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Mark N. Friesenhahn
(interviewer)
ROCHESTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (Rochester Jewish community 1925-1927)

Interviewee: Hyman J. Mandell

Interviewer: M. Friedrich

Date(s) of interview: 22 July 1976 and 12 August 1976

Setting (place of interview, people present, impressions):
Both interview sessions were conducted at the University of Rochester in Prof. Karp's office. During brief portions of the second session Prof. Karp was present. Mr. Mandell was expansive and eager to participate in the project, introducing various documents, which are appended to the interview. His many personal, professional, political and religious interests were readily apparent in the discussion. Although another interview session was contemplated, the meeting could not be arranged, although numerous areas of his experience could be further pursued.

Background of the interviewee
Mr. Mandell was born in 1901, coming to Rochester in 1908. He became a licensed pharmacist in 1925 after completing his degree at the University of Buffalo, and has operated a pharmacy since 1926, among other business ventures. He has been a leading member of more than 30 organizations, and has held non-elective offices in both the county and the state. His wife is actively involved in Hillel school, and he attends religious services daily at Beth El. His interests are so diverse that only the interview and the testimonial dinners for him appended can indicate the scope of his involvement in Rochester.

Interview abstract
Mr. Mandell discusses his activities in Hillel School, his former association with Senator Keating, the Keating Forest in Israel, his activity on Draft Board #75, the County Civil Service Commission, the policies of the Lincoln Republican League, the Jewish Home and Infirmary, Beth El, Sports for Israel and numerous people he has been associated with. Topics recur in the second interview, Mr. Mandell being eager to cover as much as possible. Occasionally, opinions and statements were made personally and not recorded at his discretion.

4 pages of tape log

35 documents appended
22 July 1976

Biographical: parents immigrants, moving from New York City to seek work here as a contractor.

Mr. Mandell graduated from UB in 1923; education hampered because of finances; sold newspapers as a child; anecdote about George Eastman.

Member High School Hall of Fame; worked while in pharmacy school, returning to Rochester to be near his family.

Early employment.

Early education at Number 9 School and East High School; discusses terminology about "colored" and "black".

Only Jewish Chairman of County Civil Service Commission; reasons for resigning.

Experiences on Draft Boards 1941-1974/5, elected from a non-Jewish neighborhood.

Experiences on Civil Service Commission, where he refused to be "crooked".

children and grandchildren.

Lived on Joseph Ave, and later moves within the district.

Daily religious attendance at Beth El.

Use of Baden St. Settlement and Washington Community House; athletic teams.

Education at East High School.

Education at Number 9 School; his perceptions of early bar examinations.

Recent anniversary party at Beth El.

Support for Jewish organizations: Jewish Home, Talmudic Institute, and Hillel; discussion of moving Hillel from its location on East Ave. and possible move to JCC area.

Wife's support for Hillel; manages bingo games and Journal Book.

Problems of possible consolidation of Jewish organizations at JCC, particularly Jewish Home.

Joseph Ave. neighborhood; problems with non-Jews on Hannover St.

Transition of Joseph Ave. to a black neighborhood under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson; view that blacks migrated because of liberal welfare system here.
22 July 1976

Rochester wholesale drug business, membership in Diabetics Society and current member Small Business Administration; his sense of community success.

His experience as a landlord in Joseph Ave district; his activities as a builder and real estate speculator; current residence in Brighton.

Business location on Norton St.; activities as a ward leader and member of the Holy Name Society. Mentions Saul Human.

Changes on Norton St.

His Jewish education; Rabbi Solomon.

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22 July 1976

Children and grandchildren's Jewish education.

Quota on Jewish students at U of R (off tape); reason for anti-semitism.

His own experience of refusal at U of R because of quota; required to sell newspapers to support his family.

Family renown in Rochester (incident off tape).

His wife Frieda; Lukemia Foundation.

Membership in JY.

Division of Jewish community between "common Jew" and German Jewish group. EXTENSIVE.

Exclusiveness of B'rith Kodash; Idlers Club; JYmA.

Development of JYMA on Andrews Street; 333 Club; problem of direction at JY; attended XX 1915-7 YMCA; Boys Evening Home and Jewish instruction; Newsboys Club.

Honored at Saints and Sinners Club and distribution of proceeds.

Keating as a guest at above and later campaign support by Mandell.

Mandel, Ruben Goldman and Keating Forest in Israel (further elaboration in second interview); his view of Keating.

Congressman Frank Horton.

Mr. Mandell associated with Republican Party for 40 years.

1961 trip to Israel.
22 July

HJ Mandell

353- Number 9 School and Charles Finch.
410- Recent biography of Furnas (U of Buffalo).
422- Restrictions on Jewish employment at Kodak.
426- Jewish baseball teams; Mayor Sam Dicker; Lincoln Republican League presentation.
452- Jewish political affiliations in Rochester; patronage.
477- Feels that changes in Jewish community are generally positive, marred by a few individuals who are mentioned.
513- Meeting of Craig Colony (Craig Development Center, Craig State School)
552- Carl Hallerer (sic) as "a friend of the Jewish people".
576- Bausch and Lomb not bigoted, but problems in the personnel department; Garson Meyer at Kodak; experiences as a newsboy.
600- Support for Abraham Zelormek.
620- Immigrant affiliation with Democratic Party; Al Smith.
639- Partnership in a liquor store with Don Foote; 1960 or 1962 Republican convention in Buffalo and black political leaders; indignation over low-income housing in the suburbs.
711- Tape runs out; interview terminated.

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12 August 1976

May 1959 Keating Forest fund drive; opposition to the drive by some factors in the Jewish Community. EXTENSIVE, using various documents to read from.

View of Frank Horton.

Mr. Mandell's activities in Kennedy-Keating campaign and views on the election.

Albert H. Wilcox; class at East High School; response to Keating dinner.

Picture of Keating; Fred Forman; Craig State School; Keating Forest.

Lincoln Republican League activities and successes.

1961 Testimonial dinner for Mandell by Lincoln Republican League.

Clifford C. Furnas.
12 August 1976

Hy Mandell

283- Judge Clarence Henry.

311- Gordon A. Howe.

318- 1973 Testimonial dinner by the Civil Service Commission, account read from a newspaper clipping included in the appended documents.

358- High School Hall of Fame; Jewish Hall of Fame.

370- Harold Rand and Leukemia Foundation misappropriations.

396- Association with Joseph Silverstein and local Draft Boards.

416- Lincoln Republican League support and patronage.

431- 1960 Beth El fire (refers to a written note "Beth El fire").

495- Lincoln Republican League and Samuel Dicker as first Jewish mayor.

529- Activities in Monroe County Stadium Club; forged letter, scribbled out during the interview and appended.

587- Association with Masonic Order; Joseph Silverstein.

620- Sports for Israel and promotional games here with Leo Harrison.

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12 August 1976

Side B

004- Sports for Israel; opposition to games from elements of the Jewish community; introduces a Newsletter.

044- Park Ridge Hospital benefit baseball game; his election as a Board member there.

060- Conversation with Prof. Karp. Interview terminated due to time.
A. I was born in New York City in 1901. My folks came here from Rumania in 1897. And they were married in New York in the United States. My mother and father. And we lived in New York until I was 8 years, seven years old. And in 1908 we decided to migrate to Rochester.

Q. 1908.

A. Because work was hard in New York. My dad was a contractor. And, in those days, money was very scarce and he had an opportunity to come here to Rochester to do a lot of poles and buildings which he did come do. And he was very fortunate until the year of 1929. Do you want to know this?

Q. Yes.

A. In 1929 we had a crash which was... Have you read about it?

Q. Oh, yes.

A. Everything went down the drain because he had mortgages on all his property.

Q. He was an independent contractor? Yes.

A. Now let's go back to the days... I graduated the University of Buffalo in 1923. I wanted to take a pre-med course, and we ran out of finances, things were rough, so I went to Buffalo and I walked into the School of Medicine with my credentials from the University of Rochester and my high school... 

Q. This is in 1923?

A. I was an athlete in high school... that was in 1921.

Q. '21.

A. And they said, it looks like it come up with $980 or something like that and so much for books and so much for microscope and this and that and the other thing. And I went to Buffalo with $6 in my pocket. That's all I had. I was selling newspapers all my life in front of Eastman Kodak. And George Eastman
A. (Continued) was one of my customers, one of my choice customers, yea.

Q. When was that?

A. Oh, he was a big tipper. He give me every... he gave me a quarter tip. I gave him good service. And he said to me, he said in those days, he says, "Hy, if I were you, whenever you got a couple of extra dollars, buy Kodak stock." I never took his advice. I'd a been a multi-millionaire. But, thank God, we're in good shape, we're all right. And, when they told me that I needed all that money and I told 'em I didn't have it, I'd left to pay it out and go to work, they told me if you're gonna take medicine, you shouldn't plan to work, you're gonna have to devote all your time to medicine. And, we would suggest that you look for something else right now. And in the future, if you decide you want to go back to medicine, 'cause it was a beautiful medical school at that time, the University of Buffalo...

Q. It still is.

A. Yea, so I... in the same building we had the dental school, the medical school and the pharmacy school. Well, if I couldn't make it in the medical school, I couldn't make it in the dental school. So, I went to pharmacy. And I was... I graduated pharmacy with high honors and everything was fine. Was a soft course for me because everything that I took there I had taken here.

Q. Oh.

A. See, I was a high school graduate, I played basketball and baseball at East High School. Matter of fact, last year, I was just given a plaque from the High School Hall of Fame. That was in 1975. So, I decided to go to pharmacy and it was a snap, I got a job out there. I was gettin' $10 a week to mop up floors in the drug store. I wanted to get a little experience, you know, as long as I was in this medical science field that I thought I'd like to get a little... so I worked for $10 a week and finally I was spotted by somebody who thought I
A. (Continued) was a pretty good worker. He says I got a better job for you, how much you gettin' here, and I told him. He says, I'll give you, I'll double your pay. Come to work in my drug store.

Q. This was in Rochester?

A. No, Buffalo, this was all in Buffalo. I told you I went there with six dollars. And that was board, room and board in those days. And I finally went to work for this man and I did very well with him, he was very happy with me. And I graduated pharmacy and I came back to Rochester in 1923, he wanted me to stay. He was gonna make me a millionaire if I stayed with him. And I thought the best place for me would be home with my folks who were alone. So, I came back to Rochester in 192... in June of 1923. And I got a job with the Paine Drug Company, which was one of the outstanding drug stores in the City of Rochester. This store started way back in 1865 or '70. You never heard of it, have you?

Q. I don't think so.

A. Paine Drug Company of Rochester and...

Q. Yes, I have heard of it.

A. Well, this is... they're the Paine today, but they bought out and went into this other business, out of the original business. I worked for there... Mayor Baines, who was the mayor of Rochester at that time, and you've heard of Dr. Goldin, they've got a building named after him up here.

Q. Yes.

A. I worked with Ben Goldin, who was my boss. He was the big boss. He was one of the owners with the Mayor, and another man by the name of Sanford. After I was there about eight or nine months, I took over the pharmacy. I had five men workin' under me and I was only se... I was only a kid then, I hadn't got my license yet, I wasn't of age.

Q. Oh, you'd already gone through school.
A. Oh, yea. Oh, sure. So, as soon as I got my license, I ... I got my license in 1925, and when I got my license, I said, what am I working for somebody else for, giving everything I've got to them, why don't I try to go out in the field myself? So, my dad was building at that time and he built this building which we still are in, we're 51 years in the same location, the same building, next ... next to almost at the General Hospital. On Portland Avenue and Norton Street. And we also own the Monroe Surgical Company on Monroe Avenue.

Q. Yes, I know where that is.

A. Yes, my son-in-law runs that and I have a son-in-law running this other place. Is this what you want me to tell you?

Q. Oh, yes.

A. I just wanna make sure that I'm not givin' you stuff that you don't wanna hear.

Q. No, no, this is ... 

A. And we were very successful. And we did a big business and as I say, we're still there 51 years now, and I've made a lot of friends. And I originally ... let's go back now to school. Which you're interested in. I graduated No. 9 School, which was definitely, strictly 99% Jewish. And 1% German or Irish or other nationalities that lived in the area at that time. But, very few of them. Mostly Jewish. I should have brought a resume. I graduated there, the standard-bearer of the school in 1913. Now, wait a minute, let me get it right, I don't want to get you ... 1915 ... 1915. And, why I got 1913 on my brain, I don't ... something will come up with 1913. 1915 I played baseball and basketball and soccer and I went for those things. And I graduated East High School in 1919. And at that time, that was almost strictly Jewish and Italian. You very seldom saw a colored. We had a couple of colored folk, but black, we'll say call 'em black, they don't want to be called colored
A. (Continued) no more.

Q. Right.

A. 'Cause I just presented a pla. . . a plaque last week where on this plaque, whoever got it together instead of being black, in the program, Henry Mac Donald, who graduated here way back in 1905, I presented a plaque, he died, we presented a plaque to his family to go to the Clarence DeSalles High School in Geneva, and I made the presentation there. And I read the thing. . . I quick caught that colored in there and I changed it to black and then I apologized to his children for that word and I said, if you would like to give me the plaque back, I had nothing to do with it, I'll have it taken and changed, but they said, no, they let it go, it would be all right. And Henry Mac Donald played football here, baseball, basketball, all sorts. . . he was a little bit of a guy, weighed about 130 pounds in his entirety. And he did everything. He has quite a reputation here. I played with John Sullivan here, I don't know if that name is familiar to you.

Q. The name is familiar.

A. John Sullivan? Yea, I played for him, Johnny, I played for him in high school, too. But, he. . . he's. . . came to the U. of R. when I got out of school, you know. Now, Mark, would it be better if you asked me some questions so I can give you the. . . I don't know how. . . how you want me to do it, see?

Q. Sure. Yes.

A. But, if you ask me questions, then I can come back. I can give you my li. . . you don't want my life history. You want the history of Judaism, as far as I know.

Q. Yes. . .

A. This is the pertinent thing right now. I'm leading up to it as I go along. You follow me? I'd rather have you ask me questions, Mark, then I'll know
A. (Continued) what you want. I can give you almost anything. I've lived
with the Jewish community all my life. I've always been good to everybody, I've
tried to create a beautiful reputation, which I... I'm sure I have. I'm on
quite... like I say, I'm on quite a few boards. I've been... I was the only
Jewish man in Rochester who was ever chairman of the Civil Service Commission
of Monroe County. We did have a member on the Civil Service Commission, not
the County, of the City of Rochester, a man by the name of Louis Lazarus.

Q. Yes, I've heard of Mr. Lazarus.

A. You've heard that name?

Q. Yea.

A. He was the... he was on the Civil Service Commission for the City of
Rochester, which had nothing to do with the County.

Q. You were... you were...

A. I was on the County overall. The city and the county.

Q. What...

A. This is...

Q. What year was that?

A. This is the watch they gave me when I... when I resigned. I... I have
trouble with my hip, I resigned. Read it, it's got an inscription on the
back. I wear it everyday. I wear a gold one, but this one I love to wear.


A. That's when I was Chairman. I was on the Board for four years before that.
I was on it... in entirely about 8 years. Then I resigned on account of my
hip. The newspapers had a big column on it, a two-page column. They thought
at first that it was a conflict of interest that I resigned, but it wasn't, it
was... the truth was I couldn't... I didn't want to accept any money if I
couldn't perform. That's not my type of life. And the newspapers don't
A. (Continued) understand that because they will do anything to make a story. But they wrote a two-page column, two and a half-page column on it and I made 'em rescind it a couple days later or I was gonna sue the paper for $100,000. And they finally rescinded and they put this stuff on the front page and they rescinded it on the fourth page.

Q. That's always the way of it...

A. ...the article and they make a mistake.

Q. ... we regret we made a mistake...

A. ... you know, it's... that's... that's the way they operate.

Q. Yes.

A. So, number one, I was on the Draft Board for 28 years, Chairman of the Draft Board for about 10 or 12 of those years.

Q. Was that... was that like during the Korean War?

A. United States Government... during World War II, during the Korean War. I went to enlist in the service in 1941. I had the pharmacy on my hands, I had a wife with three children on my hands, and they said you... you better stay home... we'll do better with you here, we'll put you on the Draft Board. I was on the Draft Board from 1941 until 1975, four or five. I got medals for... all kinds of medals from the draft.

Q. That... that's...

A. They gave me a Congressional Medal, a gold one, I've got it... I'll show you, I brought it in. And I was on the ration, food ration and gas rationing boards, all sorts of... same time we have all these problems. I was one of the very few Jewish boys selected on that, and I was a Jewish boy that was selected on the Draft Board from a non-Jewish neighborhood. My neighbors covered the northeast side of the city, which was comprised of Italians, colored, black people, Germans, French, English, Welch, very, very sparsely Jewish. And
A. (Continued) I have one thing that I've always been proud of, as long as I wanted an education when I was a kid, any kid that was in the city that was ready for the service was either a junior or a sophomore in college stayed until he graduated. And everybody said, let's get on Hy Mandell's Draft Board, he'll exempt you, don't worry about it, and things like that. I don't care. . . I didn't care about it nationality or as long as he had clean character I was happy with it.

Q. No one. . . did anyone object to the fact that you were Jewish?
A. They can't object, I'm the Chairman, what the hell are they gonna do about it? I was the Chairman, they couldn't do anything about it. That's the way I looked at it and my board agreed with me. And my board usually went with me even on this. . . sort of wish we had you back. They're havin' problems now. Now this is members of the Civil Service Commssssion, I was on the Board.

