

VOICE OF JONATHAN DANIELS: EAST SELMA, SUMMER, 1965

Daniels: ---its a local SNNC organization. Gene [Eugene Pritchard] and I are out in east Selma, talking with women, in especially poverty-stricken areas, who are not receiving welfare assistance, for one reason or another, and who are in extreme need. Both Gene and I will ask questions, and in general I think you will find that the women answer quite freely. The cases you will hear, are among fifteen selected cases, which Mr. Pritchard has chosen out of a larger number of roughly a hundred and seventy cases. Each of the women we are about to interview, has already been interviewed at least once by Mr. Pritchard, who in some cases has financed visits to Doctor Dumont, for the children, supplied money for soap to clean the houses, and in general prepared the women for eventual contact with a local welfare agency. Though economic deprivation characterizes the negro community in general, throughout Selma, Alabama, and indeed the Black Belt, East Selma seems to be especially bad. So it is not possible for the local welfare agency to become involved with a family except at the family's own request. It is the intention of Mr. Pritchard and myself at some time, to present this material to Mrs. Wilkinson, Director of the Dallas County welfare agency. She has assured us of her interest, and her support.

Daniels: Forget about that, don't worry about it. Talk.

Woman: I don't know anything to say except what they told me. They just told me they wasn't going to give me any help.

Daniels: When did they tell you this?

Woman: The last time I was there.

Daniels: About how long ago was that?

Woman: That was--about two months and a half ago.

Daniels: Who did you see down there?

Woman: I don't know the lady's name, but um, she gave me a piece of paper, told me that she wasn't gonna give me any help---(unintelligible) live-in father [?] Selma----

Daniels: Is he still here?

Woman. Yes.

Daniels: Where?

Woman (unintelligible)

Daniels: How often does he come here?

Woman: Well, he comes here on the weekends.

Daniels: Are you happy with him?

Woman: No.

Daniels: Why don't you tell him to stay away?

Woman: Which I did.

Daniels: Which is worth more to you; telling him to come here, on weekends, or being able to get some help. Does he give you any help?

Woman: No, he don't give me any help.

Daniels: None at all?

Woman: No.

Daniels: What is the age of---

Woman: The age they are? One is a year and a half old (hear kids screaming), one's three, and one's ten.

Pritchard: Do they all have the same father?

Woman: No. One's that ten don't, but the one that's a year and a half old and the one that's three years old, they have the same father.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

Pritchard: Have you any other children? Did you have a baby that died?

Woman: Um-hum.

Pritchard: (unintelligible)

Woman: Oh, he was about seven months old then.

Daniels: What did the baby die of?

Woman: I don't know what was wrong with it, three or four days.

Daniels: Was he in the hospital or here?

Woman: Um he was at home. (unintelligible)

Daniels: um-hum. How is the health of your children?

Woman: I guess, pretty fair. Oh, he's just acting up [?]

Daniels: How long ago?

Woman: About two months, and a half ago.

(noise, baby crying)

Young Black Voice: Did he get burned?

Woman. Um-hum.

Daniels: What did he get burned on?

Woman: On the iron. (unintelligible) turned it over on his hand and fell on it.

Childrens's voice, talking to mother.

Woman: I don't know, honey.

(Unintelligible)

Daniels: ---know your social security number?

Woman: I don't know---

Daniels: Did you get it? Could you tell me your social security number?

Woman: It's four, one, eight, four, two, nine, three, four, five.

Daniels: When were you issued that number?

Woman: I got this number about a month ago.

Daniels: Why did you get the number?

Woman---to get help, ----getting a social security number. Bring it back. Give it to her.

Pritchard: Who's Mrs. Wood?

Woman: I don't know ---

Daniels: What kind of help did you want from her?

Woman: Well, I was trying to get on the welfare.

Daniels: Um, how much do you pay per month for rent?

Woman: Eleven dollars, per month.

Daniels: You know who owns the house?

Woman: Yeah.

Daniels: Who?

Woman: Cooper (Hooper?)

Daniels: Who?

Woman: Major Hooper.

Daniels: Is he a white man?

Woman: White, yes)

Daniels: Lives in town?

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: How many houses does he own, out here?

(Baby cries)

Daniels: Three. Are they all in ---condition?

Woman: Yes, just about.

Daniels: Would you tell us about, the lay out of the house?
---Kitchen; (baby screams) What do you---the kitchen? You do
have a stove?

Woman: It don't get hot, now.

Daniels: Have you told Mr. Hooper that?

(Baby cries; shetalks about stove not working,I think)

Daniels: How long has the stove not been working?

Woman: (unintelligible) six weeks.

Daniels: Who would you go to, to have your stove fixed?

Woman: It's not worth fixing, it's not worth it.

Daniels: Well, ah, how do you cook? If the stove doesn't
work?

(baby is screaming)

Woman: We cook greens.

Daniels: You cook the greens on the stove.

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: Do you ever have any meat?

Woman: Yes, sometimes.

Daniels: What kind of meat do you eat?

Woman: Fatback. That's what we call it.

Daniels: Where do you get it from?

Woman: ----, when I have money.

Daniels: Where do you get the money from?

Woman: Well, ah, sometimes I get it from friends, someone comes along, gives me two or three dollars, sometimes. And I go to the store and get the kids something to eat.

Daniels: But when they don't give you money, you don't---

Woman: No. (Daniels???)---and I have a cousin, she has greens from the---?

Daniels: He owns the greens farm?

Woman: Yeah.

Daniels: Yet, he doesn't give you any help. Otherwise.

Woman: No.

Daniels: Does he know, what it's like, to live here?

Woman: Yes, he know.

Daniels: Think he cares?

Woman: Well, he just ---a real close friend to me....he just--help me out, sometimes.

Daniels: The father of these children never gives you anything.

Woman: No, he don't give me anything.

Daniels: If I were you, I'd be tempted to lock the door.

Woman: If I lock the door, he gonna find another way in here. (lots of unintelligible talk)

Daniels: Do you plan on having any more children?

Woman: No, sir, I ain't intending to.

Daniels: Have you been to the Planned Parenthood Clinic?

Woman: (???)

Daniels: At the county home? Would you know how to keep from having another child?

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: How?

Woman: (answer unintelligible)

Daniels: But you haven't done it.

Woman: Not yet, but I'm planning on it.

Daniels: I think you better do it, don't you?

Woman: I plan on going in on Wednesday.

Daniels: Cause I think they will fit you for a nothing.

Woman: Yeah. No, it sure don't.

Daniels: Tell me about the toilet facilities outside.

Woman: ---fix anything, I don't hear anything about it.

Daniels: What kind of a bathroom do you have?

Woman: Oh, we don't have a bathroom.

Daniels: What do you have?

Woman: Closet.

Daniels: What kind of water supply do you have?

Woman: We all use one hydrant.

Daniels: Where is that?

Woman: Five families. Behind the---.

Dasniels: Do you think that's a good place for it?

Woman: No, I don't think it is.

Daniels: I don't either. When was the last time Mr. Hooper sent somebody out here to change the screen?

Woman: Well, we all have the same fella owns the --

Daniels: ---your own?

Woman: Yeah. When I first moved here I had a stove. ----

Daniels: I've forgotten when you said you last worked.

Woman: Last time I worked I worked in Sumer's Drug Store. I washed dishes down in the basement.

Daniels: How long ago was that?

Woman: That was before I started having kids. I've been having a kid every year, having to work cause every time I get sick all the time, I'm throwing up.

Daniels: Sure. Well, you worked after you had the ten year old child. Oh, you haven't worked --at all.

Woman: I helped in the fields, picked cotton, different things like that.

Dasniels: ---your first child.

Woman: Yeah.

Daniels: How old is the next oldest child?

Woman: He's three years old.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

Woman: He's a year, and a half.

Daniels: How much money do you take in from whatever source during a year. Do you have any idea?

Woman: No, I don't have, cause I don't take in any money. Cause when the rent's due, I don't---

Daniels: How do you get the money to pay your rent.

Woman: Well, different friends, they give me some now and then.

Daniels: Do they live around here?

Woman: My brother, he sends me some money, help me out.

Daniels: Where do your friends live?

Woman: East Selma. My brother, he sends me a little money every now and then; ten or fifteen miles. (unintelligible)

Daniels: Do you have any ideas on how to raise money? Do you plan on working again?

Woman: Yes, I want to work, but I don't have anyone to care the kids----only time I get anything--two dollars to pay somebody to pay somebody to keep the kids for a day--I don't----eleven dollars Be quiet! (to her kids)

Daniels: How do you keep food? Cooking greens--do you eat them all?

Woman: We just eat--what be left, I throw em out the next day, probably.

Daniels: Yeah; yeah.

Woman: Don't have no refrigerator.

Daniels: When was the last time Mr. Hopper saw this place? Mr. Hooper, excuse me.

Woman: Well, he was out here last month, but he don't ever inspect it.

Daniels: What was he doing---

Woman: He stopped for his rent. Come out here for the rent.

Daniels: What he say? He didn't look around the place?

Woman: He don't know its a wreck (???)

Daniels: Do you think the front porch out there is safe for your children?

Woman: No, I sure don't.

Daniels: You point that out to him?

Woman: No, sir, we haven't never spoke to him about it.

Daniels: Have you ever thought about telling him that you won't pay the rent until he fixes that? What do you think would happen if you told him that.

Woman: (answer unintelligible) court, rent back, guess.

Daniels: Gene, anything you want to ask? Thank you very much.

Woman. You're welcome.

Daniels: When are you planning to go back to welfare?

Woman: Well, I don't plan to go back.

Daniels: Why?

Woman: Because, they told me ain't no need in comin back.

Daniels: How are you going to clothe these children as they get older? And go to school?

Woman: Well, I'm hoping things get better, and probably find me a job.

Daniels: How do you think they're going to get better?

Woman: I don't know.

Daniels: You say you plan to go to the birth control center Wednesday.

Woman: Yeah.

Dasniels: Who's gonna see to your children then?

Woman: (unintelligible)

Daniels: How long will that take you to get him?

Woman: Well, they said he was supposed to be up there at four o'clock.

Daniels: You know you need to prevent your husband from coming in here, on week-ends.

Woman: Yes, I call the police. ----

Daniels: Well then, he has no legal right to be here. Does it make any sense to you, to let him keep coming in here.

Woman: No, it doesn't make sense.

Daniels: When you could be getting, at least some money, to pay rent and buy food.

Woman: That's right.

Daniels: You must enjoy seeing him.

Woman: No, I don't, he just--door.

Daniels: Why don't you lock it?

Woman: Come on in;

Daniels: But you aren't going to use it?

Woman: Yes, I've used it.

Daniels: Have you used it?

Woman: Yeah, I used it.

Daniels: When was the last time your boy friend came in?

Woman: He was around here last Sunday.

Daniels: Did you let him in, or---?

Woman: ---drunk.

Daniels: How many teeth did he knock out?

Woman: One.

Daniels: ---because you wouldn't let him in?

Woman: he and I was out in the---down the road there, I thought he was gonna give me some money, and ah, he wanted me to come home, and I wouldn't come, and he---my mouth, broke my tooth.

Daniels: Well, ----you start locking him out on weekends.

