finnish Federation all joined as an organization into the Communist Party. So that they could legalize the Communist Party in America.

I. - And then what?

JJ. - So after a while, after we started to get new members into the party and our party started to grow and we had accouple of good conventions the...Finnish Federation then, as an organization, dropped out but the members, a lot of members stayed in the party. Like myself.

I. - But they were named as subversive even though they had already dropped out of the Communist Party as a group, right?

JJ. - Yes.

I. - I mean when all this trouble was with McCarthy, the Finnish Federation the _____ the Workers Organization was named as a subversive organization. This was the organization...

JJ. - Oh, yeah.

I. - Because they had at one time belonged to the, ., But I always remembered the Finns were considered very conservative and amongst the more radical and the Communists.

JJ. - Well not at that time when I was here that this _____ . I don't know whether I was able to control but we had a most militant people. They'd participate in the strikes, lot of them were helping me out to raise money for the sit-down strikers so that they could take lunch to them. I mean that I wouldn't call them conservative they were really militant people at that time. Like in Axtabuhl, Ohio see I had that district. We used to organize the sailors and I forgot the name of the sailors union anyway. And we had a lot of our Finnish friends from the Finnish Club would come over and help talk to these sailors.

I. - What year was that about?

JJ. - That was about 1936, 37.

I. - But you just went over there on a trip and you'd come back to Detroit?

JJ. - Yeah. So I got a very interesting story to tell about three brothers, Onella brothers, that drowned. You heard about them didn't you?

JJ. - Onella boys were all fired from Ford's for union activity. And I followed that story very closely because they were good friends of mine, George especially, because him and I are about the same age and have known one another for years and years. So, the prosecuting attorney or company attorney, I'm not sure which one it is, asked George, "Are you a member of the Communist Party." Oh he take a long time and he figure it out he don't say nothing just waits. The attorney again start to, he get all excited, now I want an answer yes or no to that question. After about fifteen minutes George looked at the _____, "Must I answer this question?" "I'm afraid you have to." He's says, "No." And they, the attorney was ready to be tied. And they were all cowed back because of the fact that they wanted a case.

I. - It took a long time to win that case.

JJ. - Yes. They were interesting, it's just too bad that they had to die. They drowned. Well I don't know, what else do you want to know.

I. - What years did you go to Alaska, was there any union organizing there?

JJ. - No. It wasn't. I wanted to join the Navy, during the war.

I. - Oh, that was World War II.

JJ. - Yeah, and they said they would make a cook or baker out of me. I said, "I'm not going to be an old belly rubber because I don't know anything about cooking or baking!" "We'll teach you." And I always wanted to be an able bodied seaman if I wanted to go.

I. - This was the US Navy.

JJ. - Yeah. A lot of my friends joined it, younger than me, but I was already then 35-36 and they don't consider that an able bodied seaman anymore. So I, so this guy that was recruiting was a young man and he said, "Why don't you go to Alaska highway, they are building the Alaska highway. Can you run any kind of machinery?"

JJ. - I said, "Yeah I can run bulldozer, shovel." Go. I got all interested and I went to the Alaska highway. I spent thirteen months on that highway.

I. - You didn't do any organizing over there huh?

JJ. - We held two meetings over there, that's all. Bank chairman was the chairman of the meeting and I was the main speaker. Question was were we scared of Russia. And concesus of opinion was that we were not scared. Nobody was scared.

I. - When you were young what was your first..now where were you raised?

JJ. - Raised? _____

I. - In Minnesota? Where were you born?

JJ. - No. In Wisconsin, Grantwood, Wisconsin.

I. - Grantwood, and were you raised there? You were raised there as a child.

JJ. - Yes.

I. - Then when did you become conscious of all this social strife in you teens?

JJ. - Well, we had a Socialist Hall and my dad was one of the leaders in there and there was constant discussion at home. However I think I was the only one that became a full time organizer for a long time. I was twelve years a full time organizer for no wages.

I. - You're talking about a Finnish Socialist...

JJ. - No, I was a union organizer, party organizer, I was..like I say I was footloose wherever they needed. If they thought I filled the bill they'd call me and I would go. It was usually party controlled.

I. - But I'm talking about your early childhood now when you were talking about this Socialist Hall that you and your father used to go to. Was this a Finnish Socialist Hall?

JJ. - Yes.

I. - So if you were born into it and that Finnish Hall was there already that was in 19 something, 1904?

JJ. - Well my dad started to subscribe to the _____ I don't know, it was 1903 when the _____ I was only year old when that was first started to come to our house. I think about 1906 six of these rebels had built the first hall over there.

I. - Did you have a lot of meetings?

JJ. - Yes, speakers like Hendrickson, Martin Hendrickson. You heard of him.

I. - Yes. He came to Detroit, He spoke in Detroit to I think he traveled all over.

JJ. - He was one of those rabble rousers. He was a good speaker, he done a lot of good work but I met him in Mount _____ in British Columbia where he spoke. We were all young and the toilets were under this _____ state and we'd be moving back and forth. We'd go in there and come out of there and boy did he get nervous. _____ next time you come over here you listen to me speak. He said, "Get yourself a potty." That's how I remember him. See this is kind of haphazard we're talking, we're...

I. - They'll type it all out and it'll go together. That's alright it'll go together. A persons thoughts go from one thing to another about something and then you remember something else.

JJ. - Yeah.

I. - This is normal.

JJ. - Did you get the other fellas?

