



**OH 8139**

**An Oral History of Donald Gaines Murray  
Conducted by Ellen Paul**

Title: An Oral History of Donald Gaines Murray

Interviewer: Ellen Paul

Description: Transcript, 15 pages

Interview date: July 7, 1976

**Abstract:** Donald Gaines Murray (1914-1986) was an attorney and the first Black individual admitted to the University of Maryland School of Law after winning a landmark civil rights case, *Murray v. Pearson*, in 1936. After his application was rejected on account of his race, Murray and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sued the University. Murray was represented in court by Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall. In this oral history interview, Murray recalls his fight to enter the University of Maryland Law School as well as other education legal cases such as Esther McCready's attempt to enroll in the University of Maryland Nursing School. Murray also discusses the leadership skills of freedom fighter Lillie May Carroll Jackson and the selection of Baltimore, Maryland as a target city by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Note on Oral History: Oral history is a methodology of gathering, preserving, and sharing the voices and memories of individuals and communities. As primary material, it documents personal reflections, commentary, and recollections, and is not intended to present a verified or "complete" history of events.

© All materials copyright by the Maryland Center for History and Culture. Transcript made available for research purposes only. All rights are reserved to the Maryland Center for History and Culture. Requests for permission to quote must be addressed to:

H. Furlong Baldwin Library  
Maryland Center for History and Culture  
610 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, MD. 21201

**An Oral History of Donald Gaines Murray**  
**July 7, 1976**

Donald G. Murray was interviewed on the 7th of July, 1976, by Ellen Paul. This interview was conducted at Murray's residence at 2016 Bryant Avenue in Baltimore City. His wife (Rosa Langley Murray, née Walker) and a fourth, unidentified contributor occasionally add to the discussion. Due to frequent background noise, and the fact that Murray had recently suffered a stroke (impairing his speech and communication abilities), there are several unclear parts of the audio and substantial gaps in the transcript.

**Paul** [00:00:05] This is an interview for the Maryland Historical Society McKeldin-Jackson Project, June 7th, 1976, with Mr. Donald G. Murray at Mr. Murray's home on Bryant Lane in Baltimore. The interviewer is Ellen Paul.

**Paul** [00:00:25] Okay. I think it should be working now. The little wheels are going around. Okay, why don't we go back—I'm sorry to do this—and you can tell me again about your background here in Baltimore.

**Murray** [00:00:34] Well, I was born in Philadelphia and I came here at maybe six months and lived in Baltimore. Uh—well, I suppose I went to school. (laughs) And I had kindergarten at School 104. Then I went to 103 where I finished the eighth grade. Then I went directly to Douglass High School in 1925. I finished there and then I went to Lincoln for—a part from nine—no not nine. I stayed for over half a semester. I mean, a semester and about a third. And then I left Lincoln and I worked here in Baltimore; Gibson Island for the summer and then I went to Amherst in the fall. And I'd leave Amherst—That was fall of 1930. And then I'd leave Amherst in 1934. I came back to Baltimore and then I—well, in the height of deathly depression and I didn't have any money to go to grad school. I had thought about it but I knew that I didn't have any—I had thought about Columbia and Yale. And I thought about it. Well—I don't know why. And I didn't go to either one of them. I took night school here for half a year and then I was—She's telling me to talk louder.

**Paul** [00:02:39] (laughs)

**Murray** [00:02:39] You can hear it through this tape?

**Paul** [00:02:56] I think so. I think it should come through.

**Murray** [00:02:57] Well I mean you can edit it.

**Paul** [00:02:58] I—oh, yeah, well, someone—I think someone may be transcribing it, so if you talk a little bit louder it might help because it would help them hear.

