

**Oral History Interview of
Mike Torres**

**Interviewed by: Daniel Sanchez
February 17, 2012
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Hispanic Interview Series***

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Interview Series Background:

The Hispanic Oral History Project documents the diverse perspectives of the Hispanic people of Lubbock and the South Plains. These interviews and accompanying manuscript materials cover a myriad of topics including; early Lubbock, discrimination, politics, education, music, art, cultural celebrations, the May 11th 1970 tornado, commerce, and sport.

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Mike Torres as he describes the struggles he has faced throughout his life because of discrimination and racism. Mike begins describing his encounters with discrimination and racism from an early age, then moved on to explain those same experiences in the work place.

Length of Interview: 01:31:45

Subject	Transcript Page	Time Stamp
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Getting into fights because of racism	07	00:12:32
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Joining with LULAC and other organizations he's been a part of; Cesar Chavez	21	01:10:45
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Keywords

Ethnic Minorities, Discrimination, Racism, Texas Tech PD

Daniel Sanchez (DS):

Okay. My name is Daniel Sanchez. Today's date is February 17, 2012. I'm here with Mike Torres, and we're doing an interview about his experiences as Texas Tech. In the past we covered Texas Tech and some of the police work he did. Now we're going to talk about the civil rights era and his involvement in groups with that and how that played a role his life. So, Mike, the floor is all yours.

Mike Torres (MT):

[laughter] Okay. The first encounter that I can recall with discrimination, racism, was I must have been about five. Probably about five years old. Six, something like that. But we were travelling. My parents were heading up north this way. Well, we call it the west. But they were heading this way and I was in the front seat with my dad. He was driving the truck. It was his truck. And then my grandfather was there with us in the front seat. My mom also. We had been driving for, you know—we had people in the back of the truck, also—but we had been driving for—since we started off that evening. Right about dusk. And then we got to an area around Junction or thereabouts. It was close to midnight. So back then you didn't travel more than fifty miles an hour. Especially in a truck like that with a lot of people in the back like that and everything. So we—I'd been sleeping for a while. Then—so was my grandfather—and then we pulled up over there at—I think it was at Junction. I think it was at. Because I remember we cut north from there and we had been going west. And he asked my dad to pull over at a restaurant and get some coffee. So they did. My grandfather was about six-foot-one, a little over six-foot-one. Very light complected. He had brown hair and he had hazel colored eyes. Very light complected. So then you could easily have mistaken him for an Anglo person. But he spoke very little English. What English he spoke was very broken. So when we got there and then they grabbed these big old glass jars they used to carry for that at old time coffee pots. Metal ones. He took about three of those. Went out, went to the restaurant. And about, oh five, ten minutes later he came back and the jars were empty. He was laughing because he usually did that when he met discrimination like that or racism. He'd usually laugh. He always said that the reason that he laughed was that because there was no difference between him and them, because he looked just like one of them. He said, "So why won't they let us in?" He says, "What is it?" And he said, "Could it be the language? Just because I don't speak their language." But he used to always laugh. That's the way he shrugged it off like that. But that time he came back empty-handed and we asked him, and he said, "No, they didn't want to serve us. He said that Mexicans weren't allowed inside." So after that he said, "I asked some other people to see if they would get the coffee for me and stuff. Nobody else would outside." So he came on back to the truck. So that's the way—that was the first encounter that I noticed that were not treated like everybody else. And so time went by and then we moved to Lubbock. While here I was probably—oh around eleven or twelve years old, something like that—went out with my dad on some of the runs he made. He was a truck driver—I mean, worked for a lumber yard here and delivered lumber and stuff to job sites way out in the country. Sometimes other parts of the—this part of

the state. So I went with him several times. I remember that one time this happened. We were somewhere around—right around Lamesa. I think it was probably in Lamesa. We were in a restaurant. He had been driving from somewhere down south all the way up to here. He said, “Well, son.” It was in the afternoon. He said, “Let’s stop and get something to drink, and I’ll get me some coffee to wake up.” So we walked in there and we sat down at a table. There wasn’t but about two or three other customers in the whole restaurant. It was a pretty good sized restaurant. And so the waitress kept going by, going by. She never stopped. So finally he yelled at her. He’s like, “Ma’am!” So she came over and she said, “Yes?” He said, “Could we have some service?” And she said, “No,” she said, “Mexicans are not allowed in here. If you want service you have to go around to the back like the colored people do.” So then he said a little cuss word, but then you know we walked out. That was another encounter. That happened to us again. Doing the same thing. Coming back from another truck—a lumber delivery up north around—past—it was past Amarillo, east of it. Probably close to the Oklahoma borderline and Texas. We were coming back. It was somewhere in that area again. [laughs] You know, we were refused service in a restaurant. And it got pretty aggravating and pretty irritating. You could see that stuff in the school, the way you were treated, and everything. Like I was telling you before, when we moved into Hub Homes we were the only—second—Hispanic family to ever live in that complex. And I know it had to have been close to or over a hundred apartments there. But he—and those were government projects. So they went according to your salary. That’s how they charge you for the apartments. But there was a lot of white gangs that roamed through there. Sanders school, Elementary School, the one I was going to, was right across from Hub Homes. North of there, right across the street. But you have to come through about half of Hub Homes on the way back from school or to school. So it was not uncommon to meet a gang of Anglos like that. Usually anywhere from four to ten of them like that. They’d be standing around, smoking, and doing whatever else. And then you’d walk by or something they were going to say something or they were going to jump you. So you had to be ready to either run or fight. And so that’s the way it happened for a long time until we started fighting back. But I was in Hub Homes and that continued until—man, until I left for the—to join the Air Force in 1968. Of course, once you get a driver’s license you don’t hang around there very much. And I got mine around the age of sixteen, so after that I started leaving there and going out with friends or going over to friend’s houses. Things like that. I didn’t hang around Hub Homes very much. I saw a lot of things in that place and that area. I mean—and it was strictly by race. The things that happened there. Like people would sit there sometimes on a summer evening, and the guys would sit there. Most of them about the same age. From anywhere from about, oh, you know, twelve years old to about eighteen or nineteen. Some of the Haney brothers were well into their nineteen or twenties, and they were still hanging around there. A road would come in on the east side of the apartment complex. Come in off of Avenue D, and it’d wind in there like that. Then it’d go through that side of Hub Homes and come out on the southeast corner over there, close to 4th Street. And then it was the same thing on the opposite end—on the west end—of Hub Homes. So we would sit around there sometimes after school and after supper. We’d all meet in the parking lot there.

