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Q. Michael Downs

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Q. What is your date of birth and where were you born?

A. 6/27/47, Louisville, Ky.

Q. What size family do you come from?

A. There are three boys in the family.

Q. What was your fathers occupation?

A. He works for a Tavern now, but he did work at Texas Gas and transmission Corporation and different things.

Q. Are you married, and do you have any children?

A. Yes and I have one child.

Q. Where are you employed?

A. I work for the mining division of the 3M Corporation. Minnesota mining and manufacturing.

Q. I want to start out getting a little background information on you. You were born in Louisville is that where you were raised?

A. No, I grew up in Southern Indiana around a town called Lawrenceburg.

Q. Is that where you went to high school?

A. I went to high in a little town called Hillsboro.

Q. What year did you graduate?

A. 1965.

Q. 1965 is about the time that Vietnam became a national item, did you hear much talk about it when you were in high school?

A. I guess I did. I don't really remember. I didn't give a whole lot of thought to it.

Q. When you finished high school what did you do then?

A. I went to work three days later for a chemical company in Ohio.

Q. How long did you keep that job?

A. Until just before I knew I was going to be drafted.

Q. So you didn't go to college right after high school then?

A. I went to work. I got drafted just a year after I got out of high school. August 1, 1966 was when I got drafted.

Q. You were living in Ohio?

A. No, I was living in Indiana. I was working in Ohio.

Q. Well, what do you think about the draft? Was it fair, was everybody getting drafted?

A. No, everybody wasn't getting drafted, the ones that went to college and stuff like that didn't get drafted.

- Q. The reason I asked is that some of the guys we interviewed sensed that there was a little politics being played by the draft board.
- A. Oh yes, I'm sure. I had some friends that were given ultimatums about either possibly going to jail or going to the army. Of course, I wasn't in any trouble, then again I couldn't have gone to college at that time to keep from going either.
- Q. Just didn't have the desire to go?
- A. I didn't have the desire to go and I didn't, I felt like it would be running off, my old man was in World War II, highly decorated. I just didn't feel like it was the right thing to do.
- Q. Do you think there were quite a few guys coming to college just to get a student deferrment?
- A. Yes, I think that but I don't really have a lot of examples because the town I grew up in was so small that just about everybody, I graduated in a class of 42 and that was the biggest class that ever graduated.
- Q. After you went into the army where did they send you?
- A. The day we were inducted, of course, we all thought we were going to Ft. Knox, but we went to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. We stayed in Ft. Jackson for a week and it was full, so they shipped us to Ft. Gordon Georgia for Basics.
- Q. What about after Basic, where did you take your AIT at?
- A. I didn't even get a leave after Basic, most people do. I went in August of 1966 so when I got directly out of basic they set me on a train to Ft. Eustis, Virginia, to transportation school. I went through a 16 week course on helicopters. Mainly all the instrument stuff.
- Q. What was your MOS?
- A. Seems like it was 71 something, does that sound like helicopters?
- Q. Yes, I think so. You are, what exactly did you do?
- A. Do you mean in Vietnam?
- Q. No, I mean on the helicopters?
- A. Instrument repair. I was the only draftee in that course because it was a 16 week course. The other people in there had signed up for three years. They were RA's. I must have really scored high on that test because I was the only draftee in there.
- Q. I remember at that time a lot of things were closed to you unless you were an RA. I remember some guys tried to get in jump school at that time, but you couldn't.
Do you consider yourself pretty lucky then?
- A. Well, yes as far as that course goes, I never saw it again after I left the course. I saw that aircraft, but we had civilian maintenance people in Vietnam.
- Q. When did you go to Vietnam?
- A. August 13, 1976.

1967

Q. You served just about a year. Where did you come into the country at?
A. Long Ben.

Q. Were you sent over by yourself or as a group?
A. I went through the holding station at Oakland. I was really desperate by that time.

