Case Number: |EF6 | 998

File Name: 1EF6.RO 1998. RO

Interviewer: Victoria Gonzalez

Town: Hoboken

Transcriber: Rachel Onanian

Tape 1

Side 1

Start of Section Time: 0.00

Section A

R: Well, on and off basically for about...maybe thirty-five years.

I: And, how long have you lived where you now live?

R: A little over one year.

I: Would you say that you are satisfied living in the neighborhood, dissatisfied, or somewhere in between?

R: Mostly satisfied.

I: Satisfied?

R: Yeah.

I: And do you have any relatives living nearby?

R: My parents live in Hackensack, I don't know what you consider nearby. Yeah, and my sister lives in Paramus.

I: Would you consider any of your neighbors to be good friends?

R: Yeah.

I: How many of them?

R: Oh I guess about five, six.

I: And, do you ever get together with people in your neighborhood?

R: Yeah, as, as friends.

I: Do you belong to any community organization or club? In general, would you describe your neighborhood as the kind of place where people pretty much know one another, the kind of place where people pretty much keep to themselves,--

R: Keep to themselves.

I: Somewhere in between or no?

R: Yeah, keep to themselves.

I: What kinds of things do you have in common with the people in your neighborhood?

R: That I'm breathing.

I: And, how are you different?

R: How'm I different?

I: Uh-huh.

R: Um...I have a garage, which is a commodity in Hoboken. I have a garage and I ride a motorcycle.

I: And uh, what do you like most about your neighborhood?

R: Um...it's walking distance to everything in Hoboken.

I: And um, what do you dislike most about your neighborhood?

R: Now when you say neighborhood you mean just the, general area where I live or this, basic town I mean, Hoboken's only a mile, big. You mean the area I'm living.

I: Yeah.

R: Um...um, I'd just say my one pet peeve is the noise level, where some of the kids in their cars blasting the radios. And that's, if that's the biggest problem in my life I'm pretty lucky.

Section B

I: Have you ever been bothered by noise from neighbors?

R: Sure.

I: Is it uh, when was the last time that happened?

R: Um, well it happens a lot like I say that's the big problem here. I'd say the last time it happened, oh it was my birthday, June 30th. That's approximately three weeks ago. Okay.

I: And um, what do you do about it, what do you do about the noise?

R: Well with that specific situation, I, I and my video camera because it was my birthday. So I video taped, ya know the car that was driving by, and um, then I talked to a police friend, ya know a friend a mine who's a cop. And I said what can I, ya know, can I sign a complaint against this guy, and then I'll give the tape as evidence. He said, yeah, sure. So that's what I'll, I haven't seen him since then. So ya know, but if I had seen the guy do it, ya know, driving around with his hatchback open with a gigantic speaker blastin' music I would've gone down and signed a complaint against him.

I: And so the reason you haven't...

R: I didn't, pursue it because I haven't seen him do it again. There have been other times where the, kid across the street from me would blast, ya know, heavy metal, at like seven-forty in the morning, and I'd just call the police.

I: Other times you have called the police?

R: Yeah, uh-hum.

I: And how often has that happened?

R: It's happened two or three times.

I: In the past what, like five years?

R: Yeah.

I: In the past year?

R: Uh-hum.

I: Okay, um, what's been the outcome, has the noise level been-R: Oh yeah, they go and tell the kid to shut, shut it off.

I: But overall the problem with noise is that like (word unclear, 6.4)?

R: Oh yeah it's, it's summer in Hoboken. Ya know it's, ya know, ritual, everybody drives around and plays their music as loud as they can.

I: Um, have you ever had a problem with kids playing or fighting?

R: Um...yeah I had one kid shoot a fire-cracker off on my door. And I had some other kids bang on my window and, ya know um, my kittens sit up on the window sill, so he hit the screen real hard and I think he was tryin to, ya know, hit one of my kittens.

I: When does this happen? The fire-cracker and the um...

R: Um, within the last two to three weeks.

I: Does this happen a lot?

R: No, was the, no I...

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I: More during the summer...

R: Yeah, well I didn't, nah, that's the first time it's ever happened, and I was just concerned with my kittens ya know, so, I, I took that into my own hands.

I: So what did you do?

R: Well I found the kid who shot the fire-cracker, and...I told him I better not ever catch him doing that again. And um, he denied it, and I just left it I said look, just for your own well being, don't ever do that again. I was gonna tell him I'd shoot fire-works off of his mouth, if I caught him doing it again near my kittens but, I didn't want to get the, reputation of being a, ya know, cranky maniac in the neighborhood. And then the kids that banged, I mean I caught the kids who hit the window and hit my kittens. I didn't know it was kids I thought it was ya know, just some jerk. So I, I looked out, I saw them walkin away so I got in my car and drove after 'em, and caught them about a block away, and just said if fewer see them do anything to hurt my kittens I'll cut their hands off. I said they'll need somebody to tie their sneakers for the rest of their life. So you can see I range anywhere from ya know, very law-abiding to where I think the Islamic code works.

I: Have you had other problems with other people's dogs or pets?

R: Just goin' to the bathroom in front of my house.

I: Has that been a big problem?

R: It gets on my nerves. You know it's consistent enough.

I: Dogs?

R: Yeah. Ya know cause I have a big, I have a nice walkway in front of my house.

I: And what have you done about it?

R: Nothin'. Grumble. I'm thinkin' of puttin' up a big sign, says I'll shoot the dog. But then VIOL I thought that's not fair the dog doesn't know what he's doing, so I thought that I, what I'd do is a know, a sign would at least let them know that, this person might be crazy, I better not let the dog go to the bathroom here. I've also thought of, if I had nothing better to do, waiting, getting up early one morning with my video camera and video taping them and then pressing charges but, I can't be bothered.

I: Okay, um, so basically it's still happening and...

R: Yeah. Well if I catch somebody doing it I'll, ya know, deal with it, ya know, probably tell them that I'll shoot them if I see them do it again, and give the dog to the ASPCA.

I: Okay, I don't know if this question is relevant but, have you ever had problems with adults who bother your children?

R: No. Put that other episode there.

I: Okay, have you ever had problems with cars or parking?

