

BLACK HISTORY SERIES - KOMOZI WOODWARD
INTERVIEW WITH HONEY WARD

KOMOZI - Where were you born?

HONEY - I was born in Key West, Florida.

KOMOZI - What year?

HONEY - 1923. October 25.

KOMOZI - How did you get to Newark?

HONEY - My family. Me, my father and brother. In 1925.

KOMOZI - Where did you go to school in Newark? How old were you when you came up here?

HONEY - About 2 years old. 1925. I wasn't old enough to go to school then. I was the last child my mother had born in Florida. My bother and sister that were younger than me were born in Newark. I was the baby when we came here from Florida.

KOMOZI - So where did you end up going to school?

HONEY - Newark schools. I graduated from Charlton School and South Side which is not Shabazz.

KOMOZI - What ward did your family move to originally.

HONEY - The old third ward then. Hillside Place, the first address we lived on in Newark on Hillside, I think it was 32 Hillside.

KOMOZI - That was a black community at the time?

HONEY - A small black community because that was the largest segment of black people in Newark at that time was in the old third ward which is now part of the Central, actually it comprised 12 districts of the old Third. The areas where you had your heaviest concentration of blacks.

KOMOZI - When you were a kid was it heavy with blacks?

HONEY - You didn't have that many blacks in Newark but in the old Third Ward that's where you had your heaviest concentration of blacks. The Third Ward then comprised of, there was no Central Ward. It was the Third Ward. I think you had about 16 wards in Newark at that time. The Third Ward which comprised 12 districts to be exact is where you had your heaviest concentration of blacks.

KOMOZI - And what was the other ethnic groups that were in the Third Ward around that time?

HONEY - Jewish people, mostly Jewish people. Slavic people but mostly Jewish people?

KOMOZI - Were they working people?

HONEY - No, the Jewish people were merchants by and large. They owned the stores, pushcarts, the little neighborhood grocery stores, the candy stores, etc. They were merchants, family run businesses.

KOMOZI - And what kind of professions were the blacks at that time?

HONEY - The majority of blacks who came to Newark were from various parts of the South - farmers and from small towns in the South. Had no particular skills so therefore most of them worked as laborers.

KOMOZI - And the factories, where there many factories in Newark at that time?

HONEY - Yeah, there were many factories in Newark at that time. Newark was a heavy industrialized city. In fact, they had the reputation or nickname, Little Chicago.

KOMOZI - Do you remember your first experience with racism?

HONEY - Of course. I remember the first experience I had that I can remember with racism, well to be exact, I would say it was the time that Newark had, when grammar schools used to have something that is missing now that we need to bring back - they used to have annual track and field day over at the old city stadium over on Roseville Avenue. And all schools used to participate in various events in track and then we had a heavy Italian segment of the city and we were over there and we always had to save some steam to run back home. That was one form of racism where kids actually had. There was another form of more blatant racism because right there in the old Third Ward you had places like Sidney's Delicatessen down on Prince Street near where Springfield Avenue is now located, but the original Sidney's was a Jewish place where black men used to go in there and they would serve a glass of beer and break the glass or it was nothing for you to walk up and down West Street where you had some Slavic people and Belmont Avenue where you had some Rooms To Let - White Only. And in the theatres which were on Springfield, you had two theatres sitting directly across, one was the Essex and the other was the Savoy. Blacks had to sit on the second floor, you couldn't sit on the first floor of the theatre.

KOMOZI - Interviewing you is important because a lot of people I have interviewed emigrated to Newark, migrated to Newark later and never saw the signs White Only.

HONEY - Well, I saw them. White Only - they had rooms to let and pressed on them white only. Now this was prevalent, not among the Jewish people but among the Slavish speaking people who were very prejudice and because this was what our ward was comprised of.

KOMOZI - Now was this in the '30s, '40s?

HONEY - This was in the '30s and '40s. The '30s more, the late '30s and etc.

KOMOZI - In the white restaurants in Newark during this time?

HONEY - Charles' restaurant wouldn't let blacks in there, down on Broad Street. Black's couldn't eat in Charles' restaurant for one. I remember that because there were blacks who had actually been thrown out of there. They wouldn't serve blacks in Charles' restaurant. That was one. There was a chain of stores prevalent in the East Coast, they wouldn't serve blacks in the one in the City of Newark.

KOMOZI - Tell me, was that legal during that period or what that just something that people did?

HONEY - Of course it was legal. You had no other redress because what could you do? Until they changed the constitution and I think Governor Grisco was the governor when they wrote a new

Jersey constitution - you got to understand that even Trenton they had segregated schools on the high school level. Now we didn't have segregated schools in Newark since I can remember but until Governor Griswold drew up the new constitution, in Trenton they had segregated schools, especially when you got to the secondary, high school level - they were segregated. Especially your capitol which you call Central Jersey. I never was in a segregated situation until I got to be a grown man because of the Jewish people who had gone up to suburbs and left and they moved into the South Ward and blacks who continued to move. But I always lived in an integrated situation because we used to live in the same house as Jewish people. Now my wife was just the opposite. She lived down neck with Italian people.

KOMOZI - So there were Italians down there at the time?

HONEY - Yeah, there were Italians down there. See that was a heavy down there - see my wife was raised up with Italian people down neck. I was raised up with Jewish people primarily. When I graduated from Charleton Street School in 1937, you find if you look in the picture you would find maybe 10 black kids in the class. When I graduated from South Side High School you look at the pictures and you would be surprised that there wasn't 200 black kids in the whole school. Because of the changing and shifting population, this is how you count for and certainly the transition actually began during World War II and a little after. More blacks came to the city, there were jobs in the defense

plants and they found housing problems where you find the Jewish people who had moved but they would rent you a house, they would sell you a house. And blacks at that time were making more money and that's when the spread of blacks into mushrooms what you would call the old Third Ward starting spreading out on the east side into what is now the Central and it mushroomed mostly into the South Ward which was Jewish dominated.

KOMOZI - Lot of blacks were buying houses over there?

HONEY - Yeah they started buying into the South Ward which is now the South Ward which was predominately Jewish and Jewish were selling them. When I came home from the army I found that blacks were living something unheard of over on the other side of Clinton Avenue. Because the black community very seldom extended pass Rose Street and not Avon Avenue even. I used to walk to school from my home in the Third Ward over the South Side High School which is not a stone throw and it made me cross Rose Street and you could see many whites but no blacks hardly. It was a Jewish neighborhood. Even the old Third was heavily Jewish.