Q. Did you go out there by yourself, didn't know anybody or anything?
A. Yes, I went on my own.

Q. It was depressing, what aggravated me was all those formations and half the time you couldn't understand what they were saying.
A. I felt like we were a herd of cattle just going to the slaughter. I didn't like that situation, but there was nothing I could do about it.

Q. That was one of the criticisms of the war, that people were sent over piece meal, they didn't send them in units like they did in World War II and World War I, they just threw you together. When you got to Long Ben did you get put in the 90th replacement at Bien Hoa?
A. Yes. If my memory serves me I stayed there a day and then they shipped me by, was it Caribou, up to Pleiku. I stayed there for one or two days and then I went to Quinhon supposedly for a day, I was on my way up to Danang and I was sitting in Quinhon and had my records in my hand and this officer walked up to me and took my records out of my hand and he said, you can type and I said yes and he said come with me. So, they put me in an aviation outfit there at Quinhon first. I didn't want to set that tight.

Q. What unit were you assigned to?
A. 18th Aviation Company, 256 Aviation Battallion.

Q. What division?
A. 1st Aviation.

Q. So, they put you to typing, how long did you stay with that?
A. A couple of months.

Q. Then what did you do?
A. Well I did a little flying. We flew support for the special forces out of Pleiku. We had an outfit in Pleiku, one in Danang and the headquarters was in Quinhon.

Q. Were you on a helicopter?
A. We had two outfits, we had helicopters and fixed wings. Remember them otters, they called them, that you'd get in and go short distances.

Q. Really about the only planes I saw were jets and Air strikes.
A. Well, then I actually ended up with a gravy job, the last three or four months I was a sergeant of the guard.

Q. Where was that?
A. Quinhon.

Q. You said you flew support for special forces, could you describe one of these missions, exactly what you did?
A. Some of them were medi-vac, some of it was just dropping them in an LZ zone and then going to get them.

Q. Exactly what did you do?

A. When I flew, I flew crew chief.

Q. Is that what they call Eagle flights? For example, that's what they'd call it when about 8 or 10 choppers would come in and drop us off.

A. Yes. What outfit were you with?

Q. 25th Infantry.

Did you ever come into any hot LZ's, get shot at.

A. Yes.

Q. How does it feel to come in, one thing that always scared me, I was never too afraid of getting shot when I was on my feet, but I was afraid to be in a helicopter, an APC when they were shooting fire.

A. Usually we were so high on pills that we didn't really give it a thought.

Q. When you first got over there did anybody give you anykind of an orientation on the country, why we were there, did they try to explain to you why Americans were in Vietnam?

A. No, not that I can remember.

Q. We got something like a weeks training but it didn't amount to anything. We didn't get anything like a historical perspective, anything about the country or them trying to tell us why we were there. It was just like another week of basic training.

A. After you got there? It seems like we went through some kind of week of jungle training before we went over, two weeks.

Q. I didn't have that then. After we were assigned to a division, they kept us for a week before they sent us out.

Do you remember any particular close calls?

A. Yes, there were several close calls. What sticks in my mind the most I guess was the Ted offensive of 1968.

Q. Could you tell much of a difference as far as the level of activity?

A. Yes, absolutely, during the biggest part of it I was right there around Quinhon. It seems like that was about the time I started the job as sergeant of the Guards, which was great.

Q. What did you do? Just in charge of the bunker guards?

A. Yes, and the tower guards. There were two or three of us I think that did that. I would start out in the evening it seems, about one hour before dark and post them all and check on them all night. We didn't change every hour. We usually posted it seems like three to a bunker. We weren't doing that much and I changed that. One or two guys weren't even up there. If you had three, then one could sleep while the others watched, they could take turns that way.

Q. What type weapons did you carry over there?

A. I carried a 45 when I was doing that. We had M-14's mainly, but they were phasing them out. That was about the time of the M-16's, seems like they were changing over about the time I was there.