Hobilizes biter, Srazy, dentily o introduce of Hatz R: Uh-hum.

I: Okay, and about what exactly is the problem, parking or cars?

R: Well I have my own garage so I have my own, space in front of my garage, and people park there sometimes.

I: Does that happen often?

R: Uh-hum.

I: And um, what have you done about it?

R: It varies um...if I don't need to get my car or my, if I don't need to get my car out of the state of I do need to get my car, either in or out, and if I do need to get my car, either in or out

I: Does that happen often, when you've called the police?

R: I guess three or four times.

I: And have the cars been towed?

R: Uh-hum.

I: Um, when was the last time that happened?

R: Maybe about a month ago. I didn't even stick around, I just knew that, a friend was coming over that afternoon, and so I just called the police, waited, they pulled, I pulled out the car and verified that I lived there and then I left for the day. When I came back the car was gone.

I: Have you ever had a problem with vandalism to your house, your car, graffiti, like people breaking things?

R: No.

I: Any problems with fences?

R: Fences?

I: Yeah like fences on your house, fences in the neighborhood.

R: What do you mean?

I: Like people, I don't know, like if you have a little, ya know, gate, people leaving it open, or...

R: Oh no, uh-uh.

I: Any problems with things you've loaned to neighbors and have not been returned?

R: Oh yeah. I: Yeah?

R: Sure. Right now um...this woman that I met, back in the winter, moved and took all of my favorite books. I thought I saw her in New York gettin into a cab one day and I ran up to the cab but, it wasn't her. Um, somebody still owes me from about three and a half weeks ago, he owes me seven hundred and seventy dollars, only gave me two hundred. And he knows, well...

I: So he owes you five hundred dollars?

R: Five-seventy. And then, not too long ago an old girlfriend of mine was in a jam and borrowed five hundred bucks. Promised to give it back within thirty days and didn't, so at sixty days or maybe it was seventy-five days, I took her to mail dained that that course when the number of the property of

I: So you did start the process...

R: Oh yeah. And I'm goin' in to Brooklyn, um, possibly Monday because I work for Kings County Hospital, and they still owe me fifteen hundred. I used, I used a lowwer to get my salary, they may be I don't know, ten or fifteen thousand. And then um, they still, they never processed my paper for my um, my dental benefits. While I was working there I had fifteen hundred dollars worth of um, dental work done. And they sent the bill and it never was taken care of—, ya know called and they said we still have your paperwork here on the desk. So I gonna so to small claims court to get that remedied.

I: Okay, let's see, so the woman who left with all your favorite books, you never...

R:

I: And what about um, she was a neighbor?

R: Yeah.

I: And this um, the man who owes you five hundred and seventy dollars, he still owes you the money?

R: Yeah.

I: And um, like, are you doing anything about it?

R: Well I stopped in there um, the other day, and he said that, he had just been robbed and he's a little short of cash and he said that, he knows I'll take him to small claims court if he doesn't come up with it soon he said, don't, don't take me to court. So um...I'll give him another few days and then I'll just take him to court took on manager for aggregation.

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I: Okay, um, I'm going to go on. Cause we do get to some questions, money and jobs, stuff like that.

R: Okay, sure.

I: Have you had any problems with disputes in your church, your club or neighborhood association?

R: I don't belong to any.

I: Any problems with neighbors garbage or trash?

R: Um...some people have been puttin garbage in my garbage can.

I: OKay, has that been a big problem?

R: Not a big problem, um, what I do now is I put a weight on top of the lid, just so it's an effort for them now to, so they'll probably dump it in somebody else's garbage can.

I: Has that pretty much solved the problem?

R: Protest much it may be a combination of that and; I have unit, I have a new motorcycle. Which is--

I: Sorry?

R: I have a new motorcycle which is very big and very loud in the leave that parked out there a lot and I think people figure they don to appearing the sea there is a lot and I the bad stuff like garbage in somebody else's garbage as semewhere else. So it's probably a combination of the local post moved away, maybe it was, maybe it had been them, maybe that's why it stopped.

I: Have you had any other problems with your neighborhood? Aside from garbage, noise?

R: Nah, basically, ya know just minor stuff, that's all.

I: Um, have you ever had a problem with someone who sold you an appliance and a car and later on refused to make repairs promised in the warranty?

R: Yeah, of course. Hope you got a lot of ink in that pen.

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I: When, when was the last time that happened?

R: Maybe...last September, October I finally remedied it.

I: Um, and what had been the problem?

R: It was a, a brand new Ford Taurus, I'll say it and then you can condense it, brand new Ford Taurus that I ended up having five transmission repairs done on. And I went all the way right up the ladde with the finally the dealership where I bought the car lied, and so my um, case was, ya know just the ladde so then I went and got a lawyer. And I guess it cost me about, I don't know, five hundred bucks. And finally what he did was he negotiated with the Ford Company that,

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they would take the would be an excellent deal at any Ford dealership, on any new car I wan . So that's what I did.

I; So the way it turned out is you got a new...

R: Yeah I got a new car at a very good discount. Yeah but it's just a shame that it's head but it's just a shame that it's head but it's just a shame that it's

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I: Is that the only time this happened?

R: Um...yeah I think so.

I: Have you ever bought something because of an advertisement that later turned out to be false?

R: (pause) Not, I can't recall.

I: Have you ever gone to buy an advertised product and then were told it was sold out and that only a more expensive item was available?

R: I don't recall, probably, but

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I: Have you ever bought something by mail that never arrived, or was not the same as was advertised?

R: No.

I: Have you ever bought something from a door-to-door salesperson that was not delivered or not what you expected?

R: No.

I: Have you ever tried to return something but the seller would not take it back?

R: Um...no, they usually take it back.

[Remedy]

I: Have you ever been charged for something on credit that you either had already returned or had never purchased in the first place?

R: No. My girlfriend ran up, ran my credit card into the ground so I can't use my credit card till I pay off the last two hundred, I've already paid off like, forty-eight hundred.

I: Have you ever been charged by a repair or service person more than you had originally agreed?

R: No.

I: Have you ever had insurance problems during the last five years?

