

MS450\_004

Interviewer: Bayor, Ronald H.

Interviewee: McKinney, Billy

Interview date: 1987-10-20

Transcription date: 2014

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

BAYOR: Five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. Do you mind if I  
record it all?

MCKINNEY: You can [go right ahead?].

BAYOR: Well, I was curious first about how you had selected  
the (inaudible) police department? How did they pick the  
first black police?

MCKINNEY: There were stringent tests that we took and maybe 5 or  
6 out of 100 would pass, and two or three (inaudible). And  
then after you passed that written part of the test, there  
were stringent oral examinations and background checks, and  
out of that came -- there was eight and I was the ninth  
person [to go?].

BAYOR: [01:00] I was curious, also, about how well were the  
black neighborhoods policed before and after the  
integration of the force? In other words, was there any  
difference with the entry of black police? Any difference  
at all, or...?

MCKINNEY: Well, we were received as -- as something  
extraordinary. We were -- I mean, people followed us down

the streets and we were like celebrities. We spoke at churches. There was a great reception by the black community. It wasn't so good by the black community, the black criminal element, those that hadn't been used to being policed closely.

BAYOR: OK, that's what I was curious about.

MCKINNEY: And --

BAYOR: Was the black [02:00] police -- were the black police better able to police the black community?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yes. Definitely.

BAYOR: [What says so?]?

MCKINNEY: Definitely. We brought a different sensitivity to the police department for black people and for what we thought black people ought to be. And that meant putting black folks in jail for things that white folks -- white police -- had never put them in jail for.

BAYOR: What sort of things?

MCKINNEY: Well, just hanging out on the corner, and molesting black women, and little dice games, little gambling games. At that time, corn liquor was the vice, and we'd put them in jail for corn liquor, and the [03:00] white police wouldn't. And with the bootleggers, you know.

BAYOR: In other words, you --

MCKINNEY: So we brought different a different -- now, there was  
there was resentment from that element.

BAYOR: From the white criminal?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. Well, not necessarily the criminal element, but  
from just the black element that were shady, but weren't  
necessarily criminal.

BAYOR: Was this sort of from the fact that the white police  
didn't really care that much what happened to the black  
community?

MCKINNEY: They didn't care that much and they'd come get their  
money and go on about their business. And yeah, they --  
the white police presented [a stereotype?]. And we had any  
number of racial incidents that -- with white policemen.

BAYOR: [04:00] Such as what?

MCKINNEY: Well, such as confrontations. I remember once  
[McKiven?] had -- well, in the beginning, though, [Elkins?]  
locked up a white man and they wouldn't call the wagon; the  
wagon wouldn't pick him up. So Elkins walked him. He was  
right there on Decatur Street. Elkins walked him down to  
the police station and booked him in, and was reprimanded  
for arresting a white man. Well, Elkins quit because of  
that.

BAYOR: So that's one (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

MCKINNEY: -- and that's when I replaced [him?].

BAYOR: Did the --

MCKINNEY: After that, then, you'd call a wagon for a prisoner -- and only white patrolmen were driving the wagons -- they might pull up on this side of the street and you were over there. They wouldn't [05:00] make a turn and come over and pick you up. You had to walk across. And one of the policemen, McKiven, got into a confrontation with a white policeman who was driving the wagon. I got into numerous confrontations with white police.

BAYOR: [For harassing you?]??

MCKINNEY: Well, once, I was late going to court in [DeKalb?] (inaudible). There was a crosswalk, and I pulled up to the crosswalk, and there was no traffic -- no pedestrian traffic -- so I pulled down to (inaudible), because I was on the (inaudible) I pulled down to the intersection. And the policeman blew his whistle, then [06:00] he came over. I told him I was a policeman and I was late getting to court (inaudible). [But he said, "All, you niggers?] (inaudible)," and jumped back into the car. And I grabbed him. And then I had [it rough?]. And I told him I would blow his goddamned brains out. Then I got in my car, went straight to the police station to make a report out on him, and then it would -- while I was sitting there, making a report out, he came in and -- with his lieutenant. Then

they put a report out on me. And naturally, I got suspended.

BAYOR: You did? So they --

MCKINNEY: I got suspended and he did, too.

BAYOR: Oh, he did, too?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. You see, at that time, it was a very sensitive time. And there were a group of black leaders -- [Warren Parkerman?] at the YMCA, [07:00] and Waters -- Reverend Waters --

BAYOR: It was (inaudible).