Q. A lot of people complained about the m-16.

A. Yes. The M-14's were heavier was the only downfall they had.

Q. We've had a lot of complaints about the M-16, about how hard it is to keep them clean, but it fires alright.

On these helicopter flights did you make contact with the enemy very much?

A. It seems like it ran in spurts.

Q. You're talking about the Ted offensive?

A. Now during the Ted I was mostly at Quinhon. I don't recall doing much flying at all. Everything there at Quinhon was at a standstill. I don't know about the outfits at Pleiku and Danang. I'm sure that they were in it more than we were. Of course they were still flying. A lot of our stuff was back to the fixed wing at that time flying reconnaissance.

Q. What about Quinhon, did they try to overturn you all up there?

A. Yes, they just blew that town up. We had the Korean tiger division just out from us.

Q. I don't know exactly where it is, but it's pretty far north isn't it?

A. Yes, it's at least halfway, it's right on the coast. It's not too far from Ankhhe.

Q. Did you see any regular NVA units?

A. Mostly Viet Cong. I don't think they had quite got down to our area. But at Quinhon we were blocked in quite a bit too. We were kind of down inside-- the sea was on one side and the mountains on the other, so it was hard for even the Viet Cong to get down in there. They would let them get down in there sometimes and watch them until they'd get to where it would be too hard to go back up and then they'd just give them hell.

Q. You were in a mountain area then?

A. Yes.

Q. These people you couldn't find them, it was hit and run, hit and run, really frustrating.

A. You didn't know them from the other people.

Q. Our base camp was in a rubber plantation they'd tell us you can't shoot because of the workers out there. You'd be out walking and somebody would fire at you. You'd stop for a few minutes and then you'd go on and here was this guy working himself to death and more than likely it was him that fired at you, but you just never knew and like you say you couldn't tell one from the other.

A. Now they could. I've seen examples of them. Like we can tell, I can pick a person from Pennsylvania or New York out in a minute. They can do that. I saw them interrogate and shoot one because they could tell by the accent. That's the explanation I heard, you knew from talking to him where he was from.

Q. What'd he do, just flat shoot him?

A. Yes. I've seen the Koreans do that too.

Q. I've head that the Koreans were pretty rough on them. I don't know, I don't think they took too much trouble to distinguish them anyway did they?

A. No, they loved to torture them, they'd shoot them in places where it wouldn't kill them.

Q. Was there a lot of that kind of stuff going on?

A. Not a super lot, no more I don't think than anybody would expect.

Q. When I asked you what you thought about our strategy, you know we had what you call search and destroy and you could go and clean out an area and just up and leave it and then have to go back in a couple of weeks, and it was the same thing over and over.

A. I don't know if that's a strategy or lack thereof.

Q. Maybe that's a better question.

A. I don't know that they had a strategy, I never could pick one out in anything they did. Like I said I wasn't that involved with infantry or search and destroy but I couldn't see a strategy to anything they did.

Q. Well some people have said that's our problem, we never really had a plan to actually win the war.

A. It was officially a police action, we weren't really in war.

Q. Undeclared war. Everything seemed to be useless.

A. More so now than it did then, as the years go by and you think back on it.

Q. Yes, I think probably at that time, I never thought too much about it one way or the other. I never questioned too much of anything. I think you're right, as time goes by we're questioning more and more.

What do you think maybe we could have done differently?

A. For one, I think it would have taken long if we wanted to win it, everybody says Russia and China would have been in on it but they wouldn't have been in on that. Maybe a few weapons, a few people but they weren't going to do anything if we'd really gone to war on that country. I don't think it would have taken two weeks to get the main part of it.

Q. Do you think then, like I said before the search and destroy was such a useless way to fight. Really we weren't even, like in World War II the objective was to conquer as much ground as you could. We weren't even doing that, we were going in and then whatever we won, we'd go off and leave it the next day.

A. I think there was a difference there too. The way all the outfits were working there in Vietnam you really weren't striving for that, there wasn't no such thing as a front line, unless you consider the DMZ a line. But you couldn't do that either because like in World War II the front line was where ever the action was and everything behind that was secure. In Vietnam they were fighting here and there. I don't think there was a good place to be.