R: Um...a few times I would have my policies cancelled without being notified. Ya know either, but I've moved around a lot, so it may be that it went to the wrong address. But I would just call them are and get it remstated.

I: Was that ever a big problem?

I: I'm going to write yes for this question.

R: Okay.

I: (long pause) Um, have you ever been denied credit for what you felt were unfair reasons?

R: No. It was fair reasons.

I: Have you ever had problems with creditors?

R: What do ya mean?

I: Um, like people not giving you credit, or...

R: Well no like I said my girlfriend, ya know, put my credit five thousand feet into the ground so, ya know, people are justified where they don't give me credit back, don't give me credit.

I: Have you ever had difficulty cashing checks?

R: Uh-um.

I; Have you ever had your electricity, heat, gas or telephone shut off?

R: Um.....I think my phone was shut off once.

I: Was that recently?

R: I don't remember, maybe within the last couple of years.

I: Um, and what did you do about it?

R: I went and brought cash to one of those drop spots. Sometimes I let my bills, ya know I don't pay them the minute they come in. And I probably put this down and it got caught in a pile on my desk and I'd forgotten about it and, maybe I was in, I think that's what it was, I think I was away when the warning notice came. That's it.

I: So they just um...

R: They shot it off and then I went and paid it and show toronds men

I: And have you ever had errors in your bills?

R: No.

I: And have you ever had any other problems with utilities, gas, electricity, heat or telephone services?

R: Um, ya know I had some problems with my phone where I's, apparently some lines were crossed, and I called them and they came in and, whatever, fixed II, and II was rixed for a while. But it's just started again recently to I'll have to call them again.

Section C

I; Um, do you currently own your own home, rent or lease?

R: Rent.

I: You've rented during the last five years?

R: No I've been at this place for one year but I've, yeah, rented all the time.

I: Is it a public or private dwelling? A room or an apartment?

R: An apartment.

I: And is it public or private?

R: What do you mean?

I: Like does this belong to the city or the state, or is it a private?

R: Oh it's a private, guy owns a couple of apartments and I'm rentin' one of 'em.

I: Um, have you ever had a problem where the owner did not make the repairs necessary?

R: Not here but in the past, yeah.

I: Has that been in the past five years?

R: Oh yeah.

I: Um, when was that?

R: Oh, now it's '91, so um, back in '88, '88-89. Oh I've had it all my life, every, every place I lived my landlord's a jerk, except for, here and one other place.

No what we do is, we um...we warmone

I: So, so it happened a lot?

R: Yep.

I: And what would you do about it?

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I: And um, does that happen often?

R: Uh-hum.

I: When was the last time it happened?

R: Last time was I guess, '88, '89 time.

I: But as far as being taken to court?

R: Oh yeah, oh I've been to court regarding um, unmade repairs, um, it was with the same landlord, we lived there for a couple of years. But the kitchen ceiling fell in. And he just wouldn't repair it so we kept going back and forth to court, and then the gas stove went on fire. The guy was a real, knucklehead.

I: And how many times did you go to court?

R: Five or six.

I: And um, that was landlor, tenant court?

R: Yes.

I: And what was usually the outcome?

R: We'd win. We'd win and he'd have to make the repairs, and he'd make a real crappy repair. And so we'd withhold the rent, go back again and show, I would always video tape, and videoways win.

I: Have you ever had a problem where the owner did not keep what you would consider undesirable persons out of the building?

R: no.

I: Where the owner claimed that you had damaged the property?

R: Yeah.

I: And when did that happen?

R: That would be um...maybe about nineteen-eighty.

I: And what exactly did the owner claim?

R: That we had dented up a um, aluminum sink.

I: And what happened?

R: He kept the security and that was that. We were stupid then, we didn't know about taking him to court or whatever.

I: Um, did the owner ever claim that you owed him money? Well I guess when you withheld the rent.

R: Yeah, um...yeah, when we would withhold the rent money.

I: Um, and um, have you ever had problems with your lease being cancelled, or your rent being raised unfairly?

R: No.

I: Has an owner ever tried to have you evicted?

R: Uh-hum.

I: When was the last time that happened?

R: Back in '88, '89 with that jerk. Maybe that even did go back to the previous question about cancelling a lease or whatever. He um, he tried a number of times to evict us. And un, we would just so to court with our lawyer, and he failed every time.

I: And so you'd leave?

R: Yeah.

I: Did you ever have to move because the place you lived in was taken over for some other use?

R: No.

I: Has an owner ever withheld your security deposit?

R: Yes.

I: Is it the one that time--

R: No this was another time.

I: So it's happened twice?

R: Um...yeah twice then. This was um, they had claimed, that a heater started a small fire, and burned a small section of a living room rug. This was back um...just before I moved here so I guess that would be '90.

I: And so what happened?

R: Um... took them to small claims court.

I: Over the living room rug?

R: Yeah.

I: But not over the aluminum--

R: No that was back ten years prior. And, the court assigned a mediator, and um...neither of us were going to back down, and then finally my old landlord who I liked as a person, said that uh, ya know the mediator wanted a compromise, wanted her to give me back half my security, and she said look I can't, my mother just died, I had to take out a loan for the burial, and when I heard that I said look, just keep the money, let's forget the whole thing. And she and I went out and we had coffee together.

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I: Have you ever found yourself without a place to live?

R: Over how long a period a time, like over my life, or within the last five years?

I: Uh, in general.

R: Yeah.

I: And um, when did that happen?

R: One time was back in nineteen-seventy...five. And, then, um, I guess in '89 I had just come back, just come back from Mexico. And it took me about five to ten days I guess in order to find a place to live. So I stayed in my sister's basement then.

I: This was in '89?

R: Yeah, like '89.

I: Okay you stayed with your sister.

R: '89, '90 I forget, I lose track of time. Just stayed in the basement, ya know, it was no big deal, it wasn't fun but, ya know.

I: And so (unclear 34.5)

R: Then...I went back to my old college. And, that, ya know, that was the whole thing, I'd gotten fed up with New Jersey because I had played music, disco came out I couldn't work, so I went back to my college town where I was a big, ya know like, ya know I was, I don't know famous or whatever. So I went up there and until I got situated I found an empty, ya know, dormitory room. And since I knew all the people at the college they didn't tell anybody that I was staying there so I stayed there for a while.