There was cars parked. That's where all the cars parked to go—people—to go inside the apartments. We'd sit around there and sit on the backs of cars or bumpers. And then the white guys would sit on the other side like that. And it didn't take long sometimes before somebody started yelling, you know, "Taco beaner," or "Pepper belly." Or something like that. And then the fight was on. It just happened that way. It was pretty rough, pretty bad, during those times. Then when I got to Carol Thompson it was more or less junior high. That was more or less the same way but it wasn't quite as bad as it had been over at Sanders and Hub Homes and that area. I was still living at Hub Homes, but Hispanics had taken over Hub Homes. There was about fifty-fifty—or more like 40 percent Hispanic, 60 percent Anglos during that time when I was already going to junior high. So the situation started getting better for us. But when I was going to Carol Thompson you pull up over there and you'd—you know, at the school. And of course we had to walk. It was like two and a half miles from Hub Homes to Carol Thompson on 14th and Avenue T. And so when you get there you go across the street to a place called Logan's. You'd go into Logan's and it was a hangout for kids. It was a pretty good sized place. Then he had, like, a cafeteria line on one side of it and then he had school supplies and all that. So at lunchtime kids could go over there and eat like if they were in a cafeteria. But when you walked in on the left hand side was where all the Hispanic kids sat. And then on the right hand side was where all the Anglos sat. You didn't mingle. Sometimes somebody would go talk to somebody on the opposite side for something but that was it. Everybody sat separate like that. And then on our side they sat you according to what neighborhood you were from. [laughter] Like, you know, the *barrio* sat—Guadalupe *barrio* sat first in those first two rows of tables, we had the next row of tables—Hub Homes—and then some other neighborhoods had the other ones. Anglos did the same thing.

DS:

So was that pecking order? Of—you know, you said the *barrio*—was it having to do with the *barrio* was first and then Hub Homes and all that? Is that why?

MT:

Right. Right. Yeah, because they were—you know the majority Hispanics. I mean, they were nearly 100 percent Hispanics. And then they'd been here the longest and they had the most people. So yeah they took up the first two rows. And that's the way it was. But what was funny was that some of the Anglos over here—like JC Ferrell and some of them—they lived in Hub Homes. But when we got there it's the same continuation of the Hub Homes area. Anglos over here, Hispanics over there. So it was pretty—I mean, your whole life was like that, you know? You didn't—I mean when I got to Lubbock High I started having some more Anglo friends, and started talking to them in class and everything, because by then you're realizing, Hey, I've got to do some studying. Back then, you know, you didn't get anything free. You had to make the grades and all that. And everybody realized over there for studying and stuff, but it wasn't quite as bad, but it was still there also. Very seldom did you see couples mixing between Hispanics

and Anglo. You did see some of it, but that was probably the Hispanics that lived outside that part of Lubbock, which was north Lubbock, and from part of east Lubbock to north Lubbock. And some of them probably had wandered off into other central areas of Lubbock. They were neighbors or friends with some of these kids, but you didn't see that much of it. But at Lubbock High, like I said before, they only had, like—when I was there, there was only, like, five black students in the whole school. I was friends with two of them, and so you saw that. We had fights in the gym, things like that. It was usually somebody that was very racist that went around picking on people. He's—like I said in the other thing—he's the one that, when I got jumped on by four Anglos, it was him egging that other guy to fight me. And so when I did and I was taking him—you know, took him down—then he pulled me off and three other—two other guys. And so then after that we started again and I had him down again and then at that point he just picked me up and hit me, and started hitting me. And of course it was four whites against one Hispanic. You know, they expelled me from school for three days because of that at Lubbock High. I got messed up pretty bad around here. I got a lot of cuts here and across here. But they blamed it—they said I had something to do with initiating the fight and all that so I got blamed for it, even though I got jumped by four of them. But then, like I said before, after that Hispanics from the *barrio* that knew me and stuff—had known me all my life—they started—they found out what was going on and what had happened, so they started jumping Anglos there in Lubbock High. Then I got hauled in again and asked about it. Then I got called a “gang leader”, “militant” and all that other stuff. [laughter] But that followed me all the way until I was in the Air Force, because when they did my background check—because I had to—I would do a lot of secret work in the Air Force so they had to do a background check. They went back and checked and one of the teachers there—Mrs. Holman—she was a French teacher—she actually told them that I was a militant and all this other stuff. They asked me about it and when they asked me about it they were kind of laughing. They're the OSI agents—Office of Special Investigations in the Air Force that did those background checks. And they said, “Well, we did get something negative on you. One of the teachers,”—and then he started telling me—“called you a militant.” He says, “Why would she say that?” So I relayed to them the story and I said, “If you stuck up for yourself you were a militant. You weren't supposed to do that. You're just supposed to let them do whatever they wanted to.” And I used to stick up for myself and call it like it was. They didn't like that. So that was some experiences. One that I recall that I was thinking about earlier and I was going to tell you about was it happened to me and my dad and all—my whole family. We were out one afternoon. I think it was on a Saturday afternoon. We were going to go on a picnic from Hub Homes. So Dad put us in the station wagon and all of us except my older sister. So there was actually ten, eleven, twelve of us in that station wagon. But it was a big Ford station wagon, '59 Ford. So he took us over to the park and he picked out a spot right across from where Joyland Amusement is today. And so he pulled off—back then they didn't have curbs or anything around there—so he pulled off. He went up under a tree over there next to where that creek runs by. Mom started pulling out a blanket and sacks with sandwiches and drinks and stuff. And then these white guys came by on the road, and they saw us out there. They saw mainly my dad—you

know he was cleaning up the area and helping with the blanket—putting it out and all that. They started yelling racial stuff at him, and I stood on the corner of the station wagon and I was watching what they were doing. Dad went up there and they told him, “Hey greaser. You and your little monkeys,” and all this other stuff. “Taco benders,” and all this and that. I mean they called us everything. So my dad, well he got mad and he kept telling them, “Well, come on.” And then they started getting out of their cars. There was probably, like, six or seven of them. Started getting out of their cars so he just reached into the back end of the Ford, picked up this big old long jack that you used to pick up the cars with back then. Big old long thing. About that big around. So he picked that up and then I saw him and it was something that I’ll never forget because there’s a little frail man that’s about five foot seven, five foot eight, standing there like that. All these six or seven guys, big guys, coming at him. And him standing there holding that metal jack, like that, ready to take them on to defend his family and honor and stuff. For some reason they kept telling all of us to get back in the car. So then when I got back there I went ahead and reached over and got a tire tool, because I said if things come to worse and they get the best of him or something and they come over I’m going to have to get one of them. So when he was standing there—a little, old, frail man, weighed about a hundred and fifty pounds, a hundred and forty-five—standing there holding that big old jack and these big guys getting out of the car coming at him. And then for some reason they stopped about half way and they said some more cusswords and stuff and laughed and then they turned around and went back to their car. My dad was so mad he continued cussing and calling them racial things back and everything, but to himself there. And then he just—he told us—he said, “Just go ahead and get in the car. We’ll find another spot.” So he threw the junk back in the—that’s some of the worst things right there that I remember about it. But it was pretty rough times. Like I’d told you before, the few Anglo friends I had in Lubbock High, they would ask me—one of them’s name was Jerry Wells, and he worked at one of the stores here in town. It was the one on 4th Street where it was already starting to get more Hispanics in that area, but that was still the majority Anglos. But it was 4th and about Avenue S or T. And then he had been there since he was, like, in junior high. So he’d been there two years already. He kept telling me, “Go apply. We need somebody over at the store.” I go apply and everything and I had decent grades and everything and all that. And they would never hire me. I kept noticing that out of all their sackers they didn’t have any Hispanics. That kind of thing. So that always stuck in the back of your mind. When you grow up in an environment like that and you see these things you don’t forget none of that when you’re older. You’re always looking for that to happen again. And sometimes I think that that’s why—and I’m not going to say we’re right every time—but we seem to know it and detect it—discrimination and racism like that—a lot quicker, a lot easier than most others that have never been through anything like that, because they disguise it so well today.