Q. Nothing was secure, I don't know if there was a secure place over there. Now I've heard tales of Cameron Bay being nice, I never was there. Really it could come at anytime anywhere, you didn't have to be out in the field, they'd hit you in your base camp.

A. Well, I'm not so sure, like you say on the search and destroy missions that you could have went out though and took an area and held because eventually you would have been surrounded. You'd have been sitting ducks out there. I think more than anything all we were doing was making examples. We'd go out and show them what we can do and then just come back. Because the way everything was laid out and the way everything was fighting all over the country I'm not so sure you could have held everything unless you would have made a big sweep, started at one point and just swept Northward.

Q. Another problem was, there's no way you could have had enough troops over there to occupy, to hold everything we took. But, another problem was we turned it over to the South Vietnamese Army and they wouldn't hold it either. Were you around the Arvins much?

A. No, not a whole lot. Mainly, except for going out and coming back I was on the base camp, where all you would do is really be on defensive.

Q. How would you rate the quality of your officers, the ones you came in contact with? Well, let me ask you first what was the average age over there? You went over about 20 didn't you? Were most of them about your age?

A. Yes, I would say.

Q. What about your officers?

A. Age wise? I don't know because when you a young boy of 20, 35 looks like an old man.

Q. Yes. I know most of ours, our immediate, Lieutenants and Captains.

A. Our XO was a major and when you're around a lto of pilots like that, you've got a lot of captains. I don't recall seeing, anything much under capt. as a pilot. We had some Chief 1 officers that were a lot older than the captains, I shouldn't say a lot we had probably 4 or 5 warrant officers and the rest of the pilots were captains and there were a couple other majors if my memory serves me, and then the XO was a major and the company commander was a Lieutenant Captain. And our 1st Sergeant was an alcoholic.

Q. What about, you mentioned earlier there's alot been said about the drug problem over there, was it as bad as they claim?

A. Are you talking about hard drugs? I'm talking about amphetamines is what we took. I mean thousands and thousands of them, every day we took them.

Q. What about cocaine?

A. I don't recall ever seeing cocaine or heroine or anything like that.

Q. Most of the guys we talked to before. It seemed like the drug problem started in 1970 or after when we began to Vietnamize the war and the troops spent more time in base camps not doing as much and took drugs out of idleness and boredom.

A. That's probably true. Liek I said I never one time saw cocaine or heroine, but a lot of marijuana and amphetamines.

Q. How many blacks were there in your unit?

A. Seems like one.

Q. Is that all?

A. Yes.

Q. I was going to ask you about any racial conflicts, but it's hard to have any with one guy.

A. I don't remember but one, a boy from Georgia. Then at Quinhon I think there may have been a couple of cooks. But that's all the blacks I remember. Of course I think that everyone in our outfit was pretty well specialized. I don't want to say the blacks don't have enough sense to do the job, I don't think there was a black in our school at Ft. Eustis. Matter of fact I'm sure there wasn't.

Q. Well, some people say they were all in the infantry. I don't know, I 'm like you I didn't see very many myself.

As far as why we lost the war, really do you think it was just like we said earlier, a lack of strategy?

A. Yes. I hate to say we lost because I don't think we tried to win.

Q. Well, some people say we didn't lose, we quit.

A. After I came back in 1968, I didn't pay any attention, I didn't read about it, I didn't care what was going on it was just leave me alone. When they pulled out I had no feelings one way or the other.

Q. You said your dad was of course in World War II, did you do a lot of letter writing while you were over there. Were you aware that the sentiment toward the war was changing? They were having demonstrations and the summer of 1968 you had all that trouble at the democratic convention in Chicago. Were you aware of that?

A. No, not really, it pisses me off though.

Q. A lot of people going to Canada?

A. When Carter let them come back from Canada that just went all through me, I didn't have a bit of use for that man from then on.