I. - Well, that's what I'm trying to get you people to do. Now see I had everything set up. I am particularly interested in the Finnish Socialist History. That's my thing. It works in with the UAW's history you said. Now everybody's asking me down there about the Briggs Strike. They consider that the first strike. Now you said Murray...

JJ. - Murray was the first strike. Because we were invited to come over there to help after we have some experience. I've heard that several times that Briggs was the first strike. I know because I was in the Murray Body strike.

I. - How did you feel when Walter Reuther wanted to kick out all the Communists from the UAW.

JJ. - Well that's when the union stopped growing. I mean it isn't just a feeling it's the idea that somebody has the power to do things like that and knock the..actually stop the organization from growing. The _____ the most militant people to organize UAW-CIO was the Communists. John L. Lewis once made a statement. He said, "I am winning new members into our organization because have a 60% of YCL or Communist organizers. And that's what actually happened. Then when this McCarthy era started and Reuther and the rest of the leaders of the UAW actually become supporters of McCarthy they lost. And he says, "They gang up on me, all the Communists even those who are close to the Communists." "They take about two hundred peoples and they come to a meeting and they take over a meeting." That's why I say he was a rabble rouser and without conviction. You know that Victor and Walter Reuther both went to Moscow. Soviet Union and they wrote from there that this is the workers paradise.

I. - I remember them when they were young.

JJ. - Yeah.

I. - Well, I was a nice looking young lady, you know, and they were interested

So, I never really went out with them or anything but I mean you know how it is when you're in your teens and you're flirting around. Even though we were organizing we were still, you're not dead.

JJ. - Well, anyway I have never had any use for him. When we have Murray Body strike I was told that Walter Reuther was there selling Daily Worker on the corner. So you can see he was unprincipled, whatever happened to be his whim. He was not a good labor leader. I remember somebody asking once, how come you got into this. Well I was contemplating either becoming labor leader or I'll become chicken farmer. Somebody asked which did you decide?

I. - It's one of your jokes eh? Isn't it interesting though.

COUPLE OF SECONDS OF BLANK TAPE

I.- Do you remember whether your father did any organizing other than within the Finnish group. No my dad was an organizer but he couldn't get in front of an audience and speak a word. He was not a speaker but he was an organizer.

I. - For the Finnish people.

JJ. - For the Finnish people only, yes. But then he also became a for instance he was a town accessor for ten years. Nobody ever run against him because he was good town accessor. For instance the railroad owned every other section of land so they were taxed very low, but my dad raised their taxes double and lowered the taxes of poor farmers.

I - Good for him.

JJ. - That's why he was always elected. He was taken to court because the railroad companies didn't want to pay their taxes. But then the railroad companies started to sell their timber to the farmers, they could buy it. Every other section that was in that area why they could buy from the railroad company. They became loggers, otherwise timber would have stayed there without any

moved. My dad was a good guy he was one of the outstanding, but he didn't have the ability to speak. He'd tell somebody else what to say. Well I had a cousin or my dad's cousin Elias Maggie. My dad would say you go and say that. He was an organizer. For instance when they first got the hall they became the first Socialists in there, six members, not their wives just the six members. My mother was a Christian woman and most of those women were religious so they didn't consider them as a members but they used to come to the hall and do the cooking, coffee cooking was over. But they weren't members of the Socialist Party. But when the Socialist Party was organized they wrote to _____ about it.

I. - Who wrote?

JJ. - My dad. And there was a policeman, a constable they call it. I would say very stupid man. Anyway the _____ call them that.

I. - In Bratwood?

JJ. - Yes, so he takes all this six guys, ties a rope around their wrists and leads them prisoners to see the judge. That they're going to destroy our way of life. They're going to take my farm and they're going to do everything, that was his idea. So he, they they could have thrown that guy over the hill and said the hell with you, but they went as a joke to see the judge. He said, "Whats the charge against them." They're Socialists. Well Socialists Party then was already legal. Nothing wrong with that is there. "Yeah, but they're going to take my farm." He said, "You better unhook these guys, put them on a train and take them home." I mean this kind of a struggle...

I. - Your father where was he born?

JJ. - Finland.

I. - Do you remember what year he came here? To the United States.

JJ. - 1886 the first time, and then he went back to Finland and then in another year, maybe, he came back here again. That was when the big

depression hit this country.

I. - There was a depression in 1887 or 8

JJ. - Yes somewheres in that.

I. - There were many depressions.

JJ. - Well anyway he lived on turnips and him and another guy went out in the woods and they had a little garden and they killed rabbits. And he says thats all we ate was rabbits and turnips through a whole winter,

I. - My grandfather lived in that-came here in depression of 1897 and 1893 it was. 1893 there was a depression. He lived on porcupine. They called it _____, Well anyway now your father came here that early and then he got married here.

JJ. - No. Wait a minute now I think I'm wrong in that 1887, 1896.

I. - So that would have been that same depression that started in 1893 and you think it was in the 90's,

JJ. - We came to Virginia, Minnesota from there they went to Wyoming.

I. - Wouldn't your sister now,

JJ. -No, sister, Jean if you ask her how old she is...she was born in Wyoming and she was..Bill was the first one born here and he was born in Virginia and Jean was born in Wyoming so I don't know.

I. - Why did your father go to Wyoming?

JJ. - Coalmining.

I. - Now you were going to tell me your father was already married in

Finland, was he?

JJ. - ...Finland, he had two children die over there and one oldest one lived. So there was only one boy coming with Ma here.