I: So with your sister it was just about, how many, like twelve days?

R: Oh yeah, ten days or so.

I: And in Vermont? (unclear, 35.3)

R: Vermont? (unclear, 35.3)

I: Uh-huh.

R: Oh that was a couple of months, two months, three months. Great.

I: And then you just found a place to stay?

R: Well then I came back to New Jersey.

I: Are there any other problems that you may have had with your housing?

R: (pause) Oh one other time, this would be I guess...I'm not really sure what year...I wanna say '82 but I could be wrong. A landlord, we had a meaderful relationship with him, and, he was getting old so he gave the house to his son, and his son wanted to sell the house, so he told us we had to leave. And again we dith't know what our rights were so we packed up and left.

I: And so you just left?

R: Yeah, we didn't know any better.

I: Have you owned a house or an apartment in the past five years?

R: Nope.

Section D

I: Have you ever had any problems getting your benefits, such as sick leave, health insurance--

R: Oh give me a break, of course. That's what I'm going through now.

I: Okay. And what exactly is the problem?

R: Currently...um, I had fifteen hundred dollars worth of dental work done when I worked at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. They never mailed in any of my paperwork. So when we sent the bill into the insurance company they'd never heard of me.

I: So this is while you were working at...

R: Uh-hum, Kings County.

I: And so what's, what's going on?

R: Nothing, they just keep telling me, give it time, give it time. And so I'm not giving more time, anday.

I: So basically the insurance company is just saying that the paperwork hasn't been....

R: Yeah, and it hasn't been, it's the hospital's fault.

I: So you're going to be in small claims court?

R: Uh-hum. And prior to that, I had worked there for um...eighteen weeks without a pay check.

I: At the same job?

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R: Yeah. At sixteen weeks I told them it was ridiculous...and then at eighteen I got a lawyer, and then a day after I got the lawyer and he sent them a letter they fired me.

I: And so you were there eighteen weeks?

R: Yeah, without a pay check. And, then the retain a law to retain a law to law to get my, get my pay check.

I: So they just fired you?

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R: Yeah. And since they're a city organization the lawyer said, we'd really spend a lot of time I.E and a lot of money and probably never set a cent out of them fold discharges so injust let it. I.E.

I: So you just pursue getting your--

R: Salary, yeah.

I: So, basically it turned out okay, they gave you your money?

R: Yeah, basically.

I: How long afterwards?

R: Two months.

I: And when did this happen?.

R: Just last October. October of '90.

I: Um, anything else?

R: Um, yeah that's enough. Ya know, anything else is just, not even worth mentioning, petty stuff.

I: Have you ever been paid less than other workers who did the same job and worked there for about the same length of time?

R: No.

I: Has your employer ever owed you backpay or overtime that was not paid?

R: Well just that last situation.

I: And um, have you ever been threatened because you belonged to or tried to join a union?

R: Uh-hum.

I: And, when was that?

R: That was in '80, I tried to start a union. I was um, a Catholic school teacher. (pause) And I--

Start of Section Time: 0.00

I: What happened?

R: I got fired.

I: And um, what happened with this...

R: Nothin, I just...left. Ya know the kids went out on strike, and the, it was all in the papers and, radio and stuff but...ya know they fired me for some other ridiculous reason, I don't even remember what it was.

I: Um, have you ever filed a grievance against your employer?

R: Uh-hum, at the high school.

I: And, what exactly was the problem?

R: Just that um...I shouldn't of been fired.

I: I see, so you, I mean you left the job but you did file a grievance?

R: Well I mean they, they, they fired me, ya know I met with the union, not really the union representative, whatever you would call it the um...sort of like this person that, we were trying to get a union started, except this one person was sort of like in charge. So I just, ya know, and they said that um, ya know me have no lights to file anything because it was the advanced on somethin's studied like that I forget

I: Um, but nothing came out of it?

R: Nu-um.

I: Okay, um, were you ever laid off or fired for what you thought were unfair reasons?

R: Oh sure.

I: So um, how many times?

R: Let me think...I know those two just come to mind, the high school and the hospital out in Brooklyn.

I: Have you ever ben injured on the job?

R: Uh-hum.

I: And, when was that?

R: Oh, um, when I worked for Jersey City Medical Center, I got bit, couple a times...um, swung at...tried to knife me, ya know just all, stuff like that. I used to bring in violent psychiatric patients.

I: Oh that was your job?

R: Yeah.

I: And um, so what did you do about it?

R: I took save and just made cure everything was reported in case there were any flaknow, subsequent complications.

I: Nothin...

R: Nothin no, no complications. There is if there I find out I have AIDS I'll probably go back and pun have records and say maybe it seecause the person bit me.

was the boss back then, so.

I: So, with the injuries on the job you basically just documented everything?

R: Uh-hum.

I: Okay, um, were you ever sexually harrassed by other workers?

R: (pause) No.

I: Were you ever sexually harrassed by your superiors, at work or at school?

R: No.

I: And, okay now it's a list of medical problems. Have you ever been charged by a doctor or hospital for a service you did not receive?

R: Uh-uh, no.

I: Have you ever been refused treatment by a hospital or doctor?

R: No. I always worked for hospitals.

I: Have you ever been given medical treatment that you do not think you needed?

R: No.

I: Have you ever had any problems with doctors, dentists, hospitals or health insurance?

R: Just the health insurance problem that I mentioned earlier.

Tape 1

Side 2

Start of Section Time: 0.00

I: And, this section is on education. Do you have children of school age living with you?

R: No.

I: And have you ever had the responsibility for school-age children?

R: No.

Section E

I: Have you ever had a problem getting the benefits you deserve, such as pensions, medical care, home loans, from the Veterans Administration,--

R: No I'm not a Vet.

I: --Social Security, something like that?

R: No.

I: Have you ever failed to receive a check from some public agency to which you are entitled, such as AFDC, welfare, social security...

R: No.

I: Have you ever been cut off or had your benefits changed without notice?

R: No.

I: Have you ever had trouble with social workers, welfare officials, or Veteran Administrators?

R: Oh yeah.

I: And, when was that?