Q. Was the Civil Service Commission. . .
A. Bi-partisan.
Q. Oh.
A. Democrats and Republicans.
Q. Do you identify with the Democrats?
A. Well, I identify. . .
Q. Or the Republicans?
A. Well, gee, they usually the majority had the chairman. You follow me?
Q. That's in Monroe County, then?
A. In Monroe County they covered. And not only the county, but everything there's over 40. . . 30 to 40,000 employees. And I used to have hearings, you know, I gave everybody's. . . like I was the judge, I gave everybody a fair shake. Everybody was honest. When they told it straight, I gave it straight, when they told it wrong, I could read 'em. They knew it. Lawyers. They'd call me
A. (Continued) on the... on the phone, you know we didn't do it the right way. Well, come back and do it the right way. I... I lived by the rules I just try to live by the rules. And I gotta tell you, I could 'a been a multi-millionaire today, Mark, but crooked. I tell you, become one. Never took a bribe, never took a... I'll never... nobody... I had... and yet to have the first guy say here's a cigar and I would accept it. I've had a lot of offers. I made a livin' the right way, made it the way I want it, and I made it the right way, and thank God for that. I've got a nice family, nine grandchildren, three beautiful daughters, and my baby is now just got a varsity letter for swimming. In Brighton High School she was a freshman, and one of the very few first freshmen to ever got a varsity letter for swimming in a freshman year at Brighton High School. You know, Brighton High School?

Q. Yes, yea, oh, yes. Do all of your children live here in Rochester?

A. All of them, thank God. But I've got a... one daughter... one granddaughter studying law in Albany. She was a... out of a class of 200 students, 60 in Albany Law School, she was accepted in 16 out of 18 colleges. And out of a class of 260 she finished number 3. They gave her a free scholarship. Nice?

Q. That's quite an honor. Yes.

A. And she was the first girl to flunk. I bet her a hundred to one she would pass, I said, how do you know you're gonna flunk? She... what did you... think you... I compared it with so many other smart boys in my class. Our answers weren't the same. I said, did you use your head, did you do it the way you thought you should do it, yea. Don't worry about it. So you owe me a dollar.

Q. So you went to Number 9 School. Did you grow up in Joseph Avenue...?

A. I grew up in that area. I grew up in... originally when we came from New York to Rochester, we lived on Joseph Avenue. And a little shack with three little rooms, part of a friend of ours, who took us in, we had no money, we
A. (Continued) had nothing. And then when my father got started, we moved to a place called Concourse Street, at that time which was all Jewish and today is all black. Concourse Street.

Q. I don't know Concourse Street...

A. And from there we moved from Concourse Street, we moved to a place called Baden Street which was near Number 9 School. Follow me?

Q. Yea, yea.

A. Now it's all black. I graduated Number 9 School. Then after I graduated Number 9 School, we moved to a place... Moriah Street which was all Jewish and then Thomas Street, Moriah Street those streets were all Jewish. We went to Jewish... a synagogues around there, my dad was president of one of the synagogues there, they called it Kippula, the Kippula Shul?

Q. Yes. Yes I have heard...

A. All right. Matter of fact, I went to Bar Mitzvah there two weeks ago and I got the honor of having the first portion of the Torah. I do very well. See, I go to temple every morning, seven days a week. Linda knows, they all know it. Temple Beth El, I've been a member there 45 years or more.

Q. Oh, both when it was on Park Avenue and then...

A. Oh, sure, originally my kids got... my got... most of 'em got married in... more of 'em got married in Park Avenue. Yea. I think... I've got children older than you, my oldest daughter's 48. I'm 74, Mark.

Q. I wouldn't... I wouldn't...

A. I've got king on my card, Mark, I only use it when I have to. I try to do it on account of the walking, you know. And Rabbi Karp married one of my daughters and Rosenberg married one of my daughters. And who else, let me see... well, we go back... I don't know... Rosenberg married the first
A. (Continued) oldest daughter then at that, I think Rosenberg married two of 'em, and then Karp.

Q. Where... when you were growing up in that... in that neighborhood...?

A. Yea.

Q. ... did you... did you use the Baden Street Settlement?

A. I used it... I used the Baden Street Settlement to go on Saturday nights we used to go dancing there.

Q. I've heard about that...?

A. Jewish community comin' together, not only that, when we moved to Moriah Street we used both Baden Street Settlement House and the Washington Community House which is on Thomas Street. Have you heard of that, that's a good one Washington Community House...

Q. No...?

A. ... All us boys grew up learn... and learned how to play basketball there.

Q. At the Washington Community House?

A. 'Cause that was a long narrow court and we knew how to pass the ball and we get out... we beat everybody. In those days, I played with the Washington Associates they called them and... and the Minutemen, I belonged to the Minutemen in those days and then played with the Paragons. These teams grew up as we went along. And, thank God, I can walk straight and hold my head high, talk to anybody. I've had a lot of night jobs with the city, now let's go back to Judaism. So, as I said, my class was graduated all Jewish boys, it was nothing but Jewish boys and girls. And I was put in the honor class of only boys. Now, did you hear the name of Albert H. Wilcox?

Q. Yes.

A. Principal at East High School?

Q. Yes.
A. His son, Charles, who's an outstanding attorney today, and I played ball on the East High School ball team. We were very close. We were very... and we had all boys in our... every class we had only boys. You follow me?

Q. Yes.

A. It was really a boys class period. Biology or botany, whatever we took, it was only boys. Latin, Latin 2, whatever it was, it was only boys, nothing else. And this was supposed to have been the honor class and we had to stick up to it or else we were in trouble. And we had for our what do you call 'em "profs" today, for our teacher, in those days everybody was a head of a department. Like Mr. Betts had him in... one Betts had in mathematics and...one Betts I had in German. Mason D. Gray, I had him in Latin, he wrote some book, textbook, Latin textbook. Betts wrote mathematics books. The other Betts wrote German books. These were all the top men. I had John Mayo, Professor Mayo who started... whose uncle used to be a Professor of History here at the U. of R.

Q. I never heard of him.

A. He owned the biology lab, he just died about a year ago, and he and I were close friends till the day he died. He watched my progress since I was a little kid growin' up in high school. And he was very fond of me and I was very fond of him and his wife, and I guess on account of me, he married the girl that he... that I introduced him to her in high school. And she was a teacher. She was my ancient history teacher in the morning. And I had him for biology. I... somehow I got 'em together. And they finally married and we've been friends, and she's still alive and we're friends up to this day. That's something, isn't it?

Q. Yes. Yes.
A. In high school again, I grew up with a lot of nice people. There are a lot of lawyers who didn't have to go to college in those days became lawyers. They worked in offices in those days for two or three years, then took an exam which anybody could pass. I've been in no republic for 51 years now so I know what kind of exams they took in those days. You know what I mean? So, if I wanted to be a lawyer in those days, I didn't have to... I'd just have to work in a law office for a couple years. As a clerk and then you take... you took the exam, bar exam which was a simple thing. There's everything, you know, in law, I don't have to open a book or anything.

Q. Yes. Basically...

A. A complete...

Q. ... that's all it is, you just look up...

A. That's exactly what... medical have to do it too if they have to go back to certain things, and today, it's going... jumping in leaps and bounds with new ideas, new medical... medicines are coming out every day in the week, you got ten, twelve new medicines. And you gotta keep up with them, the pharmacological part, you know. And you've got in this college here a doctor by of the name of... his last name, now get this, Bauschline, Professor of Pharmacognacy here.

Q. Well, I don't know any...

A. He came... He came here from Switzerland. He came past... we took him up a gefilte fish dinner, and he never got over it. I'm on the... I'm on the Board of Directors right now, Park Ridge Hospital.

Q. Oh.

A. I'm past president, I just gave up my presidency of McQuade Development Center, I was president there for fourteen years, they just gave me a plaque out there.

Q. I don't know what that is.
A. McQuade Development Center in the city called Sanyea, mentally retarded.

Q. Oh.

A. I have a granddaughter teaching at the. . . at the Forman Center, retarded children. She's only 24 now, she's graduated Kent State. And she teaches kids from 15 to 19 and they love her. They should give her a promotion, you know, when you get along, you. . . ?

Q. Mmmphhhmm.

A. So, you are now, Mark. . . I'd rather have you ask me questions 'cause I can talk here for weeks. . .

Q. All right.

A. But I have to keep jumping around, you know, as the thoughts come to my mind, see? But, if I was studying this thing, I don't. . . really don't know what you want. I thought what you might do when I left my house this morning, I said to my wife, we were just honored by being married 50 years.

Q. Oh.

A. And they gave us a beautiful party at Beth El. And the rabbis were there and they, oh, had a beautiful time. And the county manager was there and the personnel director, he used to work with me, he was there. But outside of that it was strictly Jewish. You know, we coulda had a big party with a thousand people, but it wouldn't have been kosher and that's out of our line. You know, they can't cook for that many people. We cook the. . . immediate friends and family. I. . . I had nothing to do. . . my kids did it, my three daughters. They arranged a beautiful party. So, Mark, I was going to have you ask me . . . you got. . . I. . . I give you an idea of my little background, I've been. . . I'm right now, I am on the Board of Community Savings Bank, I can talk, but that's not important. I'm on a lot of Boards, Mark, yea, I'm on a lot of Boards. And I work at it, I just don't take jobs and then don't work at it, I
A. (Continued) work at it.

Q. What specifically are the Jewish organizations...

A. I'm on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center way back. I was on the Board of the Rochester Jewish Home & Infirmary for twenty-some-odd years. I am now on the Board of Hillel School, I've been on that on and off for 20 years, they just put me back on. They're puttin' up a new building, they need my help. You've heard of Hillel School...

Q. Yes.

A. ... you've got it here in college.

Q. That's... that's the one on Pinnacle Road?

A. That's the one... no, I'm... I'm vice-president of that one, see the Pinnacle Road, that's Talmudic, Upstate Talmudic Institute.

Q. Oh.

A. But, the Hillel School, Hillel School we're renting right now from B'rith Kodesh. We pay 'em $18,000 a year rent. We had been at Beth El three years ago, we made a deal, three years in Beth El, and three years in B'rith Kodesh until we built our own building. We did own our own building on East Avenue. And against my wishes, that's when I got off the Board, when they sold it for $250,000. The money looked pretty big in their eyes, we had the most beautiful spot on... on East Avenue that we could have built on and added. Now where do you go to buy a lot? Today you buy a lot, you gotta give 'em your eye teeth.

Q. Yes. Or else you pay enough in...

A. And now the $250,000 has dwindled down to two hundred and some odd thousand.

Q. Well, why... why...

A. For use of the two buildings.
Q. Why did they decide to... to move from... 

A. Why did they decide to move from... it wasn't modern enough for one, you know, these... you get these younger boys on the board, and don't misunderstand me, I love kids coming along, I love kids who take an interest in things. I love to see 'em replace the older folks. 'Cause the older folks have done their job the best they knew how. You know, maybe it wasn't a job of perfection, but it was a job, they did it, they meant well, they came from the heart. I give hours and hours and hours and one. They needed a pavement on East Avenue, they needed a paved driveway, with that dirty marble, not mar... that dirty concrete, very re... no, dirty. And everybody walked in and got their shoes wet in the wintertime, they came out muddy. So, one day I got up before the Board, I said would you like to have this place paved? How much will it cost, I said... or I didn't ask you that question, I asked you would you like to have this paved plain? I wanna to go out and get figures on it, but I'm gonna have it paved. It cost me $2,800. I paid for it. So they gave me a plaque, a big deal, give me a plaque, Mr. Mandell paved the way. What the hell did you sell it for?

Q. It was just because the building wasn't large enough?

A. The building they claim wasn't modern. I was on the building committee when they tried to rectify this and the furnace went bad and this. But, money could clear those things up and we could have added on the back, we had a big playground back there. So they sold it to a Catholic school, which went phooey after one year. It went broke. Some lawyer was the owner and he put up the money, he owns that building and property now and he wants to build an apartment house. And came a landmark, he can't do a thing with it. I told him he ought to let us buy it back. Let's offer him $150,000 and buy it back. He won't sell it. Well, how do you know if you don't offer it? But they won't do it. They want to go out to the Jewish Community Center and add...
Interview with Hyman Mandell

A. (Continued) put an addition on there. And I'm between us here, and it goes on... not only that, it's the truth. I know that the Board of Directors at the Jewish Community Center are planning a drive for this fall, they need $2 million to pay their bills, you know that?

Q. Yes.

A. Right? And we need a million and a half dollars for, we don't need that much but we wanna go for a million and a half dollars what we need it for to building a new building from the community. And we gotta get an OK from the Jewish Federation, as you understand?

Q. Yes.

A. And now Beth El's gonna go out for a drive, they want some new money, now they're trying to do it by raising the dues. So we thought maybe we could run a drive together with the Jewish Community Center and let us build there. But now, B'rith Kodesh wants to build beside them, and they, it's the same sit... you know, so I got up at our last meeting and I said look, you can build at B'rith Kodesh, build at the Jewish Community Center, you can build anywhere you wanna build. But when you get through breakin' your neck gettin' this money, and then go money out and payin', you don't own a thing. So on the other hand, they'll give you 99 year lease, but you don't have any property. You can't show it in your... you can't show it in any of your records that you own the property. You understand that?

Q. Yes.

A. They give you 99 year lease, so what?

Q. That's true.

A. But they own the building.

Q. Right.
A. And... and you're breakin' you neck gettin' the money for 'em. You follow me, Mark?

Q. Yes. Yes, you... you think there's been a conflict between...

A. Gee, now I got my pipe back, I'm in good shape now, go ahead.

Q. ... well, community-wide educational...

A. I'm glad you said...

Q. ... educational things and...

A. See, if you ask me questions, I can give you things right away, quick, right off, I don't even have to think. Number 1, the Jewish Home & Infirn gonna have to move out of where they are. I was on that board for 20, 25 years. Matter of fact, I was on the first building committee they had. In fact, you go to Jewish Home & Infirn, I gave 'em a few thousand dollars when things were rough when they needed it. Plus, I did a lot for them. But, that... that's me. I don't want any credit, I don't need a pat on the back. I'm talkin' to you, Mark. And, you know, when you've out-lived your usefulness, you can't keep running, you can't keep doing, you can't... you know, you have to look out for yourself, too, so I, at that time, I said listen, I'd like to get off the board after they get back on again, but I got too many things to do now. Now, they're gonna move off St. Paul Street. See, you did... never heard this before.

Q. Oh, yes. Yes.

A. You've heard?

Q. Yes, yes, but I don't know exactly where they're gonna move.

A. They're gonna move within the next five or ten years, they claim within the next five, I don't think it will be within the next ten, Mark. That is my thought. They say five. Let's say five or ten, all right? They're going to buy the Jewish Community Center and they're gonna, they're gonna to acquire
A. (Continued) more land near the canal bed, did you know that, too?

Q. I had... I had heard that they were looking there.

A. Am I givin' you the information right? So, you know what I'm talkin' about?

Q. Oh, yes. Sure.

A. All right. That's number 1. Now, two, I would say that it would be a wonderful thing if they would let us build, they can own the building, who the hell cares, they can own the building, if we can use the swimming pool and the gymnasium. That's what they're afraid of, it would be a conflict of interest there. That when our kids wanna go over, you got 168 kids in school now. In Hillel. And they figure that in another year or two they'll have 250 or more. And now you're talkin' about a big school.

Q. Yes.

A. You're not talkin' about a 20 or 30 student deal.

Q. Yes.

A. All right? I was at the school when they only had 20 or 30 students. Then we went up to 70; then we went up to 80. We couldn't collect the money from the people who brought their kids to school there. We used to pitch in and get it done. You know, came out of our own pockets, then we had to go out and run drives, run a... a journal, raise money with that. My wife and I were on the journal committee for a number of years. My wife's very active in the community. Right now, she's working for Hillel School. She runs 'bingo' for them every Wednesday, 52 weeks in a year. And the only time she don't go is when... and she has trouble with her heart, and the only time she don't go is when we're away on a trip, but this is number 1 in her life. And she gave them $29,000 last year, $25,000 the year before, we can go all the way back. And this year, they expect to give them $35 or $40,000. That's to Hillel
A. (Continued) School to help to pay the teachers. They don't get enough there. ... enough to. ... from the students to take care of it. So how can you prosper, how can you even live with it? You gotta have money for another source. So we help 'em with the journal book, that brought us in about $10,000 per hundred. She gives them every. ... every month, when they need money to pay the teachers or pay. ... they call her and she authorizes a check to be written. They've got a special account, you know.

Q. Yes.

A. And that's what the "bingo" is for. Did you know it? It's for charitable purposes only. And this is for charitable purposes. And I go out and get money from people who wouldn't give it anything but to charitable purposes only they know you, they know that you're doin' it the right way.

Q. Yes sir.

A. This could be a wonderful thing. Up there, if you could get 'em all together, you follow me? And you create a beautiful center up there. All right? The only trouble is, they've gotta widen the road, Edgewood Avenue has to be widened. Too narrow, it's only. ... it's one car passes, it's only. ... gonna get hurt someday. Coming out of the. ... you go to Jewish Community Center?

Q. Yes, yes I've been there, yes.

A. Well, I'm. ... I'm in the Health Club. I go there pretty regular. And coming out of that bend, somebody's gonna get hit someday. 'Cause I see how some of these young kids drive. You're supposed to buy every kid a car today, you know.

Q. Yes, I. ...

A. They come out like. ... like dynamite, they're in a hurry to get some place, they gotta stop for a stoplight on the corner anyhow.