SHORT PAUSE IN TAPE

I. - Well you've given us a real good background I mean a real good history. This is what they've been asking me but I don't know a lot of it like you do. And we've hit a gold mine when we had an IWW fella you know. When you traveled with the IWW when you were real young did you go out west any farther...

JJ. - I was about nineteen years old when I first joined...

SIDE TWO OF TAPE

I. - Take a slab of lumber..

JJ. - And when he circles saw, you know what that is, saws that lumber weight when you get the end of the log it immediately start to come back.

I. - The saw does or the log ?

JJ. - The log and the carriage. And when it gets back, when the board falls off they start to come back like that. When they are decent to you it starts like that and then it comes back. Once you get your balance you're alright. But finally you get used to it you can never throw a kite from there you know. Well anyway I joined the union and that's the first speech I gave, come to think of it. I don't remember what I said but they all hoorahed because I was the youngest one of the gang. I don't know if I made any sense to it but I spoke,

I. - Now this man that gave you a hard time was sawer and you were a dogger ?

JJ. - Yeah. He was also head of the union at that time of that local.

I. - And he wanted you to have a card. A union card.

JJ. - I didn't have money and I said as soon as I have money, the first pay I'd join. He said I'll advance you the pay. I forgot it was something like three dollars or something like that to join.

I. - And this was an IWW card.

JJ. - Yeah. I was very proud of it. It was a very good card. In fact I was so proud that when we had a strike at my brother's camp in Molcom Island in British Columbia _____. They pull a strike and I became the leader of the strike.

I. - Against your own brother's camp.

JJ. - My brother says, "Roll out or roll up." And that means you either quit or go to work. I always remember Tom Hooper and myself. We packed up ready to go. I was driving a truck on a Fournhaf road so they couldn't get another driver they'd have to stop the whole thing. And Tom Hooper was a loader. So we went down to the _____ and told everybody that we're all through. John came, my brother came, and said, "Ah come on. I give you a dollar an hour raise." We're the only ones who wouldn't, the rest went back to work as soon as he called them. Roll out or roll up, they were there before the whistle.

I. - Some strike.

JJ. - Well I mean, it was just in me. I couldn't never come to work not even for my brother if the rest of them were on strike. I mean I just couldn't. There was one warning my dad gave me when I left home, I left home the first time when I was fourteen. He says, "Whatever you do don't ever go through a picket line, and don't ever take a job as a scab." "On the contrary when you see a scab beat the ears off."

I. - Had he worked in factories too, your father?

JJ. - No he worked in the mines, then he's the one that when ..he had the dynamite he was blasting all of the time and he got a terrific headache out of it he could never get rid of the headache. He was always headache. So he decided to go out into the country and they started with a horse and a covered wagon and they drove from Wyoming to Wisconsin-thirty-six days on the horses. They kept trading the horses and started out with two horses and they got to Brantwood and had twelve and more money and they just kept trading them. They'd find a wild horse. So he was kind of a businessman in that way too.

I. - What year would that have been, I wonder, when he came from Wyoming.

JJ. - 1901. I just say that in the paper, that's how I remembered it.

I. - He went to Wyoming to the mines.

JJ. - Yeah.

I. - Then when he got to Brantwood and around that area did he go into mines again or did he go right straight to...

JJ. - No he started logging. He bought a farm-80 acres , 3 acres of clearing. A little barn and a little log cabin and he bought it for two hundred dollars and then they couldn't sell anything but cordwood for heating, sent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, Milwaukee. So they make corkwood, four foot long and split them into certain dimensions and he sold a lot of good veneer logs now you would get about two hundred dollars, a thousand for. They just made cordwood out of them , He was interesting man, when he took sick and had asthma so bad, so I got called to come home. I got home and the first thing he says, "I'm glad you're here I've a speaker of my own, at my funeral."

I. - You spoke at his funeral?

JJ. - Yeah. And let me tell you that is not an easy job to do.

And I spoke, I was the only speaker there, and he said in Finnish, _____ . Well I was the only one of the family that actually took...well Bill was always, been always a good, a good organizer during the unemployed period, he was good guy in the co-op stores, but he was like that he could never give a speech. And at Wayne, _____ one of my brothers, he was a _____ writer, he used to write to MES and they'd put his articles, many times, in the editorials because he was very good. Then he had an automobile accident and became crippled for life and he was very proud so he committed suicide, he hung himself at 32 years of age.

I. - You said when he was at Wayne, what did you mean by that? Your brother, that he wrote these editorials..

JJ. - Yeah, _____ ,

I. - Where was he at?

JJ. - Brantwood.

I. - Oh, at Brantwood, oh I misunderstood.

JJ. - Oh he was here in Detroit and that Finnish boarding house on Winder Street. He was a manager there for a year. I think he lived here about 1930, then he went home and he had an automobile accident. Something between the bones he had cracked and a doctor says they can put an artificial tissue there but they guarantee that he lives through the operation. So he didn't dare to do that. Then a few days later he decided this is it.

I. - The pain is awful in the vertebrae anyway.

JJ. - He'd go forward walking and then all of a sudden he'd start to go this way, backwards. Nobody'd know because as soon as he'd do that he'd turn around he was walking backward. And he didn't have no comfort he has awful fever all the time. He was a great guy I liked him. He's the one that actually got me into the party. He put a \$5 bill inside of a book that Lennie and I were reading

'Infantile Disorder, he said, "That book is written for you." I was still a very strong IWW. He said, "If it isn't keep the five dollars." Then I wanted to join the party but they have a sectarian party and they wouldn't accept me because I was a former IWW, I was an IWW then, I wanted to join the party anyway. But they wouldn't accept me so I came to Detroit and here they accepted me.