KOMOZI - And who ran the city during that period of time?

HONEY - Well at the time I can best remember you had your in your key spots, you had your Jewish and Irish actually running the city. You either had a Jewish mayor or Irish mayor. Ellenstein

was mayor, then you had your _____ and all these other Irish. The politics was controlled by the Irish and the Jews at that time in the city of Newark.

KOMOZI - The Germans was out of it, huh?

HONEY - The Germans, when I was a small boy I can remember Hoffler, the Krugers who owned the breweries and the mansion is still there on Belmont Avenue which they are making all kind of efforts...personally I wouldn't give a cent for it, it is only a monument for discrimination because Kruger Brewery set right up there and didn't hire a black in there until after World War II.

KOMOZI - Were they surrounded by black people in that neighborhood?

HONEY - Yeah, and they didn't hire one black until after World War II.

KOMOZI - I remember they used to have the Kruger parade when I was a kid every year.

HONEY - I remember those big houses and on High Street, you see High Street which is now part of Martin Luther King Boulevard was a heavy German street. You found very few Jews on that street.

KOMOZI - So they were German mansions?

HONEY - These were German occupied. You had your heavy German people. Those houses predominately on High Street especially going over working towards the old hotel on Clinton Avenue. Those mansions were occupied by rich Germans. The Kruger mansion was, and as far as I am concerned the city been talking about saving, spending a total amount of money for historic _____ to me is just a monument to discrimination and I can remember that black better not be caught up on High Street too tough.

KOMOZI - Did you find at that time that the Germans were more discriminatory than the Jews?

HONEY - Of course, you always found that. Always Jewish people to my knowledge were more liberal in their dealings with blacks. My father had a saying whether it's true or not, he believed it and I find it somewhat true and I'm not taking up for Jewish people. My father said this: A Jew will give you a job although he don't want to pay you what you're worth but others wouldn't even hire you. And you got to understand the Italians were commons, they were in the ditch, they were ill-educated, European immigrants and they were and some Irish when I was home were in vying for blacks for the factory jobs, common labor jobs.

KOMOZI - A lot of competition...

HONEY - Yeah, for these jobs and naturally blacks were the last hired and first fired. And you find bitterness was seeping only

because of the job competition while the Jew was a merchant, predominately merchants. And father had said two things the Jewish people would do: they would live next door to you, could live in the same house with them, they do business with you and they would hire you. They would always try to give you less than you're worth but they would provide you with a job. I find that true in my dealings. I was raised among Jewish people when I was a kid. Mostly the people my school age was Jewish people. I lived in the same house with them; they lived on the first floor, we lived on the second floor.

KOMOZI - A lot different today, huh?

HONEY - Yeah, well the difference today...

KOMOZI - Do you think that that station separation leads to less understanding between the different...

HONEY - I think it leads to a better understanding. What happened was the Jews educated their children. See what happened was, I could see a picture developed. When we came home from school at night, we played in the playground. The Jewish kid went behind the counter and learned to ring the cash register. If his father had a little bakery or candy store, he worked in that business. The Jewish people sent their children on to be lawyers and doctors. They moved to...better and they were pushcarts, they were vendors, the Jewish people were merchants. They provided

their own little business, their own sausage importer and their children worked in that small business and developed a certain sense of business from early youth.

KOMOZI - Even though some of them were down low in business...

HONEY - They were down low, they ran the little candy stores, Mom & Dad grocery store, that kind of thing. Their children worked in them and therefore giving them a basic for business. And they didn't play as much as we. While my father worked in the factories or wherever he could get a job, we had no business to work in. That's very fundamental when you think about it. Early training in dealing with people and conducting a business, no matter how small. It gave you good basics for start operating and building your life on. Very key.

KOMOZI - Do you remember your first experience of race pride?

HONEY - I can remember it so vividly when Jesse Owens, Joe Louis. Joe Louis and Jesse Owens and Manly Joe Louis, cause to whip a white man at that time was something that we all got things about. We been down to see Joe Louis. I can't remember Jack Johnson, that was before my time but I can remember Joe Louis. Then Joe Louis gave all black people at that sense of pride. The champion of the world and he was a role image for blacks at that time.

KOMOZI - Were there a lot of black youth involved in boxing?

HONEY - Sure because at that time, not only blacks. There's something you've got to watch. It paints a very clear picture and its a sign that you may can use in another business but boxing, because I was a part of that.

KOMOZI - Did you get involved under the inspiration of Joe Louis?

HONEY - Probably so, probably so. And it was a way for black kids to get some recognition and a little money. Now what I'm trying to see is that...

KOMOZI - Did you box before you went into service or after?

HONEY - Before. See, blacks _____, you found fighting at that time, see people got to check the records and the records tell you a story. One time you had great Irish fighters, you know why? The Irish came over here and they were called micks and they couldn't get no jobs, they were ignorant. They usually became cops or prizefighters. That was a way out. Then the Jews, because the Jews had some good fighters. Because the Jews came here, he was castigated because of his religion and he too suffered....

KOMOZI - Were there a lot of Jewish fighters from Newark?

HONEY - Sure you had some good Jewish fighters but the blacks always were there. Even from the time of Joe Gain but the discrimination kept blacks from, although they were the best, the very same thing that hold them down today held them down then. Well the Joe Gains, the Jack Johnsons, Joe Walcotts...

KOMOZI - What were some of the black Newark fighters that were good but couldn't make it in the big league?

HONEY - Buster Harding, Al Bryant - these were before my time. Morris Parker he got there a little later but he came in Joe Louis' time. Buster Harding, Al Bryant was one, Willie Cubet was another. Jersey Joe made it later but I'm even talking before Jersey Joe. And we are talking about Ray Beatty, Pearl Beatty's uncle. And I can go back in my memory and tell you...

KOMOZI - Who are some of the boxers that inspired you in Newark - when you were coming up?

HONEY - I guess actually Joe Louis was the inspiration to me. And certainly we had our young _____ who were older than me and I always admired Morris Barber who was older me and I always admired Morris Barber who was a top notched fighter.

KOMOZI - Did he go to all the way to the...

HONEY - Well, he fought for a championship because Charlie Wright was champion.

KOMOZI - Which weight?

HONEY - 126lbs, featherweight.

KOMOZI - Was this in the '40s?

HONEY - This is in the '40s. We're talking about in the '40s.

KOMOZI - So was there a close solidarity built among these...what did you have, boxing clubs?