MCKINNEY: (inaudible). C.A. Scott [round up to me?]

(inaudible). And they monitored -- in fact, they interviewed the blacks who were hired to make sure that they were accepted into the black leadership. And... It was -- it was -- it was a period when it was totally about dignity, because we couldn't wear our uniforms to court. We had to pull them off and (inaudible) when I had to go to court to prosecute. [Because?] they called all of our cases at the same time [08:00] they called -- after -- they'd call all the white policemen's cases, they called our cases. There was an effort made to keep us from white policemen.

BAYOR: What do you mean from -- away them altogether?

MCKINNEY: Away from them altogether. When we moved into the new -- moved out of the Y and moved into the basement of the police station, at our precinct (inaudible) [white precinct?] was in the basement of the police station. It was -- well, I did a couple years and it started to [abate?]. It didn't take long before... I knew I didn't belong. And we were a political arm of the police department. We were constantly -- it was (inaudible) and [09:00] we worked the polls. And it was -- what we did was far -- looked like leadership [from?] the white leadership (inaudible). You understand? And every time we would complain about something, and we would get a -- at first, we had two old cars with, you know, that were assigned to us. And we'd complain, and then we'd get two better cars. I was the leader of the complaints from the very beginning. And blacks, once we moved up at the police station, then we were [10:00] -- expanded the beats that, you know, they would have two or three more. Maybe two or three [more?].

BAYOR: I thought that black police wanted more -- rather, wanted (inaudible).

MCKINNEY: Not at first, no.

BAYOR: Did the --

MCKINNEY: But when we did get the (inaudible), we got two cars, two beats; one on the west side and one on the (inaudible), along (inaudible).

BAYOR: Both in black neighborhoods, or...?

MCKINNEY: Both in black neighborhoods.

BAYOR: Did the white police back you up in emergencies, when you were being shot at, let's say, or whatever?

MCKINNEY: Yes, eventually.

BAYOR: How about at first?

MCKINNEY: But at first, it was, I mean, total resentment.

(inaudible) white policemen only. Then the [cop?], the eventually replaced [any cop that covered?] (inaudible). They may have put out a, [11:00] you know, like a hit. They paid at least one of those guys to (inaudible).

BAYOR: Pay anybody who would do it?

MCKINNEY: Anybody who do it. I mean, that was just common in the [food rooms?] and then the --

BAYOR: How long did that [last?] --

MCKINNEY: -- in the taverns and -- well, we eventually replaced them, [in that car?]. And that cop eventually became a black cop. But that was some very, very, very hardcore racist for me, at that time. They were.

BAYOR: And these cops would not have backed you up at all, really?

MCKINNEY: No.

BAYOR: Some whites would have, I'm sure.

MCKINNEY: There were -- there were -- there were some whites that would. There were some whites that were friendly. We had -- we had a protest rally against some blacks on motorcycles, and [12:00] a couple of white policemen who were on motorcycles would stop by and say that they would welcome, you know, blacks to be on motorcycles. The main thing about it, because every time I would mount a protest, [Earl Dinkens?] was smart enough to understand that -- he heard it. Wouldn't promote me [and none of?] (inaudible), but he would promote [Howard Ball?], who eventually became assistant [chief?]. And he would make the promotions. I think [Milens?] and Ball were the first two to become plainclothes policemen, or that was... [13:00] And all the way up. Every time we -- you know, we mounted a [damn?] protest and --

BAYOR: Did anybody --

MCKINNEY: -- that was [our?] response.

BAYOR: So first of all, anybody who complained wasn't promoted?

MCKINNEY: No, no. [Miller?]. No, Miller.

BAYOR: And when you did complain to Jenkins about a white cop who was a racist, what was the response from Jenkins?



MCKINNEY: He probably -- well, you see, the method of protest would be through the black advisory committee, as you might say, through the black leadership --

BAYOR: It came through Waters?

MCKINNEY: Waters and that, yeah. Waters. Warren [Cochran?] was the main person who (inaudible). Yeah. He was a mean person.

BAYOR: So when you complained to Cochran and when you complained to Waters, they would approach [14:00] Jenkins?

MCKINNEY: They -- well, they would approach Jenkins, but in the meantime, I was not -- I mean, I'd tell them, but then I'd go on about the business of protests. And always there were promotions and changes made in relation to the protest.

BAYOR: There was a white -- was a white cop suspended, was he reprimanded by Jenkins?