I. - They had their own ideas I suppose. Did you know Nat Ganley?

JJ. - Yes, he's a good friend of mine. We worked together quite a bit.

He was a union organizer for years till Reuther gang ousted him. They came to the meeting with about two hundred members who were not even the members of that local and they took over the meeting. Nat Ganley was kicked out.

I. - What local number was that?

JJ. - I don't remember the number of that local. Boy I wish I knew.

I. - Where did you work with Nat Ganley?

JJ. - We worked in the Party together.

I. - You didn't work in the shop together?

JJ. - No, we didn't. As far as numbers and things I can't remember them. But some people can remember them. Like telephone numbers, I can't remember telephone numbers. Some body says, why don't you get yourself an easier job, push pencil or something. I go crazy if I had to push a pencil, I'm not made for that.

I. - What kind of work did you do? What was it considered in the shops?

JJ. - I was a metal finisher and then I was a power hammer man for a while. Bumpety.

I. - My father was a metal finisher too. I don't think today's generation...

JJ. - Him and I worked together at Wetloffers.

I. - Yes. But today's generation doesn't know nothing about the art of the file. They can't file metal. My husband does still. Mr. Kanerva is an aircraft sheet metal man but they work with aluminum mostly. But now these days that you worked you worked with great big sheets of steel.

JJ. - Yeah, but they now all this experimental work that your dad and I did..

I. - In the later years.

JJ. - Now they make, everything is plastic. Make out of plastic

I. - Oh, they don't use steel?

JJ. - They don't make any more metal bodies, that's the first body that they wanted to see what it look like and then they take the dimensions from that, they make the production jobs.

I. - They send it to the industry.

JJ. - Yeah. They make the die for it and they, several different dies like quarter panels, front fenders and doors and they make different bodies.

I. - Did you ever work in bump shops where they took a whole wreck and made a brand new car out of it? By hand?

JJ. - Oh, yes. I did that in Iron Mountain. I had a little shop of my own in Iron Mountain the same time when I was organizing Unemployed.

I. - The art of the dolly, the hammer and the file.

JJ. -That was your father, done a lot of that.

I. - Yeah, well he had to, he was blacklisted a lot so he'd run to

these little bump shops to get something to do.

JJ. - What I would like to say is most interesting period of my organizational work was in Virginia, Minnesota over in _____ . I wonder if you remember Bill Hakela, one armed guy that was sent to Finland, they deported him to Finland. They had to bring him back. But I was working with him. He was the most interesting man because he never dictated anything to you. He'd ask me, how would you like to do that, what is your idea about it. He was the greatest guy I ever worked wity.

I. - I have read about him. You can speak of him.

INTERRUPTION IN TAPE

I. - Your father was more like an early pioneer, almost, except he came in 1900 to Wisconsin. What did your father do when he came from Wyoming into Wisconsin?

JJ. - Well he started farming, there were about 3 acres of clearing and there were a lot of timbers so he started to cut cordwood.

I. - Didn't he have a sawmill?

JJ. - Yes. And then oh maybe a year later, he bought a little saw mill. And it was the only saw mill in that area. In fact even from the Prentis they used to bring logs over there and I went a time on the _____ saw _____ to lumber. And he was the only who knew anything about saw mill. I don't know where he learned it.

I. - Now you told us that your mother was a religious woman.

JJ. - Not so much churchgoing as she was religious. She believed that there was something hereafter and my dad never argued with my mom over that. But dad has read the Bible so many times that he has found over hundred contradictions in that Bible. He used to bring that up all the time, to us. And we felt the same way about it as dad because we felt that dad was smarter than mother about issues like that.

I. - In Finland, though, he was christened into the Lutheran Church. Did he tell you about his education, in Finland was he educated by the church?

JJ. - No. He went to what you'd call confirmation school and that was compulsory there. And that was one thing that he didn't like, anything compulsory.

I. - He learned to read and write there.

JJ. - So, he got interested in reading the bible because he had an idea that it, whatever he'd done it should be right. So he started reading it and he said if its good I'm going to become a minister. But when he sat and found these contradictions in the Bible, he lost all interest in becoming a minister. And then he became a critic. So when they didn't have no church...in Brantford So that had a _____ and he told the neighbors, religious peoples, well lets build a church. Dad put a lot of his lumber in there to build that church and then he would go and help there on Sunday. He would help build the church, but you're not supposed to work on Sunday. So _____ help build a church. So when the church was finished he never went inside of it. But every Sunday he would take mother to church and then he would go to Oscar _____, I remember him. He used to be the man that he'd _____ the engine. You know firemen for the sawmill engine. They are both atheists, or agnostics I will call them. And they would argue about the Bible and they both were well read so then go and pick up mother, what did the minister say today. And ma had a good memory too so ma said what the minister said and he would say do you notice that contradiction in there. And they had more fun at _____ than the rest of them at church. Then another thing was that while they became partners in the sawmill _____ was a very religious man but a hypocrite in a way and dad always had a good horse when he saw _____ going why he would be waiting for him at the corner. So _____ he started and he'd trot his horse to the church. One time he said, where the hell have you been _____ says we have to kick you

out of this parking lot because you swear. He says go ahead and I'll take my lumber of that church. He made all the benches out of his own lumber and you know how those church pews are, They're all one piece. He said, I'll take those pews out of there and you'll sit on the floor. And he was a great guy, it was a funny thing he never told mama that you can't go to church. Then the _____ Confirmation School about the others. I went to that too but I went because there's lot of rocks to haul and that was too hard work for me and at _____ I could just save myself. But I asked dad could I go. Oh yes, if you feel like going. And ma says I should go. And anyway I was thirteen years old when I went to _____. Just happened to have a lot of rocks to haul and I didn't care too much about that.

