

## **TRANSCRIPT: H.T. LOCKARD**

Interviewee: H.T. Lockard

Interviewer: Elizabeth Gritter

Interview Date: July 29, 2004

Location: Memphis, TN

Length: One audio file, approximately 56 minutes (the oral history was transcribed from a digitized audio file and also is available on audio cassette)

Transcriptionist's Note: When the time is noted in brackets it indicates an inaudible passage. If an educated guess occurs for an inaudible passage, it is put in brackets with a question mark. If the spelling is unclear, [sp?] is inserted.

Interview's Note: The first part of the interview consists of my filling out a life history form for H. T. Lockard as supplemental material.

### **START OF INTERVIEW**

Elizabeth Gritter: This is Elizabeth Gritter interviewing H.T. Lockard on July 29, 2004, in Memphis, Tennessee.

[Some fragments of conversation and breaks during set up, not transcribed]

H.T. Lockard: --in the very early '50s he was raising money and making a wonderful and splendid contribution.

EG: Sure.

HTL: Yeah. Now I don't know exactly what you had in mind, so why don't you just take charge.

EG: Okay. [Laughter] I--. Let me turn it off again. [Break in recording]

HTL: --reciprocal agreement among several states, and Missouri and Tennessee have such an agreement. If your membership is in Tennessee you can apply immediately and get licensed in Missouri or vice versa. The same is true of Illinois. Well, my paperwork was processed in early January of '51 for the reciprocity.

EG: Because you had been licensed in Missouri in October of '50?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay.

HTL: And the Tennessee Bar Association didn't officially act on my license until June of '51, yet the license was dated in February or March of '51. And then in addition my license was mailed to me and I wasn't invited to come to the [Supreme Court?] or some satellite town to be sworn in with the other admittees.

EG: Oh.

HTL: So like I said, I didn't know whether that figured in your line of interest.

EG: You said you weren't sworn in with the other people who were admitted?

HTL: I wasn't sworn in at all.

EG: Oh, at all.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Because you were black?

HTL: Sure.

EG: Yeah. [Laughter] [I remember laughter occurred because I had made a naïve remark by stating what was obvious.]

HTL: [Laughter]

EG: And you were a member of the Shelby County court until '66, or '67?

HTL: Yeah. November of '64.

EG: Is when you were elected?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay. And then '66?

HTL: That was Goldwater and Johnson's year.

EG: Yeah, yeah. Okay. So if I put down '64 to '66?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: You became involved with the St. Louis NAACP branch when you were there?

HTL: Yeah, while I was in school. I would say, let's see, I was there from February of '48 until December of '50, so I would say six months after I was there.

EG: Okay. so '48 to '50, okay. And you became a member of the NAACP branch here when you came back?

HTL: When I returned. I was in search for some kind of identification with community service and community affairs, and so I like to say that I went to the NAA and to the alumni association--I think I covered that with you--and the fraternity, in terms of--seemingly about some kind of worthwhile activity. I found the NAA more promising, so I got hooked up with them.

EG: So that was in--?

HTL: Fifty-one.

EG: Fifty-one, and then you're a life member of that. And you were president of the branch, you said, from 1953 to '58?

HTL: Fifty-three to '57.

EG: Fifty-seven? Okay.

HTL: Two or three, I'm not sure, so just make it '53 to '57.

EG: Okay. And then you were president of the Tennessee state conference of the NAACP--?

HTL: Yeah, from '61--'60 to '62.

EG: Okay. And you were head of the legal committee of the Memphis branch.

Was that from '53 to '57 as well?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay.

HTL: Well, even longer. See I held both positions and there was some dispute as to whether you were supposed to be in administration and legal, so I gave up the administration part.

EG: So until '66 I think you--? Could you do that while you were on the county court, or was it--?

HTL: Yeah. It was 1957 when I had to give up the administration part.

EG: Okay, yeah. And you were involved with, you told me, J. E. Walker's campaign for the school board.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: I saw from the literature you were involved in 1959 during the Volunteer Ticket campaign, the 1960 Frank Clement gubernatorial campaign.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: The '66 Ellington campaign. Did you say you were involved with the '62 Clement campaign as well?

HTL: Yes. No, no, I was with his opponent, Gordon Browning.

EG: Oh, okay, in '62. In 1964 were you involved with any campaigns then?