MCKINNEY: Oh, no. They moved him.

BAYOR: Just moved him to a different (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

MCKINNEY: -- moved him to a different area.

BAYOR: Was he talked to and pressured to lay off the black cops at all?

MCKINNEY: I don't know. I wouldn't really be privy to that. I just know they moved him. You know, we had a person who

was our commander and that was (inaudible) he took the things, so (inaudible). And [15:00] he backed us, and he was kind of paternalistic, but he backed us. He -- and he would -- I mean, they would give him hell for being our commander, other white -- you know, white police. He [caught hell?], but then he was a strong person. And he --

BAYOR: Did you find that the white cops would back you up in court as witnesses? If there was a situation where you were making a case and the white cop was a witness, would they back you up in court?

MCKINNEY: If he was a witness, yeah.

BAYOR: He would? OK. And there would be no trouble?

MCKINNEY: Later on. Later on. But in the very beginning, there was very little contact we had with white police other than the white drivers, the people who came [16:00] to pick up our (inaudible).

BAYOR: Who apparently didn't treat you too well?

MCKINNEY: And they -- yeah, they were terrible.

BAYOR: How about the -- how about the --

MCKINNEY: Anybody who drove the wagon was on punishment anyway.

So that -- I mean, that's -- so that -- they were not the best policemen anyway. If you're a wagon guy, I mean, all you're doing is hauling, just...

BAYOR: I talked to Chief Jenkins a few days ago, and I was asking him about the various restrictions that were placed on the black police at first -- not arresting whites, not (inaudible) -- and he says this was -- this was done to help the integration of the police force of the city, that the black cops themselves wanted it.

MCKINNEY: He's a liar.

BAYOR: OK. (laughter)

MCKINNEY: He's a damn liar. I mean, that's just a damn lie.

BAYOR: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

MCKINNEY: Yeah, we wanted dignity. And the only reason that we mounted the protests was, I mean, every step of the way there was a fight. There was [17:00] never anything given without a fight for it. That was no voluntary... And we had to fight -- you know, I mean, we, who were in the movement, had to fight black police, too, those who had been promoted. I remember I was an editor of a weekly public publication called *Comment, The Comment*. It was (inaudible) with, you know, put around the police station and sent to black newspapers. And it told what was going on in (inaudible). And...

BAYOR: That (inaudible)?

MCKINNEY: No.

BAYOR: [Do you have a copy?]??

MCKINNEY: I don't (inaudible).

BAYOR: [Your?] story's like that sort of stuff. One of the things Jenkins said when I spoke to him was one of the reasons you didn't wear your uniforms home was that he was afraid that you would be harassed by whites who saw blacks walking home with the uniform on. [18:00]

MCKINNEY: Bullshit. That's bullshit. Because we fought to wear them. We fought to wear them to court.

BAYOR: You know, you wanted to be treated as police?

MCKINNEY: As police, that's right.

BAYOR: Did you find that the white brutality -- like police brutality against the black community -- did that change at all?

MCKINNEY: Oh, it changed, yeah. It did.

BAYOR: How so? What was the --

MCKINNEY: We had -- we had -- it -- well, it changed, because in most of the black community, from 6:00 to 2:00 -- we were called the 6:00 p.m. [lights?] -- from 6:00 to 2:00, we worked. We were mostly [black policemen?] and -- and... Of course, now, we were accused of police brutality, too. But so -- because --

BAYOR: By the black community?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. Because [19:00] we were policing harder than they'd ever been policed.

BAYOR: But you were --

MCKINNEY: But white policemen used to roll up to black people walking home or something. "Put your head in this window," you know, roll the window [on their head?], beat them up, put them (inaudible) and they'd ride down on a [crazy street?] and tell them, "All right, let's go to bed now," and run people off the porches. This was, you know, all white [kind of?] --

BAYOR: Did that stop?

MCKINNEY: That stopped.

BAYOR: [Why?] did it stop?

MCKINNEY: It stopped because we were walking (inaudible).

BAYOR: You were, OK. So the whites were out of the black neighborhoods?

MCKINNEY: No, they were still there, in the cars. We were walking beats and they were -- we were walking and they were riding.

BAYOR: They were walking together?

MCKINNEY: They never walked. We were walking beats. We were assigned walking beats and then they were riding the cars, every time we were walking.

BAYOR: And you were able to stop the brutality from them because you were walking the [main beat?]?