Q. Yes.
A. So what the hell's the difference?
Q. It's about a block to the light.
A. You. . . yes, sure, it's a block. So, they've gotta widen the road. I would. . .
   I would have them make a deal with the Town of Brighton that before they even
   go out and build there, if it was up to me, I'm talkin'. . .
Q. Yes.
A. . . . I'm talkin' ahead, . . .
Q. Yes.
A. I'd ask them, they wouldn't widen the road, if they want it tax free, so why. . .
   Brighton'll say to you, what can we get out of you? You're a tax-free
   institution. You can't even pay us to widen the road. Right or wrong, it's
   a tax-free institution.
Q. Right, yes.
A. So, this is the only thing that I object. But, it's gonna be. It's gonna
   happen, there's no reason for kiddin' ourselves.
Q. That's right. The Hillel School is going to move. . .
A. It's gonna be, it's gonna be. Definitely. I know the Board passed it at the
   Jewish Community Center. And if they haven't got enough land, the Jewish
   Community Center don't have enough land out there, they're gonna buy the land.
   They have the money. The Jewish Home & Infirmm have the money.
Q. Yes.
A. A lot of bequests are made there for money. That. . . that are laid away. . .
Q. This is to move the Jewish. . .
A. To build. Not to move, I'm not talkin' about moving, only recently. Since
   it's becoming a black-infested neighborhood now.
Q. Yes. Now I was wondering if. . . if. . . if
A. The house. . .
Q. ... you could describe the changes in Joseph Avenue from predominately Germanic Jewish.

A. All right, so you want that I can give you that, sure. I'll go back to 18... the year 19... let's say about '38, '39, '40. Then we go into after the war years, '41, '42, '43, and '44 when it started to go. And what happened was at that time, it was predominately Jewish you didn't have to work, you could walk in the streets at night, go to shul. We used to have some problems every now and then, not from blacks, but from non-Jewish. Problems, they'd come by our temple the ones, ... especially the truck drivers, our... our boys instead of bein' inside the temple used to be outside the shul, you know? Instead of bein' in the shul, they'd be outside gabbin'. And they'd block the street and they used to block the streets off so you couldn't do... come through sometimes, Hanover Street where all the temple... all the shuls were. And... and Chadam Street where the shuls were. And there were more people outside the shuls than inside the shuls. So they took time walkin' to work on Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, and they're outside gabbin', you know, they prayed when they hadda, and that was it. And the rest of the day was spent just talking or going out to watch a ball game on television or something like the World Series, you know. And then they started. We had, at that time there was about 5,000 black people in the entire Monroe County. You know how many you have today? 30,000 or more.

Q. That's...

A. All right.

Q. Six times...

A. In 1945, post-war we're talkin' about now. When they started, a lot of 'em came to Rochester, heard about Rochester bein' pretty. When Kennedy became our President, they were bringin' up the blacks from the South. Lyndon Johnson did
A. (Continued) the same thing.

Q. So it's really just been a recent...

A. Lyndon Johnson was a guy, so was Kennedy started it. John Kennedy started it. And everybody came up from Georgia. They didn't want to work. They come up, they heard Rochester was a beautiful city, first it was New York City, but New York City started cuttin' them off. Now Rochester, oh, it's a beautiful city, come up here, go to the Welfare Board, they'll take care of you right away, don't worry, this that and the other. And you'll live free, you know if you have a lot of children, they'll give you so much for each child.

Q. They'd give them more for each child.

A. Well, this is it. So, from the year '45, '46 in those years it started to spread, 5,000; 6,000; 7... and they all seemed to go look for a ghetto where they could push people out. There's an old saying, I hope you don't repeat this...

Q. Oh, you have complete control over it.

A. Oh?

Q. You have complete legal control over releasing any information.

A. A Negro said, I don't have a nigger livin' next door to me. You've heard that saying before?

Q. Yes.

A. All right. This is...this is par for the course. Oh no, I gotta tell you. For every one outstanding black man in this whole entire community, not only Joseph Avenue, now they're goin' out to Pittsford, they're goin' all over. You can't stop 'em.

Q. No.

A. Joseph Avenue is definitely all black right now.
Q. Yes, I'm amazed that that's to...
A. I used to trade on the bank... I traded with a bank on Joseph Avenue for 49 years.
Q. Is that the bank that Joseph London was the President of?
A. I still trade there. We... corner... corner of Wilkins Street... corner of Joseph Avenue and Wilkins Street. And I go there and make my deposit, they were over on Avenue D, then they moved back over here. They'll be closer to people, you know, you didn't have to come off a main highway, you know.
Q. Yes.
A. And I've been tradin'... it got so that you can't go, you... I... I mail... I still do business with the bank, but I go to banks that are out in the skirts and I... it goes to the same... goes to the main office anyhow, it doesn't make... I hate, ... and I used to have a big safety deposit box there, I just took that out and put it into the Town of Brighton, you know. And these are the things that... and this drives the people away. Any place you go... there are still a few Jewish people living in that area, presumably I'd like to mention Rabbi Henry Hyman, do you know him?
Q. No, I don't, I have not met him.
A. He still lives on Wilkins Street and every... next door to him every other house is a black, even the middle... even the rabbi for the shul on Joseph Avenue, it's called the... oh, I gotta give you the name, Agoodis something. I get it... when you need, oh I want to get together with you again.
Q. Oh, yes.
A. Now that I know what you want, I'm gonna sit down and dig into a little stuff that I have of my own that I can give you so it ought to be about... not about Hy Mandell, it's got to be about what you want.
Q. What will be?
A. You wanna know about the Jewish community, about the Jewish community, not about Hy Mandell.

Q. Well, in...

A. 'Cause I've had a... I've had a very nice life, I've had a vigorous life, a hard life, you follow me, either that or the fact that they just brought me back to go to work back on the drug and... the drug operation here. They have a Rochester Wholesale Drug House here that they're going down... it's goin' bad. They called me back to be on the Board of Directors. I showed 'em how to... oh, incidentally, right now, I'm also a member of the Small Business Administration. I've been on it since 1971, that's also a government project, you know that, right?

Q. Yes.

A. Our office is in Syracuse. I'm the past president of the New York State Pharmaceuticval Association.

Q. Very busy man.

A. I'm the past chancellor of my fraternity, an international fraternity, Om Pi Phi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. We're United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, we're all over. I've been a member of that since 19... since I went to school, 1921. And I'm past... in '52 I was chancellor. And then '52 I was president of the New York State Pharmaceutical and '53 Chairman of the Board. So I've had a pretty good long...

Q. Yes.

A. ... history... of what I had to do in my days... someday, when we get together, Mark, I'll bring you a resume, I'll bring it up to date. Update it. And if it's anything you want, anything pertinent, in it you think you want to take out, you take it out, if you don't want it, just destroy it. That's all.

Q. All right.
A. No, I'm serious, Mark.

Q. You... 

A. I'm not lookin' for a pat on the back, I don't need it. People in this town know my history. I don't have to go out and... I don't have to stand on the four corners and broadcast it. You follow me, Mark?

Q. Yes.

A. Financially, I've been very successful. I give to everything. I give to everything. I donate to the University of Rochester right along, alumni, you know, I get letters and bills. We send 'em. I'm going to join the Faculty Club, they asked me, I was there for three or four meetings for the... see I'm on the Board of the Diabetic Society, and Monroe County. Rochester... they call it the Rochester Diabetic Society. Dr. Rizzo on your staff here.

Q. Yes.

A. He's a diabetic specialist. He'll tell you, he's the president. So, and I'm running a ball... ball game right now... Do you go to the ball game anytime Mark?

Q. I... I...

A. If you like to go I got passes... I got the best seats in the house.

Q. I just don't have the time.

A. I'm on the Board of Directors here.

Q. Of the Rochester Redwings?

A. Go on, Mark. (Telephone rings, transcriber's note.)

Q. Just a second.

A. Just... just tell Linda I'm here, not to worry.

Q. Hello, uh, this is Mark. Yes, Linda, I... I'm speaking with Mr. Mandell right now. Yes. OK. All right. Bye-bye. Yes, that was Linda.

A. I had a... she wanted to make sure I got here.
Q. Is that what it was, cause . . .
A. Well, I imagine so, she told me about it last Saturday.

Q. Oh, but now you moved to Brighton from . . .
A. Oh, yea, we were moved not on account of . . . we lived on Harris Street and when we lived on Harris Street we built a house there, beautiful home. My kids left us, they got married and when I . . . when I . . . went out on their own, we financed their each one's houses so they could go in, you know, got 'em all started. And then when the house got too big for us, we decided to make a three-apartment house out of it. And we had nice tenants there, we had all Jewish tenants in there. And when the Jewish tenants saw that there was starting to get a little dark, they too . . . one tenant lived there for 18, 19 years . . .

Q. Oh, that's a . . .
A. She said, we're gonna have to move, we hate to do it to you, you've been such a wonderful landlord, this, that and the other . . . I'd like to bring you a letter that they wrote my wife. And so we decided . . . no we decided to move out before that, where I'm living now, I've been living there . . . we built that house, I've been living there for about 18 or 19 years. The one we made a three-family house of it, we moved out of there, you know, we had nice Jewish tenants there. And they lived on and we kept the place up beautiful and now we went to see . . . we had the right buy, we went to the Jewish Home to see . . . my wife's takin' care of a woman 95 years old. Her son is Gabie Paul who's the president of the New York Yankees.

Q. Oh.

A. She's 95 years old. Ever get to New York, you wanna go to Yankee ball game, you let me know, give you box seats to the Yankees, right in the Yankee place, where they have their reserve boxes. Gabie's very . . . I raised him from a
A. (Continued) kid. You know, he's President of the New York Yankee Baseball Team.

Q. And you're a... you're with the Rochester Redwings?

A. $250,000 and my wife's takin' care of his mother. She's 95 years old, she's in the Jewish Home now. Mark, so we moved to... we built a house in Brighton. I built that shopping center on Monroe Avenue, the corner of Rhinecliff Drive.

Q. Yes.

A. And in that shopping center you have right now Castro Convertible, and a new place just opened up, for the singles and couples, Greenstreets. And I got all those tenants, I've had 'em all these years and I sold 'em the place to Ernie Wouk, from the Wouk brothers. Have you heard of them?

Q. Yes.

A. Ernie called me up and said I just sold some property to HUD, if I don't unload the money, I gotta give... give them the money back. Please sell me your shopping center. I said, well you mean... you want... he said I'll give you all cash. And I had a very small mortgage on it. I built it 23, 24 years ago. I built... I built buildings. I'll tell you about another one I built.

Q. So you're also a contractor?

A. With my little head, I do a lot of things quietly. And so I gave him a price, he says we made a deal on the phone, we'll meet my son, he's an attorney, and meet him tomorrow in the Courthouse and you meet him with your lawyers, sign the papers over and that's it. So that's what we did. I made $200,000 profit there. But I had to give the government $50,000 of it. You know, it was a quick capital gain,...

Q. Yes.

A. ... you know. So, I own... I had... I owned that place and I built...
A. (Continued) I had all the property in back of it. And I sold the land by start... one house that we kept on... one piece of land that we kept. So I built the... a seven-room house, beautiful, just one-floor ranch, you know. Two-car garage, and we're livin' there, it's nice. Built it in Brighton now.

Q. About 1955 or...?

A. We moved there 20 years ago, 19 years ago to be exact. About 1956. If you want it, I got the date somewheres...

Q. No, that's, that's close enough.

A. And we've been very happy out there and as a matter of fact, I still vote from my place on Norton Street. My wife still, we have an office, you know, I have my office on Norton Street.

Q. Yes, I think I spoke to you on the phone there.

A. And I still vote from that office. And they never contested it, I was a leader of the ward, I ran the biggest ward in town at one time, voters, you know. And I was the only... in a non-Jewish neighborhood, a Jewish ward leader, you don't hear of that...

Q. Yea.

A. And, Italian boys respected me, and the Catholic people... oh, I'm an honorary member of the Holy Name Society here, church of... up there. They just celebrated the priest's 99th birthday. And in the speech that they... the Bishop had, he mentioned Hy Mandell, which was nice. Bishop Hogan, he's a friend of mine. And I'm an honorary member of the Holy Name Society out there, which is unusual, I think I'm the only... there was two of us at one time, this guy named Sol Heuman, h-e-u-m-a-n, you've heard that name?

Q. Yes, yes...

A. He was a member of another church, Holy Redeemer Church, he was goin' out with
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A. (Continued) the priest's sister. I didn't go out with the priest's sister, he don't have any. You follow me?

Q. Yes.

A. So we were the only two who were ever ok'd by the Bishop to belong to the church as honorary members. And they never had a banquet unless I came. When I came I wanted fish and that's all they ever brought was fish for me. They used to get up... get up and make priest and make him make a speech... for me... we got ham for you and chicken and fish for Hy Mandell, it's Friday night. They don't eat meat on Friday, they should only know... good, so we moved out there and we've been very happy out there and we've seen a lot of things. You know, when I came down to the drug store on Norton Street with... was a farm land out there, it was the end of the City of Rochester.

Q. Yes.

A. As a matter of fact, I had an option on the property where the General Hospital is, and I found out that they were gonna be there and it would improve my property, I gave them the option. I... I didn't make a nickel on it, just gave it like it was. And they built that big place there, it was 64 acres of land out there. It was beautiful in those days, wooded, and they could hunt out there and... and really something. It was called the Buell Estate, b-u-e-l-l estate. Buell was a gentleman, an English gentleman. And you know the yellow pants and the red pants, green pants, 50 years ago he wore 'em on a horse. He come to my... and the shopping plaza where you drive up, so you don't have to do too much carrying or walking, he was number 1. He came up to my store on a horse, I had to go out and wait on him on the sidewalk. Isn't that something?

Q. Yes, that really is.

A. I have a picture of it. And I'll show you a picture where you have a hard...
A. (Continued) hard store. . . Star Market, small store next door to us, way back. Where they were sellin' bacon for 7¢ a pound. I still got the sign from the window. Yea, I got a lot of memories.

Q. Oh, when. . . when you were growing up on. . . in that neighborhood, did you. . .

A. Go ahead. . . ask. . . better if you ask me, see?

Q. Yes. . . you. . . you had a Jewish education with the. . .

A. Jewish education?

Q. Yes.

A. I had my rabbi's name was Gedalia Cohen. Gedalia Gilbert.

Q. Yes.

A. His name was Ge. . . I'm serious, Gedalia Cohen, oh there was Rabbi Solomon was there, but Gedalia Cohen was sent to my house. But I was selling newspapers, he had. . . he had to my house at my convenience. Rabbi Solomon had a regular school, he's still the. . . the Rabbi in Temple Beth El. He and I. . . we're. . . with him every morning. We're very close.

Q. That's right. He's there every morning.

A. Every morning. He and I together, yea. He and I are very close. We've been close for 30 years or more. Close, very close. I go to his house to eat. He won't go any place. . . I. . . you know when Rockefeller was governor. . . when he was rerunning for his second term, they asked me if I wouldn't get a rabbi to give the invocation and the benediction. So, I went to Rabbi Solomon and I said, rabbi, Mr. Rockefeller, Governor Rockefeller wrote me a letter, here's the letter, wonder if I get a rabbi, I'd like to have you Rabbi Solomon do it. He says, I'll tell you, it's a wonderful honor, I'll. . . should I talk like he talks?

Q. Oh, no, no.
A. He says to me, it's a wonderful honor, he says, I'm very proud, I'm very happy, but I gotta tell you, you know why I can't go? Why? Not on account of my time, but if they see me sittin' on the platform with all the goyim, and there goyim are eatin' and I'm sittin', even if I'm not eatin' they'll accuse me of eatin'. He says, and I'll tell you, he says, that happened one time, he says, in the days of Moses. So he read the portion out of the Torah for me where Moses said I can't sit with non--... my own people 'cause I don't want them thinkin' I'm eatin' the food that I'm... I'm not permitted to eat.

Q. Yes.

A. You follow... you probably saw that somewhere along in the text, that's what he told me.

Q. No, no, no I can't recall it.

A. But this was his excuse... .

Q. Let me just stop and turn this over.

END OF TAPE I, SIDE A

Interview with Hyman J. Mandell  
July 22, 1976  
By Mark Friedrich

Interview I  
Tape I  
Side B

A. Mark, if you ask me, you can lead me on where you want it. It would be better that way. You lead me on where you want.

Q. Did your children also have a Jewish education?
A. My shi...oh, oh, at Beth El. All went to Beth El.

Q. Beth El school?

A. All of them, oh sure. They got the education. My grandchildren had Jewish educations, they all had 'em. In those days, when my kids were growin' up, they went to Hillel U. of R. for the...we had no Hillel School until later on in years when these kids grew up already, you know. But my kids, once they started in Beth El, they started there in the Kindergarten and they went through all the grades, became Bar Mitzvahed, you know what happens to kids after they're Bar Mitzvahed? They...very few of them continue unless they want to become rabbis.