HTL: I'm afraid I was Browning in '54?

EG: Oh, Gordon Browning in '54.

HTL: Huh?

EG: Nineteen fifty-four, you were with Gordon--?

HTL: You had two-year terms for governor. It was later that they were four-year. So I was with Browning--I was a loser two years, you know, two successive terms, I was a loser. Browning lost both times and then he didn't run anymore.

EG: So he ran in 1954?

HTL: Yeah, '52 and '54.

EG: Okay, and 1952. Were you involved in 1958 at all in any races?

HTL: Yes. Is that when Orgill, Ellington, and Tip Taylor [ran for governor]?

EG: Yeah. Were you for Ellington then?

HTL: No, I was for Orgill.

EG: Orgill, okay.

HTL: Yeah, and Ellington won.

EG: Yeah. What about any other campaigns in the 1950s? Were you involved when Roy Love ran for the school board?

HTL: Yeah. I don't remember what year it was.

EG: I think that was '54 or '55.

HTL: Of course I was very, very active in Russell Sugarmon's run for the city commission.

EG: Okay.

HTL: Was that '58?

EG: That was '59.

HTL: Oh, yeah, '59.

EG: What about--? Well you were involved in just about every campaign.

[Laughter]

HTL: Yeah, I was.

EG: I'll just put some of the highlights down, I guess. Nineteen sixty-four? Of course that's when you ran.

HTL: For the county court, quarterly--. Well it's the county commission now but it was called the county court.

EG: Back then.

HTL: Same thing.

EG: Yeah. So you were really focused, obviously, that year on your campaign.

HTL: Huh?

EG: You were obviously really focused that year on your campaign.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: And didn't really assist with others at that time, or did you?

HTL: A.W. Willis was running for the state legislature.

EG: Oh, so you were involved with that?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay. And you were with the Shelby County Democratic Club.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: When were you involved with them, from--?

HTL: From the time it was revived.

EG: In '59?

HTL: No, I would say--.

EG: Or before then even, right?

HTL: Yeah. We were--. I guess it would be considered a splinter group back as far as voter registration, I think maybe '54, '55.

EG: Okay. And then how long were you involved with it, the Shelby County Club?

HTL: Well, we pulled out--. Dr. Walker died in '58 and I guess we hung around for maybe a year, so about '59.

EG: Fifty-nine?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: You said you pulled out of the Club?

HTL: Well some few of us. We had a power struggle. That was all it was. We flexed our muscle and they flexed their muscle, so it was a splinter group. But, it was effective enough that by '66 we were a pretty rival outfit.

EG: Was this the Ninth District Democratic Club?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay, because I found an article here. It's from 1962. It talks about how you were president of it, and that you had worked with Clement. It was a new political organization.

HTL: Yeah that was--.

EG: Was that different?

HTL: Yeah, that was the year that we really got--. That was the year--. Did I tell you about Maceo Walker?

EG: A little bit, because you said it was--.

HTL: See he was for Bill Farris, and we had--when I say we: me, and Willis, the whole bunch--had made a commitment to Frank Clement. We went to him in the month of January, and I'm not sure--. It must have been '62.

EG: Yeah.

HTL: We went to him--. See he was out of office but Ellington's term was up, was going to be up that summer, and we had become sophisticated enough to know--and he was interested too--to get ready to make alliances and all that. So we, along with several others, made a trip to Nashville and kind of made a shake hands deal that we're going to help you.

EG: With Clement?

HTL: With Clement. But Mr. Walker, because of personal reasons, wanted to help Bill Farris. Bill Farris was a good politician and a good person but I always felt that his stature had something to do with his lack of--. He never projected himself--. Have you ever seen pictures of Frank Clement?

EG: Yeah.



HTL: Good looking.

EG: Yeah.

HTL: Have you ever seen a picture of Bill Farris?

EG: Yeah.

HTL: Well, he's short and crippled. No offense, but that just didn't make for--. He got things done. He was a wheeler and a dealer, but he never came off--. Well just like [Bill] Clinton and [John] Kerry. Either you got it or you don't. [Laughter]

EG: Right.

HTL: So I sympathized with Russell. I had never been in the position that Russell found himself in, so I don't know how I would have felt, nor do I know what my reaction would have been, if Farris had beat me. I don't know. But Russell took that very--. It was like he took it personally.

EG: Really?