DS:

And I think that’s the one thing that a lot of us have now. When somebody goes, “How do you know that?” I go, “Well, you’ve got to be on our side of the,”—

MT:

Exactly

DS:

— “of the line to recognize it when you see it.” Because if you’ve been through it you know it.

MT:

That and when you start adding things together. You know, like when I worked for Tech PD I was the third Hispanic that was ever hired with Tech PD. The other two that were there were before me but they were still employed there. They were about my age. One was named Mario and the other was named Robert. But to my understanding, and what they told me, was that they had been hired during that period of time—same thing with when I worked for the South Plains Electric Co-op. We were the first Hispanics—me and another guy named Ruben—we were the first ones hired there. And again, because a government had gotten onto them, because they had seventy something employees, and no Hispanics, and only one black man. So same thing was going on here at Tech PD. I was told by someone who sued them or got EEOC after them—a Hispanic lady who came along—who was there—when she was working interstation. But she told me the same thing. That she had filed on them and that the government had looked into the situation here and noticed that there was no Hispanic officers. So they hired these two real quick. Mario and Robert. And then I came along and I was already trained and everything and been to school, the military. Same type of school. Law enforcement and all that. So they went ahead and hired me right away also. So it wasn’t easy there because you heard things all the time. People always told you things all the time. Like if you were trying to arrest somebody and there was several Anglo officers around you or something they wouldn’t address you. They’d address the Anglo officer and try to go with them. Most of them would just say, “Hey, he’s the one talking to you.” That happened several times. Same thing when I was a supervisor with Tech PD. That also happened. This one lady over there whose son got in trouble over at UMC. He was in there in the emergency room. He had been jumped on over here in Arnett Benson and then he goes in there and she wanted to file a complaint against the officers because he had been cussing at the ER staff and one of my officers went up there and pulled him over to the side and had a heart to heart talk with him. Told him he better settle down. He had been drinking a lot and he was mad and everything. So when he settled him down and then he called his mom and she was the wife of a doctor. His dad was a doctor for Muleshoe. So then she came down and she started talking. She wanted to see his supervisor—that officer’s supervisor. Well, the officer was Anglo, but I was the supervisor. When they called me up there and she saw who I was she said, “Well, I don’t want to talk to him.” [laughter] So she turned around and addressed the two Lubbock PD officers that were Anglo that were standing there next to me. They just looked at her and just kind of smiled. She went over to them and said, “Look, I need to speak to this officer’s supervisor.” And pointed to my officer that was Anglo. And they said, “Well, ma’am. I’m not the supervisor. You just talked to him over there.” And pointed to me. Then she turned around and looked at me and

she said, "Well, I don't want to talk to him." Because, again, I knew why that was. I've been through it so many times. Like I told you before, promotions—they were not easy either at ____ [0:27:04.4] because I wasn't supposed to be that smart, even though I've been in the Air Force and—you had to pass four tests in order to be able to get into the Air Force. Especially back then when everybody was trying to hide from the draft. I mean, the Air Force had a lot more people to choose from and everything. But I had passed that, I had been to school when I was in the Air Force and everything. When I came here and I joined them, you weren't supposed to know that much about law enforcement or about anything. They were always saying that I cheated on the test or something like that and complaining about it. But Chief BG Daniels, he was—he'd been in the military and he still had his comments about different—about Mexicans and things like that. Because he said at one time—but I don't know if he was joking or not—but he said he saw me and Robert standing there by the PD radio room. He says, [southern accent] "I think we've got enough of you boys working around here. I'm going to see if we can start hiring more Anglos." But he might have been joking. You never know, because BG was like that. But he knew we did a good job for him. So when I went before him and some of the other board members, every time you took a test like that for a promotion, he'd always ask me these questions that he'd always—I could tell that I satisfied his questions, his inquiries on all this stuff. He got to where he liked me. He wanted to promote me because he knew that I could do the job. But people filed things like that saying that I had cheated on the test—the first one for corporal. And then after that when it came for sergeant—think I told you on the other tape—that I was fixing to go on vacation so I decided to give the test when I was going to be on vacation. So I cancelled my vacation for one or two days just so I would be here to take the test. Well, when I was going to go take the test I had been working on the car, getting it ready for the family, you know, to go on vacation. So my hands were greasy and all that. So I went in and washed up real quick so I could make it to the test site over here, which was going to be at Jones Stadium in one of the athletic classrooms. So in all that I forgot to grab a pen. So when I got over there I didn't have a pen and all the other officers that were taking the test, well they were all using pens. So he said, "Here." I said, "Don't you have another pen?" He said, "No." So he gave me a pencil. So I took the test and I was like the second one to finish it or something, and that's because I proofread my test. I go back over them and over them. I was like the second one to finish that test. But it stuck with me that I took it and it was in pencil. Whereas the other ones were in ink. I said, "Well, I'm going to have to let it go that way because nothing else I can do about it." So I turned it in like that. And sure enough when the test scores came out I was number two on the list. Well, they only had one sergeant's position open. And so they gave it to the other officer who had been on campus there. Then I went in and talked to a sergeant at that time who was giving the test—it was Sergeant Fortner. He didn't care for my supervisor, which was Richard Hamilton. They were always bumping heads and stuff. And I worked for Richard Hamilton, so he certainly didn't want me to be promoted and come over to campus. I could tell that. But he was the one who gave us the test. I asked him to let me look at my test because what I had done was—after I left there—I went home. Remember, I was telling you before that all