MCKINNEY: Well, not necessarily stop [20:00] it, but, you know, I mean, we were hostile to them and they were hostile to us, so they wouldn't beat nobody if they knew we were around. It was just (inaudible). It was... We eventually took over the black community, after a number of years.

BAYOR: Did you find you controlled more of the black community than the whites [had, possibly]??

MCKINNEY: No, a beat is -- you know, that is a beat.

BAYOR: I guess I'm just trying to get a sense whether the black police who, I think, would care more for the black community, made more of an effort to deal with lawbreakers.

MCKINNEY: Well, we did. Yeah. No, we did. I remember one time, we -- I was riding in the old (inaudible) [21:00] [car?] and they -- the [numbers were?] supposed to go in at one o'clock and I was sitting in front of the smoke shop -- right at the smoke shop -- where they had [them bottled in?], and he'd say -- he'd come around and ask me, "Where is your beat?" And I'd say, "You know where my beat is, Lieutenant." He'd say, "Well, when's the last time you've been on [Highland Avenue?]?" (laughter) So I mean, to get the numbers out, you know. They were all (inaudible). We really -- we didn't make any dents because, I mean, numbers was still -- today, just like (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible).

MCKINNEY: Yeah. So we didn't make any dents with that. [22:00]

We made some little difference in how Atlanta, the black community, was policed.

BAYOR: Did you get any reaction from the white or the black communities when the restrictions were lifted [for the police]]?

MCKINNEY: No, but...

BAYOR: The whites accepted it; the blacks accepted it?

MCKINNEY: Well, I mean, there was no -- there was nothing anybody could do. The white policemen had to accept whatever the rules are. I mean, the rules were restrictions on us.

BAYOR: Yeah, but when they were lifted, the whites accepted it?

MCKINNEY: Sure, they did. There was nothing else to do. When [Ball and them?] were put into the detective department, I mean, they worked as detectives. And then, pretty soon, I think [Lyons?] and [23:00] [Ball?] were first detectives. And then Hudson and [Harris?], (inaudible). So there were four, you know. And then... (inaudible) two working stolen cars and two [working radio?], and somebody on --

BAYOR: I read someplace that they were -- there was a period of about 10 years when there was virtually no promotions of black police.

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. [I didn't like that?].

BAYOR: And even by 1959, out of 650 police, there was only 40 blacks. So if the police department was committed, or (inaudible) was committed to --

MCKINNEY: It was totally political.

BAYOR: In other words, if the black community brought pressure, then --

MCKINNEY: Yeah. Totally political. And the way they hired them in the beginning was that they -- that same group -- the leadership group -- you know, (inaudible) about black police. And so you'd get (inaudible). [24:00]

BAYOR: What happened later on? I mean, by 19--

MCKINNEY: Well, I'm saying by four years later, you know, you'd get two cars, you get two men riding. And then, four years later -- I mean, it was always -- it was always political.

BAYOR: You had to squeeze in, in the middle of (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

MCKINNEY: And Jenkins was always a political policeman. You know, I went to -- later on -- much later on, I was picketing the police station, and he came up to me and said that I was a policeman and I had no business (inaudible) picketing. And I told him, "I'm a black man first." I got suspended. And I took that case to federal court. I lost the case. It's ironic that I lost the case, and now



policemen are picketing and calling the chief, calling the commissioner (laughter) --

BAYOR: [He didn't?] (inaudible) --

MCKINNEY: [25:00] [Incompetent?] at everything, now. I mean, I was suspended for picketing. And I mean, they do anything, now. The times [are relative?].

BAYOR: Well, in terms of getting more -- well, one of the things Jenkins said when I spoke to him was that, "Well, we were supposed to only hire eight black police. Nobody said anything about hiring any more," and he wasn't going to do it until somebody --

MCKINNEY: Until somebody says so. And that was political.

BAYOR: So he wasn't particularly committed to --

MCKINNEY: No, he wasn't. I mean, he got a lot of credit for what was forced on him (inaudible) as to him being a politician. He acquiesced to the man.

BAYOR: How about Mayor Allen? Was he more responsive?

MCKINNEY: Well, he was more responsive because of the same kind of pressures, you know. He put a damn barricade up at [Peyton Road?] and [26:00] had to take it down because of the pressure. Not because of his desire not to keep black and white people apart.