HTL: Yeah. You just couldn't get any enthusiasm over the years on Russell's part for anything that Bill Farris had to do with. And I sympathized, or empathized, with Russell, because he was my friend. I had a good personal relationship with Farris, went to his home, all that, but I never made any alliances with--. Well anyway, to make a long story short, Maceo was just late getting lined up with Farris. See, this is in the summer of '62, when we had cut our deal, so to speak, in January.

EG: That you would help Clement with campaigning and so forth.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: So this was a separate Democrat--this wasn't the Shelby County Democratic Club? This was your own club?

HTL: Eventually it became--.

EG: The Ninth District?

HTL: No, the Tennessee Voters Council project.

EG: Oh, okay.

HTL: After we got it off the ground. But the dominant group was the Shelby County Democratic Club. But we were, because it was statewide, we were connected with the national group--local group--whatever they was.

EG: The Shelby County--. Mr. Sugarmon was telling me the Shelby County Democratic Club was an affiliate of the Tennessee Voters Council.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: So you were involved with the Democratic Club in '62?

HTL: Yes.

EG: Okay. But then you formed this, it says--. Let me see here. It was an affiliate of the statewide Tennessee Federation of Democratic Leagues?

HTL: Tennessee State Federation?

EG: Maybe--. Hmm.

HTL: Well, is that the--? Yeah. That was--.

EG: Unless maybe that's the name of the Voters Council.

HTL: Bill Farris, [P. R.] Olgiati, and Frank Clement, those were the three candidates that I recall [for governor].

EG: Yeah, in '62.

HTL: Because I know I was part of the management team to handle the vote. We were all in Nashville, either at Fisk University or Tennessee State, I've forgotten which. I think we were--.

EG: Oh, when you organized the Tennessee Voters Council?

HTL: That's when we were politicizing for the endorsement. It was a dogfight on that endorsement because the people from Knoxville and Chattanooga wanted Olgiati and the people in Nashville wanted Frank Clement. Then there was a splinter group that came to Nashville in our group that was leaning toward Bill Farris.

EG: Oh, okay, because you were--. I saw the newspaper coverage and that a splinter group formed from the Shelby County Democratic Club with Frank Kilpatrick that endorsed--

HTL: Yeah.

EG: --and then Maceo Walker--that endorsed Bill Farris.

HTL: Yeah, yeah.

EG: Were you with that splinter group?

HTL: No.

EG: You stayed with the Democratic Club?

HTL: Yeah, I stayed, because you know my word, I'd given my word in January.

EG: Right, to work with--.

HTL: Clement.

EG: The Clement campaign, yeah. What was the Ninth District Democratic Club?

HTL: Well it was a splinter off the dissidents--. See we had--. When Dr. Walker passed away, there never would have been a split I would say had Dr. Walker not passed away. To my best recollection that was in the summer of 1958. I just can't remember. But his son, who was heir apparent, Maceo Walker, was not the same person as his father was. His father kept up with things, you know like you say somebody services an organization. He kept up with things and kept the agenda going, kept in touch. But Maceo wasn't that kind of politician. He was satisfied in walking in and getting the agenda from somebody else, trying to preside over a meeting, and no hand shaking, no glad handing, and that kind of stuff, just a different sort of attitude. So it wasn't long after his father's death that some of the--. I never aspired to be president. I always liked the parliamentarian's job.

EG: Oh, uh huh.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: That's what you were with the Democratic Club?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay. What did you do as parliamentarian?

HTL: Interpreted the bylaws and made rulings on parliamentary procedure and all that kind of stuff.

EG: Do you happen to have a copy of the bylaws of the Democratic Club?

HTL: No, I don't.

EG: Okay. [Laughter]

HTL: [Laughter]

EG: I found one page, and no one has a copy of it, unless it's in some, in Wisconsin or something.

HTL: I was in a meeting one day this week, Roscoe Dixon. Have you heard that name?

EG: Yeah.

HTL: Well Roscoe, I admire him for being a good senator. He always admired me and all. But he had a rally, a fundraiser, and I attended just to give him some money. As soon as I walked in he had some complimentary things to say about me, what I had done, in his younger days and all that. But I never saw--. Lt. Governor John Wilder made this statement. He said, "I don't want to be president; all I want to be is chairman of the board." Now he's the lt. governor and speaker of the senate. So what I'm saying is that I never wanted to be the boss or the head of anything, necessarily, but that I wanted to have a key position, and I thought that the parliamentarian--. Of course I never had the body to--not that I recall--overrule any ruling that I have made. Maybe by right they should have, but I'm simply saying I was never overruled in my parliamentary--. As a matter of fact at one of the trade schools I taught parliamentary procedure.