**Murray** [00:03:17] Then I talked to several lawyers about going to graduate school somewhere here. So to get some help in the course of that. (unintelligible) \_\_\_\_\_ (??) and Thurgood Marshall. And they were in the process of trying to get student (unintelligible) in the University of Maryland law school. So that's how they got that case going. It was quite difficult in a way. We applied to University of Maryland of course. You know, I tried to get an answer from them. Basically, you apply for—And of course, the lawyers knew what they were doing and they, of course, processed this.

**Paul** [00:04:20] Did they ask you your color on the application form?

**Murray** [00:04:25] I don't remember. They probably did. Because they used that—but I guess if they wanted to risk (unintelligible) cause my color. Uh, but of course, they needed, you know, something—You'll have to ask one more can't you (unintelligible)?

**Paul** [00:04:52] Oh, sure. Well, when. When they told you you couldn't go there, did they come right out and say that you couldn't go there because you were colored?

**Murray** [00:04:58] Oh, yeah.

**Paul** [00:04:59] They said that. Uh-huh. And what was your reaction? How did you deal with that?

**Murray** [00:05:06] Well by that time it was in the hands of the lawyers almost completely. I said, I wouldn't go along, and they said (unintelligible).

**Paul** [00:05:17] And you were willing to fight it in the courts?

**Murray** [00:05:19] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:05:19] Uh-huh. And who represented you in the court? Do you remember?

**Murray** [00:05:25] Yes, Mr. Thurgood Marshall and of course (unintelligible) Charles H. Houston, and William Gosnell.

**Paul** [00:05:40] And you graduated from Maryland in what year?

**Murray** [00:05:47] Thirty—three—It was thirty-eight.

**Paul** [00:05:51] Thirty-eight. And when you graduated, were you the only black person there? Still?

**Murray** [00:05:58] Yes. (speaking at the same time)

**Paul** [00:05:58] Or did they let in—And after you, did other black people have a hard time getting in?

**Murray** [00:06:07] Oh yeah. Uh—Calvin Douglass was next. He is just recently deceased.

**Paul** [00:06:15] What do you know about opening up the nursing school? Do you know anything about that case? The McCready Case?

**Murray** [00:06:22] Yes, at that time, I know that the NAACP—Meanwhile, we had been working on the law school and they had granted being admitted. I'd say in '45 or '46, they had a fairly good roster. They had a number of lawyers who'd graduated and so on. But, in that time, they had never admitted anybody to any other department of the University of Maryland.

**Paul** [00:06:59] Just the law school.

**Murray** [00:06:59] Hm?

**Paul** [00:06:59] Just the law school, at the time.

**Murray** [00:06:59] Just the law school. And then they tried to get a program going to admit them to all departments and nursing was actually the first one they went to. Now, Esther McCready was the first graduate, and, with that case again, it was like the University of Maryland Law School case. They went through the same procedures and—to get her to go.

**Paul** [00:07:45] Now, they said in your case the reason that they would let you in was because you wanted to practice law in Maryland, and the only place you could get a Maryland law education was at that school. What did they say for Ms. McCready? Was that same reason?

**Murray** [00:07:59] Same reason.

**Paul** [00:08:01] Mhm. Do you remember anything about Parren Mitchell and his case?

**Murray** [00:08:04] Yes. He wanted to go to the social work department. He'd already met, you know professors who were—And that was the same reason. (unintelligible) and all that. By that time, the cases are pretty much covered. See because they had state—course the Gaines case in Missouri was—had the Supreme Court ruling on that same situation. And of course the—that was at University of Missouri.

**Paul** [00:08:46] I see. Why don't we talk about Lillie Mae Jackson a bit? How long have you known—did you know her?

**Murray** [00:08:52] I would say since 1935.

**Paul** [00:08:58] Did you first meet her through the NAACP?

**Murray** [00:09:01] Yes.

**Paul** [00:09:04] Uh-huh. What would you—

**Murray** [00:09:04] And of course I had known her generally in the community, but I never knew her personally.

**Paul** [00:09:08] I see.

**Murray** [00:09:10] I knew her children more personally. See, one of them was in school at the same time I was, a little ahead of me.