HONEY - Boxing clubs. We had one and New York had one; the City of Trenton where Ray Robinson. We had the biggest group which had a 105 members at one time and five state champions, I was one of them.

KOMOZI - Where were you located at that time?

HONEY - Where, in Newark...

KOMOZI - No, I mean the club...

HONEY - The third ward, over on Broome and West Kinney Street, now torn down. Was a pool there and we built a gym in the back

and in the backyard we built an outdoor arena, with a shower...we built it ourselves.

KOMOZI - Were there a lot of black sports institutions in Newark at that time?

HONEY - Well you had your oldtimers, you had baseball like the Homestead Grays and the Newark Eagles and you had Kansas City Monarchs that Sacho Paige came out. Marvin Irwin played with the Newark Eagles. Larry Doby came out of a black team. Jackie Robinson even played in the black league. The New York Black Yankees and down in Ruby Stadium which is torn down which was owned by the Newark Bears and they were changed to the _____ . My father would take us down on Sundays to see, Ray Dandridge's father, _____ they were baseball players. I remember seeing Sacho Paige playing down there on Sundays, it was all black.

KOMOZI - Were there a lot of people down there?

HONEY - Yeah, the blacks would go down there and watch black baseball because at that time baseball was jim crowed too. Blacks were allowed to play in the majors, the white majors.

KOMOZI - How did you get from sports into politics? Did Morris come later?

HONEY - Morris was in politics before me. Actually he was part of my involvement in the thing. How it happened was I was a seaman. I went to sea and after I came home from the War, I found it difficult to get a job because of the wind-down plus some personal experiences in my life where I had been arrested and went to jail. It caused me to have a stigma on me which I didn't realize as a young guy it would affect me later on in life. I found that the first vivid picture I got of that really was when I went for a job after being discharged from the army. It didn't mean nothing when you had to put your record up there. They said, hey he was locked up and you can't hold that job. I was thoroughly disgusted. Morris' father who I had known from the time when I was an amateur and I was turning pro and when I turned pro I went into New York for fight training_____

KOMOZI - Let me ask you a question, what was your fighting name?

HONEY - Always the same, Honey, that was the name I had all my life, that's the name I had since I was an infant.

KOMOZI - Did they ever call you Big Red?

HONEY - No. Just Honey. Everybody called me Honey. My teachers all from school called me Honey. They never called me, very seldom called me Julius, they called me Honey. It wasn't my fighting name, it was something I had from my infancy.

KOMOZI - Okay, about Morris...

HONEY - Morris came to Newark and he said _____. Well he had been a seaman all through the war, he was a merchant seaman all during the war. So he took me over to Brooklyn. I used my discharge, my honorable discharge and they would give you a trip card and a trip card allowed you to pay so much on your union dues...

KOMOZI - You went to the Merchant Marines?

HONEY - I went up to merchant seaman. I did that for quite a few years and got a chance to see quite a bit of the world. But the thing, how I got into politics, Morris was married and he had one son who was going to sea and it caused some differences in marriage but he also, there was no Central Ward at that time. There was the two big wards coming into one. You had the Third Ward where Charlie Matthews who had become the Third Ward Chairman, your black chairman. The third ward was 12 districts only. And Morris Parker was one of his district leaders and along with his wife, Larrie from the old eight district which was Prudential Apartments. So Morris would have a chore to do like canvassing the district and he would say I have to do my district. I would say let's go somewhere so in order to help him get finished I would say let me help you. So I would take one side of the street and he would take another. Only for the purpose of

helping him so he could go off and do what I wanted to do with him, New York or whatever.

KOMOZI - So how old were you when you first start getting involved in this?

HONEY - In politics, I had to be in my 30s. Because I was in the merchant seamen in '34.

KOMOZI - Can you tell me what was the political scene like before United Brothers?

HONEY - Well, we before the United Brothers was even heard of, we had elected Irving Turner, Irving Turner in 1954. The first black to hold elected office in Newark on the municipal level. That was a strong, a history-making struggle. On a small scale...

KOMOZI - Who did you have to struggle against?

HONEY - Turner ran against two blacks Artie Gancey and Sam Stewart along with Johnny Savada and a Polish guy named Labronski, I don't remember his first name but his last name was Labronski. And Turner was able to make a runoff and eventually go on and beat Johnny Savada in a runoff. But that was history-making and quite a struggle but you got to understand the Italians at that time were dominating and by then there was no longer the third

ward. You had a charter change in '54 that had redesigned the city, set up a new form of government.

KOMOZI - This was a new seat, right?

HONEY - A new seat, the Central Ward, there was no longer the same third ward but the old Third Ward was made part of the Central Ward which actually was where the heart, and there's a story I think you should know...

KOMOZI - This was the first Central Ward, right?

HONEY - Yeah, but there's a story that you must know that is very important to the history. After the Charter won and the wards were drawn up, there was a gerrymandering job done where the Central Ward was, the Charter guaranteed, was supposed to guarantee and design so that every ethnic could have a representation, a chance to elect some ethnic representation. But knowing the politicians and the white controlled boards and things, it was dominated the same, actually controlled. They gerrymandered the Central Ward where the Central Ward took in the bulk of the property and made sure they had twice as many white people. It extended all the way up to the Irvington line which you know. Then there was a bunch of people called left-wingers which I never called them that. But they were thinking black and white people - Larry Coggins, Lorraine Hayes, was part of that. They were branded and everything but the child of God but they were

just some intelligent black folk. They saw there were some white counterparts - Spinnati, white good friends, guy named Herb, Peter _____, they came to Charlie Matthews who had been the Third Ward leader and now who was going to try and take over chairmanship of the Central Ward. And they said, look they got you in a trap. Charlie said, oh I can win. Because he was the kind of guy, Charlie had been dealing with Jewish people and he thought they were all fair but they couldn't get no census so they went to Irving Turner who had sought elected office under the old commission form of government and never could get elected. Turner went for it. But what they did, they did file up a suit, a class action suit against the city clerk, etc....

KOMOZI - Was this in '54?

HONEY - This is '54 after they drew the line.

KOMOZI - Before he was elected?

HONEY - Yeah, before they drew the line. He knew he couldn't win under those circumstances, the way they had done. So they took them to court and they hired a man named Nelson, a white lawyer that was supposed to be a lawyer's lawyer and he was somewhat retired but he came out of retirement to fight that people. They scraped some money together, Irving Turner was the vehicle they used but the money was coming from various organizations that led unions, leftwing organizations. Well they won the case and they

had to redesign the wards and that's why Turner ran under the slogan always, The Man that Made It Possible. He was at the forefront that took the city to court and made them realign the wards, that gave a black a chance to get elected. So that's why he used the slogan all the time, The Man That Made It Possible because he was in the helm to file suit against the city.