Q. Well, it really isn't that, you couple the Amstead program with the lack of recognition the Vietnam veterans have gotten and that's just really created a lot of bitterness. I don't mind if somebody wants to go to Canada that's fine, they've made a conscious decision on their part, but they should be willing to accept the consequences.

A. Don't go when the times are bad and want to come back when they're good. I mean what good are those people to us if we were to have to go to war again. They'd be back there again.

Q. Running off to Canada.

What about when you came home, how did other people treat you. Of course you said you were from a small town, I'm sure you were just like me, nothing said about it one way or the other. Nothing changed had it?

A. I didn't really pay any attention. I didn't expect any big bands or anything like that it was like I said I came home and wanted to be left alone.

Q. When you came back were you out of the army then?

A. Yes.

Q. You didn't have to serve anymore time? Did you have any problem readjusting to civilian life?

A. I had a problem getting off those pills I was on.

Q. How long did it take you?

A. A long tim, I was crazy. It was hard for me to drink with them and I'd get to taking them and drink and did a lot of crazy stuff the first year.

Q. That was another criticism one day you're in Quinhon and the next day you're in Indiana, two days. A lot of people said there should have been a transition period there. Then a lot of guys say well I was in such a hurry to get home. I could care less.

A. Yes, I was. But I think I stayed on them pills for right at a year and finally I just had to quit. I guess I was as dependent on them as I thought I was because when I put my mind to quitting I did quit.

Q. Didn't have any trouble?

A. No, not any real trouble. I guess what they did was just make you feel good.

Q. What did you do when you got home.

A. I loafed for a month, I got back July 13th, I got married in August, then I went to work for General Motors in September of 1968, and worked there until the following summer (1969) when they had their shut down and change over for new models then I decided I was going to go to college and came down here and enrolled in the fall fo 1969.

Q. What made you come to Morehead? All the way from Indiana?

A. Because all my people are from Olive Hill, my dad's people are from there. The girl I married is from Olive Hill

Q. Where did you meet her at?

A. Down here when I'd come down to see my people.

Q. So you came back to college, what did you major in?

A. Business.

Q. At that time the war had a long time to run yet. What about on campus, were there any of these protests going on.

A. I don't remember any here. I remember a lot of awful shaggy looking people running around. With all these peace emblems and stuff. They looked like they needel a good bath.

Q. There was nothing as far as any organized disruptions here on campus. Did you live on campus?

A. No, I lived at Olive Hill.

Q. You commuted then.

A. I was only coming every other day. That's the only time I spent over here, I never came to any functions or anything.

Q. Well, I think there wasn't actually that much going on here like there were in the bigger cities.

When did you get your degree?

A. May of 1974.

Q. Was it in Business?

A. Yes.

Q. Who did you go to work for.

A. I went to work for the National Mine Service Company just a week after college and I've been in an underground mine ever since.

Q. As you look back after this 15,16 years, do you think our involvement with Vietnam was a mistake. Were we there for the wrong reasons or did we really have a good reason for being there?