Woman: I will.

Daniels: If he doesn't come in, what are you going to do then?

Woman: ---to do?

Daniels: No, I mean, what are you going to do?

Woman: Nothing; not anything.

Daniels: You think you might go back to the welfare office?

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: Well. If your boyfriend tries to come in, and, the reason for not going is to remove --when they've got some money, which they can use to help you. Don't you think?

Woman: Yeah. (long pause) But what should I say when I back up there this time?

Daniels: Tell the, you've gotten rid of the man.

Woman: I told them that once before; I told them the same thing---

Daniels: ---knew better. Undoubtedly you ----

Woman: For which I did, I ----

Daniels: Well, but-- you understand what they--- don't have a man around the place.

Woman: I see, yeah.

Daniels: They need proof, they have to, by law, that if a man is coming here every week, he's giving you money, and he's supporting your family, then they are not obligated.

Woman: He's not supporting us.

Daniels: -----but he's he's pretty expensive to you, when he means, that you don't get any money, from welfare, he's a luxury you can't afford.

Woman: Well, when should I go back up there?

Pritchard: Well, tomorrow.

Daniels: Tomorrow.

Pritchard: At two p.m. I think maybe she should ----have her report for, come over to the ----at 2:00.

Woman: uh-huh.

Daniels: What time do you want her to go?

Pritchard: The first thing in the morning.

Daniels: Will you go---?

Pritchard: Bring your social security card.

Woman: OK.

Pritchard: And be sure that you-----

Woman: OK. All right.

Daniels: And be sure to tell them that the man is no longer coming around.

Woman: OK.

Daniels: Now they're not---if they come up here, it will be after you file for ---a social worker will be here. And if she finds a man in here,

Woman: They ain't gonna find any man in here.

Daniels:: Do you know what kind of assistance you're requesting?

Woman: Yes.

Daniels. What. What's the name of it.

Woman:(her answer is not intelligible)

Daniels: Aid to Dependent Children. What's the matter with your son's foot?

Woman: He knocked a toenail off, out there on the porch.

Daniels: How long ago was that?

Woman: Something like two weeks ago.

Daniels: He had it treated?

Woman: No, I -----

Daniels: It looks to me like he's got one bad infection. That is a mean one. Why don't you take him down to the doctor tomorrow? Did you know that she would treat you for nothing if you didn't have any money?

Woman: No, I didn't.

Daniels: It looks to me as if there are about three things you ought to do: you ought to go to welfare tomorrow, morning, either late tomorrow afternoon or the next day you ought to take that child to the doctor. Do you know where Doctor Prompprompton is?

Woman: Yes, I know.

Daniels: Where.

Woman: Down there, right off of Broad,--forget the name, ah, I don't know the street I remember where it is.

Pritchard: And if you don't find that office, we'll----

Woman: OK.

Daniels: I don't know, Gene,um-- if she goes to Planned Parenthood Clinic, --is that going to jeopardize her welfare?

Pritchard: I don't think it will.

Daniels: You better--you better go, as you planned to.

Woman: OK.

Daniels: Because surely you can't, on your boy friend. You'dbe a darn---

Woman: OK.

Daniels: You know where it is?

Woman: Yes, I know.

Daniels: You do know where to go, for welfare.

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: ---have a look at his foot. He really needs medical attention. He's really not healing at all. He could get very sick from that.

Woman: I'll be thereabout 9:00.

Daniels: Good luck. We'll be back sometime, to see how things are going. Take care of yourself.

Case #2 What we would like to do, then, is record our conversation, not using your name, um we would like to have a series of fifteen cases of living conditions like this, which we can take to welfare. We won't identify you, but we would like to be able to say, "Here is, here is real need in Selma." So I hope you won't mind, our taking (taping?) notes.

Woman: No, sure enough.

Daniels: Fine. Um, would you be willing to tell me, how much income you have ---here.

Woman: I don't have any at all.

Daniels: What do you feel the children?

Woman: (mentions potatoes, but the rest is not understandable)

Daniels: So he doesn't have any income of his own, now. How do you pay your rent?

Woman: With what he give me.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

Pritchard: Do you have any other source, of getting money now that he is out of a job.

Woman: Sure don't.

Pritchard: Do you plan to go back to the welfare.

Woman: If she'll take me back.

Pritchard: But it is possible that you can go up to the welfare office tomorrow with the young baby, ---?

Woman: (unintelligible)

Daniels: Why are you not receiving welfare now, ma'am.

Woman: My boy turned 18, and she let him off. Then my girl had a baby, --

Daniels: Is the child now (not) here?

Woman: Yes.

Daniels: Now.

Pritchard: How old is she now.

Woman: Fifteen.

Daniels: When did she have the baby.

Woman: Thursday, May fifth.

Daniels: When you were 14?

Pritchard: Well, then, she was 14 when the kid was born, right? And how long did the kid live?

Woman: She lived nearly four days.

Pritchard: Did ah, after the kid was born did you go to the welfare office? To try for assistance?

Woman: I went there after ---at the welfare, she told me no.

Daniels: Why not?

Woman: Cause she had done, had a baby and she said she had to go on a ----.

Daniels: Well, after the child died, did you go back.

Woman: Yeah. I did.

Daniels: You did; what did they say then.

Woman: She told me that she had done had a baby she had to ----herself.

Pritchard: Well, did she tell you, you know, your two kids were cut off, and it was impossible for you to get any legal assistance?

Woman: Well, she told me she could not get me a job.

Pritchard: Do you have a Social Security card?

Woman: I sure is.

Pritchard: Do you know your number?

Daniels: Ma'am, would you be willing to tell me your, social security number? Why don't you read it to me.

Woman: I can't read.

Daniels: Four, two, one, four, two, nine, two, one, eight. Have you ever worked?

Woman: I sure did.

Daniels: What did you do?

Woman:----- about everything. wash, iron, clean up, and then tend the kids.

Daniels: Uh-huh. When did you stop working?

Woman: I stopped working--what month did you have the baby, in? ain't nobody here but her.

Daniels: So you stopped working then. Have you gone----(tape fades; comes back up) So after the child died, did you go back.

Woman: Yeah, sure did.

Daniels: You did. What did they say then?

Woman: She told me that she done had a baby, she'd have to-----.

Pritchard: But did she tell you, you know, your two kids were cut off, and it was impossible for you to get any legal assistance?

Woman: Well, she told me she could not get me a job.

Pritchard: Did you have a social security card?

Woman: I sure is.

Daniels: Ma'am, would you be willing to tell me your social security number?

Whydon't you read it to me?

Woman: I can't read.

END
DUPLICATES

Daniels: 421429218. Have you ever worked?

Woman: What did you do?

Woman: About everything. Wash, iron, clean up and then tend the kids.

Daniels: Uh-huh. When did you stop working.

Woman: I stopped working: what month did you have the baby at? Weren't nobody here but her.

Daniels: So you stopped working then? (end of side A, cassette)

Tape 1, side B

Voice: 1, 2, 3, 4. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Daniels: No, you haven't. Because you want to help with the children here?

Woman: Yeah.

Another Woman: My boy, he started to work, till he started to get the money, you know, to help pay my bill, and --

Daniels: how much money was he able to give you?

Another Woman: ---a week.

Daniels: Um-hum. How much is your rent?

Woman: Eleven dollars.

Daniels: A month. What kind of food do you eat?

Woman: unintelligible.

Daniels: Do you have meat?

Woman: Yes, I got a little piece of meat.

Pritchard: ---your basic meals---?

Woman: Meat and bread--you know, get some money to get some meat.

Daniels: What kind of meat do you eat, ma'am?

Woman: White meat---

Daniels: Yeah. How often do you have white meat? A week.

Woman: Unintelligible.

Daniels: Every day. Have you ever felt that you could do better if you would go back to work?

Woman: --if I could get me a good job.

Pritchard: Um-hum.----at three dollars a day?

Woman: Yes, when I work I only make \$3 a day.

Pritchard: How many hours you gotta work for \$3 a day.

Woman: seven, get off, 5:00, sometimes 6:00. Then you work overtime, they don't give you but fifty cents. For the extra.

Pritchard: You work ten hours a day.

Daniels: You work ten hours a day. And get three dollars and a half for it.

Woman: Yeah. And if you work overtime, they don't give you but fifty cents.

Daniels: Yeah. But you would be willing to go back to welfare tomorrow, with your neighbor, next door,

Woman: I'll go. I keep reading the name in the paper.
(Unintelligible)

Daniels: What do you mean, ma'am? You mean the statement that the Dallas County Voters' League put out? Yeah. You signed that.

Woman: Yeah, I sure did, and my name was in the paper.

Daniels: Uh-huh. Well now, do you have any reason for feeling that um, that jeopardized your ---- getting help?

Woman: Well, I feel that's what it is, but I try.

Daniels: Have you, have you heard any of the radio statements (some name) made?

Woman: No.

Daniels: ---they be assured that their welfare standing will not be hurt, by demonstrations. Or by signing this--

Woman: All right. ----but that's the way I feel, you know, inside.

Daniels: (unintelligible) --by going up.

Woman: You're right.

Daniels: So it seems to me that it would be worth something, don't you think?

Woman; (unintelligible)

Daniels: It would be nice to get some help.

Pritchard: I have asked the lady next door to go up at 9:00 tomorrow.

Woman: I'll be glad to go if----maybe help me.

Pritchard: Is your daughter working?

Woman: She works three days.

Daniels: She works three days a week?

Woman: Yeah.

Daniels: Where do you work?

Daughter: (not clear)

Daniels: Where? What's the place?

Women speak.

Pritchard: ---housework, that might be --

Daniels: 3 days a week. How much do you make?

Daughter: Nine dollars.

Daniels: A week?

Pritchard: (whistles) Three dollars a day; how many hours you work?

Daughter: I go in at seven, -----

Pritchard: So then you don't have any definite hours. Who employs you? What's the name of the people who employ you?

(uningtellligible)

Daniels: Do you suppose you could find anybody else who would need you for three more days? Could you try? Do you want to? (baby crying loudly) If you think you could try.

Woman: --- Move, Seymour! Come up!

Daniels (To Pritchard) Do you want to ask any more questions? Do you have any questions, ma'am?

Woman: No.

Daniels: Okay.

Case Number Three

Pritchard: What is your name?

Man: Lee Dalt.

Pritchard: Lee Dalt?

Man: Fredonia.

~~Pritchard: Fredonia. Um-hum. And, why are in the wheel-chair? Why are you in the wheel-chair?~~

Pritchard: Fredonia. Um-hum; And, why are in the wheel-chair? Why are you in the wheel-chair?

Man: --the knee, ----I don't know how it happened.

Pritchard: What'd you have; neuritis?

Man: Just pains, just pains-----might be till one day I says I'm go to the bed; I ---get out. And this shock coming up my leg--kneecap, you know it ain't nothin but a bone.

Pritchard: Well, what is the name of this street out here?

Man: I ain't never been here before; till I moved up here; a while ago.

Pritchard: And you don't know the name of this street, there.

Man: No.

Pritchard: Well, this address is 117--- If I send some people out here to talk with you from the welfare office, will you be willing to talk with them?

Man: (????)

Pritchard: The welfare office.