R: When I was the boss runnin' the um, Mobile Psychiatric Emergency service. Have fun writing that down. Sure DYFUS was a pain in my ass every day.

I: How's DYFUS?

R: Ya know DYFUS? A bunch of lazy, deadbeat, burnouts, don't wanna do their job?

I: And um, so how long ago was this?

R: I guess '87 to '89 I ran that unit up at Medical Center. And prior to that from um, '80 to '87 I worked out of an emergency room in another hospital so I had to deal with DYFUS then, ya know, screw DYFUS, all those...jerks.

I: Um, and what exactly were the problems?

R: Um, I might have a problem where a kid was living in a uh, ya know dangerous environment. And then I went to one house where the guy downstairs had an oozie, and the mother was a crackhead, and, she was prostituting herself, and the man that lived with her was the biggest drug dealer in uh, Jersey City. So I tried to get, ya know the kid, put in a, and the kid was running, ya know drugs. She was thirteen. And DYFUS didn't bother doin' a thing. They came by, maybe talked for a few minutes and said, I don't know this seems like an adequate household. I mean just stuff like that.

I: And what did you do about it?

R: I just wrote it up and documented it. And I went to the, June Clark who was the um, the Chief DYFUS supervisor and complained.

I: And did anything come out of that?

R: Yeah, I was told to keep my mouth shut by my um, hospital administrator. I also used to Retailale um...call the public advocate whenever I saw somethin' wrong going on.

I. And did that ever work?

R: Yeah one time, one specific case I had a um...twenty-one year old who, was wandering in a phuge (unfamiliar word, 3.7) state, she was disoriented. And, I brought her to the hospital, and, she was just very distraught and upset, and I believe, and she didn't speak English, but, the little bit of Spanish I, picked up, I'd felt that she'd been sexually abused, um, ya know possible sexually assaulted within the last twenty-four hours. And when I, when I checked back on her I found out they'd committed her. And I found out that the doctor who had committed her was an Indian who didn't speak, ya know very good English, and didn't speak any Spanish, and I just didn't feel that a person should be committed unless they've been interviewed by some had who speaks their processing. So I called the public advocates office and said wanted an investigation. So they did.

I: Have you ever had a problem with the government over your income tax return?

R: Yeah, last week. (laughs) I just got, they just want some verification of some of the figures.

I: Um, has it been a big problem?

R: I don't know I haven't dealt with it yet. Just some, substantial figures, yet and I dealt with it yet. Just some, substantial figures, yet and I dealt with a lot a stocks, I cashed in eighty thousand dollars worth of some stocks I had, and I guess they wanna, ya know see what's going on, where did I come up with eighty thousand dollars. And I had a sizable, like a thirteen thousand dollar business loss they want me to verify.

I: So you just, you'll deal with that...

R: Yeah I'll just, it's in my briefcase I just have to look it up, twenty days I'll probably look at it the day before it's ready.

I: Okay, um, have you ever had problems because the city ignored your complaints or call for services, such as street cleaning or repair or garbage collection?

R: Not that, I got um, in trouble once for putting garbage out on the wrong night, I don't know if that counts.

I: Um, so basically the problem was that you had put out your garbage?

R: On the wrong night. And there were four warrants for my arrest when I got back from

I: Oh I see so it's more like they had a problem with your trash?

R: Yeah.

I: But you've never had a problem with the city?

R: No, uh-um.

I: Have you ever had problems with the quality and level of police protection in your neighborhood?

R: In my neighborhood...no I feel um, here in Hoboken...nah I don't have any problems with police protection here.

I: Um, have you ever had problems with police harrassment? Like of you harrassing...

R: Um, you mean specifically in Hoboken or just anywhere?

I: In New Jersey.

R: Not really cause I

I: Have you ever had any problems with the division of motor vehicles or traffic court?

R: Oh yeah I have problems, and there, and there, they is them problems, ya know makin' rights on reds when I shouldn't. Responsible

I: Okay. Um, have you had any other problems with local, state or federal government officials that I have not mentioned?

R: Just all bureacrats, ya know. Any, if I ever have to deal with anybody on a bureacratic level I have a problem.

I: Um, and you have had to do that, right?

R: Well, I mean like trying to get pay, well no that's hospital, I mean that's a city employee so it's hard to differentiate, um...let me think...I mean like right now I paid a hundred and fifty dollars in parking tickets on my father's car that I had borrowed that broke down and I found out that he paid it also, so I gotta go and deal and try and get them to reimburse me a hundred fifty dollars but, eh nothin' major.

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I: Any problems because of extra-marital sexual affairs?

R: No.

I: Has anyone ever tried, I guess you don't have children, but to take your child away from you, adopt your child, or plaw your child in another's care?

R: Uh-um.

I: Have you ever had a problem with juvenile court, child protection services, or some agency for children?

R: Only work related but, ya know that, I don't think that's what you're interested here.

I: Have you ever had trouble getting support or alimony payments?

R: No.

I: Have you ever tried to get visitation rights?

R: No.

I: Have you ever tried to get anyone else's visitation rights limited?

<u>R: No.</u>

I: Have you had any child custody problems?

R: No.

I: Have you had any problems with alcohol or drugs?

R: Me personally?

I: Uh-huh.

R: No.

I: Uh, with regard to any of the problems I just mentioned, have you ever spoken with a pastor or minister or rabbis?

R: No I was a psychotherapist so, I talk to myself.

I: Um, have you ever called the Division of Youth and Family Services?

R: On one of, any of my own, I don't have kids, I mean I have his, from work related but I don't think that's what this area is looking after.

I: Only work related, okay. And have you ever dealt with the probation department?

R: Just work, ya know work related.

- I: Have you ever used a mediation service?
- R: Just that time I went to small claims court with my um, previous landlord.
- I: And have you ever used a private counseling service, a legal or um...?
- R: Oh, you mean like a psychotherapist?
- I: Uh-huh.
- R: Yeah.
- I: So not legal?
- R: No, no I was having problems in a relationship, and I said either we go and see a marriage, ya know, we weren't married but I said either we see a counselor or we break up now.

Section G

I: You can choose any of the problems you've mentioned.