KOMOZI - Was that your first big campaign.

HONEY - Yeah, that was my first because I was affiliated with Charlie Matthews by then because of the thing with Larry so I could see and I tried to get Charlie to see that this ain't going to work but Charlie. But then they had another thing that you ought to know about. Blacks got together for the purpose of screening the candidates.

KOMOZI - Back in '54?

HONEY. Yes sir. The name of it was VIC - Voters Independent Council...

KOMOZI - So even before there was a United Brothers....

HONEY - Oh, a long time before that. They used to meet right here on Court Street, you know where the church is, on the same side but on opposite corner you see a pole by there, there's a house still there called the Luminar House, a bunch of black

professors that had this house, old house, they had a bar but more like private but they called it the Luminar House. They were holding meetings there but they were, Lancey was on it...

KOMOZI - But how big were these meetings?

HONEY - They were inclusive the neighborhoods getting together. Blacks were together, don't let nobody fool you. It was well attended. You had your candidates, the blacks were being screened. There was Roger Lancey, a lawyer who had also ran several times for a commission spot that was vacant. You had Sam Stewart, a probation officer and Irving Turner. Turner was more like a street guy. Turner was educated but he Sam Stewart was a college grad, Lancey was a lawyer of course. Turner was in real estate, a real estate broker and former newspaper editor. And Turner was getting the ground swell of people. I told Charlie we got to go and fight for Turner. Charlie was vacillating, dilly-dallying because he a little picky, seeing that he had missed the boat because they came to him first and said Charlie, you get in on this case but he didn't feel that it was not going to change, they ain't going mean nothing. But I went in there and represented the Charlie Matthews Association and I was for Turner. I met Clarence Coggins, I met Bill Crawford for the first time. I met Whitey Goodfren and I had never worked with them before but I had met them in the Paul Robeson rally, when Robeson was fighting for the _____; there is so much I could tell you there

about struggle you should know when they don't but it in there because....

KOMOZI - You know what maybe I should do, have 2 or 3 interviews because I want to get that background.

HONEY - Yeah, so then this thing, you find it was quite well attended. There was a cross section of blacks there, only blacks were participating. We were about to elect a black candidate, knowing that if all these guys ran they would destroy each other.

KOMOZI - Before they went in then they pledge that only one would come out and they would abide by the vote?

HONEY - Yes they did. That was one of the stipulations of the candidates that was screened by the VIC - Voters Independent Council. So what it was, when they were making Turner, I never really talked to Turner and when he got in the finals they were allowed to appear and give their credentials and whatever they had to say as to why they should be chosen. Lancey came up who was a very good friend of my family, a good man. I found he was was one of the best guys you ever wanted to meet. He was a down-to-earth black guy. Sam Stewart was a probation officer, I didn't know him that well. But while they went up, Lancey - I remember his speech very well. He gave his credentials and his qualifications. Turner, I remember who sat with Turner, it wasn't me, it was Lorraine Hayes told Turner you tell them,

they're up there talking about _____ - you tell them to vote for you. They were saying I don't want you to elect me because I'm black but qualified. Lorraine told Turner you go up there and tell them I want you to elect me because I'm black and when Turner came up there with that thing, that house went up! He had it. Turner said I want you to vote for me because I am black.

KOMOZI - He was a pretty good speaker wasn't he?

HONEY - Turner was a dynamic speaker and street fast. Turner was a street man, he could speak a little Jewish, he could do everything. The people liked Turner because for these guys were home to the houses. Turner was a street guy. We never had a councilman with that kind of charisma. He had charisma. He was born in the city of Newark, he knew all the Jews, he could talk a little Yiddish. He was a former newspaper guy. He had been in a few..., the police had beat him up and threw him out of the 4th precinct before he got to be _____ because he was going down and protesting some lock-up of somebody. He got locked up and they beat him up and threw him out on the streets and he was a newspaper editor then. But...

KOMOZI - Let me ask you, was there much difference between that campaign and the Black Freedom Movement at that time?

HONEY - What I want to tell you, to the young that came after. They thought that they invented something, they didn't invent struggle and neither did I. If you study black history you found out about Nat Turner, I can even go back and tell you about Allen _____ and Paul Robeson, the Trenton Six. Leroi Jones was around but he wasn't doing nothing. The fight for Emmet Till, for we picketed the Klu Klux Klan, went down South Jersey and picketed the Klans. They don't know nothing about that. What happened was you keep building something and it falls over. Turner was the first significant struggle of blacks to struggle for recognition in the form of elected representation. They had all the ingredients that the Ken Gibson campaign had only it wasn't as widespread. But it was a building process that boiled over when we elected the first black mayor. Somewhere there had to be a start and that was it. We had the same ingredients, blacks that would work their fingers to the bones, all hours of the night.

KOMOZI - Was it basically young people at that time?

HONEY - Of course, I was young.

KOMOZI - Okay, but when did you start working full-time, after that campaign?

HONEY - After the Turner campaign and Turner was elected, then the fight for chairmanship of the Central Ward, Charlie Matthews

went against him. He took all the wards, certain wards that made the Central Ward. Charlie was the only black chairman so they took Harry _____ 's ward which was the old 9th ward and put him in. So they bullshit Charlie, oh Charlie we are going to vote for you. When it got up to the vote, all of them voted for Benny _____ 's area and Charlie was left holding the bag. Charlie became so disgusted that by that time I was wide open. He quit and I took the fight up.

KOMOZI - So you ran for Central Ward chairman?

HONEY - For 5 years, put up a struggle. It took me 5 years before I could beat him, every year I...

KOMOZI - Starting when?

HONEY - In 1954, I didn't get elected until '59. I waged war on them, every year. I lost a good job...

KOMOZI - So why did you fight for this?

HONEY - Because I became obsessed, dedicated, I was determined that an Italian wasn't going to rule over us and I kept fighting, Turner wouldn't help us. Turner like most blacks get jealous. That's Gibson's fault right today. The reason why we don't have no more blacks elected because he don't want no more. He wants to stick his chest out...

KOMOZI - So once some of them get elected they feel that's enough?

HONEY - Turner didn't want no black chairman because...

KOMOZI - Why not?

HONEY - Because he was sick like so many. He didn't want no black prestigious, black to be the first black chairman of the Central Ward. It would be prestigious and he didn't want that. He never would help me...