those tests were taken from the Wayland books and some of these other blue books that you could go out here—and I had already done. Actually, I didn't do it. One of my dispatchers, Jim Simpson [?], was always out here at the Varsity Bookstore and these other—and he found these police officer examination books. So he brought them to me when I was working over there and he said, “Hey, Mike. I thought you might want these. I know you're going up for sergeant here pretty quickly and you're going to take the test. I found these at Varsity Bookstore.” And so he gave me three books. So I looked at them. The first one seemed like it was geared more for the position I was going for so I looked at that from cover to cover. And a lot of the questions were the same ones that Wayland was giving on some of their law enforcement tests. So then I realized how this thing was shaped. That some of the professors at Wayland probably picked up some of these questions from some of these books. Because these were for, like, the New York Police Department, most of them. They probably saw these same books, picked out some of these questions, and added their own. Which I had been exposed to all these years going to Wayland and the law enforcement program. So that way when I got through with this test I went back to the house and that test wasn't that long. It was like seventy questions. Something like that. So seventy questions you can remember pretty easily. Especially when they're fresh on your mind. So I went back through the books and I marked the ones that I wasn't sure of. I looked at the answers and everything. Then I said, Well, I wasn't sure on these but this is what I answered. So I figured I got—the ones that I didn't know for sure—I got I would say about 70 percent of them right. So when I went to ask Fortner over here for the test he wouldn't even show me the test. He said that we could not discuss it or anything. I said, “Well, I didn't miss that many questions.” Because he had me missing, I would guess it was like ten or fifteen questions. I said, “I know I didn't miss that many.” He said, “What are you trying to say?” I said, “Well, I took it in pencil. Those things can easily be changed.” He said, “Well, what are you trying to say? That I did something?” And he got upset because—well, and I told him. I said, “Well, I need to talk to the chief. You won't show me the test.” So I went and talked to the chief and the chief had already had time to talk to him and get the test and everything. He looked at it. He said, “Torres, you know, you're second on that. You made a pretty good grade. Only one that beat you is **Head** [?], and he's been over here about five years. You actually did pretty good.” I said, “Yes, sir. But I don't think I missed that many questions and Sergeant Fortner wouldn't let me look at it.” And so he said, “Well, I tell you what, Torres. The position you applied for—that you were applying for—is a sergeant. If you get the sergeant position you'll be a sergeant here on campus.” Because that's where the opening was at. He said, “You don't work here on campus. You work over at the Health Sciences Center. So I will be making—we will be creating a sergeant position over there—a supervisor—within the next six months. I've already got the paperwork submitted for it and everything. Chances are that your tests results and everything will still be valid, so that you don't have to retake the test. And you should be able to just—once the position is created—just to fall right in there in the position because you'll still be qualified. And since you're the next one in line.” So I said, “Okay, Chief.” He more or less promised me the position. And so time went on and sure enough, four months later, he went over there. He called me into the office. He

told me—he said, “Torres, that position came up a lot quicker than I thought it would. Congratulations. You’re Sergeant Torres now.” So that was Chief BG Daniels. He was a pretty good man. He was pretty fair. That happened, but from that point on whatever promotion I got was given to me by my boss Chief Hamilton, and the HSC administration had to approve it. So I got promoted from that to lieutenant, and then to captain. And then six months before we got—it was about six months before we got laid off. Chief asked me one day, he says, “How long have you been captain now?” I said, “Well, it’s a little over two years.” He says—he realized at that time that we were growing real fast and I was going to a lot of these other sites like El Paso and Odessa and Amarillo and everywhere. And he says—it’s my phone going.

DS:

Oh okay.

MT:

So he said, “How would you like a promotion?” I said, “Well, that’d be great.” And so he promoted me to major and he put it in writing and everything. Got it approved through administration. And then he posted it on the board and everything. Well, there was a lot of talk on campus over here because they didn’t have a major yet. So there was animosity, again, created between captains and this side. So one of the first things that Chief Parchman did when they took over—which was, like I said, about oh six months after that. It wasn’t too far. I think the promotion was in March or April and then they took over toward the end of September in ’97. And that night after they dismissed us then they held a meeting for all our folks, traffic controllers, part-timers, full-timers, all officers, dispatchers, everybody. Held a meeting over at the Health Sciences Center. And one of the first things that Jay Parchman said—and this is according to all the people. People really were loyal to us. One thing that they told me was one of the first things he said, he said, “I’m going to be addressing you. I’m your new boss.” And so forth. And then he said, “And these are your supervisors. When I’m going talking and I talk about Hamilton or I talk about Torres, I’m going to address Torres as captain, because we don’t recognize his rank as major. We never saw that promotion. We don’t recognize it. Therefore he’s going to be Captain Torres when I tell you anything.” He had to say that. Make a statement like that. After what he’d already done. Which, to me, proved my point right there. He had to downgrade me in front of all our employees. Especially the majority of them, which were loyal to us. I know a few that—but you know, they had their reasons. But he had to make that statement. And I said, “Man, look at this. Out of all these important issues—I mean these people don’t know whether they have a job or not anymore—because their administration was take over.” And I said, “The first thing he wants to do is let them know that I am not a major. I am a captain.” There was other things that happened after that that I heard about that gave me a strong indication that he was just not all in favor of certain people. But who cares? You know? It was funny because right after that I went to—when we were told, that day it was on a Wednesday. About 6:30. Chief came back to the HSC from a meeting over here. He had just been told that we

no longer had a job. After twenty-two years. And I knew something was going on. That's why I stayed over. Because he usually left about 5:30-5:45. But that day at that time he got a call and I saw him going down the hallway over to HSC with some books and stuff, and I said, "Uh oh. Something serious is happening." He had a worried look on his face. And sure enough. That was that time when they told us we no longer had a job. So I was kind of expecting it. But you know I was—that day when all that happened I was sitting there in my office trying to soak it in, and I had a bible there that I looked at sometimes. I pulled it out and I opened it, and I have never been able to find this part again, but what it said in the readings was that when others talk bad about you and come after you and do things to you like that based on false things and it said that do not attempt to engage them. Leave them alone. Forgive them for they don't really know what they're doing. And it said that vengeance belongs to the Lord and that he will take care of it. And sure enough he did. I'm not going to say [laughter] on the tape how he did it, but if people have been keeping up with the news about five years after that they'll realize what I'm talking about. That sure enough he did. Took care of things. And so from that point on I just went on about living my life and trying to stay within what I had been my original plan for retirement. And thanks to the Lord it worked out perfect. Just the way I had asked him and the way I had planned, and the way he had allowed me to plan those things. It worked out perfect. I retired the way I wanted to with ERS, Employees Retirement System. Which was what I originally wanted to do and all that. I mean, everything worked out perfect. Then I came back to work because Mr. _____ [0:43:16.4] over here at the Health Science Center said that it wasn't anything we did. He said, "I have nothing against you guys. This is a takeover by main campus." They wanted control of everything. He said, "The Chancellor Montford approved it and the board of regents. So this is what they did." And he said, "Either one of y'all can have a job here. If I have an opening somewhere and you qualify for it, feel free to apply. I'll give y'all some of the highest recommendations." So sure enough after I went through TDCJ parole and everything and left here and waited a couple of years. Working for some attorney—one year and letting all my unemployment run out. I was working part time at United doing security. So I took a hit, but if I hadn't had that—a part time job and unemployment and all that—it would have been a twelve thousand dollar a year hit that I would have taken. But they cut it about in half. So I was only out about six thousand dollars from what I was making before. But that went on and got on with TDCJ as a parole officer and worked there for three years for everything to roll over from TRS to ERS. And all the military time I had bought, and then the ERS allowed you to use your sick leave at that time for retirement. So I used that. Retired with thirty-two years' worth of state time. I was fifty-three years old. I then stayed out working for Salvadore [?] [0:45:26.2] and Kevin Glasheen, attorneys here in town. Doing some private investigator work for them, and case work, and shooting pictures, reconstructing accident scenes, and all. And I did that for them for a couple of years. Then finally I said, You know what? I want a steady income, and I want to put some more—I want another state retirement check. So I said, I'm going to try and see what Mr. _____ [0:45:54.7]. Sure enough he had an opening in safety. I had a lot of safety experience. When I was with parole, I had been their safety officer. I volunteered for that. I did

