

L: Testing test, test test. Testing 1, 2 test, testing, test test test testing test.....

H: I haven't read that, I don't know.

S: It's really pretty moving because they're so young

H: Wonderful

L: You know we can just ask the first question while you're setting up because,

H: I'm almost ready

?: It's only five after, if they get going eating by 6:30 we'll be fine.

L: I'd like to get you over there, I'd think you'd like it.

Um, there are millions of questions we'd like to ask you but we've got, one we just want to get on the tape recorder and the other 2 we have 12 minutes of film. We're interested in how you got to Selma,

H: No I can say it fast

L: But, and then we're curious about how you met Jonathan and that we'd like to get on film. In fact we'll slate those, and then last, the events on August 20th, um, however you wish to tell them, we're not suggesting anything. I'm just doing a levels test here. I can do that, if you tell us please how you ended up in Selma.

H: In Selma, Alabama, sure um, I had been a graduate student at Berkley before going down to Selma and um, ah, we had just finished um, the free speech movements during that academic year and throughout the last couple of years of my work as a graduate student, I had been very much aware of what was going on in the southern movement and had been promising myself that this was something I was going to do eventually, I was going to go south and try to be a part of that struggle. Um, the, when the 4 little girls were bombed in Birmingham I felt again, "oh, this is something I really want to be a part of. I want to add whatever I can to this fight for social justice" Then again when the 3 civil rights workers, Goodman, Chaney and Schwener were murdered and were found um, I felt that again um, and it was getting harder and harder to concentrate on being a graduate student at Berkley while all these things were going on in the south. So um, in the, towards the end of the semester term at Berkley I found out about a group of students in San Francisco who were ah, collecting books and materials and were planning to go south to set up a freedom school in Selma and I thought, "Oh okay, this is my opportunity, you know, I'll go with them for the summer" and um, a few students went as a sort of advanced team, found a house, ah, the house they rented was right on the edge of the housing project which is right in the heart of Selma's black community. Brown's chapel is right in the heart of that community and we were set up right there, sort of in the heart of the Selma movement and um, we started our classes every day and the children in the community came in for classes every morning. The first night I was in Selma ah, one of the women who had gone down in advacne said, "Let's go over to the mass meeting" it was taking place in Browns Chapel. Ah, we did, we were exhilarated by the mass meeting. Afterwards, she introduced me to Stokely Carmichael, now Kwame Toure ah, and of course he introduced me to other members of the SNCC staff both in Selma and the

Lowndes County staff. And we went from there to um, visit a home of one of the families that was involved in the movement and I must track down the name of this family. they had lots of children, both of them were very supportive of movement workers and were very involved themselves. The West family, yes thank you, and we sat there and talked for a while and just were socializing and had a good time. So I went on with the work in the school and in the afternoon I would go into Lowndes County with Stokely and the other SNCC workers. Um, Jonathan had become a friend of the West family as well and I'm not sure whether he met Stokely first or, and then, or through the West family or whatever, but somehow ah, in that triangle of connections ah, SNCC and Lowndes County and ah, the West family ah, I met Jonathan and um, Jonathan was very pleased to discover that I'm episcopalian because he had been looking for somebody who would go and integrate the local episcopal church with him. So he finally, "Oh will you come to church with me?" and I said "Yes why not" So Jonathan and I and a few of the local children, I think maybe some of the West children might have come with us um, 2 or 3 Sundays I think, we attended the episcopla church um, needless to say, we ah, were treated in a very hostile fashion. People were very upset that we would come um, when we went up to the railing for communion um, or after we had communion, no one else followed us um, when we were leaving the church the priest declined to shake our hand or to have any kind of cordial interchange with us um, anyway, Jonathan and I developed ah, a rather cordila friendship and then later in the summer, Jonathan was also going in and out of Lowndes. he had been taken there by Stokely and introduced to the county people,

L: Excuse me, I think we might as well back track.....I wish we could kidnap you for 2 days so you could help us with this.

H: Well, maybe I can help you with stuff

S: get it out on tape, when was it you arrived?