Man: I'll talk with you-----welfare---colored man.

Pritchard: That true? But why do you feel that you couldn't get some assistance from the welfare office?

Man: They said they'd -----to take care of me.

Pritchard: Are you always--already getting assistance for the children?

Man: (not clear)

Pritchard:-Well, have you have any, um, any aid at all for your self--other than the one check that you was tellin me about.

Man: (not clear)

Pritchard: How old are you now?

Man: (not clear)

Pritchard: Are you over 65?

Man; I think I'm well over sixty.

Pritchard: But you don't know how many ---

Man: You don;t wanna come in and look?

Pritchard: No, we'd rather not come in. Um, I'm gonna try to have some one to come out and see you. If it's not against your will. Cause people can't help you if its against your will. You have to be willing for them to help you. And the only way you can get any assistance is if you're willing. Then perhaps they can come out and look into your case and see that you're ---getting some help. Are you willing? (unintelligible) All right; well we'll talk to you again, then.

Man: All right.

Voice (Daniels?) Well, what do you eat?

Man: I'm not even sure, anything -----

Pritchard: The only thing you can eat is mashed potatoes?

Man: (not clear)

Pritchard: How much rent do you have to pay per month.
Yeah-- for this house.---or just for yourself.

Pritchard: (After man talks long while) Have you ever applied for social security?

Man: Huh?

Pritchard: Have you ever applied for social security. You don't have a birth certificate, right? Do you have your birth recorded at any ---anyplace?

Case Number Four

Pritchard: Well, what I wanted to ask you is some questions---welfare, that you receive?

Woman: I don't receive anything, I used to be on disability, and they cut me off.

Pritchard:: Well,why, did they cut you off disability?

Woman: I started having epilepsy (?) and ---.Like, ---and, 22nd of July, and about the 29th of August I startedhaving epilepsy, and I been havin em ever since. And so they put me on disability, doctor Richard Williams, put me on disability, so, I ---on disability for 19--what year was that, my woman got killed '46, ---they put me on disability

in '47. And I stayed on that from 47 till last year. They put my grandkids on-- and they cut them off.

Pritchard: On the disability, or welfare?

Woman: They took my grandchildren off, on welfare, and when they put the grandchildren on welfare, they were only giving me, nine dollars. See what I mean?

Pritchard: Welfare was giving you nine dollars.

Woman: ---Him and ah, children started school in September, and I received, ah, notice in August, received my notice in August that my check was cut off.

Pritchard: Well, what was the reason that your check was cut off?

Woman: They said, if keep my grandchildren, and my sick momma, if I was able to wait on my sick momma and keep my grandchildren, I didn't need no help. And that's what they told me.

Daniels: And the name of that woman, ma'am?

Woman: Mrs. Morgan.

Daniels: Mrs. Morgan.

Woman: Mrs. Morgan, that's who it is, Mrs. Morgan. At the welfare office.

Pritchard: She is a social worker, right?

Woman: That's right. You see I went to the office, and talked with her, you know I keep coming down there, TV man, she done had my TV down there, I'm gonna tell ya what's the trouble; he done had my TV down there, ----he fixed the TV and he didn't fix it right, so I went to him to see what the trouble--I had paid him, you know, and --so on, and he wouldn't let me have it, and he still got it down there, and I done paid him twice, twenty-some dollars on it, and he holdin it, and so I went to him and and told him, afterward, I don't have no money to pay you, cause ah, the question about it is this, I said they cut my check off, and he said, cut your check off? He said, why did they do that? And I told him, so come on Mrs. Morgan, and I was standing right there, and I was over at the doctor at the time, I had to take treatments, you see, I was having my teethes pulled, doctor say I have to have all my teethes pulled, right away. [sic on teethes] But I went to the doctor and had some teethes pulled and, the doctor, ----plate so I can eat

Pritchard: What doctor was this?

Woman: That was Doctor Rossen down there, so I changed doctors and I went to go to Doc Jackson. And I went to Doc Jackson and he --said my jaw will always pull out of line. And he had to give me a special treatment, and the minute he was giving me a little ball, about like that, I got it all here, somewhere, and ---

Pritchard: Well,, how did you get this money to pay for --

Woman: I owed this money, right now, to the Taylor Drugstore,

Pritchard: Have you got a slip or anything, from the doctor, to carry to the welfare stating that you couldn't work, that you were totally disabled, to work?

Woman: Have I got one?

Pritchard: Yeah.

Woman: Well you see, I -I-I was going to Doc Denkins at the time, well, see, I told Doctor Denkins what had happened, and he said he can't see why they do ---.

Pritchard: Well, I suggest to you that you go back, immediately, to the doctor, get a slip, stating that you, ah, total disability, and carry it to the welfare,

Woman: They already told me.

Pritchard: Well, I think you should go back, you shouldn't just give up, because they told you you are ---

Woman: I done been there two or three times.

Daniels: Will you go back, ma'am.

Woman: I was there in--March or April, somewhere along in there, and and see I tell you who, now Doctor Richard Williams, he filled out the papers, I used to work for him, Dr. Richard Williams over at Ball Hospital, he filled out some papers for me to get on disability, cause see I worked for him and I --I'm opn my medicine right now, those white pills, and the those white balls, next to that alcohol bottle? And --I'm on those pills and I'm not supposed to miss, I'm supposed to take them, every day, never be without them, ---welfare know all about what condition I'm in, they know all about it. You see, they visit me all the time, they know, more about it than I do, cause doctors--all the doctors around there, there's 5 or 6 doctors, seeing that all of em done told them the same thing. They know about it.

Pritchard: Will you---tomorrow, at 2:00, that you can meet us over at 2220 Hall Street.

Woman: Well, I'll try to meet you over there, ---and leave with her, she's----

Pritchard: (???)

Woman: I got two little ---boys.

Pritchard: At at the same time, I would like for you to come over so that we can go over your case, and then see if its possible that we could do anything, to help you.

Woman: OK, well, I appreciate that.

Pritchard: Now, how many grandchildren do you have?

Woman: I have 3 grandchildren, that's supposed to stay with me, but one of em is not here, he's downtown ---, he's supposed to come home, soon, I don't know, from a date[?] And I have two stay here with me now.

Pritchard: With your mother and---in other words, you would be wanting help for four people.

Woman: You see my mother, she gets hers, woman told me, she said I'd have to stop eating so much and that's what she gets, -what she can get I just don't have the---. But she gets, \$75, and that's what we have to --, for expenses and everything. That's right. That has to take care of --the expenses, of everything--that stove I got in there, I that just got that stove, when they, ah, cut me off. Doctor, I owed the doctor, ah, I think I owe at that drugstore, I owe --either twenty-nine, or twenty-seven dollars. What I owe, Mr. MacBribridge, he know me and he know I'll pay him.

Pritchard: Um-hum.

Woman: I owe Dr. Denkins, I owe Dr. ???? ten dollars, I get a letter from him every month. And the hospital, I owe the hospital a hundred and thirty-five dollars. I got insultin letters (?) from the hospital. I got several insultin letters from the hospital; they gonna cut my check, if I didn't pay this bill.

Pritchard: What hospital was this?

Woman: (???)

Pritchard: That's right.

Woman: So I'd say anytime they get ready to cut it they will, cause I ain't got nothin to cut.

Pritchard:: So you are going to go down and talk to the welfare people again, right?

Woman: ---told me wasn't no use in me comin back, cause
---she could do.

Pritchard:: Well, even though she told you this, we'll go
down and see them again.

Woman: (defeated) I tell you the truth, I ---go down there
two or three times/.

Daniels: Well ma'am, what we're trying -----we have talked
with the welfare people.

Woman: About-?

Daniels: About--about-

Pritchard: Health, and --conditions.

Daniels: And-- we have an agreement with them that we are,
are to work out here, and ask people to go, and Mrs.
Wilkinson, and Mr. Proctor, -----that they will be looking
for people to come in, --

Pritchard: ---she can help people, people gonna have to
make an appearance.

Woman: OK.

Pritchard: Because, if you don't go, she don't know your
grievance, and you have to carry them to her. And so if
Miss Morgan won't ask to see Mrs. Wilkerson.

Woman: Yeah: all of em know me, there.

Pritchard: It's not a matter of ---there, you see, it's a
matter of business, with me.

Woman: I understand, what you're talkin about. All right,
I'll go again (resigned).

Daniels: Please do.

Woman: I'll try to. Well now, tomorrow, I don't know.

Pritchard: Well, even if you don't make it to the welfare
office, tomorrow, will you come around to 2220 Hallis
Street. That's Claudia Strompess, Clauldia Strompess.

Woman: Yeah, Claudia.

Daniels: We think it's very important to have you all come.

Woman: I will, ----

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~~10~~

Daniels: OK;; thank you very much, ma'am.

Woman: Thank you, all.

Another Voice (woman) ----prescription. --took it to Brown's Drug Store. All right. go fill this prescription, but they put the label on the wrong bottle. Sleepin pill label, was on the liquid bottle. On the liquid bottle, they put on the sleepin pill bottle. These sleepin pills was supposed to been takin one pill at bedtime. OK; she was takin them three times a day; see the liquid medicine was supposed to have been takin three times a day.

Pritchard: It's vice-versa.

Other Woman: And OK, hear what happened: ---swallowed the pills-----about ten years old; 9, 10 years old--she came here cryin, told me said, (???) I come down for a doctor,--he told me he had two patients and he couldn't come. I said this is an emergency, I said you can just leave one of those patients, this one here, this is ah, a woman's life. I said, you got to save her life. And he say he couldn't come. You see? --looked as if she was breathin her last breath, and took an overdose of sleepin pills, so ---they got Doc Banginshaw and he told me ----rush her to the hospital, and put her on oxygen and get it out. And she's still in the hospital right now.

Daniels: And that was simply because the drugstore put the wrong labels on the bottles.

Other Woman: That's right. That's right.

Daniels: Do you know what drugstore that is?

Other Woman: Brown.

Daniels: Brown Drug Store.

Pritchard: On Broad and First Ave.

Daniels: Did you tell Doctor Denkins this?

Other Woman: We sure did.

Dasniels: He was gonna check him?

Other Woman: That's right. I don't know--how he workin it, but--

Daniels: That's a serious offence.

Other Woman: That's serious too, I mean, she may never--get over it.

Daniels: Um-hum.

Other Woman: I told her old man over there, to ah, that he could sue them just like he wanted to. --and I told him I said, don't

Pritchard: Well, who's ----when the mistake was made?

Other Woman: Dr. Denkins.

Pritchard: Dr. Denkins --

Male Voice: We sure do.

Other Woman: And so, I don't know what they're gonna do about it, but ah, ---

Daniels: ---something's done, yes ma'am.

Woman: ---he would, -----supposed to more than that, to me.

Daniels: Yes ma'am.

Other Woman: You know your children, there's mother them children, too (??) and that little girl, cryin, right now, every time she gets home with me, she starts cryin.

Daniels: Can you tell us that woman's name, ma'am?

Woman: Josephine Smiley.

Daniels: Josephine Smalley.

Woman: Smiley. That's right.

Daniels: Well, we'll be seeing Dr. Denkins about this.

Woman: That's right.

Daniels: (????)