R: Um...well...ya know as you can see I feel, I feel fairly confident in um. basically the small claims court approach um....but, there are certain times I ya know, I'm not gonna become a, a victim of um, the for example the time, ya know I've seen people almost hurt my kittens, Free taken the interpolation of the same if I had kids I'd probably be even more, ya know um, intense. So there are times where I um, I do believe in ya know, discontinuation, and not even intimidation just stating a fact, to be hon--, I wouldn't chop their hands off, but ya know, they would be very sorry if I ever caught them doing anything to ya know, anyone I loved.

I: I wonder, do you want just talk more about this then, in general? I guess if you just want to talk about one particular problem.

R: Um...I don't, ya know there's really um...I try to stay, I, I do try to abide by ya know laws, and keep our society a lawful society. There are some times where I think it's um...ya know, I mean, I, it wasn't brought up but one time I got mugged.

s, LAW

I: I will ask you a question if you've ever been the victim of a crime.

R: Oh okay, well then I'll save that for that, because I, I did everything the legal way the first time and now I just kill'em.

- [DHE]

I: Okay, well what about um...

R: I mean if I could get away without killing'em but I would kill somebody.

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I: Okay well do you want to talk about that case?

R: All right. I caught somebody in the act of breaking into my car when I came back. And I confronted him, he was a junkie. And, he had broken the lock on my trunk, and was stealing um, I, we had a place up in the Poconos so I had a chainsaw I had to bring in for repair and he was tryin' to steal that. And he dropped it, and said, okay look, there's your chainsaw, just leave me alone, I said no, you broke my lock, you were stealing from me, I'm not gonna leave you alone, we're going to a cop. So I grabbed him by the scruff of his neck, he was small, and I carried mace with me. And, because at the time I'd had a psychiatric patient who had escaped and was trying to kill me, so I felt carrying mace was a, deterrent. And I told this junkie that I was, I would mace'em, um, if he tried to get away. And he had a little cardboard canister, like that you'd get posters in, but he had a lead pipe in it, and he swung it around real quickly and cracked me in the skull and gave me a concussion. Um, so after I feel down I got up and chased'em, and, luckily he went and hid somewhere and a policeman asked him what he was doing and he went to hit the cop with the pipe, and the cop pulled his gun. And then I'd yelled, I'd yelled to people, ya know hey that guys a thief, and somebody said hey they caught him up about two blocks. So I went, I pressed charges, there was a grand jury hearing, um, it went on and on, it was just a big pain in the ass. I mean he went to jail, he did about six months. Then he was out, and the court called me again because he had done it again, it took me forever to get my chainsaw, it took me months and months and months. bureacratic red tape to get my chainsaw.

I: He had taken....

R: No, it was just impounded as evidence. Um, so it was just one nightmare after another. And um...ya know the system I guess basically worked, but all it did was put a junkie in jail for six months, ya know it didn't um, rehabilitate him, and he was out again doin' the same thing, ya know, about seven months later. And, now if anybody ever, ya know did anything where I, where they threaten me, I'd make sure they couldn't hurt me, and I would take it to whatever limit I had to to make sure that I wasn't harmed.

I: How long did it take you to get your um...

R: Saw back?

I: Uh-huh?

R: Oh, must a been eight months, ten months. I had to go in and talk to the grand jury, um, he pleaded guilty so I didn't have to go in for a trial. But um, ya know it was just, I mean the whole court system there was just a big pain in the neck for me. Ya know, I mean, I was never paid to take time off from work, ya know, it's just a big...pain.

I: Did it take a lot of your time?

R: Well I had to go in for the grand jury hearing, I had to um, go in, of course ya know the uh, evidence room, ya know doesn't have late hours, so I had to take off from work in order to go and pick up my chainsaw, out in the middle of Brooklyn, so that took almost a, ya know, half a day to a whole day. It's just really, a real inconvenience, ya know the whole situation. I would've been better off if I had um, killed him. But ya know, I was thinking, ah no this guy's, ya know, got problems, ya know he's a drug addict he needs help.

o whole there

I: Do you think this happens to other people?

R: Sure. Definitely.

I: Do you think this problem has cause a lot of disruption in your life?

R: Yeah.

I: Is it a lot, or ...?

R: Well it definitely was the <u>turning point in my</u>, <u>passivist attitude</u>. As you can see, whoever's going to listen to this tape, I'm no longer a passivist. A peace-make yes but, when I was in the seminary I used to say, Jesus turn the other cheek but if somebody jumped out and was doing something to his mother I don't know if he'd turn the other cheek. That's my attitude now. Ya know I'll do whatever I have to do to protect my, ya know me and mine.

I: Um, and how did you feel when all of this was happening?

R: Just like I was, I was continuing to be a victim. Ya know it's not, it's not the cops problem, it's nobody's problem, they got their own, issues they have to deal with, it's not their copjob to, ya know, send a limo to pick me up and bring me to um, ya know the grand jury.

I: When was it that this happened?

R: Uh, I don't know, '86, '87.

I: Who were the people that you talked to about your problem?

R: That problem? What do ya mean, like...

I: Cops, or...

R: Oh just, I, ya know...talked to the cops and that's how I talked to a prosecutor, ya know and told'em what happened. You mean talk like from emotional point of view?

I: No, just in general.

R: Yeah, cops.

I: You had a lawyer?

R: No, oh no, I just, ya know...when the cops caught him they said hey you wanna press charges, I said yeah, and he and I got into a, not me and the cop, me and this junkie got into an argument right there.

I: Okay, um, and you talked to like friends, and other people about it?

R: Yeah, there were two friends with me at the time. No, it wasn't traumatic, it was, it was more annoying. I, I used to, ya know, I mean, yeah that kind of stuff is no big deal I used to do it all the time at work.

I: Um, and how do you want to see the situation settled?

R: Um, you mean if it were to happen again?

I: No at the time, how did you want to see it settled?

R: Well I guess um...I would've liked to have gone, signed a swarn statement, they take a picture of my chainsaw, and then leave me alone. I think I was more in--, ya know, more annoyed and put through the ringer than the junkie. Ya know it should be a simplified process, ya know for crime victims. Ya know cause it just perpetuates their trauma, not for me but I'v dealt with many crime victims in the emergency room.