all of their reports and accident reports and everything, so I've got a lot of experience. And then when I got out—and then plus I'd had a forty hour course through the attorney general's office on safety and all that when I was at HSC. So I had a lot of experience and they went ahead and hired me in the safety office. So I did eight years there and then retired again. But you know that—discrimination and racism and all that—it's been a factor. But it's also a driving factor with some of the things that I do today.

DS:

That's what I was going to ask you. How that's affected you today?

MT:

Yeah. It's a driving factor because I can still see a lot of it. Like, take for example Tech police. I'm the only supervisor—Hispanic supervisor—they ever had up to this date that I know of. Now the officers that used to work for me—for us—over at the Health Science Center that they acquired they told me that they never get considered for promotion or anything. That was two Hispanic officers and, like, two or three guards that they took over. And the rest of them were Anglo officers. But they've never been promoted or anything, and as far as I know there have never been another Hispanic supervisor at Texas Tech police. Never have. And I often wonder: when is that going to change? I'm sure that since 1967 when they became a police department, I'm sure that they've had some very qualified Hispanic officers that could be supervisory material. Why weren't they there? When is that going to change? So that's what I'm saying. That we recognize these things. The only one's that been there all those things. You look back and you say, "Well, these things should have already changed by now." You know? We'd have so many laws, so much legislation, so many agencies. EEOC and the [coughs] other agencies, that American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union]. All these other people that can help you out on issues like that or discrimination. But you still don't see it. Texas Tech has had—you know, like at that time when we got canned like that they had the Chancellor's Minority Relations Committee or something like that. Art Chavez, I think was his name, was one of the members because him and Chancellor Montford had been in the Reserves together and been roommates and all that. So that's what I was told. He told some people. So he was on that committee and I wrote him a letter when we got laid off like that or fired, whatever you want to call it. And he never responded to me. And then I personally took it to him and handed it to him where he was working over there downtown. And he never responded to me. I took it to another lady. Julio Yanez is the only one that responded to me. Chancellor would never meet with me. So where else do you go? It's like they cut me off because they knew I was going to raise hell. So who do you go to? There was another lady—a black lady—that had just started working here also with—in the same area as Julio was. Julio Yanez. And she [coughs]—I wrote her a letter also. Gave her like a ten page letter. Gave her examples. Everything. And never heard anything from her. And I delivered that letter to her office up here. Like I said, Julio was the only one that talked to me. Julio was very restrained in what he was saying to me. I can read all that because I

used to interview people by the truckloads and do that kind of stuff. I read a lot of body language. Julio and I have been friends for a long time, so I knew what his reactions were. I mean, me and him had discussed EEOC cases when they filed against us—that they filed twice against us—and we sat down and talked like that about issues like that. And other times where we met outside the campus and stuff we talked about EEOC, things like that. Affirmative action and all that. So when he was talking to me—and then I called out to him and I told him. “Julio,” I said, “For some reason I know you still work for these people, and I know they pay you a very, very good salary. I wouldn’t mind being in your spot. But I also understand that there’s a lot of things here that you’re not answering, or that you’re not telling me. Can you tell me anything about that?” And he said, “No. You really don’t have a case because they dismissed Richard Hamilton, your boss, who is Anglo also,”—he said, “Anglo, and they dismissed him, and then a Hispanic supervisor, which was you. So they did it right. Looks like everything was bottled the way it was supposed to have been.” I said, “Yeah, but you know that I’m the only Hispanic or minority supervisor that ever worked for TTU or TTUHSC to this day.” He said, “Yeah, and we worked on those issues. We worked on those issues before—this office has.” And so he said, “But”—I said, “There’s some hesitation in what you’re saying, Julio. You’re not telling me everything that, I feel like, you could tell me, because I’m questioning this.” And then he says, “Well, there’s some other issues that they’re not talking about. They say that you had some problems that they weren’t discussing.” I said, “Number one, if I had problems, why was I never written up for that? Why was I never told about them? Why was I never counseled about them? And number three, that’s a story they tell everybody when they get written away. ‘There was some other issues.’ That’s what they tell the media.” He said, “Well, Mike. I can’t tell you anything. Just that in the meetings that I was in that they said there was some other issues. We haven’t reached that point—in the courtroom or something—where I have to—where they have to tell me about that or anybody else has to know anything.” I said, “Yeah. Goes right along with what I said.” But that’s the way it went. I know for one thing there were a lot of complaints. People would complain, like, at football games when we helped campus at football games. Or at other events. Things like that. If there was a complaint against us then the campus administration over here at UPD [University Police Department] would never—hardly ever—let us know about any of the complaints. They would—from sources within their own structure that I talked to—they would say that, “Oh that’s the med school.” And they would never pass on any complaints to us. Even though they knew if it was one of our officers or something like that. So these complains probably piled on. There was some cases that I lost. You know, some investigation cases. One of them was on this guy named Locke—Lock-e—because the DA’s office would serve the paperwork over here at University Police Department—serve it to their dispatcher—because they thought our officers and me were the same group. So they would file—leave the subpoenas and things like that—over that. Well, they wouldn’t have the decency to have someone take those over to the med school—to the Health Science Center. Instead they would let them just sit there. Because I called the DA’s office on two occasions. One of them was that Locke case. Because I wanted to go through with that one because I caught the guy burglarizing

a car inside the car. I caught him inside. I wanted to go to court on that one. Testify to what I had seen and what he was doing and everything. Called the DA's office and they said, "Well, you were our main witness and you never showed up to court." And I said, "How could I have showed up if I didn't know about it?" He said, "Well, the subpoena was served." I said, "Well, let's look at the subpoenas. See who it signed off on it." And it said—it had one of the dispatcher's names over here at UPD. So they knew about it, but they never gave it over. So I lost that case. Another person's—victim's—property that was damaged, torn up, by this guy just thrown to the wayside like that, because of animosity between the campus and our side. I don't know if race had anything to do with it, since I was the only Hispanic supervisor. But a lot of things had happened between us before. I lost cases like that. Just like the one I was telling you about last time, with Cole. [clears throat] That information in that book is not true. I never worked for Jay Parchman. They put in there that I worked for him. A lot of things happened in that. And then this one that I was showing you about—[shuffling]

DS:

We're about ready to end this tape. Let me start another one.