Woman: --goin around here, so ---I don't know, how long, for the welfare, --

Pritchard: Well, they're older than your mother, so they'll be carrying social security.

Woman: -----they don't get no kind of check, no --check, nothin.

Pritchard: Well, what is their address?

Woman: I don't know their address, but I can tell you where it is; just turn right up there on Willow. And go down,

----wood is piled up, house sittin there, with a lot of junk and stuff round it; wood and stuff.

Pritchard: Do you know the people's name?

Woman: Umm-Old Man Jackson, Mz Jackson, that's what I--

Pritchard: Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

Woman: That's right.

Daniels: Well, we should stop there.

Woman: See--you go to the corner there, right as you're goin to the doctor, and you pass--and you tell em when you get to em there's an old car parked in the yard, and you pass--

Pritchard: How close is it to the doctor?

Woman: ---on the left side, goin, yeah--

Pritchard: Well, can you tell us whether Alice ---staying?

Woman: --down on the corner from em, from,

Pritchard: Where I'm going.

Woman: But you see, you pass this house---know these people well.

Daniels: OK. Well, thank you very much, ma'am. Nice talking to you.

(machine goes off briefly)

CASE NUMBER FIVE

Pritchard: What is your name?

Nelly Lou Jackson: Nelly Lou Jackson.

Pritchard: Nelly Jackson?

Nelly Lou Jackson: Nelly Lou.

Pritchard: Nelly Lou. Are you drawing any assistance from the welfare, or social security?

Jackson: No.

Pritchard: Have you been carried down to the social security office to claim your social security benefit

Jackson: No.

Pritchard: Well, do you have any one to carry you down?
What is the reason that you haven't been down?

Jackson: Well, I went down a year ago, -----

Pritchard: Have you any proof of age, a birth certificate?
Do you have names in a old bible, anyplace? Or, is there
any preacher that you work for that could verify your age,
still livin?

Jackson: None my people are here; they in Monroe County. I
was raised in--

Pritchard: You was raised in Monroe County?

Jackson: Back there, everybody's dead, -----.

Pritchard: Do you think that you could go over to Monroe
County, to --ah--you can't?

Jackson: No, all these people dead----

Pritchard: Um-hum. Well, have you been to the welfare
office to seek relief? ---you didn't go to the welfare
office?

Jackson: (???)

Pritchard: Well, why haven't you been to the welfare
office?

Jackson: I don't know. -----

Pritchard: Well--

Jackson: -----

Pritchard: Um-hum.

Jackson: ---

Pritchard: Well, I'm gonna encourage you, to go back to the
welfare office. Because they ar willing to help you. And
the only way they can help you is for you to go down and
carry your grievance to them. And we have been assured that
they will try to do something for you.

Jackson: My daughter went there yesterday and ---doctor--

Pritchard: UM-hum. So ah--

Jackson: --ain't able to get around nowhere.

Pritchard: Only you can go down there.

Jackson: I'm sick.

Pritchard: Um-hum. Well, what kind of answer did the wel--the relief --did they give --any answer at all.

Jackson:--care.

Pritchard: Um-hum.

Jackson: The lady ---they say they was comin --somebody was comin out here to ---

Daniels: Do you want to shield your eyes, ma'am?

Pritchard: Put your ---over eyes, if you want to?
--you know, flashin your eyes,

Jackson: --take my picture--(someone laughs--black man?)
Pritchard chuckles.

Daniels: Here goes.

Pritchard: OK. Oh, so, you don't have, someone to come out and check the house, and bring the forms out for your ---, right?

Jackson: I don't know about the house, they coming out, investigating, bring the forms

Pritchard: Um-hum.Can you read or write?

Jackson: No.

Pritchard: Well, then, they'll have to fill them out, for you. Will you be around, do you think when they do come? Yeah, OK. Where do you live? Around the corner, um-hum. OK, do you have any questions, Jon?

Daniels: When you say you don't feel well, ma'am, what do you mean? Could you tell us a little about how, how you feel badly?

Jackson: Done stuck some glass in my foot, ---there.

Daniels: ????

Woman:(probably not Jackson, by now): step in my ankle, there?

Daniels: Yeah.

Woman: Doctor dressed it day before yesterday.

Daniels: Doctor Who?

Woman: Doctor Dumont.

Daniels: Oh, Doctor Dumont did. Did she come out here?

Woman: No, sir. I went down there.

Daniels: How did you get down there?

Woman: They carried me. They carried me down there in the car.

Daniels: Uh-huh. Did Dr. Dumont make any charge?

(end of side 2 of first tape, cassette transfer from reel to reel)

CASSETTE

Tape 2, Side A.

Daniels: ---in east Selma, researched by Eugene Pritchard. The following is a meeting of some of the cases that Gene Pritchard and I, have interviewed in East Selma.

(black woman talking)--didn't do them any good because they had a baby, ---they said, ah, they ---proof that I was still carryin on relations with him.

White Voice; Male: This, by the way, is typical of all division---

Black Woman: --do that, cause they can't eat no food.

White Man: Well I, supposing I go see him ----think he will, then?

Black Woman: Probably.

White Man: Does he work, during the day?

Black Woman: Yes, he working today.

White Man: But does he work every day? All right,, well, we'll ah, -----

Black Woman: They say I have to get him, and three more with me--

Daniels: ---if he's not willing to contribute to the support of the children.

Pritchard: What about the lady that lives next door?

Black Woman: ---- you know-----some white person.

Daniels: ---that we know.

Black Woman: That's what I --, but that's the way ---to me.

Daniels: OK, well, we can do that. Ah, who did you talk with, by the way?

Woman: I don't know their real names, I don't know

White Man: This is the one that I went to. You'll enjoy it, yeah.

Daniels: (After garbled discussion): Well, glad you went. (woman talks) Daniels: Good. That's good.

Pritchard; Any questions you wanna ask?

White Voice: You talk to all these people?

Pritchard; No.

White voice: What is your name.

Black Woman: Rosa Sharp.

White Voice: What is it?

Sharp: Rosa Sharp.

White Voice: Sharp? S-H-A-R-P?

Sharp: Yes.

White Voice: Where are you living?

(unintelligible)

White Voice: ---nobody can understand me, ---can understand you.

Pritchard: How old are you?

Sharp: Twenty.

Daniels: Are you married?

Sharp: No.

Daniels: Were you ever married?

Sharp: No.

Daniels: Any children?

Sharp: Yeah.

White Male Voice: How many.

Sharp: Three.

Daniels: And--what are their ages?

Sharp: The oldest one's--two; the other one's one; --five months.

Male: (I believe) What's the oldest one's name?

Sharp: Raymond, Sharp.

Male: Who's his father?

Sharp: Raymond Smith.

Male: And where does Raymond Smith live?

Sharp: Ednabow.

White voice: Ah, that's in Selma, or---

Sharp: Selma.

White Voice: Now, does he work?

Sharp: Yes.

Daniels: And, is he married?

Sharp: No.

White Man: Does he have any ah, does he support anybody?

Sharp: No.

Male: Nobody at all.

Daniels: (Definitely) And not you, and the children.

Male: Did you ask, did you go to court, ask for support, ma'am?

Sharp: Yeah, ah, he keeps the oldest one.

Male: He has one of the children.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: So you only live with two.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: And he keeps one. Two year old?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: What's the other one; how old is he, again?

Sharp: He's one year old.

Male: OK, who's the father?

Sharp: Raymond.

Male: Raymond?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: Is he supporting this child?

Sharp:---he give me three dollars, ---

Male: What did the judge say, when you went to court?

Sharp: He told him to give me seven dollars a week, and he stopped, but I haven't ----yet.

Male: You have him back in court,before the judge. Now when you go to court, and you make the complaint, how long does it take before you see the judge? Same day; next week?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: Next week? That's only about a week.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: And the judge, last time he told Raymond that he had to pay seven dollars a week?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: Otherwise, what? Would he go to jail?

Sharp: He ain't there in jail (He's already been in jail?)

Male: Because of- what. Contempt of court? What, he didn't listen to the judge, huh?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: Where does he work, Raymond. Where does Raymond work, ma'am?

Sharp:---

Male: Oh he works,---- Where does he live?

Sharp: Over on Willow.

Male: What's the number?

Sharp: I forget the house number.

Another Male: Right over by the dump?

Sharp: -----

Male: What about theother job--?

Sharp: ---

Male: ---, also?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: How much is Raymond supposed to give you extra?

Sharp: He's supposed to give me fourteen dollars; ---

Male: Well--how much does--make a week.

Sharp: I don't know.

Male: How much?

Sharp: I don't know. He don't tell me what he makes.

Male: Well, how come you don't get after Raymond? Go back to the judge again.

Sharp: I get after him, still don't do any good.

Male: What did the welfare people tell you?

Sharp: I haven't been on there.

Male: You've never been there.

Sharp: No.

Male: Well, suppose they tell you that you have to get Raymond to support your children, they probably will tell you that. Do you want to go back to court, and tell the judge?

Sharp: Yeah, I'm --to do that.

Male: When did you last go to the judge.

Sharp: I think it was April or May, I guess.

Male: What, ma'am?

Sharp: May.

Male: December?

Sharp: I think it was October, maybe.

Male: You haven't been back there, since?

Sharp: No.

Male: And you say Raymond went to jail, huh?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: How long did he stay in jail?

Sharp: Stayed in 2 days.

Male: He went to jail for 2 days, --and then he paid you something, right?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: How much did he pay you?

Sharp: He had another job, working at Cole Bloke, and his boss-man, used to take the seven dollar off, the payroll, and when he got another job he just started givin it to me.

Male: Well, in order for Raymond to get out of jail, he's got to give you some money, right?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: is that what happened?

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: Well, you know, personally, it seems to me, that welfare, generally, in my opinion, What recourse is her --in court, force payment, there's a court order against this man already, she could have it enforced, she could probably garnishee his salary.

Man: Um-hum.

Male: Otherwise, otherwise, ah, what you want to do with Raymond, if you wanted to, keep on putting him back in jail, because, every time you put him back in jail, he comes up with money.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: How much money do you have now?

Male: Do you work?

Sharp: I work 3 days a week.

Male: And the rest of your family? What kind of work do you do?

Sharp: I clean----

Male: You what?

Sharp: I clean the offices at Selma High school (??)

Male: And you're paid nine dollars a week.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: How much is your rent?

Sharp: Five dollars.

Male: A month?

Sharp: yeah.

Male: And you have your 2 children living with you.

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: And you support your children on 9 dollars a week?

Sharp: No.

Male: How old are they?

Sharp: -----

Male: --years old. Is Raymond married?

Sharp: No.

Daniels: Did he ever talk about marrying?

Sharp: A long time ago.

Daniels: Does he have any children by another mother. How old is Raymond?

Sharp: 19, maybe.

Man: Ma'am, if I were you, I'd go right back to court. You gotta tell ---not supporting you---certain rules and you'll find out how much he makes. If he's still working there.---tell you that?

Sharp: He's still working there?

Male: You go back and you tell the judge that, he will support you, you go back and you tell the judge that he's working every day, and that you only make nine dollars a week, the judge is gonna just put him in jail again, or have him come up with some money. You don't feel sorry for Raymond; you don't do you?