I: And at the time what was most important to you?

R: Um, at the time because I was still a passivist, probably seeing justice done.

[FAIR]

I: And what would you have considered that justice was...

R: True justice would've been for him to get in, ya know, be rehabilitated, and he had a long, a long wrap sheet, ya know of, ya know, multiple, ya know, vienese break and entries, robberies, assaults. And just have him sit some where and watch cartoons for six months really wasn't the answer. So justice would a been for him to um, ya know, go into a mandatory drug treatment program for, ya know, minimally a year. Six months just starts to scratch the surface with ya know um, any type of addiction.

I: Do you feel there was anything you could've done to prevent the situation?

R: Yeah, smacked him in the head. But I was trying to be a passivist. And I was just, I grabbed him and I was gonna take him to the police. Now what I would do if I ever caught anybody I would just, smack him in the head, handcuff them to a um, telephone poll and bring USE the police to them, I wouldn't spend, put myself at risk bringing anybody to the police.

I: So you would've not gone through the court system?

R: Oh, I might have gone through the court system, but I um, I would've made sure that I was definitely safe at the time, I would've harmed him before he could harm me, and when he was unconscious I would've gotten a police officer. But the the problem is he'd press charges against me and it would become a real silly situation. So maybe what I would do is I would just, knock him unconscious, take his clothes off and with an indelible magic marker write thief across his face, and then leave him there. And steal whatever money he had. Is that for the pot calling the kettle black.

I: So, basically your experience in court was just that it was, dragged out?

R: Well, um...yeah. I mean it wasn't dragged out, I mean they gave me a date, I had to take a day off from work to go to the grand jury. Then I had to take another day off to go and get my chainsaw after multiple attempts on the phone to even find out where it was. Ya know, so it was just a, ya know, tryin' to line my way through a bureacratic labyrinth.

I: So basically the problem was just solved, you got your...

Marker 10

R: Yeah, it was solved, I mean it's, it's a large, ya know we have a very um, enormous legal system and ya know, everything's in triplicate, so ya know, nobody's right, nobody's wrong, just large.

Section H

I: Suppose that one evening there was a family in the neighborhood having a real loud party.

If you were disturbed by the noise, what would you do?

R: Call the cops.

I: And what would do if this happened on a fairly regular basis?

R: Get down to court and sign a complaint.

I: What would you do if you were friendly with them, would your response be any different?

R: I would probably go and talk to them. And just explain that, ya know, I have to wake up in the morning, I have wor--, serious work I have to get done, and that I think it's really um, what would the word be, um...ya know, improper, I can't think of the right word I'm looking for, but improper that they're ya know, being selfish.

I: So you'd go talk to them before...

R: Sure, if they were friends, yeah.

I: And what would you do if you do not know them at all?

R: Just call the cops.

I: Here's another imaginary situation. Suppose you lent a tool or appliance worth about a hundred dollars to one of your neighbors. You've asked for it but it has not been returned, what do you think you would do?

R: Go steal it back. Guess I can't use that verb, it's not stealing it back, take it back.

I: What would you do if that didn't work? If you couldn't find it, or ...?

R: Take something of equal value.

I: Would you make sure they knew that you had taken something?

R: No. I don't care.

I: What would you do if the item was worth a thousand dollars?

R: Better yet then if I could prove, if I felt that I could get um, ya know, get this solved through um, small claims court I'd go to small claims court. But if there was noth--, no proof, nothin in writing and they could just deny that they knew anything I was talking about, um, I

[papers]

would just go and take something of equal value. Maybe a couple of things that I felt ya know, were, of equal value.

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I: What would you do if the person was a good friend?

R: I would, I'd, I'd approach them once, and after that I don't feel I need to be um, put in that position. So I'd just, a, go the legal system, or b, just go and take something. And then put it on their, ya know, shoulders. Ya know, if they come back and say hey, how come you took my um, sit down lawn mower. I'd say, well when you give me back my whatever, you can have your sit down lawn mower. I, I was also trained by the FBI, I'm a hostage negotiator. So I would just negotiate. Take something they wanted and we'd negotiate it out.

I: Um, suppose you had a child and the child is hit by a car. The child is knocked off the bicycle, hits her head, and has minor scratches and bruises. The bicycle is completely crushed, the driver is clearly at fault, he's very upset and apologetic, and calls several times to inquire about the child's condition, which is excellent. There will be, according to the doctors, no lasting consequences, and only minor discomfort for a day or two. What would you do?

R: I'd say that they should buy, um, the child a new bicycle, and um...just, ya know be careful.

I: What would you do if ... if you didn't get the new bicycle?

R: I'd tell them that I'd sue them for a million dollars. I would probably also, at the time, even though the doctor said there'd be no lasting consequences, I would document everything just in the event that down the, ya know, years later there were some um, residual consequences, that it would be on record. But I wouldn't try and bleed them, ya know, ya know, for any money or whatever.

I: Um, suppose the driver did not call to ask about your child's condition after the accident. How would that change your response?

R: You mean if it was a hit and run?

I: Yeah, but the child was okay.

R: Well, you mean, was the first one a hit and run also?

I: Um...

R: Cause I don't consider it a hit and run if they're calling and asking, ya know--

I: Right, right, no, no, no, now slightly changing the scenario.

R: Okay.

I: Your child is hit but the driver does not call.

R: Stops, but does not, see that's what, that would be, that's the pivot point for me, if it's hit and run I'd act a lot more differenly than if they hit, stopped, filled out all the papers, and then didn't call. There's a big difference. So if you want I'll give you answers to both and you can have your supervisor ya know tell you which one you're looking for.

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FAIR

I: What if, if it were hit and run what would you do?

R: And I knew who they were? I mean, I, I would find out in a word, I would a, get the police, and I'd crucify them.

[CONF]

I: And what if, if it was not a hit and run, they just didn't call and ask?

R: I mean that's, ya know, that's okay, ya know if they stopped and did what was supp--, necessary to be done in terms of paperwork, make sure an ambulance arrived, all of that, they per-so that, wouldn't affect me I'm not, ya know, I don't get wrapped up in, ya know, that kind a stuff.