I. - Well you were with other children too, and other people. your age.

JJ. - No, they were all older than me. I was the youngest one but the beauty of it was this. We had never read the Bible but when the minister asked any questions, we only read while we were going to school, Confirmation School. Minister asked my cousin, or second or third cousin _____, we were the ones that were able to answer all the questions. When it come to singing, I was the only one singing with the minister. That minister _____
_____. We had wonderful time. But I don't know I can say this I consider myself agnostic but I'm also like dad was that freedom of religion was very important to people that needed religion. And I used to be like, for instance in our paper _____ we have the anti-religious month of December. I one time got a subscription for the paper and this _____ he's a good old guy I liked him he's a very nice fella, religious. He always talk about Jesus Christ being the first Communist and he was a very conscious about the religion too. So he said, I'll subscribe for it for a year. But I don't want _____ in December because its anti-Christ and I'm religious and I don't need that. So just send it to me for eleven months. So I went to _____ executive board meeting, this Bill Hakula that I mentioned to you, _____ and few of us younger

Finns we went over there we started to agitate against that _____ thing. They had a pamphlet out, Why We Should Fight Against Religion. You show that to a religious person and they throw that away right away. Because there was nothing to offer in any explanation. So we fought, it went so far it went to the national committee of the party, I mean SDY and the party and finally it was settled that we have to take that religious..so I got on attack by many of the editors, _____ brothers and others and say I _____ so much religious that I can't take, it was me that didn't want the attack on religion. The big _____ he says, why don't you start reading some of the material against religion. I says I have and that's why I'm against it here. Anyway it ended and _____ and I went over to see him and I says, now it can come to you twelve months, there is no more anti-religious month. OK. And he read it till his dying day, and he went to church every time he had a chance to go. But he always used to say, I wish my boys were doing like what you are doing. Yeah, he had lot of boys but he says my boys should be doing what you are doing. He says Jesus Christ would be happy to have boys like you.

I. - Yeah, they seem to think that in your country the Church always preached against the Socialists. I haven't noticed that with some of our religious old people that they were dead set against the Socialists. You see there wasn't no Communists really before the Soviet Union came. Marx had his books out and things that but we have more of a Socialism type of thing even before.

JJ. - This I would like to put in because during a couple of country strike, the religion was used against the strike. Great attacks, the ministers were attacking all the strikers not the mining companies. And that is one incident that our Finnish Clubs, our working class clubs became anti-religious. Because the fact that the religion diminished they were fighting against anything that was progressive.

I. - Did that happen during the time of organizing the UAW too.

JJ. - Yeah.

I. - The Finnish ministers, particularly, were preaching against it...

JJ. - Oh, yeah.

I. - I know because I went to the 14th Street Church.

JJ. - So there was a reason for it. Now I remember when I hall was enlarged it became the Big Hall, you know, at once it looked like...

I. - In Detroit

JJ. - In Brantwood. We had Martin Henderson as a speaker the opening night. Everybody was there. Religious, anti-religious, the whole hall was so packed there were three hundred people in the hall. They had to stand up in the corners. And this Elias Mackay, my fathers cousin, went and told Martin Henderson, now he says, "Give them a little hell here today you know." So Martin Henderson burned the churches and killed all the ministers in the speech before long they were all gone except a few Socialists left in there and then _____ . You know things like that then my dad told me afterwards. We had a discussion on that, my dad says, "Well I knew it was wrong but I didn't get a chance to get a hold of Elias Mackay before he go and I didn't have a chance to talk to Martin Henderson. If we had talked about the condition of these foreigners over here, conditions of these small jobbers that are selling logs and not getting nothing for it everybody would have stayed. He said, "I knew it was wrong," But I was kind of happy that we could take,

I. - Well, everybody has their own opinion,

I. - Your feel that you should have a freedom.....

Voice - I think you should have a freedom in religion and politics.

I. - That's right.

Voice - You can be influenced in both.

I. - Well she thinks that we can be religious and a Communist at the same time. What do you think?

JJ. - Yes, and but do you notice the attack on now, the Democratic Party, the Convention. We know that it is the same thing as the Republican Party. They're both passing for public parties. But today's paper already says, Cardinal so and so boycotted the Democratic Convention. The religion was already used against the abortion. They didn't have the abortion plank in there. This is one attack.

Voice - Yeah, but abortion should only be an emotional issue.

JJ. - Yeah, well they are using that. Well they try to get the Catholic to vote for ... Ford or Reagan.

I. - To dump Carter, you mean.

JJ. - Yeah. And this is the...well we don't know if Carter is going to be any good. Maybe worse. But I don't know if he can be worse than Ford.

I. - Or Nixon.

JJ. - Well Nixon was...

I. - It's a pity, we don't have much choice.

JJ. - Yeah, so only one I'm going to vote is _____
you can't do that in Michigan they didn't get him on a party
although we had enough names.

I. - You didn't get Gus Hall? Tell me what you're doing today. Tell me what you..you are retired, we know, but you're very active in different things. Tell us what you're doing today. What do you do today to keep busy

JJ. - Clean house, wash dishes and write little bit.