Sharp: No.

Male: Well, go back to the judge, quicker you do that, you gotta do that tomorrow, Wednesday, you can't, you know, --

Sharp: Yeah.

Male: I'm sorry, Monday or Tuesday. I personally don't think it's a welfare case--

Daniels: I don't think so, either.

Male: --come up with the money, or put him back in jail.

(garbled discussion)

Daniels: I would do that, if I were you.

Sharp: ----he give me 3 or 4 dollars ---- come break in, fighting, running out the house, tell me he give me \$20, \$25, he don't give me no more than 4 or 5 dollars. Runningaround the house, ---

Daniels: Yeah.. --other child. ---the ah, Planned Parenthood Clinic? Birth control?

Sharp: Yeah.

Daniels:::--when do you plan to go?

Sharp: I'm trying hard.

Daniels: Good. ----?

Sharp. Yeah.

Pritchard: From ten to one---help,

(baby talks)

(lots of unintelligible material)

Pritchard: Ma'am, what is your name.

Woman: Alberta Bossie. Alberta Bossie.

Pritchard: Alberta Bow-sie? B-A-O-S-I-S?

Woman: B-O-S-S-I-E.

White Male (?): And what is your address?

Bossie: 2919---

Male: Got it. How old are you, ma'am?

Bossie: 31.

Male: You married?

Bossie: Not any more (???)

Male: Have any children? How many children do you have.

Bossie: Five.

Male: And--how old are they and where ---

Bossie: Oldest one is eight,

Male: What's what's his name?

Bossie: --- The next one's Stone; ---Pete, Sheyanne Bossie, and the next one is ---- he named Gerrainne Bossie.

Male: Who are these children by?

Bossie: Three is by Geffrey Hollman; two is by Ray McComb.

Male: Pierce and---where does she live?

Bossie: She live on Donald Street.

Male: And, is --married?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Does he support them?

Bossie: He gives me five or six dollars.

Male: He gives you five or six dollars a week?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: How does he happen to give 5 or 6 dollars a week?

Bossie: He just give it to me.

Male: Did you ever go to court on him?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Does he work?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Where does he work?

Bossie: Coppol (?) plant.

Male: Uh-huh. so he makes about \$30 a week.

Bossie: Uh-huh.

Male: The Coca-Cola (??) plant in Selma, huh?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Were you married to him?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Ah, ah, what about the other 2 children? Who are their fathers?

Bossie: Raymond McComb.

Male: Raymond who?

Bossie: Ray McComb.

Male: Where is Raymond?

Bossie: Stayin with friends. A friend.

Male: Is that--a pair of streets, or--?OK, and ah, is he married?

Bossie: No sir, --

Male: Do you have any other children? Other children?

Bossie: One, but it's gone.

Male: OK, so the only 1 two children you have around, then, are ----children?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: And where does he work?

Bossie: He work at, ah, ---

Male: Where?

Bossie: ----

Male: Know what he makes a week?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: ---support your 2 children?

Bossie-----

Male: Oh, but he doesn't do it every week?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Ah, who was the husband, that you married?

Bossie: Kolmer Bossie.

Male: You had your children by him.

Bossie: That's right.

Male: And you divorced him.

Bossie: That's right.

Male: You separated from him.

Bossie: That's right.

Male: Do you work?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Can't work, is that it?

Bossie: I wanna work, but I got sick and, I haven't been able to get work ----right now.

Male: Are you sick now?

Bossie: No, sir, I'm not sick now, but --

Male: Have you tried looking for jobs?

Bossie: ---one, but I haven't gotten one.

Male: So right now, you have about fifteen dollars a week, support, for you and your kids.

Bossie: Yes.

Male: How much rent do you pay per week--per month?

Bossie:---

Male: A month. ---let me ask you this; did you go to court under either one of those---?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Never, eh?

Bossie: No, sir.

Male: Do you think your ten dollars enough for 2 kids?

Bossie: ---It's not; but I do the best I can

Male:---two children.

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Your ten dollars is not enough.

Bossie: Well I mean I don't see how----

Daniels: When was your last child born?

Another Black Voice: -----This February.

Male: So, when are you going to the court. You mean you never thought about it before? ----Didn;t you want to bother them, maybe you ---about it.

Bossie: I just didn't wanna, that's all.

Male: Don't-I--I don't wanna be asking embarrassing questions, you know, we're not gonna tell anybody about this; just trying to help you as best we can.

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Would you think about it--would you like to go to court again?

Bossie: Yes, sir.

Male: Would you make out a complaint?

Bossie: Yes sir.

Daniels: Would you know how to go about that.

Bossie: ---

Male: Where did you go, ma'am.

Bossie: --the courthouse---

Pritchard: First of all,-----that's the only ---and from there he handles it. You just start, or you can start it at ---office, and then you gonna be referred to the --

Male: You had no trouble when you when you -complained about--your husband, did you? Let's say if you went Monday, alright, when do you--when does the judge---?

Bossie: ----

Pritchard:--County court---

Male: Oh, just on Thursday, that's pretty fast. (NYC

Accent) And, they get your husband in? And they get the husband in?

Bossie: ----

Male: You mean, dey dey bring him in court, too?

Bossie: Yeah.

Male: And the judge hollered at him and told him he has to pay, is that it?

Bossie: Yeah.

Pritchard: Maybe I can clear this part up. If she signs a complaint, that means-----they will pick --on Monday. --if he don't have a bond on the child support. They bring him into court. Until the bond--until he can go to court.

Male: Um-hum.

Pritchard: Do anything -- Now, if he --pick him up on Monday, then he will decide in court that ---on Thursday.

Male: When is--when is --they usually go down Monday morning, maybe you and I, or just you, or just me, go down. With them. If that's what ya wanna do.

Pritchard: ---you and I go down with them, cause you have a car and I don't have any transportation. (all laugh)

Male: Well, --wait till Monday morning, to go down --why don't we say Monday morning, if I'm not around or went to Montgomery, you could drive, or---(lots of unintelligible talk) meet in the street; Do you want, ah, Eugene, to pick you two up at 10:30?

Bossie: Yes

Male: What time?

Bossie: ---

Male: So you get off at 11:30?

Bonnie: Yes.

Male: Why don't we make it 1:00, then. ----Better make it at twelve.

Pritchard: twelve o'clock?
 (lots of unintelligible talk)

Male: What's your address, ma'am? Why don't you tell me, why why do you need welfare? Do you need welfare?

Black Woman (Not Bossie?) My mother-in-law needs welfare, not me.

Male: You on welfare now?

Woman: ----my mother's tryin to get on.

Male: Are you married? Does your husband work? Is he living with you? Have any children? No children.

Woman: No, sir.

Male: Oh just you and your---and ah, is he working?

Woman: He work on, but he--

Male: Why doesn't he work? Why doesn;t he work? Why can he not work?

Woman: (a bit hysterical) He cain't find nothin.

Male: How old is he?

Woman: ---

Male: When was the last time that he worked?

Woman: Been so long, I cain't say, he worked -- years.

Male: So he worked about 2 years?

Woman: Yes, sir. (baby crying)

Male:----

Woman: -----

Male: One or two weeks ago. When you've been working, what kind of work do you do?

Woman: ;----

Male: Domestic?

Woman: Yes.

Male; And did you work five days a week?

Woman: Five----

Male: What kind of--how much money did you make?

Woman: Twelve a week.

Male: Twelve dollars a week? -----Was this enough to take care of you and your husband?

Woman: No.-----

Male: Are you looking for a job?

Woman: ----

Male; Why not?

Woman: Mother's sick, so I been waitin on her.

Male: Who lives in your house with you?

Woman: ---

Male: Is this your son? And the reason that you haven't looked for a job is because you're taking care of your mother?

Woman: Tried----best I can.

Male: Is she the only one, ah, is she by herself?

Woman: ----

Male: ----?

Woman: ----. sick herself.

Male; In other words--let me ask you this--you and your husband, your husband's about 55, you're 45, and there are no children or anything; and you're both out of a job. He's out of a job for 2 years; and you're out of a job for two weeks. Well, do you think you can get anything lined up in the way of a job?

Woman: I don't know, I don't know--

Male: Tell me, if you know, why, why do you think your husband can't get a job.

Woman: He tried and he tried (hysteria) ---I don't know how many times, and--

Male: What kind of work did he used to do?

Woman: He used to do real work. ---

Male: He he really tried, now?

Woman: He says--

Male: What do you think? Tell me the truth; come on, don't fool around, --do you think he's really trying?

Woman: ---

Male: Uh-huh. Well, he---work, he's not ill or anything. And, you're able to work, -except -you're taking care of your mother. Who is really in bad shape.

Woman: ---

Male: Where--- need anything?

Woman:--

Daniels (Interrupts) We got her story---

Woman: --- see the doctor.

Pritchard: ---where does your mother---?

Pritchard: about foot wide--she was layin on the couch.

Male: How old is she, do you think? [It seems that Jon and Gene have visited the home of this family]

Pritchard: I estimate around, 65, 66. --She don't know how old she is. And in the back, is the --, is the most ridiculous sight to see human beings that I've ever seen in my life. Up over where there used to be -- there are cobwebs, and I don't know what it is that she got back there, all junk..And, I turned around I say, what do you cook, she say back there, how could she cook back there? There's no place for her to walk!

Male: Does she live by herself?

Pritchard: ----- *(tell you, before we leave here, I got a picture...*

Male: Boy, I've seen a lot of them.--- Ah, tell me, Eugene, does she live with anybody?

Pritchard: : Well, she have a -- boyfriend.

Male: Does she work?

Pritchard: Yeah; --

Male: In other words, he doesn't work.

Pritchard: Yeah.

Male: He an old man?

Pritchard:I don't think he is.

Male: Yeah.

Pritchard: I saw him----

Male: He was working near you..

Pritchard: -----

Woman: ----

Pritchard: Well, I think you should belong to the church.

Woman: Um.

Pritchard: First of all, the welfare and relief, can't help her, but if there was some way that we could find her aid, I think she should be drawing social security.

Male: Well--if she draws social security, she's worked, has she worked, what she's earned?

Woman: She never worked --for social security.

Pritchard: She was doin, ah, ----? I mean, she has --

Woman: She don't have no papers.

Pritchard: She don't have her--?

Male: I don't think she has a [ss]number. They haven't been withholding.

Pritchard: No, she wouldn't be [eligible].

Male: Well, in an office like this, Eugene, why isn't it that someone's helped her fix it or clean it up?

Woman: ---

Pritchard: That's a good question, isn't it; I wonder the same thing. See.

Woman: (steps on Pritchard): ---I told you yesterday ----

Daniels: Well, I was looking at you, I didn't mean what you thought I did.

Pritchard: I figure some ---never did lost her pa a long time ago, and then, I know my people pretty good, tradition, the older people; ones I have felt that no one could ----, and, ----I just wanted to say ---.

Male: Well, this is a tradition, Eugene, of old people.

Question is, whether the tradition, is the right one, under the circumstances, or not.

Pritchard: What you're saying is for the older people you just don't think they ---

Male: I got a grandmother --the same way, ----

Pritchard: --health and sanitation today; and we refer, Mr. Bailey, to come over and look at his place. Now, if her daughter has been trying to get over to him, he says "What do --" Mr. Bailey as assured us that he will take measures to do away with ---.