BAYOR: You think the more votes blacks got, the more pressure they could exert?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. Yeah. And that's the whole thing, has been -- has been political [power?] and the right to [lead?].

BAYOR: Do you think -- what do you think changing the police department when Mayor Jackson came in?

MCKINNEY: Everything changed. Because -- see, I left the department in '69, and I left -- I left the department in '69 picketing the department. So you can see, from '48 to '69, there was a constant fight about (inaudible) and then the other.

BAYOR: Even with Massell as mayor? You left right when Massell was coming in?

MCKINNEY: I went just as Massell was coming in, but hell, I [27:00] -- you know, I went up there and [knocked the mayor's door open?] because I saw the lights -- the phone lit up and they said (inaudible). But then we decided we'd go up in the mayor's office. I don't know whether -- I don't even remember what it was about, now -- but it was about... It was about, I believe, promotions. Always something about that. That was right at '67, '68, so that was leading to my resignation.

BAYOR: There were still problems then?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. Plenty of problems.

BAYOR: So when Jackson came in, I mean, what kind of change was brought into the police department? Do you remember anything?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. We... John [Inman?] was the police chief by then. And we wanted to get rid of [28:00] Inman. And -  
-

BAYOR: Was that part of the police brutality issue, [with Inman?]?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. They had [Dewitt Smith?] who was a part of my group. And they witnessed the beating of a black person in jail. They were working (inaudible). They came down and told me, and I went and told [the boys?] and all that (inaudible), and we made an issue out of it. But well, that was -- but that was -- I had been suspended two or three times by that time, by that issue -- by the time of that issue. [29:00] John Inman and I got along very well. But John Inman was a lieutenant and (inaudible) he and I got along very well. He was not a Jenkins, [certainly?].

BAYOR: OK, what was the problem with Inman?

MCKINNEY: Well, Inman -- the problem with Inman was that there were a number of shootings of black people, and it just seemed as though that Inman got on the wrong side of the [whites, I believe?]. And there were protests right on (inaudible) this and that, and you know, like about the

(inaudible) and everybody was saying that Inman had to go. But you know, Inman was a policeman who defended police (inaudible), because they [30:00] were right. I talked him into promoting Dewitt Smith when they brought those charges, you know, against some policemen for brutality. Promoted him to sergeant (inaudible) sergeant. When Maynard came, then Maynard decided that in order to -- I mean, he asked Inman to leave and Inman wouldn't go. And so he changed the city charter to create the position of [super chief?], named (inaudible).

BAYOR: He thought it was time for a black police chief, too?

MCKINNEY: Right.

BAYOR: Did you see any change -- of course, you were out of the police department at that time.

MCKINNEY: I was out of it.

BAYOR: Do you think there was any change in promotions and number of blacks being hired?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

BAYOR: So there was --

MCKINNEY: It was a total change in the -- within the police department. In fact, [31:00] [Eames?] put white policemen on the defensive. I mean, they had to go to court, they had -- the situation was totally reversed.

BAYOR: You mean in terms of police brutality, they had to go to court and explain what they did? Is that --

MCKINNEY: No. I mean, they had to go to court for -- they went to court saying that they were discriminated against as far as promotions and things, like. So I mean, they were -- they were totally on the defensive.

BAYOR: So in other words, with Allen, who claimed to be a great friend of the black man, and Massell, it really took a black mayor to really change --

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah.

BAYOR: -- the situation for blacks in the police department?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. Yeah, there's no doubt about that.

BAYOR: C.A. Scott, as we mentioned before, was appointed by Mayor Allen to the oral section of the police exams to make sure no racist whites were hired. Do you think this had any effect? Was there any attempt not to hire white racists as police during the (inaudible)?

MCKINNEY: I don't think so.

BAYOR: (inaudible) [32:00].

MCKINNEY: I don't -- I don't know what's going on. I don't know if C.A. Scott was on there. I don't know if (inaudible)(inaudible). Does he claim to be on [an interview?] (inaudible) that interviewed white applicants?

BAYOR: Yeah. Appointed by Allen, so that would be the '60s.

Yeah. I was curious whether even before that, was there any attempt not to hire outright racists?

MCKINNEY: No.

BAYOR: No? They didn't care? They didn't care what was going on?

MCKINNEY: No. I don't even know when -- I don't know whether he was on the [council?] interviewing white [people?].

BAYOR: Well, he says --

MCKINNEY: He might have been.