Q. Yes, that's generally...

A. But they all know their stuff, they all...they can read the text, they can understand the text, all of 'em. All my grandchildren have no regrets with any of them. 'Cause they know that I'm religious and they want to follow in my footsteps. They try it the best they can, you know. I've had one misfortune. I had a daughter who married a doctor who decided to...do a little cheatin' so...she got...they got...she got rid of him. He married somebody else. After she dumped him, and she won't get married. She's raisin' four beautiful children. Her oldest daughter is now...she was just an exchange student from Syracuse University to London. She went to London Polytechnic and they paid her expenses, they gave her a check for $3,000 so she could have all expenses. And she just got back and she's teaching now at the Jewish Community Center. That's the one just came back...and she's now a senior at Syracuse, she's been on the Dean's List from the first day she went to school and she works while she's in school in the library or one of the places there where they pay so much a week for workin', you know.
Q. When you were going here to the University of Rochester, I think that they had some sort of quota on the number of Jewish students, didn't they?
A. Did they. . . the U. of R. . . . I gotta tell you, gee I hate to say it, can you shut that for a second? I never want to say it, you never when you're gonna hurt somebody else.
Q. Yes.
A. Now, today, medicine school, it's six. . . fifty to sixty per cent Jewish boys here. You know why?
Q. It's a good school, I don't know. . .
A. Not only because it's a good school, it's a good school, that's for sure. It's one of the outstanding schools. But these kids regard it. . .
Q. Yes. Yes, it's very competitive.
A. Why certainly. I'll tell you a story, but I want you to turn it off again, will you please? It figures, you got a lot of those guys, I don't have to. . .
Q. Yes, yes, yea and it's still there. Still there.
A. Oh, you'll always have 'em, you'll always have 'em, you know why? We excell.
Q. Makes people envious.
A. Wherever you. . . for every one bad boy, I'm gonna say, every one bad boy that we have, we have 500 good ones. And it's the reverse with the. . . with the blacks.
Q. Yes. Yes, it's. . . it's been said, like the 1964 riots, that there was an element of antisemitism in there, or. . . or what. . . . what. . . what do you feel?
A. They could'a. . . they could'a take me in medicine here. I was a good student, there was nothin' wrong with me. One percent. That means they'd take a guy that's got 3.9, don't know his "a's" or "b's" you know. Wasn't three point, or four point, or nothin', cause they didn't go by points. See, you need 16
A. (Continued) units, sixteen graduate points which made four, but you had to excell in everything and, you know, you work. . . I was workin' my way through school, I was selling newspapers. When I went to the college I was selling newspapers, I sold newspapers in front of Eastman Kodak on State Street.

Q. Yes, is that the George Eastman.

A. George Eastman was one of my customers, every day he came in to buy a newspaper called the Post Express. This was the liberal paper, the "intelligensia", you know. And then I became the agent for the Post Express. And I was still a kid. When I was sixteen years old, I was makin' money, but I was supportin' the whole family of children. My mother and father.

Q. Oh.

A. Things were rough.

Q. Yes, and this was during the Depression?

A. Whatever I earned I brought in. And to this day they still talk about it, my folks, my folks are gone a long time. But my sisters and brothers still talk about it and I. . . I put a brother through college.

Q. Does. . . does most of your family still live here in. . . in Rochester?

A. Yea, everybody knows the Mandell family here. We've been here so many. . . you know. . .

Q. Yes.

A. We're. . . we're. . . want me to tell you? We're a mark in town, we've been. . . . we've been honest, we've done the right things when we could, and that's it. Never said "no" to anybody. Still don't say "no" to anybody. Shut it off, please. Mark, I'd rather have you ask me questions, Mark. I've given you a little resume about our own background, and I married a beautiful girl from New York City, I got a. . . married in New York City, Mark. We've been married
A. (Continued)  50 years now, she's a devoted wife. She's a charitable woman, everybody knows her. They call ya a Ignatiusheil. You know what that is?

Q. No.

A. Woman of valor in Hebrew. Ignatiusheil. And, as I said, we... they honored us by givin' us a party and they asked my children what do you give your folks? They've got everything. Want you to donate all the money to charity, and they said will you name the chairty. Well, I started the Leukemia Foundation at Strong Memorial Hospital, Dr. Larry Young. Have you heard of Larry Young? You ask him about Hy Mandell, he'll tell you. Very good friend of mine. It's too bad we did... the kids didn't invite him to the wedding... to the... for our party, I mean. He'd a loved... he and his wife would 'a loved to come. We've watched his kids grow up. We took Larry to Groingers one year, he had the best time of his life. What do I wear? I says, you come with me, you don't have to worry about your clothes, Larry, I'll take care of ya. And he became the top man in here, blood, hematolgy. Right?

Q. Yea.

A. And he had a Jewish boy workin' under him who's now out in the middle West in one the hospitals out in the middle West, it'll come to me in a little while. Who worked for Larry in hematolgy here and he was at the Strong Memorial, head of the hematolgy department... no, at the General Hospital, top man in the hematolgy, and then from there he went out to the middle West, Chicago, I think. Head of a big hospital out there. Hell of a kid, his name'll come to me as we think, you know.

Q. Well when you were a young man, did... did you use the JY, too?

A. Who?

Q. When... you, as a young man, did you use the facilities at the JY?
A. Oh, sure, I've been a member over 60 years. I got a plaque, I... they gave me a plaque for being a member 50 years or more. I've been a member since 1917. Six years, what sixteen, 59 years. Right?

Q. Yes.

A. I played basketball there, baseball, I did everything. I... I... I never sat idle. I always found something that I could do and I make sure to do it. But, I've been there over 50 years, they give me a plaque for 50 years. And I've got a lot of plaques. My drug store... the whole walls in my office, all the walls. So, Mark, if you ask me, I'll be... I'd like... rather try to answer questions, Mark.

Q. All right. Did you...

A. Had I known what you wanted, I'd 'a laid something out, I'd 'a made a synopsis of what you wanted, and now, I'd like to come back, Mark, sometime...

Q. Oh, yes, certainly...

A. And lay out all the stuff... now I know what you want... that you want to know the history of Judaism from 1925 to 1975...

Q. Yes, or any... any...

A. I don't know what pertinent factors you want in 'em... this way, it'll give me a chance to think. I can look over a lot of my own records, the things that have happened in... in all this time, the good and the bad. And I know Judaism is gone a far ways since I was a kid here.

Q. Yes, when you came here, there were basically two Jewish communities weren't there?

A. Yes, that I'll explain to you, Mark. The common Jew and the German Jew. You heard that, too, now haven't you? The common Jew celebrated Yom Kippur a night and a day, and didn't fast... fasted from five or six o'clock, as the days went, you know, from let's say a Thursday until a Friday at seven, eight o'clock
A. (Continued) at night when you got through with... you know? They...
I had a very good friend of mine who said he was my cousin, so we'll take it
that he was my cousin, he went to B'rith Kodesh, he was one of the chief ushers
there. And at that time, we went to Beth El on the street and that's the way
it was, in those days, nobody drove up with a car.

Q. Yes.

A. But the... the other people, German, they called them the German Jews, the
intellect... these were the intellectuals, the "intelligensia" you know.
And they drove to shul and... whatever they did was their business. But
they would go... have their shul... they'd have a service on... on a
Thursday night, early, seven o'clock, last an hour, an hour and a half.
Then Saturday after... Friday afternoon they'd conclude the service at
two o'clock, they went home to eat. That was it. And that was the difference.
Sol Human belonged to it, Simon Stein belonged to it, they... all these
people who had the chips.

Q. Many of them were big clothing manufacturers.

A. Many... men with the money, yea. They came here as a group from Germany,
they were German Jews.

Q. Did... Did the communities come together or...?

A. No, they... they started to come together, I'll go back, when they...
B'rith Kodesh let the... they were very careful who went into their temple.
They had a club there called the Idlers Club in Charlotte you heard the Idlers
Club?

Q. No, I haven't... I , , ,

A. It's a... they still have it, the Idlers Club is still in Charlotte. They
had a private club that nobody could go in could join unless you were picked... you were handpicked. And they kept themselves, they were evasive, you know,
A. (Continued) from everybody else.

Q. Yes.

A. And we went to the Jewish Community Center... in those days, it was called... they made a mistake and in the newspaper they called it the YMHA, it was never called the YMHA, it was called the JYM&HA...

Q. Yes.

A. ... you follow me? Jewish Young Men's and Women's... no... JYM&WA... Jewish Young Men's and Women's Association. And I gotta tell you about that. This is important. I'm glad you brought that up. Simon Stein gave us the first $100,000, providing, and for there... that we get 300 Jewish boys... who give $333.33 to make the... to meet his $100,000, we could start the building. And I was one of them, we did. We got 300 Jewish businessmen and whoever wanted to subscribe to it, and we paid it off. They let us pay it off in two, three or four years, I forget. And those were the rough days. He come up with the money, come up with $100,000 on the line. And our money was in notes, you know, so they could use the money. And that was... that's the way we built that building on Andrews Street.

Q. Yes.

A. And they had rooms there and finally it got so it got out of hand. They never had a good man who ran the office like he should. Never had a good business secretary, outside of Herman Seragan, who's still around, he's eighty-some-odd years old, he's still around. And he's still active with the Beth Hamedresh Hachodosh shul on East Avenue. That's down near Culver Road...

Q. Yes.

A. I belong... I'm a life member in the other place where I became a member here, but I pay dues and I don't got... I don't go 'cause I go to Beth El. See, I'm in Beth El seven days a week...
Q. Yes, that's what you said.

A. Yea. So, that started the... we had a very... before that, in 1915, 16, or 17, where did I go before I went to the JYM&WA? I went to the YMCA on Thursday, they used to serve us baked beans, nothing in it, just plain baked beans and black bread. And I'll never forget the guy who ran it, his name was Guggleman, he's a nice guy. I had a newstand, that's how I got interested... and then we had a boys evening home, most of the Jewish boys belonged to the boys evening home, but non-Jewish boys could go, too. It was... it wasn't expressly, but we had a Jewish instructor and his name was Greenstone, I think, if I can remember right, it goes back so long. And we'd meet there, we'd go there every couple nights a week, they had a punching bag up there and boxing gloves and things like that. And then when I was in the same years, about 1917, 1918, I became president of the Newsboys Club, we had a... we... some innkeeper had a room over his saloon on State Street, he gave us a room as a gift, you know. We could use it. So we raised some money in those days and we had punching bags, where the boys could go days, this place is only nights. So we had boys come after school, go up there and they use the punching bags, we had a pool table donated, everything was donated. And that was called... that was called the Newsboys Headquarters on State Street. It was upstairs over a saloon.

Q. I... I... I think that when the JY was finally finished and built...

A. Well, the original building... the original building was a house, a couple of bowling alleys downstairs in the original house, the original it was a house. A gymnasium that you ran at the... Rabbi Bernstein and I used to tangle, play basketball, we used to run to the... to the heating units along the walls, the gr... the grates, you know. He used to push me, I used to push him, he always told my sister, your... your brother and I... he was pretty
A. (Continued) rough when he was a kid. Yea, he was graduated East High School 1917, see, I graduated 1919. But Phil and I were good friends all the years to this day. And Kenneth Keating, I gotta tell you another story. See if, worst these things come I can... it's not... as I think of these things they come up.

Q. That's fine.

A. So, we'll have to place 'em... (Transcriber's note: Telephone rings.)

Q. It's never been so busy. Hello. Hello.

A. Mark, before I get to Ken Keating, I wanna say one thing, I was just honored two years ago by the Saints and Sinners, which is a group of former actors and actresses and clowns. It's called the Tom Thumb Tent in Rochester.

Q. I never heard of it. You were an actor?

A. No, no, no, no. I was honored. I was the... they call it a fall guy. Every president of the United States has been a fall guy for this group. All over the... all over the United States. No they got it all over the... in New York City, in the big city, it's a big thing. Here it's a... it's a big thing, but we do one thing. Whatever money is made, we sell... we have a party, and your good friend Mr. Mandell here was honored two years ago, it was the biggest sell-out in the history. And they never had three to four hundred people at a party at $25 a copy and for me they had 1700 people at $25 a copy. They made over $10,000 and they divided it between... now listen, the Jewish Home & Infirmary, we bought them a... one of these speaking stands with the microphone built in. We gave 'em a... a thousand-dollar movie projector, sound projector. They spent over... oh, they gave 'em what you call... Will Greenberg, I used to be President of the University of Buffalo Alumni Club besides. Then I turned it over to these young squirts and it faded out, Woody was one of my secretaries. Know Woody Greenberg, have you met him?
Q. Yes.
A. He'll tell you about Hy Man. he'll tell you. He knows my story. We spent over $2,000 at the Jewish Home. I just. . . I . . . before that we gave $400 to Hillel School for a Judaica books, the Judaica Encyclopedia. So out of the money that they made, I was glad at least $2,500 went to Judaism. Do you follow me?
Q. Yes.
A. Which was ni. . . and they still do it now. Twenty-five years ago I belonged to this group, comprised of about twenty or twenty-five fellows at that time, mostly businessmen. This Tom Thumb Tent Saints and Sinners, and I'll bring you when I come again, I'll bring you a copy. . . . they asked me to go to the phone and call. . . Ken Keating and I've been friends from the first day. . . I knew him when he was in school, when he was teaching. And from the first day he got involved in politics, I became very close to him. You come to my store today, you'll see the first original picture of him in politics, to my best friend, Hy Mandell. When he went to Israel, he was sending me. . . we were corresponding. When he was the Am. . . Ambassador to Israel. When he was the Ambassador to India he was corresponding with me. Everybody in town knows that. And so they asked me to call Ken Keating, who at that time was a Congressman, if I'd ask him to be our first fall guy, he was. . . had a wonderful background, a wonderful reputation, this was not a Jewish group. Remember this.
Q. Yes.
A. So I called long distance, put a call into his office, Ken, Hy Mandell, what do you want, Hy, I said, I'm gonna ask you to do something. We want. . . you know we got the Tom Thumb Tent in Rochester, we'd like to have you our. . . to be our first fall guy. Oh, he says, that's wonderful, I. . . they have this
A. (Continued) here... the President, one of the presidents at that time was, I think, a fall guy in Washington. And some Congressmen in other places were being fall guys in different cities. They picked out outstanding people to draw the crowd, you know. So he was our first fall guy. We had something like 350, 400 people. I'm gonna bring you a circular, Hy Mandell, Co-Chairman. With a doctor, I think it was a doctor was my co-chairman for his party. Now when he came to Rochester I had some of these sheets left, I gave him one, he got such a thrill out of it. And then when he became... now when he became a Senator, I went to New York to work for him for nothing.

Q. On his campaign?

A. When he got... when he was campaigning and he got beat by Kennedy, Bob Kennedy. Now he gave me an office there and I sent letters to over 18,000 pharmacists in New York State to vote for Ken Keating because he was my friend. You follow me?

Q. Yea.

A. And that did a lot of good but he got beat 'cause there was a lot of money around, lot of Kennedy money around.

Q. Yes.

A. But he knows I worked. Do you want to know what my expenses were, what my postage was, you owe me nothing, Ken. We're friends, you owe me nothing, then, you know, he became an Ambassador right after that. Well, he went in law business for a while and then they called him up...

Q. I had forgotten about that law business.

A. So... when he was still a Senator, Ruby Goldman, do you know Rubin Goldman? Do you know that name?

Q. No.

A. He's a... one of the rich Jewish boys, I worked with him in Hillel School,
A. (Continued) he's very active in Temple Beth El, very nice family. He said, Hy, we'd like to start a Ken Keating forest in Israel. Now I gotta get the date from Ruby Goldman, so see these things. . . maybe you oughta mark some of these things on. . . give me something, Mark, give me a piece of paper. I'll mark down some of the dates which. . . which are important to this thing. Just scratch paper Mark.

Q. One of these little cards?

A. Anything, anything, just so I can write. That's very important 'cause he was. . . the benefactor for the Jewish people. You know that don't you?

Q. Yes. I mean Senator. . . Senator Keating.

A. Senator Keating. Keating. Forest. We have a forest there called Ken Keating Forest. Rubin and I went out and raised a lot of money.

Q. Here. . . here in Monroe County?

A. Here in Monroe County, yea. And then we started a forest in Israel for him. And as I said, he has always. . . it was always a fighter for the Jews. He was. . . he was our. . . he was our mo. . . idol and our model, but he was sincere, he was straight, he had something to say, that's it and no doubletalk with the guy. And I loved him. And his wife, who left him a lot of money way back was a good friend of ours. We used to go to his house. And I got a picture, remember the Speaker of the House, the guy by the name of Joe Martin?

Q. Yes.

A. You remember Joe Martin? I got a picture of Ken Keating, Joe Martin and myself together in Ken Keatings house. You know he was a brigadier general, Ken Keating, besides. I don't know if you know that.

Q. No.

A. Yea. During the war, World War II. So that's him. Now when Frank Horton took over, Frank Horton, I got him to be a fighter for our people. And Frank is very
A. (Continued) . . . I see him at least once or twice a week when he's in Rochester, he's always with me. Everybody knows that. When they want favors they . . . from the government, they come to Hy Mandell. His office is on . . . in the Federal Building and they go in his office, call me is this man OK, can we do something for him, they ask me to tell if he's OK. If I don't know the man I don't OK it. Have the man come and see me and I'll talk to him and that's how I work out with Frank Horton. I want you to know he's . . . he wants to be like Ken Keating, he says when you gonna take that picture down and put mine up there. Ken Keating, he's dead now. I says, but I love him, dead or alive, he's the guy. When you get to be like he, I'll put yours up there. But, I've got it, to my best friend, Hy Mandell. Now I want to get this . . .

Q. Have . . . have you been . . .

A. . . . the date . . . the date of the . . .

Q. . . . associated with the Republican Party?

A. I have been . . . I used to be one of the leaders of the party.

Q. I mean for quite a while.

A. Oh, sure. Has been quite a while, forty years or more. Cost me a fortune, the boys say, there's a guy who works for the party and hasn't got a nickel out of it. Outside of my civil service job, but I earned it.

Q. Yes, and that's a lot of work . . .

A. You follow me? And I give it up when I thought . . . I didn't want to take . . . they gave me five or six checks, but I said I wouldn't take, 'cause I was sick then, you know. They said, it's yours, you got sick leave, I can't do it, do anything you want with it, I can't do it. If you want Frank Horton . . .