Male: And then where does the lady go?

Pritchard: And where does the lady go? She goes -----

Male: Yeah, but she's not payin rent now, is she?

Pritchard: Well, \$6 a month. Well, \$6 a month is pretty good, I guess.

Male: What the hell. ----

Pritchard: Makes me so mad that I couldn't even eat when I left there.

Male: What about ah, Mrs. Timolli, what about your neighbor's state? Do you know, ah, if any of the neighbors are having welfare problems?

Woman: Long as I know, this office can help.

Pritchard: Most--in the rest of the cases, they are not --- I have ah, one lady ---, I had three here to get aid, and she can't help herself, and she had a man there-----twelve-fifty. ----

Male: ----

Pritchard: get 2 cases, and --I can getcha fifteen off-- people, who have gone over to the welfare.

Male: Why won't they go.

Pritchard: They claim they been there, and won't give them anything because illegitimate children, and ah, I don't know, they make a lot of -----

Male: Eugene, the point is, look: it may be true, that they can't get it under certain circumstances, like illegitimate kids, ah, children; but my knowledge of the law, and this is the case in New Jersey and New York, and I'm sure it's the

case in Alabama; ---illegitimate child, because the husband was able to support, not like this lady. But the husband is able to support, and does not support, --you to go to domestic relations for the courts, try to get your remedy there, before welfare. Now the first thing we've gotta do then, is ---some of these people, --suggest to em that they get to the courts and make the--complaint. See, if we can do that, that's one thing, and I'm sure welfare would go along with those people because we'll be taking some of their problems off their back.

Pritchard: That's true.

Male: Ah, when you have ---like, like this woman, support, she doesn't have the money, to support, right?

Woman: Yes.

Male: And that'd make it a little, different situation.

Woman: Yes, sir.

Male: What has been happening, from what I see, Gene, is that people who go to welfare----

Woman: -----

Pritchard: -----perfect (?)

Daniels: Gene-- why should she go to court with her, with um, this man?

Male: Well, because he--he's already equally -----

Pritchard: And, he is not married to her.

Male: Cause he has no job, has he?

Woman: Yea, he has a job. He has, ah, three children, and he has to pay regular assistance to keep the children, too, --I think he said, he had to pay seventeen-fifty a month. ----pay to keep these kids.

Daniels: ---- I think you ought to keep that man out of the C---.

Pritchard: Well, you know, I -----it stands to reason, if a man don't like with one ---, and leave then, you know, ---with the same thing, only --comin back? You know, --couldn't come here, keep comin in, to the front, of the house, if they don't let em in, they come to the back, and break it in, well you know, they kick ---- breakin and enterin. That is if you wanna-----

Woman: Well, I called the law, but he just runnin backoutta jail, and then he keeps outta sight, when only thing is he's right out there, his coat there, only they never lock him up. He gets right back out.

Daniels: Have you gone to the police, every time he comes?

Woman: Last night, I ---

Daniels: Everytime he, everytime he ---

Woman: Just about, just about, just about.

Pritchard: The time he knocked your teeth out, that was two years ago, right?

Woman: Yes.

Pritchard: And has he been arrested since then?

Woman: Yes, twice.

Daniels: (effetely!) If I may ask a, perhaps difficult, question: how, if--if if you call the police each he time he comes, um, how do you continue to have children by him?

Woman: I told him I didn't want any more and I quit, at least, still he comin around, raise----

Unknown Voice: The child is one year old.

Pritchard: ---she hasn't had a baby by the same man.

(end of Cassette II, Side A)

Cassette II, side B:

Black Woman: (youngish) Do you feel run down all the time?

Different Black Woman: No, I just weak, cause my feet hurt.

Black Woman: Just your feet.

DBW:----pain in em, ----come back,

Pritchard: (in distance) It's unbelievable.

Daniels: How are--

BW: ----

Daniels: Ma'am, I would like to ask you a few questions
um--what do you pay for rent, here?

DBW: Six dollars.

Daniels: Six dollars a month?

DBW: Yessir.

Daniels: Yes. Can you tell me about what kind of food you
eat? (this is a very clear tape.)

DBW: ---I can eat most anything.

Daniels: Well, what kind of food do you eat?

DBW: I eat--beef and toast, somethin like that.

Daniels: Beef, and toast? How often do you have meat?

DBW: --no hawg meat. Can't eat no po'k meat.

Daniels: Well, how often do you eat, um, beef?

DBW: ---get hungry, I can't eat ---at the time, but doe--

Daniels: Uh huh. When you say meat, when you say the word
meat, do you mean---~~what~~ meat? ^{WHITE}

DBW: No sir, I don't eat that.

Daniels: You don't eat.

DBW: Don't eat no pork or tonque.

Daniels: Yeah; you don't eat meat.

DBW: --chicken or fish, or something like dat.

Daniels: Uh-hah. Ah-hah. How often do you have that?
About every day?

DBW: Yessir, but not every day ----I can't eat much of
nothin at the time.

Daniels: Uh-huh. Where does the money come to pay for
that.

DBW: ---

Daniels: ---?

DBW: ---

Daniels: Your insurance, I see; and that pays your rent,
too.

DBW: No, sir, my old man works out there little ---round
out there, he he makes a little somethin.

Daniels: I see. But that isn't really adequate for your
needs, is it?

DBW: No, -----do the best I can to earn.---

Daniels: No. (compassionately)

First Black Woman: Do you use the kitchen here? (This
might be Ruby Sales)

DBW: Not much, it's hard to get in there. Cause that hard
water -wood is rotten, ---

Daniels: Where is your water, ma'am? Out back?

DBW: ---

Daniels: Do you have any water inside the house?

DBW: NO, sir.

Daniels: No, outsi--

DBW: --- a well, right up there, where we get the water.

Daniels: How far do you have to go to get water?

DBW: It ain't far. Right up the street there--

Daniels: Right up the street.

DBW: Yassir..

Daniels: Is it a hydrant?

DBW: Yes, a hydr--

Daniels: Outside.

DBW: Yessir.

Daniels: What kind of bathroom facilities do you have?

DBW: We don't have none.

Daniels: You haven't got any. Where do you go?

DBW: The closet.

Daniels: The closet. Is that outside?

DBW: Yessir.

Daniels: Right out back? Uh-huh. (he asks unintelligible question, sounds like who is king Side?)

DBW: What.

Daniels: The closet.

DBW: ----

Daniels: Never been cleaned out?

DBW: I have to use a slop jar in the house.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

DBW: ----

Daniels: Yes; I see. Who does that for you?

DBW: Don't know who the people was, somebody's come around to clean it up.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

DBW: But they done a long time. (You can hear Pritchard in the background, talking to some other people)

Different Young Black Woman (Gloria?) When was the last time you had something to eat?

DBW: What? That I had something to eat?

DYBW: That you had something to eat.

DBW: That'd be long ago.

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Daniels: Today--have you eaten today?

DBW: sir, today (reassuringly)

Daniels: Uh huh; uh huh.

Pritchard: (in background to someone else) Well, this is right the school, ---

Daniels: Well, thank you very much, ma'am. That will help us a great deal. And we hope it will help you, too.

DBW: Yeah, I hope so (but without much conviction)

Daniels: Bye-bye.

BW: Thank you.

Pritchard: What we are doing is going out to the community, specially east Selma,

A New Black Woman: Uh-huh.

Pritchard: Talkin with people ---on the welfare, and relief, and the ones that have been attemptin to get on, and haven't been successful. And, I want to know, what type of assistance are you getting, if any at all.

NBW: No.

Daniels: You're not getting any, at all?

NBW: No, my mother is disabled to work and I'm the only one able to work, and right now I'm not working.

Pritchard: How long have you been sick?

NBW: Oh, about a month.

Daniels: Uh-huh. But you had a doctor?

NBW: Yes, I went to the doctor yesterday. And ah, --

Daniels: (Interrupts) You went to see the doctor.

NBW: Yes, I --

Daniels: (interrupts) Who's the doctor.

NBW: Dr. Mallis is my doctor, yesterday.

Daniels: Ah-huh.

NBW: But--when I when I was there, they put me -----Dr. Elliott and Dr. Morgman--

Daniels: Um-hum.

NBW: --for the same thing. They something of eating. See, ah, we have a problem, we don't have city water, because of this pump out there. We don't have city water. And the dump has something to do with the water, so I have to take it down to the health department to--- what's making me sick.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

NBW: Because they had my stomach cramps, and my mother and my baby had to drink the water also. (she has a good, strong, thoughtful, young voice; articulate and clear)

Daniels: Uh.

NBW: My mother show you the pump outside, if you want to see it.

Daniels: Yeah, when we leave, we'll go out there.

NBW: Um.

Daniels: Um-hum.

NBW: And, stuff over here, the smoke and everything, comes all through the house, and when you want to wash your clothes, they get smutted up and everything else.

Daniels: Sure.

NBW: Ah, this--

Daniels: I should think they would.

NBW: Um-hum. And ----out there, the flies, they just-- kill you.

Daniels: How much- rent do you pay a month?

NBW: My mother owns the house.

Daniels: She owns the house.

NBW: Um-hum.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

NBW: That's the reason they won't give us assistance, because, ah, --

Daniels:--because you own your own house.

NBW: Um-hum. My mother sugar---I guess about four or five years--

Daniels: Uh-huh.

NBW: And the doctor stopped her from working, seven years ago. And she hasn't been able to get any help. Since I became eighteen cause my father died and I was getting from my father. And my mother was getting a check too, but when I came eighteen they cut off. And she hasn't had anything else since.

Daniels: Um--what kind of meals do you eat? What kind of food do you have here, normally.

NBW: Well; what we can afford.

Daniels: Which is what?

NBW: Some kind of greens, peas, grits, eggs, cornbread.

Daniels: ~~K~~Do you ever have white meat?

NBW: Yes. That's what my mother cook with.

Daniels: Uh-huh. Always?

NBW: Always.

Daniels: Do you ever have-- do you ever have red meat?

NBW: What is red meat?

Daniels: Beef.

NBW: Oh, yes. Uh huh, see, I just don't know.

Daniels: Uh-huh. How do you pay for that?

NBW: Well, my mother just came back from New York and her brothers gave her a little money, so-- but --I mean, I hope I be well enough to go to work.

Daniels: To go back to work.

NBW: Um-hum.

Daniels: What are you--

Pritchard: (interrupts) are you still on the---?

NBW: Yes. I got to go back Saturday.

Pritchard: I didn't know that.

NBW: Um-hum. (some chatter from an older black woman in the background)

Daniels: You've already taken the water sample downtown.

NBW: No no, wasn't leavin to go yet.

Daniels: Well--would you let us take it?

NBW: ----

Daniels: We're gonna take a water sample.

Pritchard: Yeah.

Daniels: Downtown.

NBW: Uh-huh. I have these pains in my stomach, and ah, the last time I went to the doctor, --with this pain in my stomach, I threw it all up. --but they had to give me glucose. They gave me three bottles out at the hospital.

Daniels: Um-hum.

NBW: And he never did say what was causing it. Um.