I. - What do you write?

JJ. - Well now that I have had another kind of industrialist reader he's writing the _____ so I haven't even write that.. _____

I. - But you have been writing for the Finnish Newspaper?

JJ. - Yes. I'm going to write again, can I mention you was here to see me, but nothing about the interview, no.

I. - Oh, of course, sure. They'd like to read that in the NFA, sure. I wish you would.

JJ. - I will, because I'm very proud of you that you are doing something.

I. - Anyway, do you write for the Daily World?

JJ. - No. They never accepted my article and that's...whats his name?

I. - Bill Allen?

JJ. - Carl Winter. See I am, my basic english is not good enough.

I. - No his written english is not that....

JJ. - Although I wrote two books, but then neither one of them are good enough for publication, but that was very good interesting time to write, why that's all experience of my life.

I. - You wrote your life history in the book?

JJ. - Yeah, first I wrote about the Alaskan Highway and then another one is about the demonstrations, it started ,...

I. - How about working with me and getting that in editorial,..so that I can edited it for you, that would be beautiful.

JJ. - That would be

Voice - Let me tell you what the tragedy of that book has been, he wrote it in long hand, script, with all his grammatical errors well someone had to whip it up into typing form-I did that, but as I was doing it I corrected his grammar and took a lot of his ruggednes out of it because I refined it and so..you really should start with the script.

I. - That's true.

Voice - And then it was given to....

End of tape

Part II 10/22/76
James Jokela

I. - Interviewer Elvira Kanerva

JJ. - James Jokela

I. - Now this is about your Alaska

JJ. Alaska Alcon Highway, built the Alaskan Highway and you can see how the people were eager to go and defend our country at the second World War because of the Japanese attack, and German Hitler and the Axis Powers. Even I was a very patriotic man and lot of people came there for the big money, lot of people couldn't take the Alaskan Highway, it was rough. They start to cry soon as they got there, they wanted to get out of there. And then the Alusian Islands, we had very good story about the Alusian Islands, its still the _____ its still the main stopover when you fly to Japan and other places.

I. - What were you doing, were you in service at the time.

JJ. - No, construction. I was hired by Kansas City Bridge, then when they found out that I'm a machine operator they took me off of there and put me with various different companies. The Kansas City Bridge paid my wages but I was working for everybody else. I was running bulldozers, shovel and that was the funniest thing. I dont really know who was my boss. Till they got a new foreman or superintendent on the highway from Gnome, Hellander, fellow by name of Hellander. He was a Finn Swede he was a very good man. He start to push the highway through. Rest of them were taking hundred dollars, I'll teach you how to run a shovel, hundred dollars for easy job in a kitchen. Superintendent made fifty thousand dollars in a couple of weeks then he'd quit. Another one came, the patriotism was there alright for the money.

I. - So you had a lot of coming and going there,

JJ. - Yeah, that is a good story but it's not a revolutionary story like the

other one is.

I. - Well lets see if we can get a system and work together, yeah.

JJ. - Sometime later maybe we can work on it

I. - But of course this one, I'm going to give you this, your own draft here. But I'll keep this in case anything works in case anything works in from here to here of something. We don't want to repeat. But would you like for me to send this into the _____ might serialize it. The one we have already written.

JJ. - That's alright I haven't even tried anything like that.

I. - Well, after all...

JJ. - Well, there's lot of people in that _____ within the names are not _____ fictitious names. For instance we had Wally. Wally, I don't have his name.

I. - None of these were Finns that you worked with, just you?

JJ. - Yeah, fella by the name of Fedledum.

I. - was in Iron Mountain?

JJ. - No he was in the...I think he was born somewhere in Northern Wisconsin. But I hear he dropped out of everything.

I. - But the Italians themselves took part in the Iron Mountain food...

JJ. - Yeah, his name was Cook,

I. - demonstration, uh huh.. Yeah well we got all those, I'm gonna leave you this because, course my, I just put my corrections in in pencil. But this isn't long enough for a book or anything but its long enough for a story. This is your copy. So I think that if you want a book we have to, it takes a long time. We have to rewrite and rewrite and rewrite.

JJ. - Well that story is an old story already so I don't know...

I. - But you never had it published or anything?

JJ. - Well we send it to couple, I got comments on them to say that it is a good story, but it got too much meat and not enough hullabaloo about it. They don't want too much meat on their story.

I. - That's right you can't have too much words, too many words. Listen when did you start writing all these things.

JJ. - Off and on for years. I got started first here where I 1915-twenty years ago.

I. - You have been doing a lot of writing in the last twenty years.

JJ. - Yeah. I think if I would have had book learning, I could have written a lot of...

I. - Oh, you've done very well

JJ. - I could have done, good idea what to write, but my english is bad.

I. - No, your english isn't bad, your english is good. It's just that it has to be reorganized because you must have a continuous story. You can't jump from the back of your story to the front.

JJ. -Well this one here, I think several good struggles we had with the Milk Strike.

I. - Yeah, I like that story because it continues from here.

JJ. - And we leave from the demonstration and we go to Eagle River, we can call it Eagle Bend but I guess you can change that to Eagle River. And we stop the farm sale, we didn't stop it, but the penny sale. This old couple, they owed five hundred dollars to the bank and they wouldn't renew the note and they wanted to resale all the equipment, three horses, ten cows and this young guy his name was Harvey, Hilvey but they changed it to Harvey. He says we gonna stop them from this.