**Paul** [00:09:22] I see. Did she have any trouble getting into the law school?

**Murray** [00:09:28] Oh now, she was admitted in 1955, I know she didn't have any—course (unintelligible), but by that time there had been a number of graduates. Including three, at least, judges.

**Paul** [00:09:42] Mhm. And what would you consider to be Mrs. Jackson's greatest contribution?

**Murray** [00:09:47] Oh, I think it's spirit. You know, (unintelligible) for her community—I mean, she was one of the few people I knew who could actually push people. I mean—and make them look. And see, she gave so much of herself, that she unquestionably had to go along with her—

unquestionably. But you had no reservations; you felt she was sincere, intelligent, and she'd help all she could.

**Paul** [00:10:25] You worked as a lawyer for the NAACP, did you not?

**Murray** [00:10:30] Yes.

**Paul** [00:10:30] Mhm. How many years was that? Was that for a while?

**Murray** [00:10:34] No. In other words, that was a situation where they would ask a lawyer and usually you were working in the—course, McCready and Parren Mitchell were different—but you were on police brutality then. Yes, and she'd come to them asking you to pick up their case down on the Eastern Shore and you'd go.

**Paul** [00:11:03] And that just was on the volunteer basis?

**Murray** [00:11:06] Pretty much.

**Paul** [00:11:07] (laughs) Do you find that—

**Murray** [00:11:11] Now that's what you had asked earlier about—

[00:11:11] *pause in recording*

**Murray** [00:11:16] I was her base—

**Mrs. Murray** [00:11:17] We would've starved to death if we had to depend on the NAACP, to—

**Paul** [00:11:24] They didn't help too much, huh?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:11:32] No, nothing.

**Murray** [00:11:32] (unintelligible)

**Paul** [00:11:32] Mhm. I see. You were talking about the brutality in Maryland. Did Mrs. Jackson ever defend a person who actually was guilty of what they had been charged of?

**Murray** [00:11:44] Oh well now, that. You mean—What you asked me—You know, I think she actually believed that all of those people had something on their side, because they did. They're going to actually defend it.

**Paul** [00:12:05] Let me ask you about the NAACP. You worked there for a number of years and you were a member—

**Murray** [00:12:10] Just locally.

**Paul** [00:12:10] Yeah, that's what I want to know about, the local branch. Did you see any divisions in the NAACP leadership here?

**Murray** [00:12:19] At the very beginning, no. Well, I suppose as they do embrace more people and more causes, there would be divisions.

**Paul** [00:12:31] What would you cite as the reason for a (unintelligible; background noise)?

**Murray** [00:12:32] Well—

**Paul** [00:12:32] Between the leadership.

**Murray** [00:12:44] As I said, when you had a question (unintelligible; background noise) leadership with Ms. Jackson—uh—I never questioned it and never got the facts right. But I said, she looked like—her thinking, that you either went with her or didn't go with her.

**Paul** [00:13:07] Did she get angry when you challenged her?

**Murray** [00:13:11] Most of the time, but not—Well I never challenged her that much. I'd just ignore it. But I said, I first challenged—I have one that I tell, but I won't go into that.

**Paul** [00:13:29] No, please do, really.

**Murray** [00:13:32] I mean, you'd challenge things on general principles, but I said—this was only one meeting, and that wasn't her meeting, actually, where I challenged things. And I was nice and hard to war on that. But otherwise, I didn't care what she did, because she had a knack of consulting with people who were in a better position, sometimes.

**Paul** [00:14:05] How did she work with other black leaders like Thurgood Marshall and, oh, leaders of the Urban League? And of course—how did she work with them or didn't she? Was she running her own show?

**Murray** [00:14:19] Well, there again, uh, when this first started I suppose—This question, of what she thought was strategy or tactics—

**Paul** [00:14:33] Well did she go along with them? Did they have meetings together and cooperate and consult each other and talk to each other?