Pritchard: Sarah Lee (?), like I talked to you once before.

NBW: Um-hum.

Pritchard: And, when you was doin this work, you know, for the--

NBW: Yeah.

Pritchard: I think, sooner or later, you might not a large ulcer, now, but I think you have developed one. You remember me telling you --

NBW: Uh-huh.

Voice(woman): --social worker--(in background)

NBW: Yeah, I think, I walked to my dury, I just haven't been able to come down there.

Pritchard: Actually, that's what you was working for, BringbeeSee Air--

NBW: That's right.

Daniels: And--and nobody has helped you?

NBW: Nope. (embarrassed explosion of breath)

Pritchard: Not even DBCF.

NBW: Nobody.

Daniels: When was the last time somebody came to see you?

NBW: Ah, about what?

Daniels: Just, just to say, "Hi, Anne?"

NBW: (simplers) Well, one of the men--was out here today. To carry some groceries from next door, and he stopped by.

Daniels: He did.

NBW: Um-hum.

Daniels: Has anybody --from the Dallas County Voters League come to see you? Mr. Doyle, or Mr. Reese?

NBW: No, No, No, No, No, No, uh-uh. (interspersed throughout Daniels' last remark)

Daniels: Not in the whole month.

NBW: Uh, uh.

Pritchard: Well now you've put it on the record---.

NBW: (laughs) All right. Ah, mother, they want some water. For to take down to the courthouse. I mean, --

Unknown voice:Pritchard: ---

Daniels: Yep.

Pritchard: Not to the ---

NBW: to the health department; I was gonna take it when I got up, but I, ----every time I get up I get my stomach startin in and I have to lay back down.

Daniels: Are you having cramps now?

NBW: Um-- There--they come back.

Daniels: Sure.

NBW: Um-hum.

Daniels: What kind of medicine are you taking?

NBW: This--say, Dopodo..This--

Daniels: Can I take a look at it?

NMW: Uh-huh. This is for the pain, right here.

Pritchard: This the pain pills? Pain pills?

NBW: Uh-huh. What did he say?

Pritchard: Well, they was havin-- there's the case where Brown's Drug Store is switchin sleepin pills--I mean, from the sleepin medicine, to the liquid. And what actually went on, the sleepin pills, went to the lady, label it on and the lady took an excess amount.

NBW: Oh. When the doctor--did not get this medicine the doctor sent the prescription on, and they delivered it. I don't know--

Pritchard: This is a mistake that was made at the other house. But we thought that this was--

NBW: Oh. Oh.

Daniels: But these are all right.

NBW: Um. Have you seen my boy? He's out there-- mom, where's Chuck?

Mom: What?

NBW: Call Chuckie, he's three.

Pritchard: And you've never been able to get any help for him.

Woman: No, they wouldn't give me--

Pritchard: Once you get on your feet again, you go on down and see what happens, OK?

NBW: OK. Ah, ah, the only aid we get, really, is from my mother----that's the only aid I could get. And they don't want us to stay here; they say they like us ---down here. But they wouldn't send her medicine, because her medicine cost eighteen dollars.

Pritchard: Uh-huh.

NBW: And I brought the city--

Pritchard: How long have they stayed here--her people?

NBW: Her people?

Pritchard: Well, what about the type of disability that your mother has applied for?

NBW: They say she has a weak--ain't able to lift a broom.

Pritchard: The welfare told us--

NBW: (shouts something.)

Mother: Listen, I went to the social security first. When her check got cut off.

NBW: Come on over, mama.

Mother: Well, I lay down---cain't be no worse, ----

Daniels: Come on, help us.

Mother: Ah, I guess, we might two years ago; I went to the social security to get a disability; and ah, ----two or three months, --- and I had to wait on social security long enough to get--

NBW: Oh, don't put them in the sink!

Daniels: Oh, I thought you had----- (apologetically).

Mother---on social security long enough; so they give us, ah, disability.

Pritchard: Uh-huh.

Mother: So ah, I was sick, I needed work, so they said they would be glad to give me, but a doctor had to determine that I was an invalid. I went to three doctors; ----letter to go to ah, ah--

NBW: Doctor Overstreet.

Daniels: Doctor Overstreet?

Mother; I don't know who it was.

NBW: That's who it was, in a ---, Doctor Overstreet.

Pritchard: ---give ya---

Mother: ---social security number,----

Pritchard: --give you his decision?

Mother: No, --come back---

Pritchard: Well, what type of people--depends on the doctor's concern, disability.

Woman: Well, at the time, when I first to the doctor, they said I went to Doctor Walters, they say that I'd go to a white doctor; I went to Dr. Dumont, and she say, I only can tell what's wrong with ya, I, that's all, and I say, that's all that I want you to do. But I went to her, they sent the letter away each time. And I went to her, and I say I had to go to the hospital, doctor. I said, well I done put out a whole lotta money, I paid out about fifteen dollars, I ain't got no more, I been payin out on all those doctors, and I ain't doing--, so about two,three weeks later, in the morning, I got a letter from Birmingham, to go to this heart specialist on Burroughs Street, and I have forgot his name, but he live up--he was --his house was up over -----and so ----they say I had and then the next day I went to the welfare. They told me I had to be totally disabled to sweep the floor. But I still--I didn't go back no more, I told --

Pritchard: Did you tell them that your only source was your daughter, and that your daughter was sick?

Mother: My daughter was ---, and she wasn't here. But I was ---little grandson.

Pritchard: But isn't it possible that you can go to the welfare office now, and re-apply for ah, for disability?

Mother: You know what? I ain't never begged nobody (this is beautifully stated) I-I ---bout 37 years, workin hard, when I was able to work, and I never had no trouble ---

Pritchard: Well, I realize that we have to dis---and,from ah, certain dignities, get what you really need. But it's not a matter that you would be beggin, I think that you, ah--

Mother: (interrupts): I think if you go more than one time that's beggin. And I don't like to beg.

NBW: They want you to go back they tryin--

Pritchard:The only way that you can help yourself, is to go and show the people that you really need it.

Mother: But I reeal---

Pritchard: The only way you can show them that real--

Mother: (interrupts): ---I tried yesterday, and I cain't hardly walk around here. Sir, I have bursitis in this shoulder, ---for about seven months, it go away, but it come right back. And I got sugar. And I'm not able to work.I cain't hardly do my housework, but they told me I --to sweep her floor, so---

Daniels: Ma'am, we've got to try again. We really do.

Pritchard: Can I ask, can I, can we, you ah, come down Monday?

Mother: Yeah, I try --again, see---

Daniels: We'll come out and get you.

Mother: I can hardly walk---

Pritchard: (answering daughter's question) No, you don't have to call, see, we have, we may not be here at nine, but we'll get up --after nine.

NBW: -----IN THE PARTY; FIERCE, ON THE OTHER SIDE, THERE'S AN ^{OPENER,}
(OPBNING)

Daniels: ----?

NBW: No-I can't wait to---take the test---

TAPE SKIDS FORWARD TO CONTINUATION OF CASE

Mother: They told me I had to --

Daniels: Is your husband living here?

NBW ~~DEW~~: I don't have a husband--

Daniels: You don't have a husband. ----? I'm gonna ask you about your salary. What kind of salary, salary were you making when --

NBW ~~DEW~~: When I was working? ^{JO-YEAH.} / Ten dollars a week. (baby chattering)

Daniels: You're an educated social worker, aren't you? Or not.

Daughter (Formerly NBW): What do you mean? No,

Daniels: Or are you trained--

Pritchard: Doesn't have the experience.

Daughter: Before now I know, but I was trained you know, down to, Dallas County Voters League.

Dasniels: Yeah. I see. Who was paying you the ten dollars a week?

Daughter: No--when I was working. Really, I haven't received any money from there.

Daniels: I see. I see. When you were working, you were making ten dollars a week.

Daughter: Yes, I was working at a cab company.

Daniels: At a cab company?

Daughter: Yeah.

Daniels: How many hours a day were you working?

Daughter: Eight hours.

Daniels: Eight hours a day.

Daughter: Uh-huh. Three to eleven.

Daniels: Three to eleven.

Daughter: Uh-huh.

Daniels: For ten dollars a week.

Daughter: Yes. (a little embarrassed and put out)

Mother: How many raises: five, or six, or seven?

Daughter: Well, it really was seven, but I couldn't work because my mother wasn't able to keep ---she has a nervous condition, too. And so, it really was twelve dollars a week, but I ----all in one day, that means I had ten dollars. --But now, everybody was kickin on it, they raised it to twenty dollars a week. But I'm not able to work, now. --Yeah. If you put Clorox in it, it turns brown. ---

Pritchard: That could be a factor (?)

Different Female Black Voice: When you put Clorox in it, it turns brown?

Daughter: Yeah. Sometimes. At the same time it turns brown, it ruin the clothes. Uh-huh. It ruin the clothes, and you can't get the stains out.

Pritchard: You can't get up at all?

Daughter: Yes, I can get up. But when I get up, my stomach hurts.

Male Voice: ----

Daughter: I know, I been tryin to get up all day ,, I can get up for just a little while.

Pritchard: Miz Reynolds, (?) do you know where, ah, (machine skids)

Daniels: Do you pay taxes on this house?

Daughter: Yes, we do.

Daniels: How much?

Mother: One--one is thirteen, the other is thirteen.

Daughter: One is thirteen dollars, and the other is sixteen. That's the county that's thirteen, and the city is sixteen.

Daniels: You pay both county and city taxes.

Daughter: Yes, we pay both county and city taxes, on this house.

Daniels: And you don't have a pump.

Daughter: And we have a pump. And no paved street.

Daniels: And no welfare.

Daughter: And no welfare. Right.

Daniels: And no clean water. Thank you very much.
(machine skids off)

HERE, THEY HAVE → Pritchard: Go ahead. How many steps, would you say, it is, from your house to the dump.

ED Daughter: Twenty-three.

UTSIDE Pritchard: Twenty-three.

Daughter: Um-hum.

Daniels: Which is roughly, let's say, thirty feet?

Daughter: Yeah, I guess so. But when you tell the people not to dump out here, they say, if you don't like it, move.

Daniels: Who says that?

Daughter: The people that bring the stuff out here on the trucks.

Pritchard: Are those city employees, or--?

Daughter: Some city, some private.

Pritchard: Are they supposed to dump?

Daughter: They're not supposed to dump on the other side--on this side, of the post. All that, from that--, from the other side, they can dump.

Pritchard: And this is the city dump.

Daughter: That's right.

Pritchard: Um-hum.

Daughter: They're not supposed to dump on that side.

Pritchard: What percent of the year (?) authorities----?

Daughter: Who is gonna see? Who---?

Pritchard: Board of Sanitation.

Daughter: They are the ones doing it.

Daniels: Have you ever observed, burning, flying, stuff, debris?

Daughter: Uh-huh.

Daniels: How many times?

Daughter: Well, that tree there, on the side of that---

Daniels: Well, why don't we go over there, later?

Daughter: Okay.

Daniels: Right.