EG: Oh.

HTL: Yeah. But--I don't remember where I was.

EG: Well I interrupted you too. You were talking about [A.] Maceo Walker.

HTL: Walker, yeah. He just didn't take care of business, and the fox can get in the henhouse if you don't watch the henhouse. Yeah.

EG: So you said there was a meeting where--it was between him and Russell Sugarmon to become director of the Club and he was outvoted?

HTL: That's right.

EG: And then he became president of the Club instead?

HTL: I think that's when--. I think Frank Kilpatrick had that meeting. I think Frank Kilpatrick--. That was the Democrat Club.

EG: Yeah.

HTL: And then later we got tired of the, I guess friction, and we pulled out. I pulled out with Frank.

EG: Because there was friction between Walker and Sugarmon, or--?

HTL: No--yeah, yeah. It wasn't personal, but Russell and A.W. and H.T. Lockard and everybody else wanted to make progress and wanted to move forward. We wanted to do things, and we were just being held back with Walker as the head of it. He was like inactive.

EG: He was what?

HTL: Inactive.

EG: Oh, okay.

HTL: He just wasn't pursuing things like he should. I'm foggy. You might want to talk with Russell about this and see what he comes up with, and if he differs from what I say, I should yield to his recollection. One other thing comes to mind. I'm fuzzy on this. I'm not sure. But Maceo Walker hurt himself by making a decision to accept a position on the Memphis Transit Authority. Did you get that?

EG: I saw that he was appointed but Willis had first been appointed.

HTL: Yeah, yeah. That was an affront to all of us who had been in the trenches in the Democratic Club. One, A.W. Willis would have been, we feel, much more tenacious

on the--. It wasn't the money. We recommended Russell and Russell turned it down, for obvious reasons. He just didn't want to get on--. He didn't want to get saddled with the stigma of having any allegiance or alliances to city hall. It's that simple. Then we agreed on--. A.W. didn't want it either, but he agreed to take it. We had the commission form of government, and I'm not sure about the membership, but Jimmy Moore, John T. Dwyer, possibly Bill Farris--. But I know Jimmy Moore contacted Maceo after the commission had a night meeting, and contacted Maceo and told him, so I heard, something like, "We are in agreement that you can be named to the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Board, but no other African American is accepted." And of course the smart thing to do, the right thing to do, was say, "Sorry. We've agreed on A.W.," and so forth and so on. But the way I understand the deal went down. The newspaper got onto it and they was on A.W.'s doorstep the following morning before he even got the paper and before he got the word.

EG: The newspapers knew about it before?

HTL: Oh yeah, oh yeah. And they was asking A.W. about something had transpired between the newspaper and Maceo Walker, and A.W. knew nothing about it. That was embarrassing, I imagine. I know I would have been, and possibly infuriated too.

EG: So Maceo Walker, he knew about it but he didn't tell A.W. Willis about it?

HTL: Oh no.

EG: And then he accepted before telling Willis about it?

HTL: Sure, yeah. You see what he should have done was stayed in the background and let us go on, because we were really pushing on all fronts, every front

that you could push on. And Jesse Turner was right with us and all, Vasco Smith was right with us, and we were just a special interest group that was supplying the leadership for the whole community. We had the respect of the community; I mean solid one hundred percent. It's just hard to explain because I don't know what was going on in Maceo's mind, but I'll tell you what I believe. He wanted to be a part of all the accomplishments and the agendas that we were espousing, but he just wasn't willing to make the sacrifices to be a part of it. See he was, by that time maybe, president of the Tri-State and Universal Life Company, both of which are multi-million dollar corporations. A.W. Willis's father had left him, A.W., a stake in Universal, so he was making money out of it but it depended on his staying in good graces with Maceo. I was making a little money when Maceo's father died because of the quality of my work, not because of--.

Unknown Male: Hey!

HTL: Hey!

Unknown Male: How are you?