Q. Have you been . . . have you been to Israel?

A. Twice. I almost bought an orange grove out there, but my . . . I got a cousin, a lot of family out there. I get some information for you on Frank Horton
A. (Continued) with the Jews, too. I'll get it for you. I was in Israel in 19. . . the Bar Mitzvah year, in 1961. We spent three weeks there, I had my good legs then. And went all over the State of Israel and I found cousins there I never knew I had, they found me because we're sending their stuff over right along even now. And lot of people say how come you don't give more money to this, I send the money over there, there isn't a month goes by where my wife don't write out eight or nine checks to send them over there to different cousins that need it, see? One cousin keeps writin', he works in a bank there, in the bank, they owe me, and he says the economic situation, every letter he's got, he's got the economic situation, and he spells economic so funny, you gotta laugh, with a "q".

Q. "Eq" huh?
A. No. "E-c-o-n" then winds up with "q-u-e".

Q. Right, yea.
A. So, we were there in 19. . . in 1961 and then we went there for the. . . their 21st birthday in 1969 and we spent three weeks then. We're going back again one of these days. And I can tell you a lot about Israel, I've been all through it. As a matter of fact, one of my cousins that I found, she found us at our hotel in Tel Aviv. She walked up to 60 people to find out their. . . my wife's name was Greenberg when I married her, and she is a cousin of my wife's, not to me. My cousin works in the bank there, I have a lot of cousins there, one was a surveyor originally for the State of Israel in. . . and showed the. . . when we got there they showed us the stuff, you know, they bring these things. 'Cause, you know, a lot of them are phonies, you know, I don't have to tell you.

Q. Yes.
A. You gotta, you can't help it. And she came lookin' for me, we were sittin' at a table with some people, and she said, Greenberg/Mandell, Mandell/Greenberg,
A. (Continued) Greenberg/Mandell, this old woman, with a cane, comin' up. . .
so finally came over and somebody says she's lookin' for Mandell, yea, well is
Mr. Mandell's over there, I never saw the woman in my life, neither did my
wife. Cause she. . . my wife's Rumanian, they came from Ruumnia to Israel.
But they were the family type there who came here. Now this woman was a real
estate agent, and we got talking and all of a sudden, two strange ladies came
to our hotel with a real estate man to sell me an orange grove. Now we were
all ready to buy it, I forgot how many, you know, they go by kilometers, how
many kilometers it was at that time, but it equaled to about 30 acres of land.
I should have bought the land and just speculated outside of Tel Aviv. But
I'm glad I didn't have to touch it, you know. Maybe somebody else did better
with it than I would. So I asked my cousin who had a two-cylinder Volvo in
Israel, the one who worked in the bank, I called him, I said, look, we have
a chance to buy an orange grove here and that'll make us come back to live
here. Oh, that's fine he says, spoke, you know, English and Hebrew all mixed
up, you know. That's fine, let's go and take a look at it. When we got to
that part of the. . . the city outside of Tel Aviv, forgot the name. . .
little town, he says, this place grows only little tiny oranges, you won't
have any oranges here for at least six or seven years, you gotta pay taxes on
it, gonna do this and gonna do that, so I says, well, I'm not worried about
that, well, why he says, why wait, he said, I can't he says, the government
takes it over; I didn't know that, when I heard that then we just looked the
other way, you know.

Q. Yea.

A. But I'll get you some dates on that. So we almost owned an orange grove,
you ask me about Israel, we almost owned an orange grove. And we were on the
route in '69 when they were havin' some of the problems, and we were on the
A. (Continued) we were Jerusalem. . . we were goin' south and they. . . we were stopped by Israeli soldiers, told to get off the road and take another road because they were bombing going on alongside. I think we were on the way, at that time to the top, to the mountains. You could hear the bombing. But, you know, in 1961 I had a lot of. . . I bought a lot of cigars, they told me that those people down there never had good tobacco, the Jordans, the Jordanian soldiers. And we went over there and they. . . they opened the gate for us and let us through. I passed out cigars like there was no tomorrow, you know. That's what they were lookin' for and cigarettes, you know. So we got through and they let us for a little while, the Mandelbaum gate, we went to that thing, we were all over there.

Q. I was just wondering what the hell your opinions are toward the United Nations since you've been intimately connected with Israel and the United Nations has, I think, changed their position. . . .

A. Well, you know, the way these things strike you, that's where you gotta hit 'em. And the way that, you know, . . . you know, I'm sorry about one thing this morning, if I'd a made. . . had a synopsis I'd a given you a story been all set and no pain. I got so many things that I could talk. . . . I can talk for maybe eight hours at a time.

Q. Oh, we'll certainly. . .

A. I got. . . I gotta line things up the way it should be lined up for you, 'cause you're gonna take some of this. . . some of this stuff apart. And I. . . if I. . . if you will tell me what you want to know, we'll make another date maybe in another week, I'm goin' away to Toronto next week with a Jewish group, Jewish Community Center. We're gonna go out with the senior adult, Rubin Goldman invited us to go with them. They got forty people goin' and I usually am the life of the party there. So they insisted that I come along with my wife.
A. (Continued) And we won't be back until the 29th, we're leavin' on the
25th, on Sunday, come back on the 29th, we'll be back about 4:30 and I got
a Park Ridge Hospital meeting at 5:00, they promised me I'd be back before
five, so I've already called Park Ridge and told them that I will be back a
little later because, don't worry about it, you know, we have a . . . but, go
ahead . . . you want me to get together for you Mark, make it easy for you?

Q. Well, since you have been associated with. . . well, particularly with Jewish
education here in Rochester. . .

A. Education?

Q. Yes, and just your thoughts on that.

A. I get you that from way back from the synopsis of education, you want Jewish
education?

Q. Yes.

A. I can tell you about the time Baden Street Settlement. I can tell you that
when I write this over again. I bring . . . I'll bring little notes when we
went to Baden Street Settlement for Jewish education. Did you know about that?

Q. No, I . . .

A. It was an educational place at that time that you could go there and learn.
Had rabbis coming in.

Q. Then it . . . it . . . it wasn't just for the immigrants coming. . .

A. Oh no, Baden Street Settlement, no, we never had a place for immigrants here,
but everybody who was an immigrant in those days came from the night school
to get the basic. . . the basics in English. And they'd go to night school
nights. And the school opened specifically for the immigrants if you came from
Russia, from all these foreign countries. Special which was. . . my. . . I
remember my principal, his name was Finch. He . . . 'cause I had to make a
speech when we graduated, I had to say in the graduation class of June, 1915,
A. (Continued) would like to present the school with token, you know... to the library, things like that, see. So, he was a nice guy, wrote on the high school, Charles Finch, tough as... he was tough as nails.

Q. This is at Number 9 School?
A. Number 9 School. Yea. And you want Jewish education, go ahead, what else would you like?

Q. Well, your own perceptions of... of how the Jewish community...
A. Pharmacy?
Q. Yes, pharmacy.
A. Want time to tell... by ending budgets, but not telling about the Jewish people.
Q. Yes.
A. What else? Doctors the same way. I can tell you about every doctor in town, they all know me.
Q. Sure, your experiences...
A. Especially... no, the young ones, they're gettin' acquainted now. But the... all the older ones, whenever they needed something from Hy Mandell, they got it, broke his neck to do it for them.
Q. Well and then... and then your... your own feelings in...
A. Want me to talk about the clothing department, I can tell you about that. Hickey-Freeman, I worked there during one college vacation. Hickey-Freeman, Catholic and Jewish. Bishop Hickey's brother was a president, Jacob Freeman was the secretary and treasurer. And now you know it's owned by Hodge, Hasell and Marks.
Q. Yes.
A. And I can tell you about my experience with the draft board, with the Jewish boys, I can...
Q. Oh, yes...
A. I can go...
Q. ... place...
A. ... and I'll bring you some material, too, I'll leave 'em here, you can have it, you know what I mean?
Q. All right, sir.
A. Now when you want, well look up your calendar and see how you're fixed. I'll try... I'll try and work my schedule in...
Q. I'm... I'm pretty much free just about any time...
A. When is Rabbi Karp comin' back?
Q. Well, he's not comin' back until late August...
A. Gonna be there for at least... he's teaching there now... he's teaching.
Q. He'll be at least another month.
A. You working with Rabbi Karp?
Q. Yes.
A. Under him or with him?
Q. Well...
A. What would you call it Mark? Are you a student...
Q. Under...
A. ... here Mark?
Q. Yes, yes I am.
A. Oh, you're a student?
Q. Yes, I'm in Professor...
A. Oh, you could write a thesis on this stuff here. No?
Q. Well...
A. Right?
Q. Well... yes, in...
A. Could be.
Q. Thesis could be written.
A. Could be.
Q. Oh, certainly. Very rich area.
A. What else... tell me what else you... Mark, I'll... I'll work toward what you want.
Q. All right, like the... the changes in...
A. I can tell you about the different temples, all the different shuls, you know.
Q. Yes.
A. How they were created and how they separated and how they fought and all about that stuff, 'cause I was part of these things. You want something about Frank Horton? You want more about Ken Keating?
Q. Oh, yes.
A. With the Jews? I can give you a story on that guy that books would like... they could print books on it. And if I finish my book from Mrs. Furnas, the Chancellor at University of Buffalo, you don't put it here, you gotta put it in your regular library, you've got it marked this, to be given to the University of Rochester by Mr. Mandell, they got the book number 48 or 84. And these go to every college in the country for their library, the life history of the Furnas, he's a heck of a guy. I had him here one time with the presid... with the Chairman of the Board of Eastman Kodak at a party at the University of Buffalo Alumni Party when I was the president. And they had a hell of a time. Did... at that time, the Chairman of the University of... or the Eastman Kodak was a chemistry graduate of the University of Buffalo who was in school when I was in school, became the Chairman of the Board. Something, isn't it?
Q. Yes.
A. (Continued) But the name couldn't be Mandell, it was McMasters.

Q. Yes, yes, yes I... I understand that Kodak... well... until...
A. McMasters...

Q. ... recently had, you know, really an exclusinn or...
A. Follow me?
Q. Yes.
A. I... they put a lot of kids to work for me, Jewish boys up there. I put a lot of kids to work up there, I go to the right guys. I know who to talk to, and I always used to back baseball, Jewish baseball teams up in Rochester.

Q. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.
A. They all know that about me. Mark, someday if I can carry enough stuff, I'll show you stuff that'll open your eyes up. The different programs that I got involved with. I was in every program, government-wise, number 1, government-wise...

Q. It would be essential for us...
A. ... or local. Anything they returned, they wanted to know if I wanted to be on the board. And we had a Jewish mayor, you know that, don't you?

Q. A vice-mayor, or a mayor?
A. Mayor.
Q. Mayor.
A. Sam Dicker.

Q. Oh, yes, yes, I've read in Rabbi Rosenberg's book.

A. Yea, he's a very good friend of mine. I was his campaign manager a couple times. He's an awful nice guy, but he came from the "intelligensia" the other boys, you know? He was a good guy, he... an attorney, he made a good mayor. Matter of fact, we presented... my group the Lincoln Republican League of which I was president of, we had over 1000 members, Jewish boys, all Jewish
(Continued) boys members. We presented a oil painting, it cost us $500 back fifteen years ago, that's a lot of money.

Q. Yes.

A. Mayor Dicker and they got in the City Council, presented by Hy Mandell on behalf of Lincoln Republican League of Monroe County. But they wanted me to start it again. I told 'em I don't... that's past my days, no.

Q. Do...

A. They want me to start this club again...

Q. Do most Jews belong to...

A. Jewish club...

Q. ... to the Republican Party?

A. Yea, they...

Q. ... in Monroe County?

A. When my club broke up, all the other clubs broke up, Mark. Yup. Had a nice reputation, all nice Jewish boys officers. I was president there for about eight or nine or ten years. I couldn't quit. I finally had to tell them I had to quit.

Q. Did the Jewish community used to vote as a bloc? More or less?

A. Well, they... you know, they both kinds, you know, we had a Democratic Vice-Mayor, Joe Silverstein, he's on the Board with me at the Jewish Home. He and I were very close friends, still are. Joe's gotta be 85 today. And he's still around and in the insurance business, and the Jewish boys have made their mark in this town. Jack Lazarus, who's a professed Jewish boy, from a Jewish family, but he turned Catholic. Because I raised him... know him from a kid, a little baby, and I put a lot of Jewish boys working in his office. If I call, he put 'em to work. But I did these boy... I did 'em... I did 'em all a lot of good. Financially and otherwise, believe me, Mark. I'm not braggin'
A. (Continued) Mark. This is the story of my life. I never said no to any of 'em. And if you check up on what I tell you, you'll find out what I tell you is right across the board. I can remember. . . oh, I can tell you all these years, if I say, . . . without thinking, I didn't know what you really . . . honest to God, I got your letter, Mark in my pocket. I didn't know what you actually wanted. What the hell do you want my life's history for?

Q. Well, you've had a. . .

A. You don't need that. . . . I'd rather talk about the Jewish community. . . . I'd rather talk about the Jewish community, that's more important to me, 'cause they've come a long ways from the days when I was around from the awful long ways. You've never seen. . .

Q. How. . . how would. . . . how would you describe the change in Rochester. . . . the differences like from say when you were a young man here. . .

A. The change. . . . the change had been a plus. Do you follow me?

Q. Yes.

A. Describing it, I would say that we've bettered ourselves from the time that . . . well, most of us started as kids, trying to go into business by ourselves. And trying to be independent, and trying to do the right thing for the Jewish community. The things have. . . what I say in my. . . would be in the plus column all the way. Of course, we've had some set backs from boys who try to get wealthy over night, who disgrace the Jewish boys with an overall picture. I'll name one of them, Harry Bianowich who was the fourth or fifth cousin of mine, which I never owned up to it. Like I don't even think he was a cousin. He was with that Sterling Building company, he was the Vice-President and Manager and they went down the drain and took a lot of boys with 'em, including me. And now this last thing with Lou Pozner, it breaks my heart because they should never have trusted that man with any money because he had a bad problem
A. (Continued) before. He broke... he broke a friend of mine who was a 
friend of mine and it was Noah's Ark, you ever hear of Noah's Ark? Chain of 
stores, and he and Noah's son broke the operation, why they were spending money 
like there was no tomorrow. They went through six million dollars.

Q. Sounds almost like the Penn Central... 

A. They used to walk into Lyndon B. Johnson's office like they owned it... the 
office, when they see Kennedy, hello, Jack. Let's have a drink. Or fix him 
up with women, these guys knew their way around. I could tell you stuff.

You know, I told you I worked with the Craig Colony and every year we have an 
annual meeting, Mark. And this year, I went down with... this was about 
five, six, seven years ago. They had a meeting in New York at the Park Sheraton. 
And we checked in, you know, all we do is sign vouchers when you go, your plane 
fare, you sign the voucher, you get a voucher for it, you know, for the state. 
And all your expenses in the hotel, you sign vouchers for, the annual meeting. 
And I had to gi... bring the report, you know. I went down with a fellow by 
the name of Benedict who was the president of the Rochester Psychiatric 
Hospital here, on Elmwood Avenue, you know, you got Rochester Psychiatric and 
got Monroe Development Center, they're two different groups. You follow me?

Q. Yes.

A. And ours was Craig Development Center, which at one time was Craig Colony for 
epileptics. So we, I went down as president of my school, he went down as 
president of his school. Ours was a nursing school besides at Craig. He 
went down for his group. When we got in there, I ran up... Mark Noah's 
share some... Noah's Ark story... Hy, don't pay for nothing, just charge 
it to me, I says, just a minute, let me get this straightened out. You're a 
very nice kid, you mean well, the state pays everything that I do here, they pay... 
they even pay my taxi fare, which I don't put in, if I want a kosher sandwich
A. (Continued) I... I pay for that out of my pocket, I don't get it at
the place here, you know, I wanna go for a corned beef sandwich and they
gave me a restaurant or one of those other places, I'd go. And I would take
Bob with me, you know, to pick up the tabs. So Mar. ... I said to him, you
don't have to do a thing for me, thanks very much, said I got the whole floor
up on top, with beds and come sleep free and, thanks very much and that's how
the. . . that's how the money went. Whoever came to New York, he'd invite
him up there.
Q. Ultimately. . . ultimately the. . .
A. And another man, this time I gotta tell you about when I come back is Carl
Hallerer who was also a friend of the Jewish people. He had a son playin'
basket. . . son-in-law playin' basketball with the Rochester Royals and he. . .
the doctor in town by the name of Sam Stabins, you ever hear of that name?
Q. No.
A. He was the chief of surgery at the Genesee Hospital, retired at the age of 70.
Q. Yes. Yes, I have.
A. Sam's son is ... stock. . . my stockbroker now. And Carl was a friend of
the Jewish people. Sam Stabins saved his life, and he was a. . . he could talk
to any president, democratic president of the United States, pick up the phone
and call them and talk to them, he was a friend. We had a lot of Jewish. . .
good friends. A lot of them. . . a lot of them there. . . a lot of these
people were bigots because they didn't pat everybody on the back.
Q. You mean like. . . like this gentleman. . .
A. Yea, this guy was a prince, he loved the Jews. I could walk in his office
'cause he was Chairman of the Board of Bausch and Lomb. When I'd come the
girl said, Mr. Mandell you don't have to wait, go right in. The boss is waitin'
for you. Boss was the. . . the boss, Chairman of the Board.
Q. And... but... Bausch and Lomb have they been like Kodak and not allowing Jewish people to get up into the higher...

A. No, Bausch and Lomb I would say they weren't bigoted, they hired... they're a German operation. And they hired Jewish people... lot of Jewish people still workin' there and they were working there for a long time. Lot of them been retired, but they hired you... if you had it, they hired you. Of course, sometimes, in the personnel department you had problems. This isn't the company, in the personnel. And at Kodak, you got the same thing. They had a boy by the name of Garson Meyer, you know Garson Meyer?

