

MS450 005

Interviewer: Bayor, Ronald H.

Interviewee: Scott, C. A.

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**Georgia Institute of Technology Archives, Ron Bayor Papers
(MS450)**

BAYOR: [00:00] One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. OK. One of the things I wanted to ask you is in 1962 there seems to be a shift in black leadership to younger groups.

SCOTT: Well, (inaudible) do you know what the latest poll says of the black community?

BAYOR: Yeah, what?

SCOTT: They (inaudible) [watch the poll?] that most of the legal leaders are liberals, but the [bad south people are?] (inaudible) conservatives. (inaudible) I just say that.

BAYOR: What do you think the Negro Voters League voters lost its influence? What happened? Why do you think the Negro Voters League lost its power, lost its influence?

SCOTT: Well, because (inaudible) in 19606, when we elected Leory senator (inaudible). The Democrats felt they had everything [01:00] (inaudible) [Sr.?] and a lot of other people [and that was not?] -- well, we had about (inaudible), you know, Republican won't challenge a Democrat. (inaudible) and I agreed with them because I'm a (inaudible) because I want to be free (inaudible).
(laughter) So that's the situation. We didn't need it! We

thought we did, but we did not (inaudible) 1972 from '66
because we started the (inaudible).

BAYOR: So did you find the black community still following the
League's...

SCOTT: No, [God?] was gone in '72. [02:00] [Bald was gone?]
(inaudible) The [minister?] was gone, [Clemens?] was gone.
In '72 (inaudible) was still here, and [Hollowell?], but
that's what happened.

BAYOR: So people -- so the leadership was...

SCOTT: It just died out and gone.

BAYOR: So new leadership...

SCOTT: So new leaders -- and we took out "Negro" in the name
in '72. Then Negro was (inaudible) '72.

BAYOR: What did you call yourself in '72?

SCOTT: Atlanta Bipartisan Voters League.

BAYOR: OK. How long did that last?

SCOTT: It's still (inaudible), and [Paul Gumms?] is chairman.

BAYOR: Do you recommend candidates, too?

SCOTT: Yes.

BAYOR: Still do.

SCOTT: Yeah, we had -- the '76 we tried to elect (inaudible).

BAYOR: Now, is it as powerful as the original group?

SCOTT: No, no (inaudible). The main idea (inaudible)

(laughter) vote for the Democrats now. (inaudible)

BAYOR: Yeah, that's right. [03:00]

SCOTT: [Six million of us?]. (laughter)

BAYOR: I was curious also when Maynard Jackson was elected mayor, what impact do you think that had on the black community and on the city?

SCOTT: Do you know (inaudible) took him and when he (inaudible)? Do you know?

BAYOR: No.

SCOTT: I didn't support it. Well, Sam and [Bald?] and [Moses?], you know, we used to have what's called the [City Executive Committee?] (inaudible). No pay. All they did (inaudible).

BAYOR: So why didn't you support him?

SCOTT: Because Sam had been (inaudible) liberal, progressive, [fat?] man for his entire (inaudible). I don't support no man who's going to take a man's (inaudible).

BAYOR: That's what Warren Cochrane said also.

SCOTT: (inaudible) he did a good job. I think (inaudible), just kick it out.

BAYOR: Did you want Jackson to run in [04:00] '76 then or...

SCOTT: No, yeah, I supported Jackson the second time, but first time I didn't support him.

BAYOR: Do you think he brought a lot of changes?

SCOTT: Oh, yes, he brought a lot of changes. Mainly (inaudible) -- gone but not forgotten. I'll see you. All right. (laughter) OK, [Miss Jacqueline?]. But, yeah, (inaudible) is a fine guy. Let me tell you, a man (inaudible) supposed to be a US Senator, but [he missed the boat?].

BAYOR: Really?

SCOTT: He (inaudible) time.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

SCOTT: Never (inaudible) come out a Texas Democrat, and Democrats gave him a job at his college (inaudible) be a Democrat.

BAYOR: Well, that's a good reason.

SCOTT: A good reason (inaudible), but it's shortsighted, though.

BAYOR: What was the...

SCOTT: (inaudible) (laughter) That's the problem.

BAYOR: What do you think the [05:00] white community's reaction was to Jackson's first term?

SCOTT: Oh, well, they thought he was a little -- Jackson was a powerful man. I think they respected him, but Jackson was stronger then, no comparison to -- and I think they respected it, but (inaudible). And they (inaudible) beat Jackson. They beat (inaudible).