MT:

Huh?

DS:

We're about ready to end the time on this tape. Let me start another one.

MT:

Oh okay. Yeah, that'd be—[pause in recording] Funny how the—all those things happen, huh, Daniel?

DS:

Oh yeah.

MT:

But they happen. [shuffling] I'll go to the grave and never get to see what I wanted to see.

DS:

Okay. We're getting ready to start tape two with my interview with Mike Torres on February 17, 2012. And we had left off talking about some of the cases, but actually we kind of discussed that in the prior interview, so we're going to switch gears and talk about the more recent issues—like immigration—and some of the tactics that the legislatures and different states are using.

MT:
Okay.

DS:
Go ahead.

MT:
Ready?

DS:
Whenever you are, Mike.

MT:
Huh?

DS:
Go ahead.

MT:
You know, I got an education. Completed high school. That was what everybody was requiring when I was coming through at that time. And then very few people were getting a college degree. Especially minorities. So I said, "No, I'm going to take advantage of it." And in case—I said, "Times are going to change and things could get worse for us, so I want to have an education—college degree—that way they have no reason to turn me down or anything." The playing field should become a little bit more level that way. And so I—but I was working at Tech Health Science Center and PD. I was going to night classes and sometimes days. I went to Wayland and I went to Tech. Started off at Tech, then I went to Wayland, then came back to Tech, then I went I went to Wayland and graduated. But got a BA degree in police administration with a minor sociology. I'm very close to completing another minor in psychology. But I just never thought about going—well, I thought about going back but I just never thought I had the time. And so as time went on I went through all these state jobs and everything and finally retired a year and a half ago. And about—something interesting happened after we got laid off here and I had a year in between this job and parole. I had a year to think about a lot of things. I did a lot of thinking during that time, you know. And I found and I noticed that to me we as employees—especially of a big institution—if you're well liked and you do everything you're supposed to—I thought I was in that category. And I was until somebody else came along and decided that—more or less parallel with my job—and they decided that it wasn't going to happen that way. So things like that happened. But anyway always during this time—I always hoped to see that things would—the playing field would level. I figured that when I was young I used to think, Well one day we'll all be equal, and no one will be able to turn me away

because I'm brown or because I have a Hispanic name or anything like that. I said, One day I'll see that before I die. I'm already sixty-three, you know? And I haven't seen that yet. And then the employee part of it I realized also that when you're working for a big institution like this—now during that time I was off between here and parole—I realized that there's really nothing—even if you're right and you do the best job you can for an institution that there's really not too many ways if somebody doesn't like you, is what it boiled down to. That for whatever reason, be it color, be it race, be it anything. Whatever reason they don't like you they can—they're in a pretty good position. They can find ways to get rid of you. And they will. And so I said, you know—it was crossing my mind and I said, So what is there to drive people to do a better job continuously? You know, do the best they can? If there's always that factor hanging over their head that if somebody doesn't like you—like what happened to us—that they can do that to you. And so right along about 1998 I just started with parole and somebody told me about Texas Tech Employees' Union. And I had had some contact with these folks when I was over at the Heath Sciences Center. Because back around 1986-87 they were leafletting out there one day. I usually got there about 6:45 in the morning. It was about 7:15. They were leafletting out there in front of the building on the sidewalk—public access area. And so I looked at them and I said—you know I'm standing up on the second floor. We had a walk around that time on our building. I looked at those people and I said, "Carrying all those flyers and all those leaflets and everything." So I walked down there and I talked to one of them and I said, "Hey, what are y'all doing?" He said, "Oh hi, sir. We're just—we're from the Texas Tech Employees Union and we're just giving people information about their benefits and about their salaries. Just overall employee benefits and how they can improve or keep from getting those types of things taken away from them." I said, "Really? Are they planning on coming to take our benefits away or something?" And he said, "Yeah! Here, read about it." So he gave me some material. And I looked at it. Then I said, "Well, you guys are all right as long as you stay on the sidewalk and you stay where you're standing and don't step out in front of people and block their pathway or anything." He said, "Oh no, sir. We're not doing that.", "Okay, no you're not. I've been watching y'all from up there.", "Okay." So I went back to my office and I looked at that material and everything. About twenty minutes later the boss—the chief—calls me on the phone and he says, "Get over here right now." "Okay." He said, "Go out there. There's some people out there from some state employee or something—union—and they're distributing literature. David Fry just called me from HR. He wants us to run these people off and do something about them," and all this and that. I said, "Okay.", "Get them out of here. If they're breaking the law or anything get rid of them." I said, "Okay." So I said, "But I'll tell you something, Chief. I was just out there visiting with them about twenty, thirty minutes ago. I talked to them. I got some of their material. I've been watching them part too. They're not breaking the law. He said, "Well, Fry was just sitting here and he was shaking mad." He said his voice was shaky and everything. He said he was real, real mad. He had said they were bothering people and all this and that. I said, "Chief, that can't be unless some other new people came on." So anyway, I went out there and I looked at them again. I went down and I asked that guy, I said, "Hey. You guys been giving anybody a hard time with

your literature?”, “No. No, sir.” I said, “Okay.” So then that always stuck with me. About Fry doing that. So another time they were leafletting again. So this time Fry came down there and the chief wasn’t in. I mean, he was holding his briefcase like that and he was shaking. He was so mad. He was shaking. He was in charge of HR. Literally promoted to vice president of somewhere or another for HR. And I could never really figure out why. So getting back to me being with parole over there. These same people from this union approached me. They asked me if I wanted to join. And I had looked at their material and I was like, Well, it makes sense. There’s a lot of things in here that we don’t know. And you always wonder, Well, how can they do this? Or why do they do this? Or what laws allow them to do all this? So I said, you know—and I’m always intrigued by that. I always want to learn as much as I can about everything. Just like when I was in investigations. Who would have thought that someone working in that facility over there—Health Science Center—would get involved with a kidnapping? Baby infant kidnapping. Another attempted infant kidnapping. Two sexual assaults. Murder investigation there inside the hospital. Murder, possible suicide investigation with mental patients doing twenty-four hour emergency and all that. Who would have thought you would get involved with all that, plus working with FBI, working with terrorist groups and all that. Because we got hit by a—who ever thought that somebody working at that facility—but I made it a point. When something came up I wanted to work it. Because everything I did like that I wanted to find out as much as I could about it. I always wanted to be the best at it, whatever I did. So I mean, I went to schools. I got a stack of certificates. I was head of organizations around here for South Plains region. South Plains Criminal Investigators—chairman of that. I was recognized by all these. That’s what I wanted. I wanted to excel at law enforcement. And I did. So everything I did that piqued my interest, I wanted to do the best I could at it. So when this came up about this gray area I’d often wondered about with state employees—with any employees. I said, “Man, I’d like to know more about that.” So they approached me and I started asking them questions. They were answering the questions pretty good, so I said, “You know what? I think I’m going to sign up.” So I went ahead and signed up in 1998. It cost us like fifteen dollars a month or something back then, which back then was a little good sized chunk of money. But I said, “They say they’ll represent you. They’ll give you advice and information. They fight for your benefits and all this.” Because I always wondered how we get a lot of those raises and everything. Cost of living raises and all that. Well, some people had to submit bills or legislature. Legislatures didn’t do that just because out of the kindness of their heart. Somebody—a group or somebody—had to approach them. That TSEU—state employees union—was doing that. Was one of the agencies that was doing that. So the more and more I found out about it I got involved with them about three or four years into it as a member. They approached me about being an executive board member, which I accepted. I was a board member with them. I just resigned the beginning of this year. So I was a board member with them for about ten years. But I found out a lot of things about the labor movement, because—like I say—when I jump into it I want to jump into it with all fours. So I got involved with the Central Labor Council here. Found out a lot of issues about the labor movement, and more about unions and organizations like that. People don’t realize how