Q. Yes. Yes.

A. He worked... he was a chemist for Kodak for years.

Q. He was one of the most brilliant chemists.

A. There you are. You follow me? So I mean you... you all in con... it's the way you look at it. It's the way you... do you want to emphasize... I was the only one that ever had the right to go through their office building with newspapers. They wouldn't trust anybody in there, they wouldn't let nobody there in those days. And I used to dispose of 900 papers a day in there. I'd go right through the office every day, if it wasn't me, it was one of my boys, that worked for me you know. I had a few little boys helpin' me out in those days. I gave everybody a chance to make a dollar. I didn't want to keep it all myself. I still couldn't make enough money to go to college. And I put... I put... I put a guy through college, his name is Abraham Zelormek, z-e-l-o-m-e-k, he's a very good friend of Good Mazarek, you know Good Maz... have you heard of Good Mazarek? He used to be at the Claim Department of the United States Court. They were very close friends, I used to meet him in New York every now and then. And he and I had the newsstand together in front of Eastman Kodak. And I put him through four years of Warton School and
A. (Continued) Finance. I sent thim a check every week like a clock.

Today, he's one of the outstanding statisticians in the United States. Abraham Zelormek. And he... and he talks with an accent, he came from a place in Russia called Lumze... l-u-m-z-a I guess, Lumza, Lumze. And he... and then he came here, he migrated from Europe, they knew about democracy, that's all they knew about. And they... especially in New York City, where they landed in Ellis Island. When they talked... talked about being free people and democracy they figured every Democrat is a free-thinker, a free-believer and this is the company that we're gonna go with. Once they were allowed to vote, you know. You know what I'm tryin' to say, Mark?

Q. Yes.

A. Can you make... you... you can see this difference. Zelormek, he's a Democrat.

Q. Yes.

A. And that's where that... how that... my Dad in New York was a very good friend of the former governor of New York, Al Smith. When he came to this country, he lived in the same area, same neighborhood. Smith lived on Oliver Street and my... my father-in-law, may his soul rest in peace, he lived on East Broadway and the kids knew each other, met each other. My wife knew Al Smith's daughters.

Q. But, you've been associated with the Republican Party.

A. Who?

Q. You.

A. Me. But my father-in-law is a Democrat, staunch Democrat, that made no difference. He minds his bus... he lived in New York, I live up here. Up here at that time the Republican was... was the guy. My Dad was Republican up here, my Mom and Dad, my brother was very active in the Republican Party.
A. (Continued) A former Republican Chairman was a partner of mine in a liquor store that we owned. And he made so much money with me, he retired to Florida. He lives in Sun City, Florida. His name is Don Foote and he's still... writes to me... writes to me and we keep... I'm tellin' you he is a former Chairman of the Republican Party. And I gotta tell you one thing that just came to my mind, when we were talkin' about the situation we were talkin' about, the black situation. He and I went to a... a convention in Buffalo as delegates to a convention. To the New York State Convention for pickin' out a governor, you know, Rocky was running and they're gonna put him back on. So one noon instead of eatin' with the mob, he says all right let's find... non-Jewish boy... let's find a kosher restaurant where we can get a piece of corned beef. So, I says, do you wanna get a cab or do you wanna walk? I know Buffalo, do you wanna get a cab or do you wanna walk? Let's take a short walk, we've been in there... smoke places, this guy smoked cigarettes like thre was no tomorrow, you know, smoked maybe four or five packs a day. I used to ball the hell out of him, 'cause I was fond... very fond of him, he was a friend of our people, Don Foote. I put him in his business with no money, no money, just his worth.

Q. This is in... in the... in the liquor store?

A. My liquor store, yea, he had... let he and his wife run it for me. And... and his liquor store's still goin' these days up in the... in the Pittsford Plaza now, under the name of the House of Spirits.

Q. Oh, yes.

A. But I'm out of it. I sold out, I bou... I sold out to him, I didn't want it, 'cause whatever money I was makin', I was givin' it back to the government. Why did I have to have the headache for? So he bought me out and that was it. He was all right. We were friendly, very friendly. And he and I were walkin'...
A. (Continued) He says, let's take a slow walk, and we were alone, couldn't say... say what we said, anybody, . . . anybody with us. Hy, he says, look we're in this city here, this goes back to 1960 or 62, I gotta look. Hy, he says, every metropolitan city in the United States within the next 10 years... this was over 10 years ago... gonna be black. You're gonna have black mayors in every city in the United States. They've got the education. Gonna be all suburban. But, you know what's happening now? They're creeping into the suburbs. You go to Pittsford, you'll find 'em. Go to East Rochester, you'll find 'em, and the government is makin' it that way because they're building with... with HUD... Q. Yes, those low-income housing... A. Yes. They're breaking in there. So where... what's the answer to... there's no answer. They're people, they're people, but if they were only...
Q. This is testing for Mr. Mandell's interview. Today is something like August 11.
A. There are a couple other Jewish boys who don't follow Judaism, but one that follows it. You see, I've been Jewish man.
Q. Yes. Yes, and well every morning...
A. Every morning, yea.
Q. Let me just identify us on... on the tape. This is Mark...
A. You don't have it on... don't... don't put it on yet.
Q. Oh...
A. This is Mark Friedrich, it's the 12th of August. I'm speaking with Mr. Mandell for the second time. I'm just... just so I can identify the tape.
Q. Yea, August the 13th.
A. The 13th?
Q. Today's the 13th, isn't it?
A. I don't know, I thought it was the 12th.
Q. Now, in 19 hundred and... on Sunday, June the 14th 19 hundred and... let me get the right date... you got it on? Can be on now. In 1959, sometime way back in April or May of 1969 I was approached by Ruben Goldman, r-u-b-e-n, Goldman, g-o-l-d-m-a-n. Wanted to know if I'd work with him on a forest for Senator Kenneth B. Keating in the State of Israel to be known as the Kenneth, under the Kenneth B. Keating Forest in Israel. And I immediately said for Ken Keating, who was a very close friend of mine, from the days he wore... back in high school and college in Rochester, we were very close. I told you he was a school teacher, a high school teacher. And then he became an attorney. And from then on he got into politics and I got involved with him in politics. So, Ken Keating was asked, in the meantime, Mr. Goldman, who had gotten a
A. (Continued) committee together, shall I give you the names of the committee? Some things I can leave, some things I can't. Now, I take pictures out of the archives, not of my archives, the archives of Ruben Goldman who is still around and is a very close friend of mine, who is a millionaire, I hate to say it, but he is. Has a very good family, very good heritage and very good background. And we started to line up some people to work on this Kenneth B. Keating Forest in Israel.

Q. Was this in 1959. . . or. . . ?

A. It was in 19 hundred and. . . here's the date, in 1959, May. And in the interim, naturally because Ruben talked to the Jewish committee at that time, the Jewish committee who took care of all the Jewish affairs, Elmer B. Louis. . .

Q. Yes, I know Mr. Louis.

A. He says I don't think you've got a ghost of a chance, I don't think you ought to do it, and I don't think you oughta do this, you oughta do that. But in spite of all these nerts we decided to go on with the program. And in doin' that we lined up some of the most outstanding people in the City of Rochester at that time, which I am gonna leave with you. . . this is the committee we had lined up.

Q. This is. . .

A. The sponsoring group for the Kenneth B. Keating Forest in Israel. This you can have. . .

Q. Is this the. . .

A. And. . .

Q. . . . tribute dinner. . .

A. At. . . that was a dinner, and after the dinner. . . when dinner was over, we raised quite a little money, which you'll find out in a minute. He received a letter from Kenneth Keating, he writes "Dear Rubin, just a note to thank you
A. (Continued) for your many courtesies of last Sunday evening. You are certainly to be congratulated for the part which you played in makin' the tribute dinner a success. I know I shall long remember this pride I felt at being honored by my fellow townsmen, best regards, very sincerely yours, Kenneth B. Keating." That he wants back.

Q. Yes, I. . .

A. Now, this is the article that appeared in the paper . . . "Forest in Israel to honor Ken Keating" . . . now if you think you want a copy of this, you can have it, a copy of it, I want that back. And this particular is Senator Jacob J. . . . Javits who was a Senator at that time who was a colleague of Kenneth Keating consented to come up and be the guest speaker. So if you wanta copy this off the machine you can, which if anything you got two outstanding men at that time. So, that takes care of this. Whatever you want you can have.

Q. How. . . how successful was the. . . the. . .

A. We were a sellout. We were crowded, you couldn't get into the place. And what else can I say. Now here's a letter that came from . . . a telegram came. . . Abraham Granite, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the. . . the Jewish Fund. At that. . . was the Jewish Fund at that time in New York City, my best wishes, felicitations, your dinner honoring the United States Senator Kenneth B. Keating, stop. The Senator Keating Forest will link name distinguished leader with Holy Land and as a testimony of high affection is held by all members of your community. So whatever you wanta copy you can.

Q. This is from Jerusalem.

A. See I've got a. . . I can give you one of these because I've got a duplicate here. Now this was the. . . the program that night. It's. . . it's a take-off of that.

Q. Yes.
A. We had two of 'em. One with the committee's names, and a message from the
sponsors. You follow me?
Q. Yes.
A. And this was the original program which was beautiful. The address was by
the Honorable Jacob K. Javits, United States Senator from New York. Rabbi
Philip Bernstein made a presentation to Senator Keating that night. And then
Ken Keating responded. You see it, Mark?
Q. Yes.
A. Are they... are they the areas you want, you can have it, I can't give you
this. This is the only one he's got of this. Now there are some pictures
here from the State of... the day that the forest where he dug... the first
spade of dirt in his forest. Senator Keating plants the first sapling in the
JF forest bearing his name. So you see why he wants these things... he wants
to keep for posterity.
Q. Yes. Yes, certainly. Yea.
A. And there again I think you've got the list of committee members there, you'll
find the same list here, see. And there's another... oh, wait, I can get
you one of these... I have two of these. You can have one.
Q. Oh, I'll just copy...
A. Huh?
Q. Oh, I'll just copy one, they... they're too hard to get.
A. You don't need it?
Q. Oh, if... if I may just copy it on a copy machine, that'll be fine.
A. I have two... I have two of 'em, you can have one, here.
Q. All right.
A. Two of 'em here, only need one of 'em. And this is a Israeli S... Salute to
Senator... Israeli Consul General Simcha Platte and Senator Kenneth B.
A. (Continued) Keating talk during dinner in the auditorium last night at Temple Beth El.

Q. Yes.

A. I mean...this...this really hit it off. The party was on June the...on a Sunday night, June the 14th I think it...right?

Q. June the 14th...

A. It's right in...right.

Q. Temple Beth El, in the auditorium.

A. When Senator Keating became a Senator, now we needed a Congressman...he was a Congressman prior to that.

Q. He wasn't...he wasn't from this district, though?

A. Oh, sure; oh, sure; oh, sure, sure, sure. So we had a woman who was very outstanding. Her name was Jessica Weiss, and she won with no problem at all. She was a very capable Congresswoman for a number of years until she decided not to run anymore and then she died, the poor woman. She had a wonderful...very close to me, also. And then we got Frank Horton, who you've read about in the papers...

Q. Yes.

A. Which is one of the things that happened. Now this is a letter that she sent Ruben Goldman: "Dear Mr. Goldman; Thank you for your nice letter of June the 1st inviting me to attend the tribute dinner honoring Senator Keating on June the 14th. I had already returned to you the reply card which accompanied my formal invitation, but I am happy to refer my acceptance in this letter. I am apprec...I am appreciate of your thoughtfulness in askin' me to be with you on this happy occasion. And I am pleased to have an opportunity to join in this tribute to my good friend, Ken Keating. Kind personal regards. Judy...they call her Judy...Judy Weiss." See, Jessica McCullough Weiss.
Q. Yes, sir.

A. She was a Congresswoman then. Then he had many, many letters from the Jewish National Fund, had one from Jacob Javits. You wanna make a copy of that you can. These are some of the invitations that he sent out. He wouldn't give this to anybody but to me. Now, 4 in Rochester contribute $20,000 to the JNF for a forest in honor of the new Senator Ken Keating. This was in the Jewish... one of the Jewish magazines. Don't remember which one it was. And let me see. I wanna give you only the important things. Here's a letter from Javits accepting the speaking engagement that night. Came... came down on his own expenses.

Q. And... and you raised $20,000 or two...

A. We raised $20,000 inside of two months. That first month was a bad one because they were against us. They said why do that, why don't you give him a plaque of some kind. We decided on a forest. And if this boy Horton wouldn't a got involved right now, we all this other dirt they're throwing at us...

Q. Oh, that...

A. After this is threw we wanted to start a forest for him because he throw... threw Judaism all the way up to his head. I see him every Sunday in Rochester when he's in town. Calls me to be with me for an hour or two hours. And I'll tell you about him a little later. Now this was when... the... let me see. Now recognition of his hearty statesmanship and devotion to human rights that have won the admiration of the American people. For his courageous championship as a cause of Israel and Mid-East peace to which he has given of his great gifts of heart and mind, we present this citation... this citation... we present this citation, marking the planning of Kenneth B. Keating Forest in Jewish National Fund, so forever associating his name with the land of Israel on the occasion of his testimonial dinner, given in his honor on June the 14th, 1959, in Rochester, New York, the eighth day of the Hebrew month, Segev 5719.
A. (Continued) Jewish National Fund, signed by the officers. This is a copy.
Q. Yes.
A. Now this is a very important thing. 'Cause this man's really in the history of the United States. He was beat by... by Senator Kennedy, Bob Kennedy beat him.
Q. Yes.
A. But, if I tell you how he was beat, you can't believe it, I don't even think you're allowed to put it in writing because money bought that. I went to New York and worked for Senator Keating for over two weeks, my own money, my own time, my own postage. I addressed 6,900 and some odd pharmacists in New York State, I was president of the New York State Association, I was a past president there.
Q. Yes, sir.
A. And the boys and I... chairman of the board, and the boys knew Hy Mandell, if he went out for a cause, whether they were Democratic or Republican, they went along with Hy Mandell, which didn't do 'em any harm. But money over... took everything else. Kennedy bought the Presidency, the Kennedys bought the Senators job, believe me. Now let's see, what we have here, it could be important.
Q. Something up from Mr. Neisner.
A. This is from the Vice-President of Neisner Stores, that's not so important. There are a lot of other there I couldn't get my hands on. So you got one of those. You can have it, here's another one so we're all right there. And here's the boys I played baseball in high school with and also basketball. His father was the principal of my high school, father's name was Charles S. Wilcox. No his father's name was Albert H. Wilcox. And this was... boy... we... I think I told you before that I graduated with a bunch of men... we had a boys class throughout the four years in high school.
Q. Yes.

A. And this was one of the boys who became a very prominent, dignified lawyer. And we invited him and he writes back: "Dear Ruben, I am returning the tickets to Ken Keating's dinner, which you so kindly sent me. I sent in a contribution some little time ago, received card No. 262, so I am returning the one you sent me, which is 410, thank you, I am lookin' forward to the occasion. Sincerely, Charles S. Wilcox, who played ball with me on East High School. We won the championship of the County of Monroe.

Q. Oh, he was associated with Senator Keating's law firm.

A. That's right, he's still alive, he's still alive. And kicking and I think, if he had my health, he'd be pretty good. Now that takes care of this. Now here's some pictures of Ken Keating, original picture planting the saplings and there's Fred Forman who was the President of Forman Stores here at one time, who was already the ... I took a job at Craig State School when he died. I was elected to that job by the party in ... who were running the Republican politics. And I was there for 14 years, I'll show you some stuff there. So, these ... the ... he spoke. ... this is in Israel.

Q. Most of these pictures are from Israel.

A. He spoke in Israel. From left to right, Dr. S. Lowie; Mr. Fredrick B. Forman, Rochester; Dr. I. Weinstein; Dr. Ed B. Aschaia; Kenneth Keating in New York State. And this when he planted the sapling. I thought I'd bring all this stuff along with me. Is there anything in here you want? Mark, take care of it, you know?

Q. All right. ... after. ... afterward I'll go down and I'll make some copies.

A. And I'll take the rest of it back. ... put this aside. ... now that was. ... you can put the coffee on now, if you wanna. Now, let's go back to Rochester. This stuff that I spoke over in my mind that you should know. Back in 1954 ...
A. (Continued) or 5. . . through those. . . the fifties, the University of Rochester had graduated a boy by the name of Harold S. Rand, and if you look back somewheres in the annals of here you'll find Harold S. Rand was a beautiful student, he was Phi Beta Kappa here, and he went out on his own as a public information man and did a very good job. And he got entangled with me in many things, specifically a political group called the Lincoln Republican Club of Monroe County.

Q. The Lincoln Republican Club?

A. League of Monroe County. I was the first president of this league for a number of years. And he was the secretary. We had over 1200 members, paid up members, in the Lincoln Republican League of Monroe County. And the only opposition we had was a . . . an Italian group called the Columbian Republican Society, who were buckin' us for jobs. We were buckin' jobs for our Jewish boys, specifically lawyers to get judgesships, and what have you. In those days, you know, in those days, you had to buck.