BAYOR: Well, he cooperates more with the -- I guess the business group here.

SCOTT: Oh, yeah, he [gets on with them?], but he's too political. So let the police join the police, the firemen (inaudible) politics. And that's another thing, maybe (inaudible) he's a good business manager. (inaudible) made too many mistakes. (inaudible) [06:00] that's what he's doing. (inaudible) and whatever (inaudible). Atlanta's going to be a big city like Tokyo they say.

BAYOR: So they say.

SCOTT: Yeah, well, it's growing. (inaudible)

BAYOR: How about -- how about -- I'd like to speak to you also about right after becoming the center of the civil rights movement (inaudible).

SCOTT: Oh, yeah, it was.

BAYOR: Why do you think Atlanta became that?

SCOTT: You know, it was freer, more education, more leaders here.

BAYOR: Black schools, maybe?

SCOTT: Huh?

BAYOR: Do you think that the black schools were part of it? The fact that the...

SCOTT: Oh yeah, [it?] definitely was. More leadership, more intelligence here, more (inaudible) power here.

BAYOR: How about the whites here? Were the whites any different here than they might have been in other places, do you think?

SCOTT: They'd have to be if we -- well, that's what I told you while ago, they couldn't (inaudible) [act better?] They just wanted us to be strong and more powerful so (inaudible). [07:00]

BAYOR: So in terms of white, it wasn't any big violence here like in Birmingham?

SCOTT: No, no, no, no, no.

BAYOR: Because...

SCOTT: (inaudible). See, we [created that?] beginning in '44
(inaudible) first (inaudible).

BAYOR: So you think it's because blacks had political power...

SCOTT: Yeah, power and more intelligence. No, (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK, but that type of (inaudible).

SCOTT: That's right. Yeah! They thought they could outvote -
- [that's another thing?], the white man (inaudible) white
man young and (inaudible).

BAYOR: Who?

SCOTT: The white man. (laughter) (inaudible) [war?]. When we
got to help King (inaudible) because he was [losing?]
(inaudible) and philosophy and other things, (inaudible)
each other. Where does that happen? (inaudible) [08:00]
(inaudible) but as long as we can keep the power, we can
keep peace.

BAYOR: Did he think you could keep the power politically,
though? That's...

SCOTT: (inaudible) [that's all the power we've got?].

BAYOR: Yeah, that's right.

SCOTT: Political (inaudible) money get [the politics?].

BAYOR: Was that -- that's the way the Voters League kept
racists out of office, I guess. They --

SCOTT: Oh, yeah, we could whip him. We whipped [citywide?]
(inaudible).

BAYOR: That's how you kept [Maddox?] from becoming mayor, I
guess.

SCOTT: Oh, yeah! (inaudible) But they were going that way (inaudible) saw the stampede in that direction. I couldn't hold them. (laughter) (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah, yeah. I wanted to get back to also what you were talking about in the car, the two-party system or no two-party system here.

SCOTT: Yeah, in the South. That's why I'm still a Republican.

BAYOR: What effect do you think that had on the black community? [09:00] There was no two-party system.

SCOTT: Not only blacks, whites too. (inaudible) New York [and the east?]. (inaudible). That's the difference.

BAYOR: You are saying the politicians didn't care then. They...

SCOTT: No, they were (inaudible) about white supremacy, which was wrong and that's how you became the voice of [rage?].

BAYOR: So if there was a strong Republican Party, they wouldn't have been so racist, I guess. They wouldn't have been so...

SCOTT: (inaudible). So where did we get our Republicans? From (inaudible) Democrats (inaudible). (laughter) That's where we got him. That's right. Go ahead.

BAYOR: OK. You remember Mayor Allen, the wall he built back in the...

SCOTT: That was a big mistake. [10:00] (inaudible) [pushed it?] too far. Because that's (inaudible) but it was wrong and I knew it couldn't stand. I knew the law wouldn't stand it. I didn't get excited about it.

BAYOR: Do you think it -- did it split the black community?

SCOTT: No, (inaudible) against that wall.

BAYOR: I heard that the younger blacks, students, were disappointed with the black leadership because...