**Murray** [00:14:39] When this thing first started here in Maryland, they got excellent cooperation. Only later, they said, "You have people that are here for doing their own thing" and—they'd do their own thing and there would be different stances. And of course, they would sometime resolve, sometimes not. And of course it's that, when the base of this whole fight got larger, of course she inevitably had differences. And she had differences that were (unintelligible). But I should think—you know, I should think that is just about it. Yeah, this is great. But when the fight first started, you had almost complete cooperation with everybody, and the church even—church groups.

**Paul** [00:15:42] How did Mrs. Jackson first come to be president of the NAACP? Who chose her?

**Murray** [00:15:49] Oh, I imagine, that they have a board of directors and they elect, as the—and of course, she was on the national board for a number of years. And I suppose they elected her.

**Paul** [00:16:05] I see. And no one challenged her presidency? No one ran against her all these years?

**Murray** [00:16:09] For the reason of her initial impact—she was a force that comes once and suddenly (unintelligible)—No, but she's actually a character in her own right.

**Paul** [00:16:31] I see. What kind of person—?

**Murray** [00:16:34] You didn't have too many people tallying rows up.

**Paul** [00:16:36] (laughs) Right, that's right. What kind of personality was she? How was she to work with? Was she friendly, aggressive, persistent—What words would you use to describe her?

**Murray** [00:16:47] Two words. You used them both: friendly and aggressive.

**Paul** [00:16:52] And aggressive. I see. What—

**Murray** [00:16:57] And she's kind and patient.

**Paul** [00:16:59] She was patient.

**Murray** [00:17:02] With people she thought were, you know, working.

**Paul** [00:17:10] Mhm. How did she work with Governor McKeldin?

**Murray** [00:17:13] Now that—I wonder how you got in these two areas—and you asking me, because, Mrs. Jackson I knew, but Governor McKeldin, you know, I didn't know—

**Paul** [00:17:37] You didn't know him?

**Murray** [00:17:37] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:17:37] Well, that's okay, then I'll just ask you for your personal opinion (unintelligible), okay?

**Murray** [00:17:40] I think she worked very well with Governor McKeldin. I mean, but I wouldn't know any more than anybody else in the community just by reading. Now, she had a very strong interest, influence, and (unintelligible; background noise) on the church people. Of course they were—I mean they were church people.

**Paul** [00:18:06] On church people?

**Murray** [00:18:06] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:18:08] Uh-huh.

**Murray** [00:18:09] And ministers would control their (unintelligible)

**Paul** [00:18:18] I see. That's both black and white churches?

**Murray** [00:18:23] Yeah, I don't know about the white. (unintelligible)



**Paul** [00:18:27] Uh-huh. How did she deal with white people? Did she want white people to help?

**Murray** [00:18:31] Yes. See because, the whole NAACP—See, when they first organized, they would take—helping anybody. In other words, (unintelligible) white. As a group, they are used to working with each other. Yeah, so that—she was from the old school that used to. And of course, I should imagine she could work with somebody over the Klu Klux Klansmen.

**Paul** [00:19:31] What was the role of the Jewish community in civil rights?

**Murray** [00:19:35] Well, when I was younger and bright-eyed, their role was very strong. And I'm sure that for years, she had close cooperative—very close with Jewish community. When I say close, then again, when you widen your base you're (unintelligible) you're going to run into people who don't like your personality or don't like particular things you're striving for. But now that's where she would end (unintelligible). But you have to admire the woman's spirit.

**Paul** [00:20:34] Can you—

**Murray** [00:20:34] And if you knew her well then you'd get a whole lot of other things you wouldn't ordinarily overlook.

**Paul** [00:20:44] Can you recall any specific incidents or stories about Mrs. Jackson?

**Murray** [00:20:51] There again, I'm sure I could, but not right now.

**Paul** [00:21:02] Mhm. What kind of reaction did Mrs. Jackson have when, in the 1960s, the black civil rights movement became militant? What was her opinion on that?