HTL: That's my [brother]. [Break in recording] --with the Shelby County Democratic Club during the summer primary. I don't remember there being any Republican opposition. There could have been but I don't remember. If it was, it wasn't formidable. So some time between late '62 and early '63 we pulled out.

EG: Okay. And that was the Ninth District Democratic Club, or was that a different organizational name? What was the name of the new organization?

HTL: Ninth District.

EG: That was the Ninth District.



HTL: Yeah.

EG: Okay, Democratic Club. And you were president of that?

HTL: Me or Frank one. I think Frank was.

EG: Okay. That must be the news clipping I have here, because that was to--.

But yet still one of the purposes was to work closely with the Democratic Club?

HTL: Well see what happened--and I'm going on recollection--after--I think I mentioned this before--after the election was all over and--. Yeah, I went to the inauguration in '63.

EG: Of Clement?

HTL: Yeah. I went to the inauguration. Me and Maceo went together. I had no particular invitation or anything, just went. After the election was over--. Did I tell you that pressure was on Willis and Sugarmon not to help Clement?

EG: It was--. I don't think so.

HTL: Well see the purpose was to help Bill Farris.

EG: Oh, that's right.

HTL: And Maceo wanted to help Bill Farris.

EG: Yeah, you mentioned that.

HTL: By Willis kind of like working for Maceo, Maceo had a little stronger tie to keep Willis in a straight jacket, so to speak, to kind of, I want to say, help Farris as much as he was to lay off Clement. But I imagine--I don't know, but I imagine--A.W. never told Frank Clement that there was pressure on him by Maceo Walker. I don't imagine A.W.--. A.W. probably was blowing enough smoke for Clement to think that he was very active in his campaign so that when it was all over and A.W.--I imagine now, I don't

know--A.W. just moved up and said all right, now that it's over, we want part of the spoils, whereas I was in a better position truthfully than A.W. was because I was unfettered. I had been out in the open for him. But my nature being what it is, I said well now it's over you contact me. I don't need to contact you. I helped you so you contact me, where instead A.W. contacted Clement and Clement started in with A.W. So that pissed me and I just formed me another group.

EG: Okay, the Ninth District.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: You were, it says, chairman of that here?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: And then how long were you with that group?

HTL: Well I would say through 1971, because that was the group that I headed in Shelby County to help promote Ellington.

EG: Oh, okay.

HTL: Oh yeah.

EG: Okay. So the function of that group was to endorse candidates and voter registration.

HTL: Same things.

EG: Same things as the Democratic Club. Did you work at all with the Shelby County Democratic Club in any joint efforts?

HTL: Yeah, we had joint endorsements, you know. Joint endorsements in the sense that we were in existence and candidates would come to us and go to the Democratic Club also.

EG: Yeah, and speak before you and so forth, okay.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: So it functioned in a similar way to the Democratic Club.

HTL: Like in '64, the Shelby County Democratic Club endorsed me. Russell Sugarmon designed the ballot, and I think but for the ballot of the Shelby County Democratic Club I wouldn't have got elected.

EG: Ah, because it was a really close election, right?

HTL: Yeah, a close election, and that Shelby County Democratic Club ballot was a beautiful ballot, very beautiful.

EG: Was what?

HTL: A beautiful ballot.

EG: Oh, beautiful ballot, okay. Which they gave out ahead of time to tell people how to vote?

HTL: Yeah, and my ballot--. Of course two things that I would say go into a well rounded campaign and all is imagination and money. A.W. just had unique ability, and time. Time made a big difference. I was just realistic, and I said I've got to work to make a living, so I don't have time to go to Nashville or go to this meeting or whatever, and so he just did a better job than I could do because he had the means to do it. He wasn't--he might have been, but I would never admit it--he was no smarter than I was, but he certainly had more time. And Russell was in the same position as he was. Russell's parents had money. So when you're talking about having to eke out an existence--. [Break in recording] --yeah, yeah.

EG: Yeah. So did you think the Shelby--? I mean the Shelby County Democratic Club was led by middle-class leaders. Do you think that had any influence on their policy, that their policy maybe benefited people in the middle class and that they should have done more for the working class, and that maybe your club did more for working class people?