SCOTT: Oh, no, that's all baloney. Them young blacks are more (inaudible) but I remember those young blacks (inaudible) [in pictures?] and got (inaudible), but, you know, conservatives [or whatever?]. But the (inaudible) [the old?]. Yeah, and that's why we're [dancing?] (inaudible).

[11:00]

BAYOR: Do you think when Mayor Allen appointed [A.T. Walters?] as a judge that was just to win over...

SCOTT: (inaudible), and that's all right.

BAYOR: That was just to win over the black community, then, I guess.

SCOTT: Well, not that alone, but that was part of it.

BAYOR: That was part of it.

SCOTT: They (inaudible) me on the police, on the (inaudible), on the (inaudible) police.

BAYOR: Yeah. And what did you do in the police? I was wondering about that, too. You mentioned -- SCOTT: (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK. OK. So you made sure they weren't given a bad deal to the blacks who were...

SCOTT: No, it wasn't that (inaudible) be [different?] than all those previous white police, but we brought [that on our

heads?] by certain Negroes agitating the blacks against the police about that (inaudible).

BAYOR: So you were trying to make sure that no racist whites were being hired for police.

SCOTT: Oh, certainly doing that. (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah. OK. OK. [12:00] Getting back to Mayor Jackson, was there any attempt by the white business group here to sort of sabotage or resist his programs that he was trying to get into at that time?

SCOTT: I don't know nothing about that. Maybe, maybe not. I'm sure they were, though. (inaudible) everybody [gets?] sabotaged at some point I'm being sabotaged. (inaudible) gonna be sabotaged.

BAYOR: I guess. OK. The last thing I wanted to get to was when Martin Luther King Jr. brought his movement here.

SCOTT: Yeah, I want to tell you about that.

BAYOR: OK, tell me about that.

SCOTT: When King was arrested in Nashville -- what was that? It must have been -- let me see -- '49 or something like that, maybe.

BAYOR: This is --

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: It must have been later than that.

SCOTT: It was later than that. The boycott, '57, [13:00] when they arrested him and were taking him back to Montgomery. He had begin the bus boycott (inaudible).

BAYOR: Right, right, '57, right.

SCOTT: That's right. Well, King called his father Easter morning from Montgomery. He's in Nashville. He got [advice?]. His father called me and (inaudible) for advice, up on -- he had a house on the boulevard -- advise King what to do. But we had (inaudible) can't be no people's justice. King probably going to be on (inaudible) (laughter) but anyway, he came down thereand that started (inaudible) against the whole civil rights movement.

BAYOR: OK, but why did he move the movement here and why did he come to...

SCOTT: Oh, actually the movement started when that woman was sitting on the bus.

BAYOR: Yeah, but she was in Montgomery. So how about here?

SCOTT: I know! We weren't fighting as much. it on the bus. She was tired and [14:00] and (inaudible). The Lord told her to do it. (laughs) BAYOR: I'm just curious why he picked Atlanta. Why did he move here...

SCOTT: He moved here -- we moved him in in '59 (inaudible) his father (inaudible) because (inaudible).

BAYOR: Did he have much to do with the Negro Voter's League at all? Did he have...

SCOTT: No, he (inaudible).

BAYOR: Never got elected.

SCOTT: No, he got in the civil rights movement.

BAYOR: Never got involved in politics here though.

SCOTT: He got (inaudible). What do you mean he didn't (inaudible)?

BAYOR: I mean politics in the city.

SCOTT: Not locally.

BAYOR: Yeah, that's right.

SCOTT: But (inaudible) Democrats (laughter) (inaudible) they said they don't need all these (inaudible) people, and a few of us were free and independent enough to [look down the road far enough?] [15:00] we could be Republicans. And so I (inaudible) William (inaudible) professor of Georgia Tech here --

BAYOR: Bayor, Ron Bayor.

M: Bayor.

SCOTT: (inaudible) That's William (inaudible) Scott (inaudible).

M: I'm an [engineer?].

BAYOR: Oh, really.

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: Yeah.

SCOTT: You did?

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: Well, what did you do out there?

M: (inaudible) come back.

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: Probably had them all nervous I bet.

M: Well, I had (inaudible).

SCOTT: (inaudible)

M: (inaudible) [16:00]

BAYOR: Probably could have brought a court case against him at that point, [I suppose?]. M: (inaudible) continuing education for (inaudible) communications and chemistry and [stuff like that?]

BAYOR: Yeah, well those are good courses, yeah.

SCOTT: Well.