**Murray** [00:21:16] I don't know.

**Paul** [00:21:17] How did you react?

**Murray** [00:21:19] How did I react when it became unlawful?

**Paul** [00:21:26] Mhm.

**Murray** [00:21:26] (unintelligible)

**Paul** [00:21:31] Do you remember when CORE chose Baltimore to be a target city?

**Murray** [00:21:35] When what?

**Paul** [00:21:35] When CORE chose Baltimore to be target city in 1966?

**Murray** [00:21:40] Oh, yeah.

**Paul** [00:21:41] Do you remember that? Well, what was your reaction to that? Do you think Baltimore deserved to be chosen?

**Murray** [00:21:47] Oh, I wouldn't—there again you've got questions of tactics upon their part. And I said, you have a whole line of argumentation, saying that you would (unintelligible; background noise)

**Paul** [00:22:11] I'm sorry, I didn't hear that because of the traffic.

**Murray** [00:22:17] I said, if you know, (unintelligible) you would resent or not approve—In other words, just like you wouldn't approve my smoking. Now, but she'd say "Well, I've got a right to my own (unintelligible)." And I said, "Here's a little different." You have a—you are working toward what allegedly is the same goal. But, they said, "Well this is too slow, let's go this way." And, of course, then we had differences. But you don't have—well at least I didn't have any reserved—but, I said, "Some (unintelligible) I wasn't approving." (unintelligible) called me a conservative.

**Paul** [00:23:16] Now, but their children will call them conservative too.

**Murray** [00:23:18] Oh sure.

**Paul** [00:23:21] Do you know anything about the Freedom House that Mrs. Jackson established?

**Murray** [00:23:26] Very little, I was pretty much out of it by then. But I'm sure—Now see that I think is a revision back to the older days. Here's trying to get community to do something about the police brutality. And I remember—yeah I worked on that. For the course of a year, we had 367 items.

**Paul** [00:23:57] When was that?

**Murray** [00:23:59] Hm? Oh, that was in the forties.

**Paul** [00:24:01] In the forties. That's quite a lot.

**Murray** [00:24:05] Yeah. And that's just in the city.

**Paul** [00:24:11] Do you know anything about Mrs. Jackson's real estate—

**Murray** [00:24:14] No—

**Paul** [00:24:14] —and her office? Hm. Was she a good businesswoman, though? Did she run the office well? The NAACP office?

**Murray** [00:24:22] Yeah, and she was always surrounded by people, I think, who—if she didn't know, they could tell her. I doubt very much whether the—I'd say there again, you'd have to talk to somebody else. Yeah, because—

**Paul** [00:24:51] How important were her children in this movement?

**Murray** [00:24:59] Oh they were very important. Especially Juanita. She, of course, was (unintelligible). But see, Juanita stayed here in Baltimore. She was married (unintelligible). And when they'd work out too hard (unintelligible) she'd pick up slack. And of course, she's—yes, oh, yes. See, because—I don't know what year she graduated from law school. But it was past (unintelligible).

**Paul** [00:25:29] Mhm.

**Murray** [00:25:29] But she had her work at the organization like her mother had. Proud of that.

**Paul** [00:25:40] What—

**Murray** [00:25:44] And of course, all of the children—her children—to some extent helped. Now, all of them Mrs. Jackson's children. I said—Well, Juanita is the one that stayed here, most close and most aid to her mother. And I suppose (unintelligible) She was—helped to—(unintelligible).

**Paul** [00:26:24] Mrs. Jackson: as far as you know, what kind of background did she have? Her personal background. Do you know anything about where she came from or what her personal background is?

**Murray** [00:26:34] She was born here in Maryland. I think she was born in Carroll County. I think she claims some relationship with Charles Carroll.