much those organizations help the poor, and charity organizations, and things like that. But I mean, when you think about it a lot of the union members—the majority of them—are middle class. Some of them are not very well off either. And so you're constantly helping each like that, it's a brotherhood. So that was one of the organizations I got into. LULAC [**League of Latin American Citizens**] approached me about joining them, and I'd had some discussions with some LULAC members in the past. I just wasn't quite—so happy about that organization, but I said, You know, they're big, they're out there, and if there's one out of fifty thousand Hispanics that they can help I'll pay my dues. So I joined them and little by little I also got a little bit more involved with them. I do a lot of their investigations now when somebody—they'll usually call me when somebody claims that they've been discriminated against or something like that in a school or in the job or something like that. And I'll look into it for them and I'll give them my findings and stuff and then let them take it from there. I help them out with a lot of charity work. And I didn't know it but I have a cousin who worked with—in the LULAC national office in Washington, DC. So she's always sending me stuff. The latest on everything. So I joined LULAC and I attend their meetings. As a matter of fact, last year when we went to march and rally for the state employees, because of all the cuts, there was six LULAC members that went with me. I mean I talked to them guys, talked to them, showed them videos, everything. I got them all fired up. Six of them went with me. That was great. As a matter of fact, they made a video of it. Because they were elated. They'd never been anything like it. Just so happened that last year was the first time we'd ever had a crowd that big. Media said we had seven thousand people out there, but we estimated it between about fifty-five hundred to six thousand. But the media accounted—according to their information—seven thousand. So I joined LULAC. I had been a member of the American GI Forum. As a matter of fact, myself and another friend of mine when I was stationed in Little Rock Air Force Base—his name was Benny. Sergeant Benny—can't remember his last name. But me and him started the first chapter of the American GI Forum in Arkansas. We got it up and running pretty good and we had a lot of GIs in it and some of the locals from the little towns around Little Rock Air Force Base in it. And we did a lot of things during the two years that I was there. We got that going official with a charter and everything approved by the city there—or the state there—and everything. We did a lot of stuff. And then came over here and continued with LULAC. I had also been involved with La Raza Unida as far as when Cesar Chavez was moving and he was being real active and everything. I was corresponding with him and they were corresponding with me and they'd send me information about what was going on and the leaders who were leading the different areas of southwestern United States, things like that. And so La Raza Unida party when Ramsey Muñiz was running also I joined then. I went here to see him a couple of times when he came to Lubbock. I supported him. Did some phone calls for him and stuff like that way back in the seventies. But Ramsey Muñiz—he ran for governor. And he got—and this is what shocked him into this, because they had never thought Hispanics as a serious voters up until Ramsey Muñiz ran back in the early seventies. When he got 5 percent of the vote in the state of Texas they said, “Oh my God. That could really hurt someone in a close race, or it could really help someone

over the top in a close race.” So then that’s when they started paying more attention to Hispanics here in the state. And I clearly saw that. But right away—right after that race for the governor’s office—Ramsey Muñiz all of the sudden winds up being stopped in some place off, I think it was around Corpus Christi or somewhere—and he had a lot of drugs on him and things like that. So off he goes to prison, and he’s still in prison to this day. Because I think they gave him like twenty, twenty-five years. I mean they met their objective. They got rid of the only Hispanic opposition they ever had. So they had a time period there in which to relax—the politicians here in Texas—had a time period there where they could relax. Didn’t have to worry about the Hispanic vote because the main one who ever done any damage to them was in prison. Locked away. Safely locked away. So those kind of things inspired me, because I knew that—I never heard of anyone getting like twenty-five years in prison for—you don’t even get that for murder around here sometimes. Much less for having drugs. And then this man had just ran for governor in the state of Texas. He’d been successful in that he got five percent of the vote. He got all the Hispanics voting. He was in a debate. He was hell with the Republicans and the Democrats. He could—I mean he was a fighter. And all of the sudden he’s out of the picture. So it makes you wonder about things. So I’d worked with La Raza Unida party, which was his party during that time. I think I did a couple marches for them. But that was about it. But La Raza back then was marching for a lot of issues. A lot of organizations. I mean we were really active. I don’t know if we’ll ever see that again. I don’t think so. Because back then—and we made a lot of gains. We made a lot of gains back then. People say that, like—I used to wear the emblem that the American Federation of—I forget what it is. The official name for it—but it was the union that Cesar Chavez belonged to.

DS:

American Farmworkers?

MT:

Yeah. Farmworkers. Yeah. I used to wear their patch on all my jackets and everything, on the vehicle and everything. I was a real big supporter. You’ve got a lot of people saying today, “Well, he didn’t do anything for us,” and blah, blah, blah. They always try to downplay him and everything. Oh yes he did. If you used to work in them fields before he came along and then if you worked in the fields out there with agriculture after he’d done what he’d done for us, you’d know the big difference. When I left for the service and I worked in those fields a few years—not that much, but I worked probably about three years before when I was in junior high and high school. Probably worked a total of three years out in the fields. Chopping cotton and even picking cotton when I was very small. And then doing the sugarcane deals and stuff around here. Sorghum. Working on that and all that. So before Cesar Chavez you didn’t have no port-a-potties out there in the field. You just had to go. If you had to go you either held it all day or long or you walked about a quarter of a mile away from everybody because it’s so flat out here, and dropped down there and took care of business. But it was—and I felt for the ladies, because the majority