- A. I don't know if I could answer that or not, I haven't given it much thought.
- Q. It really doesn't bother you then, you don't think about it that much?
- A. No, I don't think about it. Other than the dreams I still have I don't even pay a whole lot of attention to it.
- Q. You still have dreams after all these years?
- A. Yes, don't you?
- Q. No. Do you see a parallel between Vietnam and our involvement with Lebanon and El Salvador? Of course now the marines have been pulled back. Were they doing any good there in the first place? 2,000 marines?
- A. I don't see how e,000 could do any good. Of course you ask the marines and probably four or five of them could handle it! But no I don't think we really have any use of being over there. Any need of being over there. Them people have fought ever since times been here haven't they?
- Q. About 2,500 years.
- A. Really the thing that upsets me the most is not the fact that we're there or whether we should be there, it's the politicians. You know our country doesn't have a chance to stand up to anybody because these other countries know that there is so much discord and discontent among ourselves back here that we aren't going to do anything. I loved Grenada.
- Q. Well, that may be, you hear about the people talking about the Legacy of Vietnam what may be the real problem that we as people may never be able to have a total commitment on anything again. We didn't have full support of the country in Vietnam, we don't have now and I get the impression that if the Red Army rolled out across the Ohio River tomorrow, people in Morehead would say don't worry it's not in Lexington yet.
- A. That hurt us bad, the stuff that we let go on in Vietnam. I'm not saying that, not in Vietnam, but the stuff that we let go on here while the Vietnam War was going on. I'm not sure under our form of govt. that there was a lot we could do about it. It's not a communist form of govt. we couldn't go in and make them quit because really they were in their rights, but I would like to think that people would think a little more about their country. But it's the ones who have never seen any other countries that do all the, I mean would you like to live in Vietnam all the rest of your life the way those people live?
- Q. No. I tell you I've been in about four different countries and I've never been anywhere yet I'd rather live.
- A. Then here, yes, me too. I've been in other countries other than Vietnam and even those, for instance Mexico, I've been there on business and it's basically a pretty country, but I wouldn't want to live there.
- Q. People tell me I'm crazy, I've been to 4 continents and I don't know how many states and I think I like Alabama as well as anywhere I've ever been.
- Q. Who did you go to work for?
- A. As far as the security of the Nations concerned now do you feel secure with the volunteer army or do you think.
- A. No; not really, I think they ought to keep the draft.
- Q. As you look back after this 10, 15 years, do you think our involvement with
- Q. Well, a lot of guys have even gone farther than the draft and said there should be a mandatory period of enlistment for all males. They're not saying two or three years, but they're saying at least go for your basic training, maybe about six months.

- A. It's good for them I think that two years is not too much to ask. I think it does more for them then, I think it makes them grow up for one thing.
- Q. A lot of guys coming out of high school now a days who don't want to go to college don't have any motivation. They're just laying around not doing anything, sooner or later they'll get in trouble. I think it's a good out. I think 18 yrs. old you should go, it'll make you grow up a lot faster.
- A. Spend a couple of years and then. . . before I went I never considered going to college, I never considered doing a lot of anything. I always worked, I never have been without a job. I think after I got out I was grown up more. I didn't let things bother me too bad.
- Q. Well, that's the same as soon as I graduated I came straight up here for a semester, and I just wasn't into it, didn't want to be here but then after I got out of the army I decided I'm ready now. I think it would be good for them. Do you think we can ever bring the draft back after we've done away with it?
- A. It's going to be tough. You see the problems they went through just trying to get on the Register. You never had that problem back before they did away with it. There was no question when we turned 18 we went and registered for the draft. It was just a way of life.
- Q. Well, really you can't get a judge now to sentence somebody for breaking the law.
- A. I think the service helped me too in getting jobs, because the first job I got when I got back at General Motors I went in there and gave them my application they were turning everybody down. So I started to just throw the application away and walk out because I was seeing people being turned away. But I went up and handed mine in and she said I see you just got out of the service and I said yes and she said come back tomorrow and that was it.
- Q. What about your degree do you think that helped?
- A. Oh yes it helped. It helped me to get my first job and it helped me get the job I'm in now. This is only my second job I've had since I got my degree. I'm not so sure I need my degree to do the job I do, but I wouldn't have got the job without the degree. I'm a salesman and I probably spend half of my time underground and the other half just traveling around.
- Q. You go down in the mines?
- A. Yes, about 50% of the time.
- Q. Is it as dangerous as being in Vietnam?
- A. No!
- Q. One of the reasons that Dr. Hanrahan started this project was, he's concerned that the Vietnam veterans have never gotten the recognition they deserve. He's maybe wanting to get a plaque at the student center with the names of alumni that served in Vietnam and also a section of the library for an exhibit, a memorial. What do you think about that, does it matter to you one way or the other.
- A. I think it would be nice. I don't worry about things like that. If they do they do if they don't they don't, but I think it would be nice.
- Q. I think it would be too. A lot of veterans see it as begging them to do it and feel we shouldn't have to do that.
- A. I think a lot of veterans are looking for a second handout.