H: Um, it was probably June. i'm not really sure but it was after the semester ended at Berkley so I would guess it would have been June.

S: Okay

H: I'm not really sure

L: We can run these 2 questions together, how you met Jonathan and then the events on, we've got 12 minutes. We'd like to use this entire tape on you if you don't mind. So you tell me when you're readdy to role. Right location, okay, Take one (clap). So if we could just, the question of how you met Jonathan, if you could recap that Gloria.

H: Ah, I'm not sure whether it was Stokely who introduced me to Jonathan or the West family but um, I met Jonathan in the circle of ah, interaction in the housing project there in Selma and ah, working with my new friends and the SNCC staff of Lowndes County Alabama. Both Jonathan and I were invited to go into Lowndes County for the mass meetings and were introduced to the various people who were leaders in the county movement. So um, I saw him frequently and ah, eventually he asked me, he discovered I was an episcopalian and he asked me if I would attend the local episcopla church

with him and ha, we did go to church together 2 or 3 times. We also took some of the local children with us um, the ah, reception was cold and hostile on the part of the local parishoners. Jonathan was breaking all of the taboos by bringing us in there and um, I recall that on one Sunday when we did go to the communion rail for communion, no one took communion after we finished and when we left ah, there was no interchange between us and the priest, you know, shaking of hands, nothing of that. So it was clear to us that they didn't really want us to come. But um, I think Jonathan felt good that he was taking a principle stand ansaying look the church is open to everyone and um, I'm going to act on my understanding of what it means to be an episcopalian, what it means to be a priest in this church. Um, I continued to see Jonathan off and on and then towards the end of the summer um, the ah, SNCC staff in Lowndes um, decided that they were going to picket a store in Hayneville, which is the county seat, and ah, a handful of SNCC staff persons, myself, ah, Jonathan, Father Morrisroe who is a catholic priest from Chicago and ah, about a dozen local teenagers participated in this picket line. After a few minutes, really, we didn't get to picket very long, after a very short time we were all arressted, hauled onto a garbage truck um, and taken to the ah, county jail. There were 3 women, myself and Ruby Sales and young women who's name is Joyce and who's last name I can't remember right now. For Some reason it won't come. She was a local teenager. We were put into a cell on the first floor of the jail and the men were taken to the second floor and ah, our cell was filthy, there was refuse on the floor, puddles of water. The toilet was not working and had spilled over, the ah, mattress on the bed was dirty, it was really filthy. We were served ah, stale bisquits and what is this bacon rind, I've forgotten what ah, for breakfast in the morning maybe with a little syrup or whatever. The food was terrible but our spirits were high and ah, those of us who were in the movement understood that this was part of being in the movement um, while we were there we heard about the rebellion going on in Watts, Los Angeles which gave us some spirit and ah, we made it our practice to sing freedom songs so that the men upstairs could hear us and they would join in, this kept our spirits going. Um, we were in that jail a little over a wekk I believe and all of a sudden one day, by the way, one of our members ah, had an ulcer, I believe Ruby had ulcer problems, serious problems and ah, we were trying to get medical help for her. So there were doctors coming back and forth but ah, after a few days ah, suddenly, with no warning ah, one of the ah, men, one of the jail keepers cane and said, "Well you're going to be released. Get ready, we're going to release you" and ah, we felt immediately ah, uncertain about this. Um, Stokely and one other member of the SNCC staff had left almost immediately after the arrest to go and try and raise bail money for the rest of us. So um, the 2 of them were all ready out but the rest of us said, "No this doesn't sound right. We haven't heard from them, no one from the community has come to tell us that ah, you know, our bail has been paid." They said,