Q. Yes.

A. Now we went on for about 10, 12, 15 years we did a beautiful, outstanding job. And it got so that the Republican Party needed no outside help after that at that time, they wish they had it back. They asked me if I wouldn't re-organize the group. At this stage of my life, I won't re-organize anything. And they asked me if I'd re-organize the group, a group of Jewish men who would work with them and we did a lot of wonders, but when they found out that we were winnin' anyhow, they didn't support what was goin'. . . so as soon as I gave up the job as presidency, the thing went right down the drain. While I was with it, just like everything else that I've ever started, Mark, as long as I was with it, includin' my national. . . my international fraternity. . . it
A. (Continued) dwindles away, I can a... show you letters that I didn't bring, Hy, get active again, please get back workin' where we need you very badly. They don't need me anymore, I'm over the hill. But they feel that when I get up and talk in front of a group, that I can instill some life into 'em, you know. Now, Mark, I've brought... I've brought along some material... when we went... we went to Israel in 1961, and this, on our return, the Lincoln Republican League sponsored... the Lincoln Republican League of Monroe County, I'm gonna leave it for you. And this is my wife, in '61 and this is the story of Hy Mandell and his wife. You wanna read... I'm gonna...

Q. That would be...

A. I'm gonna leave it... and they got... they even... where they got these pictures, I don't even remember. And this is when I met my wife... I don't know where they got this picture to this day, and this is my family.

Q. Oh, my goodness, that's a big family.

A. Now... now some of these names are gonna be wonderin' who they are, and I'll explain. This was Carl S. Hallerer, the Chairman of the Board of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company. He's... he left a beautiful name to the city of Rochester. He was on every presidential election campaign for the Republican Party, where he was one of the committee all the time. I went with him a couple times. This is Jack Lazarus, who's just... was the District Attorney and who lost out. When I gave up the job as president... I made him the President of the Lincoln Republican League, that's how he became the District Attorney, that's... anybody we... that I pushed got to the top. This is a young man who has a very severe heart attack, I met him in Arizona, he's livin' in Arizona now. He was co-chairman of... I knew nothing about this dinner... we were in Israel. We were there for 21 days while this was
A. (Continued) being planned. When we came back... three days before that, our kids said, you know, you got a party... we have a party... we just came back... chance to get our feet wet, you know. You gotta be here and make sure you're there, and there was Sunday at the... at the Sheraton Hotel, the Sheraton Hotel was the hotel. You see the date, don't you Mark?

Q. 1914 - 1961, yes... 

A. This is Joseph Losari who... who is still very active with me on the Park Ridge Hospital Board, on the Rochester Community Baseball Club Board, and he was also the Director of the War Memorial, which is why... I'll get back to LRL in a minute... I got him the job finally, he was the Director of the War Memorial when it was built. He was the first director they had. And they had a committee of five, six, or seven on the committee to supervise the thing under his jurisdiction. And so he became the... War Memorial director when he left Bausch and Lomb. He was one of the Bausch and Lomb public relations directors. And this was... this girl's husband, this girl was very active, she's secretary.

Q. Mrs. Sigmund... 

A. And this is her husband who also helped with the dinner, these are all... now, this... this was a former newsboy who worked on the Draft Board during the war and he also... we had a big group, the place was... you couldn't get into the place, that was the kind of a jam they had. And this was all part of... this... and that was Tom Decker, you've probably heard of him... 

Q. Yes...

A. He was one of the broadcasters on WHEC television. And now he's workin' with the Safe... National Safety Council in Chicago with Vincent Toffany, who was very close to me. I thought I'd bring this so you'd have it. I don't
A. (Continued) need this, you can have it. Now this is Clifford T. Furnas, I think I told you about him...

Q. Yes you mentioned him...

A. I'm gonna bring a book into the library... I don't know which library it goes... it goes to the main library, which one is that? Downstairs?

Q. Yes, it's downstairs.

A. After I get through reading it, this is the form that we had Rabbi Abraham... this is really a Jewish affair, but we had some outstanding people. He was a Chancellor at the University of Buffalo, he came up with tak... Senator Keating was on the committee, there's Congressman Judy Weiss, Congressman Harold Aster... Auster... (Transcriber's Note: Knock on the door.)

AK. Well, well, well...

A. Well, welcome home. Will you please autograph a book so I can buy 'em from ya? I wanna buy one of your new books.

AK. Nice to see you.

Q. I'll stay.

A. How are you?

AK. OK.

A. You look beautiful.

AK. Thank you.

A. Have you met our new rabbi yet?

AK. Oh, I know him for many, many years, yes sir.

A. Knew him before...

AK. Got a good one.

A. I've got a nice man here, that Mark is quite a boy.

AK. This I don't... this hasn't been published yet, why don't we... .

A. What did I say when I walked in, Mark? I want a book autographed.
Q. Yes.

AK. Mark, squeeze out of him a lot of information 'cause he's got it.

Q. I'm trying to.

A. Oh... why it's gonna... it's gonna take... gonna take me three more meetings.

Q. Well, that's all right, but...

A. I'm bringin' him back to the old days and to... I'm bringin' him up to the present time as far as I can go.

AK. Let me just take two minutes...

A. You can take as much time as you want...

AK. No, no, I'll just wanta...

A. I think you oughta look at this stuff someday, Rabbi.

AK. Well, why...

A. I'll call you "Dr." I'm all through callin' you Rabbi...

AK. That's all right, you can call me Abe.

A. This is Ruby Goldman's and my party for Ken Keating when we built the forest in...

AK. What will... what will happen to this stuff?

A. I gotta take it back... no I... I'm gonna keep it, I'm givin' some stuff here...

Q. ... make some copies...

AK. Excuse me, you're gonna keep it.

A. No, I gotta give it back to Ruby, I took it out of his archives.

AK. This is Ruben Goldman?

A. He and I were on the committee, yea.

AK. But...

A. You want me to leave all this here with you?
AK. I want this for our permanent. . . well the next project I want to build up
is an archives for our Rochester Jewish community.

A. Well, whenever you're ready, we can. . .

AK. It's spread all over the world. . .

A. All right. All right. I'll work on this. . .

AK. This is your Ruby. . . I remember that meeting.

A. Ruby and I were together, you know. I got all the committeemen, I've got all
the material.

AK. And we had lunch with Ken Keating in Tel Aviv last. . .

A. Oh, what a guy he was. . .

AK. Great man.

A. I loved that guy.

AK. I'll be. . . let me take just three minutes.

A. Incidentally, Dr., I'm talkin' about Harold Rand.

AK. Oh. . .

A. You remember Harold?

AK. Sure, yes, of course I. . .

A. You know, Rabbi Ka. . . Dr. Karp goes back a few days. I gotta give you. . .

Q. Yes.

A. Call him Dr., you know. He balled me out one day. Said, I'm no more rabbi,
and Mark, he'll always be my rabbi.

AK. No, no. . . I. . . because you had another rabbi, I didn't say I'm not a rabbi. . .

A. In my book, you're my rabbi. That's all I know.

AK. Let me just put these aside for a moment.

A. I just received a book from Chancellor. . .

AK. Toland?

A. Furnas's wife in Buffalo who died a short while ago, his memoirs. . . and she. . .
A. (Continued) she asked me when I got through reading it to present it to the University of Rochester library. That don't go in here, that goes downstairs if I understand, right?

AK. Yea, yea that is correct.

A. OK.

AK. I'll come back later for this.

A. Mark, do you shut that off? I mean, it's wastin' your tape. . .

Q. Oh. . .

A. I think this could add a lot to what I'm tryin' to tell you. . . and this man is Supreme Court Justice . . . one of the greatest elocutionists ever turned out in the United States.

Q. Judge Clarence Henry.

A. He died because he was a wino. I tried to straighten him out. He used to get drunk, he'd come down to my drug store and I hadda put him in my car and take him home, put him to bed. He used to come down to my car in a taxi cab, he knew I was the only one could handle him. He loved me. He made me all. . . made a mallet for me. . . a gavel for me when I became president of the Lincoln League, he made furniture for me. He did so many things for me, this guy and I loved him. And he was loved by everybody whom he came in contact with, but he was one of the most outstanding elocutionists in the United States. And he had that kind of a reputation. Am I on again?

Q. Yes.

A. All right. And this is Gordon Howe, his name was Clarence Henry, we used to call him Cass. He worked. . . he was a D.A. first and then he became a city judge, then a county judge, and a supreme court judge, and he was ready for the appellate and the all the way up, and he started dr. . . I stopped him from drinkin' and he went back on drinkin'. And how did I find he was drinkin'?
A. (Continued) My wife and I went out to dinner one time at the Maplewood Inn on East Avenue, and as we walked in with my children she said isn't that Judge Henry over there... I looked... my side glanced it... just let me get seated and I'll go back and take care of him. So I had him... they had us seated and I came out to the bar, I took a $10 dollar bill out and threw it on the bar. I called the bar... give him all the wine this guy can drink and send him home on his ear. Hy, what are you doin' here, I says I don't know, what are you doin' here? I came to eat, you came to drink. Would you like to have dinner with us, maybe you'll sober up. But he was one of the most outstanding citizens in the County of Monroe, or city... everybody knew him, he was past Grand... past Grand Master of New York State Masonic Lodge, he was the guy was outstanding. He coulda had anything he had his finger to, but these things happen. So I thought that would... this is him. And this is Gordon Howe who is our County... County Chairman, Number 1, he was the County... chief County... not the County Clerk... County Manager for a number of years. He was a Supervisor before that and a Justice of the Peace, but he finally wound up as the County Manager and the County Chairman. And then he finally retired. Now these are some of the people that will not disappear.

Q. Were... were many of these people...

A. Now here's a newspaper printed August 28, 1973, testimony, the table is turned. The tables were turned the other night on Hyman J. Mandell. Over the years, Mandell, Pharmacist, politician without portfolio, activist in Rochester, has attended more community organizations than almost anyone else, countless testimony dinners for other people. In this case, more than 450 friends went to Logan's to honor Hy. The affair... this was another party, I'm just talkin'... this... this had nothing to do with this... this is a...
Q. This wasn't what I thought. . .

A. The affair was given by the Monroe County Civil Service Commission, of which Mandell was Chairman from 1969 until his recent resignation. Fred Lapell, the dinner chairman, assisted by Bob Zweigseg says that when the affair was first planned by the four Civil Service Commissioners, Joe D. Vid, George Sharborough, Mike Cerama, Bob Mills, it was planned to have 25 or 30 people for a small dinner. Then someone said, won't... someone said that won't begin to provide for Hy to meet his friends, let's make it 200, and somebody else said, hey, if we really went at it we could get together more than 1500 people, but that was too large a project, they decided to settle for a comfortable 400 plus. They had 670 people there. County Legislator, Nick Santoro, was Master of Ceremonies, and Mandell was given a properly inscribed wristwatch... this one here... the first one he's ever received... I got so many wristwatches it would make you sick. Now, you wanna copy that, I'd like that back, that's....

Q. All right, so I'll copy it after. . .

A. Now that's... that program book is here. I brought that along somewheres. Here. Now in the... why I brought this along was this is one... is not up-to-date... all the way up-to-date, but I'll give you one that might be more up-to-date with all the groups that I belong to.

Q. So many... so many organizations here that....

A. Well, there's more... now I'm... now I'm with the Community Savings Bank, I'm on the Board of Community Savings Bank. I'm on the Board now of Park Ridge Hospital. I'm on the Board of the United... the Board of the United States Small Business Administration.

Q. Yes, I....

A. I think I told you that.

Q. Yes.
A. And I'm back on the Board of Hillel School, which I kicked myself off for a while. So, I'm gonna leave you these two here. And I left you the other one, you got the other one, you can take what ever you want out of it.

Q. Thank you...

A. Now this is the last one I received, I'll go back to these things here. And I hope I'm... I'm mixin' this all up now...

Q. Oh no, that's fine...

A. You gonna straighten this out?

Q. Yes.

A. Gonna straighten it out?

Q. Yes, yes I...

A. All right. This is the High School Hall of Fame, high school athletes hall of fame. Annual Awards Dinner Dance, Holiday Inn Downtown, Thursday, April 1st, 1976...

Q. Oh, that was just a couple months ago...

A. ... the date... here are the programs... Hyman J. Mandell, an excellent scholar and athlete, lettered in bas... baseball and basketball at East High School and the University of Buffalo, an outstanding community leader, given freely of his time as president and member of the Board of Directors of many area educational and charitable organizations. For many years Mr. Mandell has been an unselfish benefactor of hundreds of Rochester youths, helping them to meet their educational and athletic goals, a member of the Jewish Hall of Fame... that's not on... I'm member of the Jewish Hall of Fame also, takes that.

Q. Right.

A. Now let's get back to these cards. Harold Rand, right?

Q. Yes sir.

A. Now Harold Rand was a brilliant man and I was very fond of him until he got
A. (Continued) involved with some other people in my Leukemia Foundation and somehow or other things weren't kosher, they weren't the way they should have been. I shouldn't say this, but I loaned him money by... to put... make a down payment on a house, which he finally paid me back, but he did... he was in cahoots with another man by the name of Arthur Pozner, which I hope they don't put anything in about it, they... they gave me phony records... they were keepin' the books. They had two sets of records, one set I got which looked beautiful, and the other set which were true...

Q. This was...

A. We had him subpoenaed again...

Q. ... with the Leukemia Foundation...

A. On leukemia and money was missing, I couldn't blame anybody, we had a hearing on it, and I tried to protect Rand, I tried to protect Pozner, but when I finally found out the facts, I was heartsick, I couldn't believe... but it finally wound up, everything was all right, but the Leukemia Foundation still exists at this... at this school here, Strong Memorial, Dr. Larry Young was very instrumental with me in working on it. He was the hematology man at that time, he was a doctor in the Hematology Department, and he finally became the boss of the whole... the whole school there, Lawrence Young. Have you heard that name?

Q. I think so.

A. He's still over there. He's a very close friend of mine. He'll tell you I devoted a lot... here at Leukemia Foundation here at Strong Memorial, it was called the David S. Molean Foundation, Om Pi Phi Fraternity took it on, we raised a lot of money, but the money disappeared, Mark. Somehow, I wanted you to have this card, and you can take notes off of it. I'll go back to Joseph Silverstein, who was a Vice-Mayor of the City of Rochester about 20
A. (Continued) years ago. He was also a Chairman of a Draft Board, Number 74. In the old days, the first Draft Board, the number of his Draft Board is No. 549. Mine was No. 550. And then when they changed to World War II, and the changed the Draft Boards all over again, his Draft Board number was 74 and mine was number 75. I was Chairman of Draft Board 75, and he was the Chairman of Draft Board Number 74. We both... and Philip Liebschutz, who is the President of the Columbia Savings Bank, maybe Chairman of the Board now, he's an attorney... he was Chairman of Board No. 73, so we had three Jewish chairmen of Draft Boards, which was significant in the fact...

Q. Yes...

A. ... that they were active in local affairs, you know, participate. I finally got a medal from the government after 28 years of service, with the United States Government, just with the draft, selective service, the selective service.

Q. Right.

A. I told you about Carl Hallerer, Bausch and Lomb, Frank Horton, the new Congressman, and I told you some things about the Lincoln Republican League of Monroe County...

Q. Was... was the Lincoln Republican League fairly effective in...

A. One of the most effective groups ever in the history of Rochester as far as a political group is concerned. It was one of the most... we promoted more men into jobs, high jobs, Jewish men...

Q. Yes.

A. And we thought we had a help a non-Jewish man, like Ken Keating, we did, or Jessica Weiss, we did. As a matter of fact, we gave... we gave a testimonial dinner... and I'll have to find the program when I go back lookin' again, the
A. (Continued) one we had for Kenneth B. Keating, the one we had for Jessica
B. Weiss, they were both outstanding and they were pro-Jewish, both. One learned
from the other, you know the... how these things operate... 
Q. Yes.
A. They tell you these are our friends, these are people we stick with...
Q. Yes.
A. Why if there's anything you want on this card, I've made a few... jotted down
a couple notes. Now we're talkin' ab... now we're goin' back for a minute
and I'm jumpin' around a bit, Mark. I'm gonna be picked up at 12 o'clock today, 
Mark.
Q. Fine...
A. Temple Beth El, Park and... and Meigs Street, you ask me talked about that...
Q. Yes...
A. ... which Rabbi Karp knew all about. Now on Friday night, January 23, 1960,
I got a call at two o'clock... two o'clock in the morning from a Lieutenant
in the Police Department by the name of David Hork... h-o-r-k... I'm gonna
give you this, David Hork, who was on... that night on duty in the police
headquarters, but on phones... 
Q. Yes.
A. And he called Hy Mandell and his poor wife at two o'clock in the morning and
said your temple is burning down, get over there as fast as you can. So my
wife and I got partially dressed, everybody in Rochester knew Hy Mandell at
that time, I was... I was given a... they made me an honorary chief of
the Fire Department, I got an honorary chief of the Police... in the Police
Department... I'll bring the badges, when you wanna see 'em... I've got
the badges home with the commendations, you know. And I... we rushed over
and on the way over my wife and I... she was crying... we lived where we
A. (Continued)  live now, Varinna Drive. I must 'a come down Monroe Avenue with a police escort about 70 miles an hour to get to the fire on Meigs Street and Park Avenue. We finally got there... I was thinkin' of only one thing, to save the Sacred Torahs. So I ran in... they let nobody in the building, they were afraid the walls were gonna collapse, that's how bad that fire was... and how that fire... how did the fire get into a temple on a Friday night, I'll tell you what happened. They had a party there that night and evidently somebody sneaked off in a corner to smoke a cigarette or a cigar... no... we don't allow... we never allow smoking there, and evidently they must 'a thrown into a pail, what must be some papers and stuff and it smoldered slowly. By the time people got out of that place at midnight, 11:30 or 12 o'clock at night, after the party, the thing smoldered and by 2 o'clock it had a pretty good start. So I ran in and... naked and bare as I was, I put a jacket on and I threw my trousers on, a pair of slippers, and I carried out the Sacred Torah... was heavy at that time but I carried it out. And they said, bring it over to the store opposite the temple. And somebody opened it, they knocked the door, they opened the door up and they let us in... Jewish places there, it was all Jewish... Jewish neighborhood at that time right across the temple. Everybody in that area, whoever was in business at that time, were the Jewish nature, you know... 