- Q. Do you think that a lot of veterans problems that they have now they're just blaming it on their experiences they're using it as a crutch to lean on.
- A. Exactly. When I came back and went to school I put myself through. My parents were more than able to help me but I didn't ask them. I did it myself. I didn't want anybody to give me anything but I think a lot of them do.
- Q. Well if you watch TV anymore you think that the majority came back out of their minds, just on the verge of going over the cliff. Really any statistics I've seen on it any people that have mental problems runs about 3%, that's not very bad, I'd say that's probably less than the average. Probably less than what came out of World War II. That's just all you see on television anymore.
- A. You know of all the veterans I know, and I know quite a few, I had several buddies over there and one killed, but basically they're all stable, all that I know have jobs. I think the problem, problem wise is bigger cities where you've got them up there wanting a handout and they aren't going to work anyway. Never would have, it doesn't make any difference whether they went to the service or not.
- Q. They're having the same problem they would have had if they'd never been in Vietnam.
- A. Exactly. I'm a firm believer that there's jobs for everybody in this country, if somebody's got the initiative to go do something they can do it. Don't look for something to lean back on.
- Q. That seems to be the American way now, you grow up looking for handouts. This welfare deal has just been passed from generation to generation.
- A. I'm chairman for our Toys for Tots thing over at Olive Hill and I've seen it for a few years now. It's just you go up in these hollows to take toys to these kids then you see them 10 or 15 years from now having 3 or 4 more. It just keeps spreading out and don't want to do anything but stay in that hollow and draw welfare.
- Q. Well, this one welfare family may have five or six kids and each kid may have five or six kids.
- A. It's a lack of initiative is all it is. We don't need to pour money into the schools -- they are adequate. We need to pour money into these psychologists to get these people a carrot out in front of them so they'll get out of what they are in an want more of what they got.
- Q. Or at lease make them do a little something for what they are getting. There's a lot of stuff these people could be doing. I understand a guy out working for minimum wage and he's got a wife and a couple of kids, I can understand him needing a little help. But not the ones that's doing absolutely nothing.
- A. Well, there again if a guy is working for minimum wage and he needs more he ought to get a part time job. My dad did, I can remember him working two jobs when I was young and growing up because he just didn't feel like we had enough on the one. He worked days at one and nights at another. If you want something then you can get it.
- Q. If there's a will there's a way. What do you think about the, well you said you liked the way that Reagan handled Grenada. Do you think he's doing a fair job?
- A. Yes, I like him.

- Q. Do you agree with his building up the military?
- A. Absolutely and I'm a democrat. I like him because as far as I'm concerned he's the only one that's got any guts that I've seen maybe everything he's doing is not right, but he's got the guts to do it and we haven't seen that in several years.
- Q. Do you think that's the way to handle the Russians?
- A. Fear, that's the only thing they understand.
- Q. You've got to go right in their faces.
- A. You can't reason with them people. So if Russia thinks we are going to annihilate them then that's the only way they'll lay back. Then they won't lay back they'll just go a different avenue.
- Q. They'll get away with as much as we let them.
- A. Sure, exactly and I think we took a little wind out of our sails in Grenada.
- Q. Well, the thing about Grenada, we really caught them with their pants down. They talked about all the accusations we were making and then went down there and captured that whole warehouse of weapons.
- A. I think all that happens in, well I started to say terrorist, but Russia's not a terrorist country, but they'd back the terrorist countries. And the only things those countries understand, if they understand anything is total alination, and I'm not even sure that phases them a whole lot. But it's the only thing we've got is fear, the only tactic we can use against those people is fear.
- Q. That seems to be all they understand. Anything less than that I believe they see as a weakness in us.