"Oh, you're being released on your own recognizance" Well that didn't sound very convincing to us either and so we said, "Well we're just stay here" in the sort of reception room of the jail, we'll just stay here until some of our people come for us. "They said, "No you can't stay in the jail" and they forced us outside the jail. Once outside the jail, there was a kind of a concrete passage way where cars could sort of drive to the rear entrance to the jail. We thought well we'll just wait in this area along side the jail. "No", they said, "You cannot" and again we were forced off the property onto the littel rural road just in front of the jail and some of the young people then decided, well there's a store just up around the corner why don't we walk towards that store and get something cold to drink, get some ice cream, maybe wait, surely somebody is going to come, or we'll find out something. And we walked towards the main road of Hayneville, the county courthouse and some other important buildings are also on the road ah, as I recall, we made a right turn towards the littel store and just as we made that turn onto that main road, gunfire broke out. Ah, jonathan had been walking with Ruby Sales, they had been closest to the store ah, Father Morrisroe was just in front of me. I was walking with Joyce, as I recall. The gunfire broke out, ah, we, I fell on the ground um, Ruby was totally disoriented by the gunfire. I have always assumed that Jonathan must have died immediately or almost immediately. Father Morrisroe I could hear moaning ah, just a few feet in front of me. I stayed down until it seemed that the fireworks were over ah, meanwhile all the young people, the young men, the teenagers had scattered, they were gone and the road stayed curiously deserted for a long long time while Father Morrisroe was lying there in pain. No one came out and Ruby and I were just kind of looking for, trying to find, there must be some people, there were houses right there, where was everybody. Ah, eventually ah, an abulance did come shortly after that ah, local people did come and pick us up, needless to say we were somewhat in shock, we were in shock um, I remember riding back um, with Stokely and Ruby in a SNCC car back into Selma, Alabama and um, I've since been told that I did go upstairs, the SNCC office was in an upstairs ah, over the shops there in downtown Selma, ah, I did go up to the offoco briefly, but I've been told that I wandered away to the SNCC freedom house in Selma to shower and to change clothes and I eventually came back. But people were frightened because I just sort of wandered off and I hadn't even remembered that but I just told that to sort of illustrate the state of shock that wew all were in after the murder and after Father Marrisroe was shot um, from there of course, we ah, collected ourselves and prepared to go to ah, Jonathan's funeral.

L: Mrs. West went to the funeral didn't she, now, I believe she flew up to Keene, and Stokely Carmichael was there as well,

H: Yes

L: I wonder if anybody else from Selma went.

H: I know Ruby was there um,

L: Joyce Bailey too?

H: Joyce Bailey, that's the name I'm looking for, yes okay, Joyce Bailey. I'm not sure whether Joyce went with us or not, I can't recall.

S: Can you, I found it interesting about relationships that developed between SNCC workers and families,

H: Umhm, and the West', yeh, the West family was one of those families that really sort of opened it's arms to SNCC workers ah, it was a place we could always go to to have a sense of being at home and being part of a family after mass meetings, whenever really, that we needed that kind of a refuge or a sense of sanctuary um, they provided that for us.

S: There are a number of pictures with Jonathan and the West children. He seems to have gotten along very well with the children.

H: yes he did, the children wee, he was always with the children and as I said he was the one that suggested we take some children along with us to church.

L: How are we doing on film, we might as well let it run. Just a couple of minutes.

S: Did you meet Judy Upham, she might have been going ???
He came down originally with her,

H: I don't think so, that name is not familiar at all,

S: Did he ever talk aboyt New Hampshire or thnat life with you?

H: Not a lot, no, no ah, I think we were both, since I was just recently in the south and he was too, we were both really cuaght up in what was going on right there under our noses, yeh, yeh, but SNCC's extraordinary ease with people and warmth, you know, that sort of made it possible for people to accept him and relate to him, exceptional personality, character trait I think.

S: The question that maybe we could just get on tape, we've always asked the question of what it was that, does anybody know what it was taht really got Jonathan to end up where he did?

H: If he tole me I'm not, I don't remember it, um, but um, just in interaction with him, you sensed um, you know, the same commitment Martha was talking about to social justice, you sense that in him, there was a kind of energy and vitality and I'm here because this is where it's important to be because there is very important work to be done and that was just what he radiated, what he projected. So it was very easy to, sort of embrace him, you know, and relate to him as a friend. You sensed that there was that kind of solidarity.

S: thanks for the interview.

L: Yeh, thank you

S: The subtitle of the film is, (END OF INTERVIEW)