Q. All along the Park Avenue...

A. All along that part... temple... Temple Beth El. At that time we had both temples, Temple Beth El on Meigs and Park and we had the auxiliary over on where we are now, but it was only an auxiliary. And we used both places on the holidays for services, Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur. And that was the only time we used both places, and we used the other place for a school at
A. (Continued) time. And then when we hadda leave, then we hadda use
everything where we are now. So I thought I'd give you the date... it's
very... the date is very important. Temple Beth El... Temple Beth El
was burned Friday night, January 23rd, we were called at 2 o'clock in the
morning by Lieutenant David Hork. We got there, did whatever we could and
we stayed out till 6 o'clock in the morning, till they had closed and stopped
the embers.

Q. But it... it just about burned down... I mean it was almost totally
destroyed.

A. Oh, there was nothing left, just the walls, that's all... take that, Mark...
So that's that... let me see... I talked to you about the building...
the first building which we were benefactors in, and then the second building.
And the Ken Keating Forest, we got that out of the way, the dates I gave you,
the programs you got. Now, we were such... we were so instrumental in those
days, this Lincoln Republican League... I'm goin' back to that again. That
we even had 'em elect a Jewish mayor... a Republican mayor... mayor by the
name of Sam Dicker... Samuel B. Dicker, d-i-c-k-e-r.

Q. Oh, yes, I've heard of him.

A. You remember that name?

Q. Yes, I do.

A. From where?

Q. I guess just general conversations that I've heard...

A. He was the first Jewish mayor that we've ever had... we had a vice-mayor, but
we didn't have a Jewish mayor. He was the first Jewish mayor we had and he
served wonderful. He was an outstanding gentleman until the day he died. And
before he died, I had him sit for a picture for Lincoln Republican League, my
board sat down... we said, let's present this to the City of Rochester...
A. (Continued) we're presenting an oil painting. In those days, we spent $500 for an oil painting, which was a lot of money.

Q. Yes.

A. You know? And so we presented an oil painting in his honor while he was still alive, we thought. . . you're gonna do something for the man, do it with his eyes wide open. So he sat for the portrait. . . he sat for it, and we had a man by the name of Franklin. . . I think it was George Franklin who painted. . . I can find out. . . I . . . last name was Franklin, he was a Polish boy, but he had changed his name. And he painted that picture for us and we presented it at a big session, we gave a party in the City Chambers at that time for everybody concerned. We had a regular cocktail party. . . it was the first time in history of the City of Rochester that you could have a cocktail party in the Chambers honoring our Mayor Sam Dicker. So I . . . I'll give you that. This here. . . I gave you one of these. . . you got one of these?

Q. Yes, I do.

A. Or, did I keep it?

Q. Oh, no. . .

A. No, this one here.

Q. No.

A. Take this one here. . .

Q. Do you have an extra copy?

A. I got a lot of 'em home.

Q. All right.

A. But, any. . . if you have 'em left over, you give 'em to me. Now, let's see.

Q. Yes, the ones here. . .

A. . . . you want me. . . I . . . I was president. . . I'm. . . I'm president of another club called the Stadium Club of Monroe County, here it is. But, now
A. (Continued) I'm Chairman of the Board. I was the fifth president that they had. I was the first Jewish president they ever had, and I think it's the only one they've ever had. See it down there?

Q. Yes. Yes, I do.

A. Am I ... Am I number 5 down there? One, two, three, four, five ... 

Q. Yes.

A. It's been organized 26 years. And I was the fifth president of the group and I'm now permanent Chairman of the Board, but I tell 'em to keep my name off the stationery because people come for donations and they think I'm carryin' the money.

Q. Yes, sir.

A. So ...

Q. What ... what is the purpose of this club ...

A. You want this? The Stadium Club is ... well ... or will I show ya ... I've got some information ... now, originally, it was set up to take the old-time athletes, whether they were a track man, track men, basketball players, baseball players, football players, whether they were in high school or not in high school, this one there is from high school and college athletes only. The one over there ... the one I gave you the ... the annual ... 

Q. Yes. The annual award.

A. You got that?

Q. Yes, high school athlete hall of fame ... 

A. High school and college, but I'm on the board of pickin' the celebrities or all the coaches of the colleges and high schools. This was a group to bring back the old-timers, this goes back ... when I was a kid playin' basketball for $10 or $15 dollars a game. And they dug out all the ... all the athletes at that time, they started with 25 in the group. People were interested in
A. (Continued) organizin' the Stadium Club of Monroe County, originally it was called the Rochester Stadium Club. And, when I became the president, I had it changed to the Stadium Club of Monroe County because it took in the whole County of Monroe. We had 'em come... when we had our party, we had 'em come from all over the state, people moved away, and come in to come to our parties. We have a paid-up membership right now of 650 people, paid-up. And we never have a meeting under 250 in this day and age with television. We're having a meeting the 19th of this month of August at Valle's and we expect 600 people. And we'll have 600 people. Now that's this club. They want me to ride out of the Gabe Paul, so one of my boys said, why don't you just type a letter off to Gabe... I didn't do it. This is not my handwriting. This guy tried to put my thoughts into his mind because he's gonna have... know Gabe Paul, he's the President of the New York Yankees, and said to him, Hy Mandell sent this letter down to you, you follow me?

Q. Yes, sir.

A. And I wrote another letter, and this one happens to be most of these papers... see I... I want you to take this, if you want any information from that, that's what this is. An organization of former athletes, coaches and officials, irrespective of religion, creed, color... we have blacks in it, too. Former athletes, coaches and officials meeting four times annually since 1952. So this he wanted me... so I give him those letters to take back, so you want that you can have that.

Q. OK, thank you.

A. Now, I belong to a group called the Shrine... you ever heard of Shrine, Masonic Shrine?

Q. Yes, of course.

A. Now this... this is the top group in the Shrine called the Royal Order of
A. (Continued) Justice, which Frank Horton belongs, Ken Keating belonged, and this membership group of Masons or Shriners and who are handpicked to jo. . . belong to this group. And I just happened to catch this in my mail, on August the 19th. . . which I can't make, they're having special burial service for the. . . this group. Once a year, whoever dies. . . necrology, you see it?

Q. Yes.
A. I had. . . I don't wanta incorporate with this because it has nothing to do with it. I'm just sayin' this is a group that I belong to, that's handpicked.

Q. How long have you been in the Masonic Order?
A. This. . . this has been. . . Masonic Order maybe 100 years or more. . .

Q. No. I mean you.
A. Oh, I've been in since 1932, and when I joined the Shrine. . . I've been in. . . no, I've been in the Shrine since 1932, and the Masonic Body since 1932, but I was in the original Masonic group, I just got my 50 year pin, since 1925. . .

Q. Yes, I remember you told me. . .
A. And who was my Master at that time? Joseph Silverstein. That funny?

Q. Yes.
A. We both enjoyed. . . both enjoyed the nice party there. Does the Rabbi want me to leave this?

Q. Well, I can. . . I can make copies of them right before. . .
A. If that's. . . have what he wants, when. . . when you get a chance. . .

Q. Yes, I think I should. . .
A. Now, let's get back now to something that I'm working with now.

Q. You mentioned the Sports for Israel. . .
A. I was called from New York three years ago by man by the name of Haskell Cohen, who is very active in the Sports for Israel. He said, Hy Mandell, I'd like you
A. (Continued) and Les Harrison, who is a former owner of the Rochester Royals...

Q. Yes, I...

A. ... to promote a basketball game and you figure out what... we want you to do with the funds and we're gonna bring the Israeli National Basketball Team to Rochester on a trip. So, we sold tickets for $10 a ticket and we had a beautiful crowd at the War Memorial, and I kept the expenses down to nit, nit, nit and that year we gave the State of Israel for the Maccabean Games and the Sports in Israel over $6,000 the first year. Plus, I paid for their expenses, I paid everything that they had... I paid to put 'em up in a hotel, gave all that they like... steak, so I ordered steak all the time they were here, all their food and the transportation they came on their own, you know. They came on the State of Israel visa...

Q. Yes...

A. So, their transportation was all taken care of. Our first year, we made $6,000 for 'em and we... or plus... I'm just talkin' round figures now. Plus, prior to that, prior to them coming here I ran a smoker...

Q. Smoker?

A. Stag... stag smoker...

Q. Oh, yes.

A. A stag party, men only, although women attended. It wasn't... it wasn't a dirty party, it was a stag, we figured we'd make money and the boys like to play cards.

Q. Yes.

A. So, we gave 'em from that party $1250 net profit. So that year, we gave the... for the Sports of Israel, Inc. with headquarters in New York, I'm gonna leave this, headquarters in New York for the Maccabean Games and to build up
A. (Continued) the Olympics, money for the Olympics, $7,250. . . seven thousand, plus I brought in about 10 or 12 or 15 or 20 new members at $25 dollars a copy, includin' myself. That was the first year. The second year, they said, they're coming in again, I booked the game, so we tried to cut our expenses, we couldn't. We. . . we're a lot smarter now than we were before, but now have it at the University of Rochester, that. . . the first year, we played the University of Rochester and. . . all right?

Q. All right, yes, I. . . I think I'm getting close to the end, if I may just interrupt you and. . .

END OF TAPE I, SIDE A

Interview with Hyman Mandell
August 12, 1976
By Mark Friedrich

Interview II
Tape I
Side B

Q. Now. . .

A. The first year we played the University of Rochester, Brown was the coach here. Right?

Q. Yes. He has been for. . .

A. And we beat 'em bad. And that year the colored boys didn't wanna play. And the newspapers picked it up, and I don't think we oughta put that in, 'cause there was some transition where the coloreds, the blacks and the whites, but they finally came and showed up and they played.

Q. You mean they didn't wanna play an Israeli team?

A. They had three or four basketball players that didn't want to play against the
A. (Continued) Israeli team. 'Cause somebody had put the fear of God in them, at that time I don't know why. It was in the newspapers, but we finally, they finally consented to play. And we had to work the thing ourselves, the Jewish Fund didn't help us any, I'm talkin' when I say Jewish Fund, I'm not talkin' Jewish Welfare, I'm talkin' about Elmer Louis' bunch. . .

Q. Yes.

A. They didn't give us any cooperation of any kind at all because we didn't ask them to help us, they were slighted. Why didn't... why did they go to Hy Mandell and Les Harrison, which we formulated our own committee, all... all that... their interests were in raisin' money. We were interested in promoting sports. So why did we wanna bother with them. Now the second year we went through the same thing, I think we gave 'em a little over $4,000, it wasn't as successful, but because we played St. John's College and we beat them bad.

Q. Oh, I imagine so, yea.

A. Now, we're waitin' for the third year to come along, they said, well we're not gonna bring them into you this year, but in 19... on account of the Olympics, but in 1977 we're gonna bring 'em... Israeli National Basketball Team back to the United States and we've got Rochester on our roster to play. And I've been connected with this group ever since that first basketball game. And not only that, I go back maybe about 30 years ago I was asked to be very active with the Sports of Israel and then it just dwindled out. By a man by the name of Feinbloom, and he's now the vice-president of the operation... he... with headquarters down in Florida. Now this is spreading all over the United States. They're havin' groups in every big city now in the United States. And it's very important. Now I got this letter on December the 31st, '75: Dear Hy: You'll never how grateful and appreciative we are for the
A. (Continued) sport that you are providing for our worthy cause. The youth in Israel as well as in the United States need our support now more than ever. Your involvement and that of your friends in the day-to-day operations of USTSFI not only will benefit Israel but will provide its own inner rewards. Best wishes, Nat Holman, receive membership card and pin. Which I gave you, the membership card. . . I don't need it. You want it for anything?

Q. No. It's a beautiful pin. . . it's. . . it's yours.

A. All right. I. . . I. . . I don't need it, so you can have this letter if you want that. And this is their address in New York, and you can have this program, too.

Q. The. . . the two games that you had here in Rochester were fairly successful. . . I mean. . . a lot of people came. . .

A. Everything we've done was successful. We worked on it . . . it cost. . . it cost me a lot of. . . between. . . it cost me a lot of money, I really did a job on it. Does the Rabbi want me to take that home and look it over?

Q. This pamphlet right here?

A. Yea.

Q. If you would.

AK. I'm not here, Hy, don't even talk to me.

A. Oh, I'm all right. We're doin' . . . we're doin' very well. Matter of fact, I'm almost to the end of this morning's session. I gotta come back with some more material. I don't have. . .

Q. This is another sporting activity. The. . .

A. You know, I'm on the board of Park Ridge Hospital now Rabbi, Dr. . . .

AK. Yea.

A. So, I . . . this is all. . . this is the newspaper we put out. How many games
A. (Continued) for them...

AK. ... literature. ...I just came back and I know that Rochester is 30 games ahead of the rest of...

A. When do you wanna go to a ball game? Yea, that was quick wasn't it?

AK. Yea.

A. Anytime, you know I got the seats down in the front.

AK. When the kids were here...

A. You let... you let me know when you wanna go with Debbie, it's beautiful right now. As a matter of fact, I'm promoting a game for Park Ridge Hospital on the 24th of August, they'll be a lot of doctors out there, lot of... we should have a lot of people. Did I give you one of these? The program from Senator Javitts?

Q. No, sir.

A. Mark, what do you want... what do want make copies... what copies do you want to make?

Q. Now, I think I'll...

A. I'll wait... I'll wait...

Q. ... all right if I just ran out and just copied...

A. I got time.

Q. All right, sir.

A. Do you wanna keep it?

Q. No, I'll just run upstairs...

A. Now?

Q. ... right now...

A. I'll wait...

Q. ... and copy... do you have enough time?

A. I'll look in this... sure.
AK. You gonna be there? I'll be up. ..OK, yea, bye. OK. You having troubles here with the leg?
A. Same thing. I've become... I'm becoming a limpy. And they want me to go back to the hospital and I don't think I should do it. I don't wanna go. ..I don't want to be operated on again, I don't want any more surgery.
AK. You know, a person very often is his own best doctor.
A. Right. I swim. I go to the Community Center and I swim three, four times a week, and that seems to be helping pretty good. You remember Benny Krieger?
AK. Sure.
A. He's back in the hospital again... tell me he's sick again.
AK. Oh.
A. And if you... if a person goes to see him he all... all he wants to do is talk and it's not good. (Transcriber's note: telephone rings.)
AK. Hello. Yes. Yes, Herb. Yea. Oh. Oh. Uh-huh. Mmmhm, that's all that came in. Yea, so the... the total number was 344, it was also I see about half duplicates. Yea. OK. 344, very good. The Hebrew is practically no good to this... yea. I would appreciate it if I could have a copy of the... the small... yea... with the number of that... thank you very much. Good-bye.
Q. This is when you were with the Small Business Administration?
A. Mmmhm.
Q. What exactly does the Small Business Administration do here in Rochester?
A. What do they do here? Our office is down in Syracuse and more Jewish people would be able to get some money. I think there would be more people in business, you know, the money goes to other people and... and there's no way of workin' it out, that's the way the trend is. But someday, we'll talk about that more in detail, you know?
Q. Yes, sir. Would... would you like to set up another...

A. We'll set up another date...

Q. I... I think so...

A. Let me call you tomorrow, would that be better? Let me call you and...

Q. All right... all right... if you can't get a hold of me...

A. When you goin' away?

Q. Well, I'm not going away anytime.

A. Goin' be in town?

Q. Yes.

A. You gonna be in school?

Q. Yes.

A. If I give you two, three, four days notice, that will be all right, won't it?

Q. Yes. Yes, it'll be fine.

A. Give me a chance to pick up some other material.

Q. All right, sir.

A. I can't do it in one sitting.

Q. No, no, no.

A. Or two sittings.

Q. We've already had two.

A. You know, Dr., he had me... right off the bat, and he took me...

AK. I'm not... I... I'm not here.

A. I know you're not here, but it was off the cuff originally, when I came in, right, Mark?

Q. Yes.

A. And we did a pretty fair job, two hours I guess.

Q. A good job.

A. But that was off the cuff, you know, when you get mixed up a little bit. And
A. (Continued) I hate to be mixed up.

AK. No, it's important to be mixed up.

A. Well, the right way, yea. Can I take this and look it over at home?

AK. Yea.

A. Or is it not ready for publication?

AK. No, it's ready for publication.

A. Is it?

AK. Yea, but I'll need it.

A. You'll need it? Is this... well, don't we have one over at Hillel School?

AK. I'll tell you what you ought to do... .

A. I have one at Hillel School, if you say... they have one.

AK. Give a call to the Jewish Community... to Paul Burstin... .

A. OK. Oh, Paul'll give me one if I ask... .

AK. Yea.

A. Does he have 'em over there?

AK. Yea, sure.

A. Then I better give this back, I can get it from Paul.

AK. OK.

A. And I'm... my wife works with Hillel, she... they worked yesterday and they made $800 for Hillel, she gave them $29,000 dollars last year, Rabbi. She runs a "bingo" game for them every Wednesday at the Moose Club, I arranged that deal. And last year, they gave $29,000 for studies and hope this year they give... .hope to give them $35,000 or $40,000, I hope.

AK. I remember when it was $3,000, Hy.

A. You remember those days? Yea, you were on the Board way back. But last year was the best year, $29,000. Mark, it's a pleasure... .

Q. Well, thank you very much again, and we'll... .
A. Dr. Karp, this is a wonderful boy.

AK. Oh, oh, we got a good team here.

A. I know he don't understand Yiddish or I say a hutschekel.

END OF TAPE I, SIDE B