of the fieldworkers were men and they had to go even further. There was snakes and heat and all that back out there. But anyways, so there were some issues like that. Like that one. The port-a-potties. Having breaks for them. Sometimes we didn't a break. You made your own break. When you reached the end of your row there that you were working on and stuff, then you'd look around and sometimes if you wanted to do something or eat a taco or something you would get ahead of everybody else. And then when you got out there at the end you'd go get the dipper and get some water and pull a burrito or a taco out of your bag and eat that, and don't let the boss man watch you or see you doing that. Because he'd jumped on you later about it. But that was the breaks you took. But after Cesar Chavez did his thing they had to give us—like regular workers. At least thirty minute lunch break and they could only work you for eight hours. Where before sometimes we'd start at seven and get off at six. There was a twenty, thirty-minute lunch break. Whatever they wanted to give you. But after Cesar we could only work eight hours, and if you took them over forty hours a week you had to pay them overtime. Well, the farmers didn't like that. They hated it. They had to bring us up to minimum wage. When I saw all these things I said, You know, how come our country has never done that on its own without people like us? I guess the same reason why we're not treated equally and nobody does anything about it until we speak out. Until we do something. Those were inhumane conditions that we worked in the fields under. And that's why it irks me when people say, "Well, he never did anything for us," and this and that. Because you weren't out there. You didn't walk the walk. That's why. All you do is talk. You didn't walk the walk. And so when I came back from the service and all those changes had taken place in '72—most of them had taken place that Cesar was involved in—man, I couldn't believe it when they were telling me. "Yeah, well, you know, we go to work at seven and get off at three thirty." "____?" [1:22:06.2] "Yeah." They said, "We got port-a-potties out there, and we have vendors going out there selling drinks and burritos, and food, sandwiches." I said, "Man." So, you know, they say, "We're making minimum wage." Which was unheard of. But it takes people like that—like Cesar Chavez—to do things. You know there's so many issues, so many areas, that still need repair. Still need work. But what happened to all the leaders and stuff? Like him. And of course in today's era they have ways of dealing with them, because the opposition is so much more organized. I mean they have millions of dollars that they can spend on downgrading someone, like if they chose you. "Well, Daniel doesn't need to be working up there and doing the Southwest Collection and everything." I mean they put some money into you and they get things going out against you, things said about you, going to your boss, things like that. They get you out of here. They want you out of here. [Laughs] You know, and that's today. You don't know—it's hard to tell when it's based on race or not. Because they do it so good. They're well adapted to it. Right now in politics they're using our own Hispanics.

DS:

Yeah. Do you think that part of the problem is that we became complacent?

MT:

Oh yeah. There's no doubt about it. You know, and people like me, Abel, Eliseo [?] [1:23:55.9], and a bunch of others that live around here—we've always been aware of these things. All of us, thanks to the Lord, have made—you know, we made a lot of strides in our time. But it wasn't easy. But you're always watching what's going on around you like that. In those areas. The other people became too complacent. They don't see—like it took me two weeks visiting with LULAC members before I could get them to go march with us, you know? And these are older guys, but a lot of them didn't live here in Lubbock. Didn't see these conditions. They lived in smaller towns somewhere around here. And couldn't relate to what we were talking about when we said discrimination, racism on the level that we knew it. So it's hard. But they became complacent. That's why today you have issues like the redistributing—whether it's infringing or going against the Voter's Rights Act and things like that. And they're having to check it and then go through all the courts and everything. But then we also have the media. Like your local media. I'm shocked at the way they report things. They could seem like it's the ones on the left that cause this problem with the redistrict. Well, we know good and well who it was because Hispanics and African Americans were supposed to get a total of I think like eight new members to represent them. They only got like one or two after the Texas Legislature got through with that. What's the problem here? It's the same problem as before only it's done differently. Discrimination and racism. They don't want minorities to have the power that they do, because they're about to lose it. They're finding ways—things to inject here and there in the mold, so to speak. Figure of peeking in the walls, things like that—to let them retain the power that they have today. Even if it takes pampering one of our own, like we've seen here recently. One of our own that's been pampered, put up here on a pedestal. Made him think that he's something bigger than what he really is. Because they're using him against us like that. Whenever they go, here he is. He's a brown man, a Hispanic, and he's our leader. Yeah, right. What happened the rest of the time? This guy has only been the leader for, like, three months. So what happened the rest of the years? So things like that. But they do it so well. They've got a system down. It's what I tried to explain to people last year when I did a seminar. I think you were there. You were there once when I did it in February. And I was trying to tell people that these are some the tactics that they use and show them. Open up their eyes, show them how they do these things so that you won't notice it. But some people couldn't see where I was going with that. We had some of our own come in and say that. "We don't want to hear about conspiracy theory." Well, it is. You know? A national conspiracy theory against Hispanics. Well, it is my friend. I'm sorry, but that's what it is. And they're doing well at it. If you stop and think where we were at this time last year or where we're at today you're going to have many more Hispanics all of the sudden come up in the leadership roles in some of these organizations that have never even wanted us to have equal rights with them. All of the sudden Hispanics are some of their leaders. And probably the only ones in the whole group. But some of the tactics they use to make us quit thinking in those terms and accept them for something that they never did for us in the past. There are a lot of different ways that they do that.

DS:

Good, and talk about some of those tactics. Like, for example, you know, in 2010 immigration became a big issue. But it's really not about immigration. If you look at the laws it's really impacting American citizens, not immigrants.

MT:

Oh yeah. I mean these guys—the first thing you have to do was—you know, they want to get rid of the immigrants because the majority of them were from Mexico, Latin America, places like that. They were—I saw it coming—when I used to belong to the American Legion way back in the late seventies—late seventies or early eighties. I saw an article in one of the American Legion publication magazines that said that this guy was writing in saying that all these people from Mexico were taking over and that you could hear—they go into one area and they take up, pretty soon they'll have the whole neighborhood. They'll have the cars jumped up and parked up on the alley—I mean on the yard—without any wheels on them, things like that. They'll live four or five families in a house and they don't clean the yard. I mean, he was saying all this and all that. When they drive by all you hear is this “boom-boom-boom” music in a foreign language. Supposed to be music in a foreign language and all that. I said, “Uh-uh.” That's some of our own people, you know? What he was saying could fit some American citizens. But this man has never been exposed to that. He's never lived in the *barrios*. He's never lived—but when you hear that music blaring and in Spanish in the *barrios*. Sometimes you'll see where a man and his family live here, and so does his mom, and his dad, and maybe Junior, who's just starting off a family, and his new wife and child. You see that. Sociologist's tell you clearly why that happens. That's normal for certain groups of people, because of the closeness of the family and how they take care of their own. They don't believe in sending them off to pasture somewhere when they get sixty years old.

DS:

Yeah, and then also here the economy thing.

MT:

Yeah. The economy.

DS:

If you're being paid as much as others you can't afford to live on your own.

MT:

Exactly. And all these things put together. I said, This guy—what he's talking about—it's not—but he's making it seem like it's all these people from Mexico. So I said, therein lies the problem. But he put us together with the immigrants. He doesn't make a distinction. I don't know if it's because he doesn't know the difference or because he purposefully does that because

he's a racist and he hates Hispanics, or Latinos, be it legal or illegal. He just hates them. So he's putting them all in the same—clumping them all together. So I said—you know, I wrote in against that article and I told him all that. And the editor never said—[Audio Cuts]

End of Recording



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