KOMOZI - I got you but what was the feeling of the campaign workers? What were their aims?

HONEY - This is what happened. I was very deeply rooted, I was the respected one because I knew the street. Any district in the black community I knew somebody because of which I was a fighter; everybody knew me. When they knew me they'd say, Oh Honey. I knew the machine. I could go in any district and could pick up two people to run. I was the one who put his machine together. I was the guy because I knew the people. I was the one that organize it and then we got Lorraine Hayes and Clarence Coggins who was very smart. Don't let anybody tell you that Coggins ain't a sharp boy. If he was black he would be like old _____ and all them big guys who go all over the country and Lorraine Hayes never was never a _____ not even Larry could hold on to a

candle for her to see by when she was out there at the start. They joined with the Al Olivers and were branded communists. They branded me a communists. I had to testify before the...

KOMOZI - They used to call a communists when you would fight. Did they ever brand Irvine Turner a communists?

HONEY - Yeah, you know he was so dumb they branded us communists and he tried to put us out his organization. You got to understand these blacks...

KOMOZI - Well this was during the McCarthy thing too, right?

HONEY - Yeah but what you got to understand these blacks like Ken Gibson ain't much better. Turner was a guy, he would get up and talk big and bad but Turner would run from that thing and he didn't want no organization. He used us to get an organization.

KOMOZI - Yeah Baba said you would have to jump up and down to get him to take positions.

HONEY - Yeah, you had to threaten him. I remember one thing we had to snatch him in his collar, make him get down in front of the Council and call him a sonofabitch. We fought for the black judge; it was a whole thing. Russell by that time had got with us.

KOMOZI - Wait a minute, let me just be sure I'm not running out of tape here - I definitely have to...

HONEY - You want to talk about Russell. When I met this guy, he was always a sharp dresser. Much older than me, old enough to be my father. But I loved clothes too. I found myself - Russell was everything that a lot of black guys wanted to be. He was dap, articulate, knowed how to make money; had a lot of guts and he was represented a certain element at that time which is part of black history, too. Blacks took control of the numbers for the first time from the Italians.

KOMOZI - That must have been a rough struggle there itself.

HONEY - This was before LeRoi Jones. Took the numbers and Russell was their guy, the ice man.

KOMOZI - Was that related to the brother over there in New York, in Harlem?

HONEY - That was before, Bumpy was before. Russell and Bumpy were friends. I met Bumpy Johnson years later when he had done that time in Alcatraz. Russell introduced me to him. But what I'm trying to say, we met Russell Bingham and we were fighting and raising money for me to run the leaders. I had been running for five years and we had to go out with cans and rally on the corners, in front of churches.

KOMOZI - I thought we were the first to do that...you see that's what happens when you don't know your history.

HONEY - No, no. You see Russell said, what are you are doing with this money. I sat him down and talked with him and he said, can you win? I said, yeah we can win, we gonna win. Well Russell started, he went and got Burton King who was his boy and they gave him \$7,000. It took us 15. We raised 8 in the streets, giving chicken parties, frying chicken, hustling on the corners.

KOMOZI - You must have had a pretty extensive network of supporters at that time.

HONEY - You know why? Let me tell you something. They used to run my leaders off the polls, the Italians when I used to run. They used to run them off the polls, I couldn't stand there watching. Run them off the polls, threaten them, bodily harm and run them off the polls. But we kept fighting because when I come around, me and Morris. Morris would say, what are you doing to my leaders. They knew me and Morris from fighting and they wouldn't bother us. They used to say, Honey, Morris - we didn't do nothing. They locked the polling place on Turner until I went there, did Russell tell you? I kicked the door down at 13th Avenue School. They had us locked out, to get Turner's count.

KOMOZI - This was in the '50?

HONEY - In the '50s when we were electing Turner, on the second trip. Russell was with us then, hook line and sinker.

KOMOZI - What was that, '58?

HONEY - '58.

KOMOZI - Okay, so you guys ran Turner for Congress in '56?

HONEY - In '60.

KOMOZI - Was that the first time you ran him? What was the purpose of that campaign?

HONEY - The first time. Well what it was...

KOMOZI - I mean, did you think you could win it?

HONEY -- Yeah we thought we could...Let me tell you what we did. Russell was there, he was committed by then. We made Turner run against Hugh Addonizio for Congress because the district was getting blacker and blacker. What he did, but what we did we went up in East Orange, had Tony Corrino, not the Corrino now but another Corrino, not related. He was the chairman of East Orange. He had some blacks up there like Bill Hart and them guys and we went up there and we told them, you want to be with Turner? They said no we don't. I said, okay we are going to run

against you. We didn't know anybody. We started knocking on doors and getting black people to run for district leaders. Ernie Thompson...

KOMOZI - You built your own group up there?

HONEY - Yes sir, and I'm going to tell you who came out of it. Wait, and you'll get shocked. We went up into Orange, we had Ernie Thompson who was a former union big boss like Martin Gerber used to be. A hellavu guy, they called Big Train, Ernie Thompson. He was a leftwing. They killed _____, with Joe Minish and all them. But anyway, I went up there and Ben Jones was the guy up there and they told us, oh Honey we going to be for you, Turner but just let us run. No, you either run on our line or we run against. They wouldn't do it and we went up there and found black people, didn't know nobody, just told the story and got to sign a petition. In comes Bill Hart who got birthed out of that movement. Letrice Miller, Ben Jones - all we gave birth to them politically. We went up there, didn't have no money to put up plus Turner was such a larceny-hearted guy, the money we would get he would pocket it. You see, this is what you had to deal with. In fact, we came to a conclusion...

KOMOZI - The question the kids are going to ask when they look at it is, why did you guys believe so hard, because now it looks like everybody takes it for granted, right? But at this time, you were going through a lot of hell to be doing this. Why did

y'all believe so strongly in this self-government, you know you needed that representation?

HONEY - I could contribute it to the fact that I don't let nobody take nothing from me, I mean they got to take it.

KOMOZI - So you felt...

HONEY - That was part of my mold and you found black people who they called communists but they weren't communists to me, they were talking the same things my mother told me, about how white people mistreated us and if that made them a communists, I was a communists. And something I guess just get in your system, I guess and it just got to come out. And I was determined to see that wanted was...It all came down and we picked up people and we found a lot of black people would join and they wasn't wanting no money because we were spending money, begging it. Turner...

KOMOZI - So you were talking about something obviously other people wanted.