I: What if the driver was someone you knew? Would that change your response?

R: It would depend on what the ... and didn't call?

I: Right.

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R: I would probably call'em, ya know just because I wouldn't want that to, accidents SHIT want it to create a rift and I would also want to know ya know um, ya know, what's up. Ya know hat would not to talk to you until the was ya know, embarrassed, ya know, really upset, that's okay I'd give him his space, ya

Section J

I: Have you ever been in a court in the United States in any capacity other than as an employee there?

R: Oh yeah. I was um, yeah.

I: Have you been in U.S. Federal Courts?

R: Uh-um.

I: In New Jersey state courts?

R: Um, I don't know what the difference is between state and county, to be honest.

I: Uh, but it wasn't New Jersey?

R: Yeah.

I: Have you been in any court in any other state?

R: Uh-uh. Well that time with the mugger, that, well not mugger but that theif was New York.

I: Oh okay, and so, and you did go to court?

R: No I don't know any a them.

I: Any elected town, county, state or federal official?

R: No.

I: Any employee of town, county, state or federal government? Public school teachers...

R: Public school teachers? Um...yeah.

I: Any court reporters?

R: Just that woman, ya know who I met in kindegarten. Haven't seen her in twenty years but I saw her that day in court.

I: Um, are you registered to vote?

R: Yep.

I: Did you vote in the last presidential election?

R: Yep.

I: Do you have a valid driver's license?

R: Yep.

I: Have you ever consulted a lawyer?

R: Oh yes.

I: How many times in the last five years?

R: I don't know, five, six.

I: How did you locate your lawyer?

R: Um, well one is a friend of the family, and the other, was recommended through um, the whaddya call it, New Jersey tenants organization.

I: By the New Jersey tenants association?

R: Uh-hum.

I: And why did you go to see a lawyer? You already told...

R: See all of the above.

I: Do you know anyone who has been to court, aside from you?

R: Yeah my father.

I: And has he described his experience to you?

R: No.

I: Well then, have you ever been the victim of a crime, you already...

R: Yeah.

I: Have you ever called the police, yes, how many times in the last five years?

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R: Uh, I don't know, five, six, somewhere between five and ten maybe. Oh all I call the policy a lot, if um...ya know inst feel and the I think, ya know, for example I saw a young kid carrying a stereo, 'bout two weeks ago. Ninety-nine percent, ya know it was his own stereo, but ya know the relies can't be said which way he was goin' and had the said sheeks it wasn't comebody else's stereo.

I: Um, so you've called the police about many different things?

R: Oh yeah, yeah, like if I see an accident, Fdon't assume that someout,

I: The time with the mugging...

R: Uh-hum.

I: So you called about noise...

R: Yeah, I called about noise, accidents, um...questionable um...ya know, persons.

I: Problems with parking you mentioned before.

R: Yeah.

I: And what is it that usually happens?

R: They say they'll check it out.

I: Um, do they usually come when you call them?

R: They come and tow the cars when I call'em so I assume they're gonna check out the characters, like that kid carrying the stereo. From the stock most feel it's, ya know, stock most ya know, alort most everywhere but, they're the enforcement...side. I'm not gonna go and question the kid and make a, ya know, citizen's arrest.

I: Have you ever filed a complaint with a government agency against someone else, such as filing a consumer complaint or a housing violation?

R: I'm trying to think, I did file a consum--, I did call the Better Business Bureau on someone once. I'd forgotten about it until now, um...

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I: The...what's it called?

Better Buciness Bureau But I don't recall why Line come the four know,

I: Have you ever filed a complaint against a government agency, such as a school system, social security, welfare, Veterans Administration?

R: Trying tink um, well I was stopped from filing a complaint against DYFUS, so I mean I had, begun the process told by the hospital that I work for to just leave the issue alone. Ya know they left a kid in a very dangerous situation.

I: If a police treated you unfairly, what would you do?

R: Um...I'd propably my and press

CONNECT

I: Uh, and, if a judge treated you unfairly, what would you do?

R: I'd probably um...it would again to be a few much be the state of t

I: So if you did decide to complain who would you complain to? Or whatever, press charges?

R: Um...I really don't know, I guess if it was um...if it was the police I'd find the internal affairs division. If it was a judge, I guess I would um...I'd probably contact a lawyer and he, he or she who would know who, ya know what would be the route to take.

I: And, what would you do if a lawyer treated you unfairly?

R: I'd um, complain to the bar. And possibly press charges, ya know the bar would be I imagine it's own internal, um, situation.

Start of Section Time: 0.00

Section K.

I: I'll just read the sentence and you can just tell me yes, no.

R: Okay.

I: Before the police may question someone accused of a crime they must inform the suspect of his or her right to remain silent.

R: True.

I: Under New Jersey law, the owner of a car is required to have liability insurance.

R: Let me think...um, what are the other forms of insurance, I gotta figure this out. Liability...what are the other ones? Cause I'm not sure, I know that um, I know there's one form that's mandatory, I'm not sure if it's liability. Um...I don't know.

I: If a person is on trial, it is up to the person to prove that he or she is not guilty.

R: False. That's the Napoleonic law down in Mexico, I know about that.

I: All courts in this state have juries.

R: No.

I: The police are allowed to interfere in private marital disputes involving physical violence.

R: True.

I: A person charged with a crime can be made to answer questions about the crime at the trial.

R: False.

I: A defendent in criminal court who doesn't speak or understand English has the right to an interpreter or a sign language--

R: Oh true.

I: The state of New Jersey has the legal right to intervene in the way any family member disciplines a child when there's reason to believe the child is being abused.

R: When there is reason to believe in abuse?

I: Yes.

R: True.

I: New Jersey law requires people to let the police search their homes whenever the police ask them.

R: False.

I: If you owe money to a store, the owner of the store without a hearing can get a court order taking part of your salary or wages until the debt is paid.

R: False.

I: If you wanted to and could afford it you could take any case all the way up to the United States Supreme Court.

R: True.

I: In most cases, as long as you pay your rent and comply with the term of the lease, a residential landlord must renew your lease at the end of the term.

R: True.

I: You have to be or have been married in order to get child support.

R: False.