So Cook and I said we're going to stop nothing we're gonna let them go through with the sale and one cent for a cow, two cents for a horse. Ninety-four cents for the whole thing. And the woman kept the banker and the lawyer, oh about _____ away. They kept the banker and the bankers lawyer from getting the bid in on it. So then when the sale went through, you know, there's a law if you advertise a sale it's got to go through. So ninety-four cents, and all these cattle went back to the owner.

I. - Well, what about their farm, did they save it?

JJ. - Everything. they got back everything and without a debt. The banker brought his note back. Even thanked the sir for the sale. And next, we didn't even stop we just left right after that we get a letter from Andy and he says kind of a tear jerking letter.

I. - Well, listen you know in our sociology and history classes now they write about these things and they just mention them in passing, that they save farms for a few dollars.

JJ. - You're not going to take that story are you?

I. - Don't you want me to?

JJ. - If you promise...

I. - ...and I'm gonna to save this one you wrote and I'm going to save this one that I rewrote.

JJ. - Yeah, but here's the idea. That is a separate book.

I. - I don't think you ought to make it a separate book, but I'll read it and I'll rewrite this part and we'll see what it looks like and I'll bring it back to you in the Spring when I come.

JJ. - Yeah, OK.

I. - Well who took the other two copies.

JJ. -Well, I'll have to find the...

I. - No, I'm talking about you said you lost two of them.

JJ. - Yeah, we sent it to _____ for analysis of the book.
She never send it back. She says I don't know what I done with it.
Then we sent one to the publishers and where the hell did that go to?
I had three copies and that is the worst of them.

I. - Oh, what a shame. Yeah well I'll try to...

JJ. - After the first page you can read that.

I. - Yeah.

JJ. - But that doesn't include this first story at all, it's a different story all together. That's during the war.

I. - But I'm interested, we're interested in your life, you see, and regardless, course you may write it in a different style this one but this all would be part of your life style.

JJ. - Oh yeah. In that story I'm remembering when I was a highrigger out in Fairbanks, remembering when I was a highrigger in Western Lumber Camps, you know. And two hundred feet up in the air there and I hadn't been up a tree...this is a loading boom, you know. And it squeal so much, Fairbanks people couldn't sleep because nobody oil the parts. Boss put me up there, oil them, and I'm remininiscing from there while I'm up a tree there. I went out on strike against my own brother, lumber camp.

I. - Yeah.

JJ. - Oh, its interesting story it's not written right.

I. - Well what we could do we could take it to the, oh it's so many pages. I don't know maybe Wayne would, how many pages are there, two hundred

and some. Maybe they'll make copies for me. Copies for me today.

JJ. - Copy machine.

I. - Yeah, they have a copier, so I can have a copy and I can leave the original with you, how's that?

JJ.- Yeah. You can make more than one copy couldn't you?

I. - Yeah, but you see it's such a big one it's gonna be expensive because they're usually ten cents a page but they'll make one copy of everything for us. So I'll see if I can get a copy today because I have to go down there and return this machine.

JJ. - Where are you going to take it to?

I. - Wayne State, and if I get a copy I'll return it to you, how's that?

JJ. - OK.

I. - I'll return it to you today. If I don't get a copy can I take it home and rewrite it?

JJ. - Yeah, OK

I. - I mean just the same as I did this one, see.

JJ. - Yeah, well I got to get that I got to find that. I know somewheres it's in the house nobody has taken it.

I. - Well we'll put a copyright on here so that nobody'll copy it when we have a...in case they copy..no I'll just...

JJ. - How much that cost you?

I. - Well no you just put on there it's copyrighted ..until you're published you're not copyrighted but you put that c on there for copyrighting so nobody can steal your material.

JJ. - You'd almost have to type the first page, it's so worn.

but you're going to rewrite it anyway.

I. - See what I'm..you know a book generally has at least five hundred pages. So you can't, these little short things you have do not make a book, they make short stories. I think I had counted 6000 words.

JJ. - I have 148 pages of this altogether.

I. - Well, that's all you gave me right there.

JJ. - That's what I'm looking for the other part of it know.

I. - Well when you find it, don't sweat it out. Drop it, well after I leave don't drop it off at my mother's but until Monday drop it off. They might lose it.

JJ. - Phil Ramon....telling us they're gonna pull the strike, we're gonna to pull a strike there because they're gonna to cut the wages from \$1.20 to 60¢ for piece work.

I. - This was at Murray Body?

JJ. - Yeah. And I says thata boy. And they start to follow me, I mean to the door and they.....

JJ.....That is the kind of a guide for Detroit, He also says the story is a good story, Alaskan story but that is only for advertising where you can find a good place to eat. _____ he gave us that.

I. - Oh, I see

JJ. - I'll blow my brains out if I can't find that book.

I. - Oh, you'll find it. Now you said that you guys went out on strike, you were telling us about that, you and Phil Ramon.

JJ. - He says, we were on the second floor I think, I can't think if it was second or third. He says, soon as you see what the wages are prices are for each job you start yelling strike. So there was three of us had already prepared to start yelling strike. We went up to the fifth floor and yelling strike, everybody come from the fifth floor to the fourth to the third the second and to the first floor. Everyone yelling strike. The bosses came out, line foremans, came out.

I. - Well naturally when they cut your wages.

JJ. - That was our first strike in Detroit in Mount Trinity. Next one was on Briggs and well we got everything we wanted back from 60¢ back to \$1.25 or 26 I've forgotten now exactly what it was but somewheres anyway more than half. And what happened was that they recognized everything but our union. I belonged to the Hoisting Engineers, there was no union but company knew that. But then we had this Trade Union Unity League which started over there.