SIDE 2.

KOMOZI - You ran Turner for Congress in 1960?

HONEY - Against Huey Addonizio who was the a congressman.

KOMOZI - Did Turner want to run?

HONEY - No.

KOMOZI - How did you get him to run?

HONEY - We pushed him out there like we always did. You see these heroes - there are heroes and there are heroes...

KOMOZI - You know what I am getting from a lot of these interviews is that a lot of these guys really worked hard behind the scene. But you didn't get too much credit though.

HONEY - Hard, hard, hard. Well Turner never paid nobody a nickel.

KOMOZI - My understanding is that when you were supposed to run for several offices they tried to bring up something about your background and hold you back. That must have been a hellavu feeling.

HONEY - Right, one thing - see, I never wanted to be an elected official. I always wanted to put blacks up there to be elected officials and to get some that would stand up. Turner would stand up but you had to prop him up because he had the charisma. One time we came to a conclusion. We wasted too much time trying to watch him, keeping him from taking money. Just let him take all the money he want because he was dissipating our valuable time. We left doors for him because otherwise we would be watching him all the time and couldn't get on with the struggle. He was necessary because he had charisma and he had a certain amount of blackness in him, there's no question - I'm not saying he was all bad. But Turner loved money more than a hog loved corn and he would take a penny. Now when he, you know he never paid us for a campaign. What we used to do, if a white guy was running in the ward and Turner was running at-large, we would say okay, he'd have to pay Turner's bill for us to support him. Jack Ward, and all those guys, they would have to pay us. Turner would get a free ride.

KOMOZI - It must have been hard working without money. The reason I'm saying that is that the only reason these people do this work...

HONEY - Well look at your own self, when you came into politics back during the Gibson, the 70's thing, did you get any money?

KOMOZI - No, I didn't. But what I'm saying is that because we didn't know our history, we thought we were the first to do that.

HONEY - On, no. We used to go out and hustle money with cans in the beer gardens. Every district leader had to hustle their own money - Geneva _____, she was the first black woman to be elected in the 13th district of the Central Ward. We could elect her but we couldn't beat the Italian guy, he's dead now. Became a good friend of mine, he was one of Johnny Cerrata's guys. So I remember, Geneva was a rough, tough broad that was the kind. She would come on the poll and the first call I would get would be from that district. She would run the Italians off the poll. Joe Carisso was the guy, so the first time she ran she ran and her running mate lost, a guy named Miles, couldn't beat the Italian guy. So the next time, next year Geneva came on the polls and I got the call and I said, I know who that is, the 13th district and she said Honey you better come on and tell this Joe, Joe _____ he was her running mate and she said you better come and tell this motherfucker to get off my case else I'm going to cut his throat. I ran over there and she done run him off the poll. He said, Honey I ain't doing nothing to her, she won't let none of my women...and she said yeah, I come for your ass. And then I went back checking the district out about 1-2 o'clock and he said, Honey I think she got it today, she pulled him out. She run him off the poll. She was a tough broad.

KOMOZI - Were there different whites that helped in these campaigns?

HONEY - Sure.

KOMOZI - Like who, who can you name?

HONEY - Whitey Goodfriend, Esther Nettie, a girl named Sally...

KOMOZI - Were they mainly Jews or were they Jews and Italians?

HONEY - Jews and, Esther Nettie was married to an Italian; Whitey Good friend was a Jew, they were all communists. They all came out of that thing called...

KOMOZI - Did they all live in the South Ward there?

HONEY - Larry Coggins was living in Jersey City then.

KOMOZI - I thought that was something new, even then he was living in Jersey City?

HONEY - Yeah, he was living in Jersey City then. He lives in Newark now, he's been living here now for quite some years but then he lived in Jersey City, on Gardner Street. We used to go over there and have strategy meetings. You see what happened is that once we got started the ball rolling we found, up come the

opportunists and we had a lot of kids coming in from Montclair and this is mainly in the Ken Gibson, Bob Curetons, they were a bunch of punks because they were always trying to run that. And then you had the influx of black panthers came in trying to - we were already organized, they come in and I used to have more fights with them because they come in trying to tell me what to do and I would tell them to go organize the South Ward, they needed help over there.

KOMOZI - I better get you up on this thing here but I hope you are going to give me that in a second interview, okay?

HONEY - I want you to come back as many times as I can help you.

KOMOZI - Yeah, I need this part here because I want to tie this story right. Okay, why did you feel there was a need for United Brothers, how did that come about?

HONEY - Well, I didn't see there was a need because at that time LeRoi Jones had come back into Newark; he had been living in New York. But by that time I was headed the Med School fight against the Med School. And you know we put up some of the longest hearings because of that struggle.

KOMOZI - Wait just a minute, that's one of my questions. Why was there such a big fight over that med school from your point of view?

HONEY - Well we had worked hard, I was the chairman to build up the registration of people but we knew Huey and them was trying to get rid of them and that the threat was coming in from a black to take over.

KOMOZI - So you had that neighborhood pretty much organized?

HONEY - We had it organized and had it pretty well populated. And another main reason was, there was not sufficient housing. These people in that area was mainly women under the Aids for Dependent Children program, no husband at home, where could they go; they are ridiculed anyway because these children don't have a father plus housing was a shortage and they wasn't building no place for them. That was the main part about it. Plus they didn't need all that damn land for no med school. We made surveys and found that the largest med school in the country was up there in Wayne-Detroit, and it didn't nowhere come near, they wanted 152 acres.

KOMOZI - Looking back at it now do you think they actually had a plan to try to...

HONEY - Sure, the same they they doing with the Berkeley Heights, the med school fight all over again. They were trying to displace blacks and dilute their voting strength which was getting to be powerful because we were registering people and we had them in a situation where it was actually a threat to Huey and he knew it.

And this was one way of scattering them to the wind and make them homeless and we recognized that and we figured just like it is here, you don't find the proper racial blacks attending the med school and there are many reasons. First of all, they are ill-educating our children, I don't care what you say and probably in East Orange, too. And so you know what it takes to get in med school, it takes good marks plus some clout. And you find that school right now over run with white kids.

KOMOZI - And a lot of the Asian immigrants. But how did the United Brothers come about then?

HONEY - Well LeRoi Jones came in from New York, I hadn't seen LeRoi in many years.

KOMOZI - But wasn't Harold Wilson doing something then when LeRoi Jones got here?