BAYOR: How well do you think the black and white police got together, during the '50s, right into that [early stage of?] (inaudible) -- was there a period when they started getting -- to get together?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. I joined the [Afro Patrolmen?] (inaudible).

I [33:00] created it, the Afro Patrolmen. And at the same time, I joined the Fraternal Order of Police, but I was [the only black?] (inaudible). I was the first one, and in fact, for a while, I was the only one. You know, I was --

BAYOR: Did you know (inaudible)?

MCKINNEY: Not much. Got some. But then Joe Amos joined. And I took a few blacks with me to the Fraternal Order of Police. They, the Fraternal Order of Police -- went to the aid of the blacks -- I mean, of the whites, through the charges of

brutality and (inaudible), and that's what [34:00]

fractured it. And the... And we didn't -- most of them got out of there at that time.

BAYOR: So you think -- well, today, the Fraternal Order is white. Is it, pretty much?

MCKINNEY: There might be one or two blacks in there. I don't... But I was a charter member.

BAYOR: So there was some effort to get along with each other, I suppose?

MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Well, I think there was an effort -- that was an effort. This was long before then. This was before -- there was an effort -- there was an effort to get along because we were -- we, who were members of the Fraternal Order of Police -- were suffering -- I was suffering because that was a civil right. And they were suffering because they wanted [all of that against dignity?]. And [35:00] policemen were assigned -- I had a policeman assigned -- assigned to follow me around. I got it all down in a report, that they had somebody -- there was a detective assigned to me, to follow me around.

BAYOR: Why, to get -- so...?

MCKINNEY: To get evidence on me to fire me.

BAYOR: Are those -- whose idea was that? Jenkins?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. That was Jenkins.

BAYOR: Why? Because he thought you were --

MCKINNEY: Well, I was -- I wasn't [following him?] -- and [I had made a recommendation?]. It was -- though, this report -- the report that I have the copy of -- was -- said that I was on [Auburn?] and that -- at the liquor store, at the corner of Piedmont and Auburn, and that I was passing out, [36:00] you know, my *Comments*. I was passing out *The Comments*. And they were... Simmons, (inaudible) Simmons wrote the report.

BAYOR: So they didn't want -- Jenkins didn't want anybody really standing up for black rights?

MCKINNEY: Well, he didn't -- he didn't want me, because you know, I mean, I was -- see, I had [created something all of the time?].

BAYOR: I mean, but you were standing up for it.

MCKINNEY: That's right.

BAYOR: And --

MCKINNEY: And he didn't want black rights.

BAYOR: He didn't want to see it.

MCKINNEY: The difference between black and white policemen. I just -- I mean, I couldn't stand the differences and the inequities and the degradation of one's dignity. It was just -- it was horrible.



BAYOR: And the other black police felt the same way, [I guess?]]?

MCKINNEY: I had a group with [37:00] me and there were some of them that -- all of them felt the same way, but there were some who had benefited from our (inaudible). You see what I mean?

BAYOR: No. How would they benefit?

MCKINNEY: Well, promoted.

BAYOR: And the ones that didn't make the noise got promoted?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. Promoted.

BAYOR: Even the ones that got promoted -- I read something in the newspaper about one of the black detectives -- [Bell?], I think it was -- mentions that there was a hit on him at one point, too, because there was resentment about him being a black detective. So I guess they, too, were (inaudible). How about to continue -- continuing from a promotion (inaudible). See, that sort of all seems to come out of this early period, when no blacks were promoted. That seems to be still a source of a great deal of friction between whites and blacks in the (inaudible).

MCKINNEY: Well, I think that the problem with that was that the [38:00] history of the police department was he promoted whoever he wanted. [It didn't?] matter whether you passed the test or you didn't pass the test. (inaudible) He

decided he wanted to promote you. And then that continued through [John?] (inaudible). When [you?] -- and if you wanted to put a white hat on and be fair. And what got him in trouble was putting that white hat on, you know. Going to be ethically pure. And then a desire to promote black people. Well, what he wanted to do, he promoted some, and he didn't promote some, some others. So he promoted (inaudible) to him and then he didn't promote -- because the whistle was blown by black police. (inaudible)

[39:00]

BAYOR: But that was common practice, was to promote your favorites and not others?

MCKINNEY: Yeah, yeah. It was common practice. So why would he institute a test system before he got his folks in? It was our (inaudible) if I was going to learn something. And whatever the system was, it was good for the whites and it would be the same system for the blacks, when I got [in the?] (inaudible). And I'd use that system to a lot of -- and you know, until such time as it became -- I got all of my folks in and [you have?] examinations and do it right, then do it right.