I. - Well, now is this is going to be enough anyway for me to work on till Spring.

JJ. - And I wanted to _____ I couldn't find anything else to do.

I. - In a little shop. What year was that?

JJ. - I don't recall.

I. - It was before WWII?

JJ. - '42 I think it was.

I. - That late? Hadn't the war started yet?

JJ. - Yeah it was started. And I was going to join the Navy. This is how I got started into the Alaskan Highway. A young recruiter says I won't get in as an able-bodied seaman because I was too old. I was thirty-seven or thirty-six. But, he says, we will make a cook or baker out of you. I say you'll never make that out of me as I can't boil water without burning it. So this kid was interested, he says, do you operate any kind of machine. I says, yeah, almost any kind. He says, go to Minneapolis and they'll hire you down at the Alaskan Highway. No sooner said than done. I told this boss to go to hell and I got released from there. And I got...first thing you did you had to sign forty-eight diffent papers at Minneapolis before they even hire you. FBI checked me, but several of us, former party members got hired in. Fella by name of Jones, Herb Jones, and I we got hired together from he was from Minneapolis and I knew him for a long time and they wasn't so particular about party at that time. I even heard somebody say Communists were the best defenders of the country because they take it seriously that Nazis and Hitler forces will never get in. Well you take guys like Paul Brooks, Gus Hall they all joined the forces to keep Nazis and Fascists and Axis Powers. Well thats when McCarthy started...

I. - Fifty's

JJ. - Yeah, _____ control, you know.

I. - Nixon.

JJ. - Nixon and McCarthy and he really done dammage to the American labor movement. Or they did with a mouthpiece like McCarthy. Reuther who was supposed to be some kind of a liberal turned out to be a mouthpiece for McCarthy.

I. - Dont' you think he was afraid? Of losing his job or something?

JJ. - He was afraid, sure. Afraid of a physical punishment to because look what happened to good leaders of the union. They were put in jail a couple..Hall was eight years in jail. Roth was, Carl Ross was

few years in jail. Lots of people wasn't afraid to take a stand.
I. - Was this Carl Ross that is writing into the _____ now, that is the
that is the same Carl Ross.

JJ. - Same Carl Ross.

I. - Yeah I thought so. I don't think he knows who I am. Because
he's written around but he doesn't know who I am.

JJ. - Well, he dropped out of the party and he became anti-party for a
while. Now I don't know what he is now, he's writing.

I. - Yeah, he's a writer, a very good writer.

JJ. - He's a writer, he's had schooling...

I. - Everybody dropped out of the party, I mean not too many stuck in.
There weren't too many that stuck to the party.

JJ. - Yeah, but he said he didn't get the breaks he came out of jail.
I don't know what breaks he was looking for but Carl Winters and...
Now that I think of it C.J....

JJ. - They were former Communists or members of the Finnish Liberation.
So there was a red scare alright. But it was the members of the
Loon Lake. For instance I can mention names here not putting it into....

JJ. - Work of Liberation League, I says, you know we are just for the first
time starting something. I said, what will happen in the thirties.
There was quite a bit of struggle then. Said, I never heard about it.

I. - Never heard about it..Well this is, I'm with you. We should write
your experiences.

JJ. - The young people, but they are moving much faster than they were before.

But Detroit is a funny town. I don't know why...

JJ. - This is my local 160 is in the hands of the most conservative people, but they are the aristocrats of labor. They all high skilled workers. But we had two good union leaders but they red baited them out. They were not Communists, they were just good liberal, good trade union men. They were in there for two years and they lost. But they were really doing something. For instance, for the first time the company want us to let twelve or thirteen guys to go through the picket line, well we had to strike, go through the picket line and do some work inside to be ready when the strike is off. So the president of our local says, OK we will put it to a vote. He hired Armory Hall on eight mile and he said, are we gonna let our own brothers scab or are we going to fight against it. And they roared, you could hear the shingles rattling on the building, NO. He said, those that are in favor of letting our boys go through the picket line, there was two fingers let up. They were company stooges. Then I tell you, well know we are going to have some progressive people. But as long as we have this International Committee, what it is, unless we get a change in there pretty soon all of us little leaders are scared because they think they're gonna be kicked out because Woodcock don't like him or Fraiser don't like him.

I. - That's silly, well....I think the UAW, by far, is the most honest union. What do you think? Do you think it's an honest...

JJ. - Now see, as long as they are the main support is not the working man but to save the system from going into collapse.

I. - What system?

JJ. - Capitalist system. They fear that they have not raised the question for instance of railroads or industries that move from one place to another. If the UAW were to say, OK you move but you leave your machinery here and let the State operate that. They have never done that. They have always accepted the rule, well they're shop they get whatever they want. And that's why I say that they are so conservative to save the Capitalist System that is what they miss.

Because they're all maybe millionaires, I don't know if they are or not, but they're well to do anyway. They haven't worked for years.

I. - Well they work because they work in offices.

JJ. - No, I mean they haven't been in connection with the labor movement in the shop. That is the reason why I say that we don't move in Detroit. Now if we had a progressive movement, for instance, we have _____ in what's his name Bridges. Now he influenced the whole thing in Seattle area there because the fact that he has a program there for them. We don't have a program, we don't have anything, we don't have any kind of a program for the laborer except the.....

JJ. - Well I'm going to look around for that book, who knows it's here somewhere but I don't know where.

END OF TAPE PARTS II AND II,