HONEY - He came in with the LeRoi Jones, we was having the hearings on the med school and LeRoi Jones came in called Huey a "guinea" and we didn't think it was right and we told him about it. What you call him a "guinea", we're not about that and all that kind of stuff and then we had a meeting and he started up but he was not the focal, he was never able - I was the leader of the med school and it gave birth the Gus Heningburg, Donald Lawford, and Bob Curvin, Julius Williams.

KOMOZI - But you know history ain't written that way.

HONEY - But that's the way it was.

KOMOZI - That's why I'm working on this now because history...

HONEY - That's why when I walk into a room with them they all shut up because they know I know. I know I was a part of it, I was actually a leader of the med school fight against Huey. But anyway, how LeRoi Jones and after...

KOMOZI - Wait a minute, you guys are in the same democratic party.

HONEY - LeRoi Jones wasn't a democratic,

KOMOZI - No, no, no - you and Addonizio. Were you catching any hell for doing...

HONEY - That's nothing to do with it. I'm black democrat, that's different. My political posture can't be the same as a white democrat because our needs are different and greater. Right now, you see in the paper we are on attack. Making this party that we are a member give up more to blacks. We are still short changed, it's a constant fight and..

KOMOZI - And it's been going on for a long time.

HONEY - And it's going to go on because they are always going to try to do us out of of just share, what we are supposed to have; it's a constant fight. You cannot go to sleep in this fight, you got to be conscious.

KOMOZI - So how did you get hooked up. Here this guy comes in and calls Addonizio a guinea...

HONEY - LeRoi Jones came out of New York and he came in. We got together and this Colonel Hassan came in, remember - they blamed me for - then the riots came, they blamed me. With the med school starting up trouble, they blamed me for part of that. LeRoi Jones, by that time we had decided that we would get together and make an umbrella organization that would invite other groups in like churches, NAACP and call it the United Brothers, well the Committee for Unified Newark. The United Brothers was a bunch of choice blacks that was selected to come in to make this - you want to know who they were? Let's start with the Mayor, Ken Gibson.

KOMOZI - Was he in on the beginning of that?

HONEY - Yes, sir. Ken Gibson, Harry Wheeler, Ted Pickney, Oliver Tucker, LeRoi Jones, Harold Wilson, Joe White, Eulas Ward, Baba Mshauri, Jim Nance, Donald Tucker, Dave Barrett...

KOMOZI - Were there any women on that...

HONEY - Well, we made them take women in, you know how those Muslims got hangups. We made them put Louise Epperson and Juanita Moore on there. Juanita Moore was my vice chairman. We had to make them, me and Russell did because...

KOMOZI - These women had a whole lot of experience...

HONEY - Yeah, but they were hung up about keeping women, you know how they were they thought women shouldn't do nothing but stay in the kitchen, you know how they were with that Islamic thing they had. But we made them put them on it. And, let's see if I left anybody else out.

KOMOZI - Any other women?

HONEY - Only two. Louise Epperson and Juanita Moore, she was one of my district leaders.

KOMOZI - What about Connie Woodruff, was she involved at that time?

HONEY - No. Earl Harris was one of the United Brothers.

KOMOZI - And what about, did you mention Harry Wheeler?

HONEY - Yeah, Harry Wheeler, he was supposed to have been the mayor.

KOMOZI - John Bugg. Willie Wright?

HONEY - John Bugg was a member. No, Willie Wright had never been a member of the United Brothers?

KOMOZI - When I interviewed Donald Tucker last week he told me that Willie Wright brought him into the United Brothers.

HONEY - Willie Wright had never been a member of the United Brothers.

KOMOZI - I didn't think so because there was some opposition going on during then...

HONEY - Well he was up there at those Catholic churches, he was never a member of the United Brothers. Willie Wright was never a member of the United Brothers, neither was Donald Payne. Neither George Richardson.

KOMOZI - How did it come about, did you just start having meetings?

HONEY - We started having meetings and naturally we took on the mayoral election, we took on the Parker-Callahan fight and then after the riots we, so by that time...

KOMOZI - Was Bob Cureton ever in the United Brothers?

HONEY - No, Bob Cureton was never a member of the United Brothers. He was with CORE.

KOMOZI - Phil Hutchinson?

HONEY - Phil Hutchinson was never with the United Brothers.

KOMOZI - But you kinda worked with these people...

HONEY - No they didn't, you know how they were; they were always around there getting ready to chase some whites.

KOMOZI - So you were independent?

HONEY - We were the group, we were the group that did it all. We started, in fact let's see who else was a member of that. I left off somebody. Balozi wasn't a member?

KOMOZI - Was Ralph Grant a member of the United Brothers?

HONEY No, we had never heard of, that bum was out there. We didn't hear anything from him until Ken Gibson ran in '70; he was living in Colonia. I never heard of Ralph Grant until he became so eloquent; still a phony. But I guess I named them all with the exception of somebody I can't...

KOMOZI - I'm going to show you a transcript and then you tell me because I want to make sure that these people get written in history.


HONEY - Jim Nance was the only cop we had on there.

KOMOZI - I heard he caught a lot of hell for that. Did you guys catch a lot of hell for forming this group, the United Brothers?

HONEY - From whom? We didn't care. You see guys like Jim Nance got some because he was part of the Newark police. But who's going to bother me? Danny _____ didn't bother me.

KOMOZI - Wait, I thought they were tied to people who would cut your tires and stuff...

HONEY - Yeah, but do you know who are doing that? LeRoi Jones them. You remember when they got mad with me? They got mad with me in '70 because they put this guy Westbrook up, I had a problem. I told them that this guy ain't going to win and I wouldn't endorse nobody. Well LeRoi told me one day, well we are going to come down hard on you. I said, you gonna come down hard on who? Then he started sneaking around, cutting my tires and all that kind of shit...



KOMOZI - That's who it was, I never realize. Wait a minute, at one time you told me that you wanted me to come back from school and get involved and come on down to 502 High Street.

HONEY - Yeah, I told you to go to 502 High Street...

KOMOZI - The unity must have been mighty strong...

HONEY - Yeah it was but you see LeRoi Jones systematically tried to take over because Harold Wilson - LeRoi Jones never was elected to be the spokesman. Harold Wilson was the only spokesman but he abdicated his responsibility because LeRoi had more charisma and when me and Harry Wheeler, they used to get mad at me and Harry Wheeler and by that time they had Russell so brain-washed and John Bugg was gone, LeRoi would...we raised all that money and had Stokeley come in to speak...never could get an account of the money because LeRoi used to go and just tell Harold Wilson he wanted some money and John Bugg and Russell Bingham had two signatures on it, signed checks and me and Harry Wheeler wanted them to give an account for this money.