HTL: I think the mentality of the people other than Maceo--Willis, Sugarmon, Vasco Smith--. Well now I'd take Willis, take Willis and Sugarmon out, but everybody else--Jesse Turner, H.T. Lockard, Ike Watson, Thurman [sp?] Northcross, and all that bunch--had been people who had been pulled up by their bootstraps, so they were middle class but they certainly had a link to the past with poverty. So I would say there were only a few, a very few, that did not have a link to the past. People had gone to your state and some of--what they have, blueberries, blackberries, something else?

EG: In North Carolina.

HTL: Michigan.

EG: Michigan?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: In Michigan, strawberries and blueberries.

HTL: And Connecticut, all those northeastern states and eastern states. People left here in droves fifty years ago, going up there to work. I mean while in medical school and all that, yeah.

EG: So Walker--. Because it seemed like Sugarmon, he was really for the civil rights battle for everybody--.

HTL: Oh, sure.

EG: Yeah, and Willis too, but Walker, you said, wasn't as dedicated of a civil rights fighter as they were and you were.

HTL: In his mind I think he made up for what we were doing by making money to contribute. He was very generous.

EG: Right.

HTL: I've got to make a call.

EG: Sure. [Break in recording] How many people were in your group, the Ninth District Democratic Club? How many members did you have?

HTL: Oh, we had a nice membership, a nice membership. We had a--. I have to be modest in what I'm about to say, but an influence--. I was at the height of my influence during that time, and above all else I would say the way that my relationship with people and all, people kind of gravitated to me and what I stood for. So I would say any one meeting that we held we could count on forty or fifty people and these were--. Well for example, when Buford Ellington had his opening in Nashville, I don't know how many people Greyhound buses held, but I didn't have any trouble filling up a Greyhound bus, going to Nashville, and being at the opening.

EG: You said that there were forty to fifty who showed up to the meetings?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: How many people in the general membership, would you say?

HTL: I don't know [51:40] general membership--. I would say the sympathizers [51:52]. We came up with eighteen thousand votes. We came up with eighteen thousand votes.

EG: For Ellington?

HTL: Huh?

EG: For Governor Ellington?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: In '66?

HTL: And the opponent was John Jay Hooker [sp?]. The majority of the African Americans were for Hooker, but because of the totality of my presence and what the candidate stood for, we came up with eighteen thousand votes.

EG: And that's what catapulted you into being administrative assistant.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: So, was the Ninth District and the Shelby County Democratic Club, were those the two most influential black political clubs?

HTL: Oh, yeah, the only two.

EG: The only two, okay. And would you say the Shelby County Democratic Club was more influential overall--

HTL: Right, right.

EG: --than your club, but you still held a lot of influence?

HTL: Right.

EG: I wanted to ask a few questions about the '50s and your electoral activity then. I saw--

HTL: About what time?

EG: About the 1950s, stepping back and looking at the electoral, political activity back then.

HTL: Oh, yeah.

EG: Were you involved with--? I know that there were a lot of other efforts in other Southern cities of blacks to do voter registration, run people for office, and so forth. Were you connected with those people at all?

HTL: Sure. I thought about a case that I had up in Brownsville, Tennessee. Did I tell you about that?

EG: Was that the one in '62, when you went up to--or the early '60s, with Phil Savage?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Yeah, you did tell me about that.

HTL: Yeah, so that was a real good memory. That simply was a--.

EG: Was he trying to do voter registration?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: Oh, okay. What about in the '50s? Was there--?

HTL: That was not in the '50s?

EG: That was--. Was that in the '50s?

HTL: I don't know.

EG: Oh, okay. I thought that was in the early '60s.

HTL: But as early as I can remember, my involvement involved speaking at churches, urging people to ride the bus and to go to the courthouse and vote.

EG: Okay.

HTL: Yeah.

EG: And that was, well starting with J. E. Walker's campaign in 1951 and then for all these other political campaigns in the '50s.

HTL: Yeah. You know, I'm getting kind of tired.

EG: You're getting tired? Yeah. Well you mentioned you were really involved with the campaign in 1959, with Russell Sugarmon?

HTL: Yeah.

EG: How do you remember that campaign as different than the other campaigns that took place? What sort of impact did that campaign have on the black community?

HTL: Well, we were very optimistic, I guess you'd say, well one because of the candidate. You know, Russell was a young lawyer and stood well in the community and that kind of thing.

EG: Yeah.

HTL: I think we're going to have to stop.

EG: Stop, okay, sure.

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcriber: Deborah Mitchum

Date: April 21, 2009