Daughter, Well, the tree's been on fire, twice. And our

house been all---up. On the porch, there. I know they had a piece of wood on there, --I'll take you around to the back end, my sister's oldest daughter found it on the porch and my mother --a bigger fire, if she hadn't a found it; the house would have been gone by the time she got back. --flames, they go all over the place, all the time, papers be in the yard, you can't keep the paper out, cause, time they dump it, it's ---, it, it set afire, with smoke, flame, sparks, all over, any direction--

Pritchard: --house is that?

Daughter: That's my mother's.

Daniels: Let's go over here and look at the tree that burnt. How much-- how many days would you say the wind blows ----burned---?

Daughter: Every day.

Daniels: Every day?

Daughter: Every day. This place is burning every day in the week. Three hundred and sixty-five days a year, unless there be a hard rain. Only time I know that fire's gone completely out was in '61, when there was a flood---. be---

Daniels: That's where the tree burned?

Daughter: Yeah. ---- ----back to the pump.

Pritchard: Did you have to prime the pump?

Daughter: Yeah. ----prime the pump---

Daniels: ---roughly forty or fifty feet from your front door?

Daughter: Approximately forty or fifty feet...

Daniels: Perfectly incredible!

Pritchard: OK, everybody, turn around-(is this Judith Upham taking the picture?) --

Daughter: --You shouldn't take me like this.

(Tape skids; new interview beginning)

Daniels: Good. Smile. ----

Daniels: ---How do you do, ma'am.

Woman: Fine. How're you all?

Prichard: Are these~~/~~all your children here?

Woman: ----

Pritchard: Are you getting any type of assistance from welfare, or, any---?

Woman: No.

Pritchard: Have you ever applied for welfare?

You never received?

Woman: I received once, I got a check for about three years.

Pritchard: And why did they cut you off?

Woman: Well, they say I-- I worked--they came out to the house one day, and they asked me, somebody called up there and told em I was living in a house with a man. And they couldn't give me any more help.

Pritchard: Do you have~~/~~a husband living?

Woman: I never been married.

Pritchard: You have a boy friend living with you?

Woman: No, nobody livin with me.

Pritchard: You live by yourself; how~~/~~many children do you have?

Woman: Nine. Had ten, lost--.

Pritchard: Do you know their ages?

Woman: Yes.

Pritchard: Can you remember their ages? By name?

Woman: Beth Lee Smith, eighteen; Willie Jane, just eighteen; Elvira Smith is ten, Emma Jean Smith, eleven, and, Jerry Louis Smith---, Mary Lou Smith, six, and, (rooster crows) Robert Jay Smith, he's ah, five, and, Simon(?) he's three. Thelma Smith, she is two.

Pritchard: Do you have a small baby, now?

Woman: I lost my baby.

Pritchard: How long ago?

Woman: Three months.

Pritchard: Three months ago?

Woman: Yeah.

Pritchard: What was the cause?

Woman: She was born dead.

Pritchard: She was born dead.

Daniels: Um-hum.

Pritchard: Well; have you been to the welfare office lately?

Woman: Yeah, I was up there about, um, I guess about two ---ago; told me to go ---.

Pritchard: And, what did they say?

Woman: They told me they couldn't help me; I had to get the children's dad.

Pritchard: Um-hum. Do all your kids---? This on the other side.

Woman: Yeah.

Daniels: He broke into the house?

Woman: ---come here, sometime, --he go, he was here awhile ago with two ---

Pritchard: By her, who do you mean?

Woman: Uh, Willie Dee James is her dad.

Pritchard: And your daughter's name is what.

Woman: Emma Jean Smith.

Pritchard: Do you have a social security number?

Woman: Do I have one? I had one but I lost my social security.

Pritchard: Um-hum. Have you went to the social security office to get this number again?

Woman: No, no I haven't.

Pritchard: Will you go down and try to get the social security number?

Woman: Yes.

Pritchard: And, will you go to the welfare office and reapply for, for aid?

Woman: Yeah, I will.

Pritchard: OK, can you do that this week, or Monday?

Woman: I'll go Monday, cause the last of the week I go ----.

Daniels: OK, do you know what time the office is open?

Woman: I think it's eight o'clock.

Pritchard: Um-hum. That's about eight-thirty, as long as you get there by eight-thirty.

Daniels: Well, please do, ma'am.

Woman: All right, I will.

Pritchard: Ah, we'll have a vehicle to take you to the welfare, tomorrow, at 2:00, over at 2220 Hall Street; call Miss Fromm. Can you attend this meeting tomorrow?

Woman: Yeah, I can.

Daniels: Would you, please?

Woman: Yeah, I will.

Daniels: It really would help us.

Woman: Yeah, I will.

Pritchard: Would it be okay if we get some pictures, of your house, so forth?

Woman: Yes.

Pritchard: OK.

Daniels: Thank you very much.

(tape machine skids)

Pritchard: Please tell me; how much rent do you pay?

Woman: Seventeen-fifty a month.

Pritchard: Seventeen-fifty a month.

Woman: Um-hum.

Pritchard: And this, ah, includin--what do you have, a pump?

Woman: Yes, sir.

Pritchard: What source do you have of getting water, now, that your pump is broken?

Woman: ---the next house.

Pritchard: The next house. You're using the same water that, the neighbors --near you.

Woman: Yeah.

Pritchard: How long has your pump been out of shape?

Woman: Oh, about two months, or more.

Pritchard: Two months?

Woman: ----

Pritchard: Who do you rent from?

Woman: Um, Mr Papers (???)

Pritchard: (chuckles)

Woman: (chuckles)

Pritchard: Okay.

(Tape goes from here to the Lowndes County interview(

✓ From Cassette II, side B: The Lowndes County Interview, which deals with Tom Coleman

Daniels: This interruption is to record some evidence from Lowndes County.

Ma'am, could I have your name, and address?

Mrs. Nelson: Minnie Nelson, Post Office box 152, Hayneville, Alabama.

Daniels: Could you tell us, please, about the nature of your employment.

Mrs. N: Well, I went to work --yesterday morning, and ah, did my --daily work, and when I got ready to leave, --, yesterday, so she told me that, ah, she looked funny, she doing her, washing and ironing, and moppin, and I asked her, I said, why, this my last day? She said, yeah. But she had told me, ah, two or three weeks ago, that, she was going to use me until, ah, nearer September, cause she had to put her oldest girl in Kindergarten. And so, --didn't stick to her word, so yesterday she told me I had gotten my last day. - She didn't tell me till -I asked her, She paid me, ---I asked her, is this my last day, she said, yes. And that's all she said to me, and she, went on back, doing her, her work. And so this morning, I went to-work, -, to Mr. Tom Coleman's house. And I went in, started, doing my work, I got through, and I-- he told me, that he gotta put his things in the laundry, it'd come out cheaper, that's all he said to me. So I come on home, I thank him for, and I came on home. So, I guess, I don't know what it's all about. It all started, about three, about three years ago, ---ago, my little girl, --joining with the cleaning in the first Baptist Church of Hayneville, white first baptist church of Hayneville. Well, -Melinda Jean, well she wrote a note, and left it there, she asked them, she would very much like to visit the church and see how they worship. And that's all she had on the letter, on on the note. And so ----about 2 or 3 weeks, and I didn't know anything about it. And so they had got together, plannin on what they gonna do to me, so I didn't know it. Until, Mr. Favor, he came here and got me one morning, told me what it is all about. They checked that writing with my writing, --I take orders sometimes, notes down, for orders, people call up for gas, and ah, they had checked it, some of the other board members, checked it, and saw it wasn't my writing, and so ah, he asked me whether the oldest girl ---a note, well, no --- Melinda Jeanne, that's her writing. So, he asked me what time she get out from school, I told him she get out of school about four o'clock, so he came, and talked to her, asked why did she do it. And she say, she just wanna try, see how they worship. See how they worship in church. And he told her, that place was too small, and never would happen. So he asked again,

why did she do it, she say, well, I see so much goin on the TV, so I decided, I'll try it. And so, that was it. And so that, when ah, they had King, led down to the old jail, so she stayed out, just about the whole school from Calhoun stayed out. And looked like they weren't picking on anybody but Melindy, they had to pick out her. And so they asked me, wasn't Melindy down in that big crowd of people, and told them yes, she was down there. That's why she didn't go to school --when these teen-agers get together, and make a plan to do something, I said, she said she was going to school, but I thought she was going to school, but I went--I came on to work, ----. And so she didn't go to school, and I said, and then she told me ah, Miss Bayer told me, well, I saw Melindy Jean down at the old jailhouse, I said, well, the whole school just was down there. And so Mr. Favor asked me, why did she stay out? And I told him she stayed out to see Dr. King. He asked me, do she only see, doesn't she get enough on the TV, I told him yes, see him on the TV, not like seeing him in person, and shaking his hand. So the next morning, there, I went to Mr. Coleman's house, and he told me, same thing about Melinda Jean. Said she gonna get me into trouble; I asked him why, how should she gonna get me into trouble? By stayin out of school and down at that mess at the old jail, I told him it wasn't a mess, I thought --put that -- down to the old jail to to reddish (?) --. And I said that she weren't the only one, that the whole school was down there. And he told me, "The best thing for you to do, to sit at home away from here." And so I told --was goin on a vacation, I said, but when school opens, she's comin back. And --look like, with me, and her, ever since.

Daniels: Um-hum. Are there any stories, like this, that have happened to other people, here?

Mrs. Nelson: No, I'm the only one like they're diggin at.

Daniels: Um-hum.

Mrs. N: That's all from that letter she wrote, that note she lote, wrote in that church. She was ---in that church,

Daniels: Um-hum.

Mrs. N: She said cause she wanted to go there and see how they worship. That's all.

Daniels: So you've lost two jobs, now.

Mrs. N: True.

Daniels: Um-hum.

Mrs. N: Um-hum.

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(Black Woman;s voice, in background) --, Miss Nelson.

Mrs. N: --Mr. Tom Coleman,he's the one tole me, how, he wasn't puttin out them threats, himself, but he say I liable to get --bombed, or else gasoline set on fire.

Daniels: When did he say this, ma'am?

Mrs. N: The same time that he told me I'd better get Melinda Jean away,from here.

Daniels: Uh-huh.

Mrs. N: Same time.

Pritchard: Did anybody from the Justice Department talk to you,--, lawyers, or---talk to you?

Mrs. N: I expect so. Wouldn't you think.

Bronx Male: Did they ask ya any questions about what happened, at the--

Mrs. N: Yeah, and they took, ah, --see, they came out here and I told him, they, ah, the Favors, what they had spoke to me, what they had said to me; they want what, they had said to me to get, to report, cause they didn't want to be messed up, you know, with the, with the, what's going on. But Mr. Tom he never did, ah, apologize, nothin, he didn't say nothin to me. ---signin it.

Pritchard: Um hum. Do you remember if the Justice Department showed up later to talkto you?

Mrs. N: No, I really don't. I remember it was a young fellow, he came out here-, around here, -lookin for Bubba Scott-----talked to me then.

Pritchard: ----ah, which church do you attend?Which church do you attend?

Mrs. N: Oh! AME Zion.

Pritchard: --- (In East ---?)

Mrs. N: Um-hum.

Pritchard: ----

Mrs. N:Yeah.

(Tape skids ahead)

Mrs. N: Not then. First, she did it but not this last--

(TAPE ENDS)