KOMOZI - In the beginning it was a pretty democratic...

HONEY - Yeah, but LeRoi Jones systematically took over. The final break with me and LeRoi was that LeRoi tried to call me up and tell me who to put on the democratic ticket and I said, you don't tell me who to put on the democratic ticket. He objected

to Willie Brown going on and he objected to Ron Owens going on. This was in the late '60s. Wyona Lippman, he didn't want Wyona Lippman on the ticket and I said, who the hell are you to tell me. You don't run the Central Ward Democratic County Committee. I don't think Baba totally agreed with a lot of things that Baraka did...

KOMOZI - Yeah because he was always close to people like Lippman...- because Baba gave me a lot of advice...I guess maybe publicly he couldn't say those things...

HONEY - You see, Ron Karenga was a very, I always liked him because he could, I got a big kick out of, he was not only smart but...

KOMOZI - When did you meet Karenga?

HONEY - Karenga came in here from California during, when we were building for the Black & Puerto Rican Convention. He brought some of his people in with him. I always a great and lot of respect for him because he could fact and crack at the same time and a very smart guy.

KOMOZI - Did he know anything about politics?

HONEY - Well, not really but he was just naturally smart. He knew how to, he was a good organizer and that made him adapt.

But he was smart enough to listen to local politicians to get a lay of the land. He didn't come in here with no set, he wanted to bring blacks in and let's put the problem to them and see if we can find a solution.

KOMOZI - Was he out for anything for himself?

HONEY - I don't think so. He wasn't trying to run for no office.

KOMOZI - The reason I'm saying this because a lot of times people make all these sacrifices and later on somebody tells you that they were doing it for themselves.

HONEY - I couldn't see anything that he could get out of it.

KOMOZI - He was just interested in black power?

HONEY - Right, I think so. I think I would say that. I think that LeRoi, basically LeRoi had a problem. The problem was he wanted to be dictator and he wasn't in no position. See, his thing was, he was a playwright which is something he's very brilliant at, LeRoi is a smart guy. But that don't mean that you gonna be brilliant in everything. Karenga was just the opposite. He had a good mind and he would come and say, let's bring the problem on the table, let's talk about it. A person that wanted to bring people together for the purpose of finding a solution.

KOMOZI - So Karenga helped bring this thing together?

HONEY - Yes, in fact LeRoi had to rely on Karenga when he got involved with him and Balozi, you remember that?

KOMOZI - By the way, Balozi wasn't in the United Brothers?

HONEY - No.

KOMOZI - He wasn't interested in politics then?

HONEY - Balozi comes out of East Orange, I don't know when he really got with us but he wasn't in the original United Brothers, I'm pretty sure he wasn't.

KOMOZI - Why did you guys hold that 1968 convention at West Kinney? '68, when you ran Pickney and Tucker?

HONEY - Oh yeah, we ran for some At-Large spots. Pickney, Tucker.

KOMOZI - Yeah, but why a convention?

HONEY - Well we tried to get the best two candidates, that's what we wanted. A widespread opinion.

KOMOZI - Was this a continuation of that kind of screening committee thing?

HONEY - Yeah, because really Harry Wheeler should have been the mayor. We were rigging for Harry Wheeler. But Harry went and took the job in Washington, but although he came to meetings every weekend. But Ken Gibson was a mass choice because he was non-controversial, that's all.

KOMOZI - But was it also the fact that he ran in '66?

HONEY - That didn't have anything...because we could have, anybody the Community Choice picked would have won that spot. That's how powerful it was, you see. Blacks*came here from all over the country to help that movement. I'd never seen nothing like it.

KOMOZI - Yeah, that was really something to be involved in. I feel bad that we have to end this...maybe next Friday morning we can set up Part 2?

HONEY - Yeah, give me a call first.----- Because nothing is wrong with Russell's mind and he knows pretty much, Russell got with us and I disagreed with him when he went with LeRoi but by that time....

KOMOZI - That was a difficult period for you and Baba, right?

HONEY - Yeah, because me and Russell had been close for years and when, I think that LeRoi was all wet and I think that in his philosophy it proved that he was. Time proves all things.

KOMOZI - Yeah, a lot of us were very young when we got in that and we didn't know...

HONEY - And young folks make mistakes like everybody make mistakes and LeRoi made a mistake. LeRoi had the charisma that he could have been a great factor, and he was a great factor because he had charisma to bring people in.

KOMOZI - Well didn't you work with Baba and Jones in...in the Hart thing?

HONEY - No, you know why? By that time LeRoi went crazy. He was trying to tell me who to put on the ticket. I supported Bill Hart though but I wouldn't support it within the framework of LeRoi Jones because I had had it with him trying to tell me what to do.

KOMOZI - Was it at that period of time when he tried to use consultation or was it always...

HONEY - You see, LeRoi got involved in an old ego thing and he was actually trying to be a dictator because him and Balozzi fell out and he drove a lot of brothers out of that movement. Harry

Wheeler was a good brother, don't let nobody fool you. Harry Wheeler had his faults but he was a good brother. But because people just couldn't stand by and let LeRoi dictate to them like he was doing to John Bugg and Harold Wilson and them guys, wasn't going to stand for that. We knowed something about what we were doing and once you got into that kind of thing...

KOMOZI - So you think that's the basic reason for the break later on in the United Brothers.

HONEY - That's right because you see, LeRoi became too dictatorial.

KOMOZI - Donald Tucker told me that he actually told Julius and people like that that they had to give up their constituency and join him.

HONEY - Yeah, all this kind of nonsense and you know, I talk to him about it, I see him sometime in the Bridge Club and we talk about it and he openly admits he made a lot of mistakes. His role was to bring people together like Maulana did. You couldn't be the politician but you could bring people together and make them sit down and talk about these problems but not that you go in there and dictate to them. How you gonna do that?

KOMOZI - At one time in the very beginning that was working, right?

HONEY - At one time LeRoi closely grasped power and when he thought he had all the power he started picking fights in his own organization and he was gonna always get a fight because I wasn't gonna to let him tell me what to do and he had a lot of young good kids that he put on the wrong track and a lot of kids I guess turned out to be something behind it. Certainly I think that you turned out fine. I really do. You see you are a family man, that's important now days that you are a family man. A young family man. Not all he did was bad but LeRoi could have did a lot more if he hadn't let his ego run away with him.