BAYOR: He tried --

MCKINNEY: Huh?

BAYOR: He tried to do the examinations first, before he got his own people in.

MCKINNEY: That's right, yeah. Yeah.

BAYOR: Yeah, it seems the controversy today is really, you know, how many black police are promoted and then how many white police. And that seems to me to [come out of?] the 1950s. [40:00] That whole early controversy when blacks weren't being promoted at all.

MCKINNEY: At all, yeah. It -- I mean, it was a friendship thing if you got promoted, then. [All lawyers?] (inaudible) and if the chief or somebody said, "Well, he's all right, let's promote him," you got promoted. If you -- if nobody ever said that, you couldn't get promoted. I wouldn't give a damn what I made on the tests, I wasn't going to get promoted and I knew it. So I stopped taking the damn tests.

BAYOR: So Jenkins promoted who he wanted to?

MCKINNEY: Yeah, he promoted who he wanted.

BAYOR: And he promoted those blacks who didn't talk back to him?

MCKINNEY: That's right. Who were cooperative.

BAYOR: Well, it was over this period, making (inaudible), during the civil rights movement. Black police were used to deal with the civil rights protests, I guess. Were they

used in any special way? Was there any special resentment by the black [41:00] community to black police being (inaudible)?

MCKINNEY: No. We were on -- we were on -- down at [Lips?], and a white policeman had his foot on a black woman's arm. And -- I forget the (inaudible) -- I think [J. W. Bell?] or somebody grabbed him and knocked him off. You know, got him to -- you know, off the woman. He had his foot on a woman's arm. There was no resentment on the part of the black community. At the time, I was -- I was being punished. I was on the fifth floor, in the drunk tank, and they locked up, I guess, 300 or 400. They locked so many up that they couldn't process them [down at the station?]. [42:00] They locked [Big Gregory?] up. Big was on my floor for about a week. And in that -- in that onslaught of people that they locked up, there was one white girl. She stayed on that floor. They barricaded the fifth floor, wouldn't let anybody in. And I cooperated with them. They wouldn't let anybody in for four or five days. They kept that white girl up there for or five days. She wanted to be up there. But she was an exchange student or was [visiting?] from somewhere. But -- but Big Gregory ran the damn -- ran the fifth floor for about a week.

BAYOR: Do you think the protestors were treated any better because [there were?] black police [43:00] on the force?

MCKINNEY: Oh, definitely.

BAYOR: (inaudible) people --

MCKINNEY: It probably would have been the same if (inaudible).

BAYOR: But Jenkins has this great (inaudible)?

MCKINNEY: Bullshit.

BAYOR: Yeah, I think you made a difference, too.

MCKINNEY: Yeah, we made a big difference, a really big difference. These politicians with more sense than those (inaudible) and down in [Albany?] and in the other places, St. Augustine, (inaudible). The only difference was that we were there.

BAYOR: Well, there must have been a lot of frustrated (inaudible) from the white business community too, you know. Creating a (inaudible) I'm sure the whites were very worried about money. (inaudible).

MCKINNEY: We had -- we had -- we had some little -- some little protests. We had -- we had some of them, the a little bit on [44:00] -- up Highland Avenue and [Boulevard?] and [down on other streets?].

BAYOR: When you started patrolling white neighborhoods in the early '60s (inaudible) 1960s, did you -- were you accepted

as police by the white people? Not by the white police,  
but by the white community there?

MCKINNEY: Yeah. Yeah.

BAYOR: There was no problem there?

MCKINNEY: There was no problem there. There was very little  
problem by that time. I mean, it was -- there might have  
been (inaudible). Once they -- once they started, I mean,  
you know, they started, they policed. White police used to  
police [45:00] [stringently?]. I mean, (inaudible) it was  
hard to police. If you look back on it now, (inaudible).

BAYOR: Because of the white community?

MCKINNEY: No, I'm saying for the black and white community. And  
they would -- they -- [until they said so?]. But policing,  
I mean -- black police, a lot of things that people were --  
they were common among the -- amongst the population became  
crimes among the black people. You know, I mean, for the  
black community (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible) you would try to prove yourself to them?

MCKINNEY: I guess so. I don't know whether (inaudible).

BAYOR: That's great. That's very interesting. [46:00] Let's

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