M: (inaudible) design in '49. SCOTT: Forty-nine.

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: [And it never got started?].

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: He's not here yet.

BAYOR: I came back in '73 so I came (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SCOTT: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BAYOR: Social sciences, history. History.

SCOTT: History.

BAYOR: Yeah.

SCOTT: Well, we were just talking about (inaudible) two parties [17:00] and consolidated government, and I told him we got to go a long ways in the way (inaudible) races (inaudible) solidify the Negro race, but we all got the (inaudible) I mean sincerely most (inaudible).

BAYOR: If it can be done.

SCOTT: It can be done! It's just if people would do it?]

BAYOR: What?

SCOTT: You know, what happened (inaudible) because of the way I was born and the way my family raised me and I learned in twelfth grade [Edmund Burke?] and (inaudible) -- I'm coming up there in a minute, but (inaudible) but they didn't have a big weekend (inaudible). [18:00] My buddy, he (inaudible) teacher. We were studying English literature. [Burke?] wrote that he couldn't understand how you could be (inaudible) against a whole race of people like they were doing (inaudible). That's true. You got bad blacks, bad whites. (inaudible).

BAYOR: That's what they did, though.

SCOTT: That's why they lost the South.

BAYOR: I wanted to ask you, too if you have -- if there is any clippings files here that you keep your...

SCOTT: Oh, yeah. I'll go through that, too (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK.

SCOTT: (inaudible) we're going to get it together (inaudible) Every month we got a book. You can get them in order (inaudible) look at it what happened (inaudible)

BAYOR: Now do you have them separated by topics at all?

SCOTT: Well, no, no topics just a book (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK. But this is all on microfilm [19:00] over at the university anyway.

SCOTT: Yeah, we got them all on microfilm too.

BAYOR: Yeah.

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: I thought maybe you had them by topics or something you just could (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SCOTT: No, no topics, man.

BAYOR: That would be great. (laughs)

SCOTT: We have got (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK. That's all (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SCOTT: (inaudible)

BAYOR: Because I've been reading a lot of the old back issues.

I've been reading them over on microfilm over at AU, yeah, yeah. But that's [pretty much what I?] wanted to ask you.

SCOTT: (inaudible) week or a month, I think. (inaudible). I thought we'd pick out one or two every month, but we couldn't save papers from [last year?] and we run them on Sunday (inaudible) but (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah.

(pause in recording)

SCOTT: [20:00] -- [doing things to check on them?]. And we (inaudible) the name of the woman, the ringleader --

BAYOR: Of those...

SCOTT: -- which is (inaudible) reaction if everything goes to plan.

BAYOR: Yeah.

SCOTT: And of course he (inaudible) a million dollars (inaudible) five years (inaudible) threw it out. (inaudible).

BAYOR: Where was this? Over on the west side?

SCOTT: Hmm?

BAYOR: Where was she doing this? Over on the west side?

SCOTT: She did it on Hightower.

BAYOR: On Hightower.

SCOTT: What's that street out there, [Williams?]? M:
(inaudible)

SCOTT: (inaudible)

M: (inaudible) Hightower.

SCOTT: (inaudible), William.

M: [It's between?] (inaudible)

SCOTT: Huh?

M: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SCOTT: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

M: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SCOTT: [21:00] (inaudible) There weren't no street signs. I
know where he is and anyway...

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: (inaudible)

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: That's where they were moving.

BAYOR: Yeah.

SCOTT: (inaudible)

M: Well, they are probably (inaudible)

SCOTT: Oh, I know what you did (inaudible) because
(inaudible).

M: (inaudible)

SCOTT: I'm telling you where he lived (inaudible) streets
(inaudible) below where (inaudible). Anyway (inaudible).
Oh, no. Oh, no.

BAYOR: OK.

SCOTT: See, there (inaudible). And we wrote a story about her
(inaudible). [22:00]

BAYOR: So she sued you for libel?

SCOTT: Fifty thousand! But -- no, it was more than 50 -- [it
was 50 million?].

BAYOR: She really thought she (inaudible), huh?

SCOTT: Oh, no, she trying to scare me. [Priscilla?] didn't
have no case. (inaudible) (laughter) But she [misjudged
it?] But anyway (inaudible) threw it out. All right. Now
I am going to get a (inaudible).

BAYOR: That's it. That was it.

SCOTT: That's it. Well, that's...

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