**Paul** [00:26:34] Mhm.

**Murray** [00:26:34] Yeah, it definitely was Carroll.

**Paul** [00:26:59] And where would you—well, let me ask this a different way: her family was never really poor, were they? Except maybe during the Depression.

**Murray** [00:27:12] Well, I don't know.

**Paul** [00:27:12] I see. How did Mrs. Jackson feel about poor people?

**Murray** [00:27:17] (unintelligible)

**Paul** [00:27:17] All colors.

**Murray** [00:27:18] Hm?

**Paul** [00:27:18] All colors of poor people.

**Murray** [00:27:19] Yeah. I got the impression she felt sorry for all of them. Some she probably thought liked—they brought it on themselves. But she didn't feel—I think she felt connected to them. That poor people were in the same boat of our cause, which is true.

**Paul** [00:27:47] Why was Mrs. Jackson so concerned with liquor and zoning and the bars? Why was that a concern of hers?

**Murray** [00:27:59] Well, she lived in a neighborhood, I suppose—I mean, I think all people who have been community leaders and so forth have a second sense about the relationship of some things, and so forth, to the total community. In other words, its like \_\_\_\_\_ (??) said to (unintelligible) school—or high school or something like that. And they feel that very same way. And of course, they resent the fact that people are put in a neighborhood. Of course, by the same

token, they (unintelligible) and so forth. And they—I don't—it's one thing that's important to everybody, whether they know it or not.

**Paul** [00:29:10] Do you remember the commission in 1943 that Mrs. Jackson was on? No? Maybe you could talk a little bit about some of the specific law cases that you worked on for the NAACP. Do you remember what issues they were about?

**Murray** [00:29:33] Well, now (unintelligible) were accused of raping two old ladies. Who were they? Sisters of the mayor or somebody like (unintelligible). Anyway, we weren't too happy about going down on that one, but I'd say I didn't mind it too much.

**Paul** [00:30:00] Did you work on the cases and lawsuits to equalize teacher salaries?

**Murray** [00:30:05] No. That was during the time when I was going to law school.

**Paul** [00:30:10] I see, uh-huh. So that was before you were—You weren't practiced?

**Murray** [00:30:14] Yes, that was—Mr. Justice (unintelligible; background noise) and, uh, in turn, Charlie Houston. See, because after that case then the national branch of the NAACP had Mr. Houston as special counsel, in New York. And of course, Thurgood went along with him as an assistant.

**Paul** [00:30:50] Mhm. How about the Freedom Riders on Route 40? Did you ever defend any of those people?

**Murray** [00:30:57] No.

**Paul** [00:30:58] No? Did you ever take part in any sort of actions like that yourself?

**Murray** [00:31:04] No, I never got arrested.

**Paul** [00:31:06] (laughs) how about picket lines like at Ford Theater? Did you did you ever—?

**Murray** [00:31:10] Oh, yes. Once—But not a sit-in, like for \_\_\_\_\_ (??).

**Paul** [00:31:15] That went on a long time.

**Murray** [00:31:16] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:31:21] Mhm. How about the problem out at Gwynn Oaks, at the amusement park? Do you remember anything about that?

**Murray** [00:31:28] Yes, vaguely. I remember being very pleased and proud of them and—And of course the ministers who took part in—

[00:31:33] *pause in recording*

**Paul** [00:31:39] —talking about the ministers and the churches and the power that they had here.

**Murray** [00:31:44] Yes, I think that especially now, all us being of one community, a Negro community, a Black community. They are very strong. May I add again that I can say for—now on Mayor McKeldin, he had the same spark that he could walk in a church and immediately almost take over.

**Paul** [00:32:17] Let me ask your opinion about McKeldin. Do you think he was very sincere?

**Murray** [00:32:21] Yes.

**Paul** [00:32:26] What kind of—Well, let me ask you this: would you consider civil rights to be his primary interest?

**Murray** [00:32:33] No, any more than I could—would consider—

**Paul** [00:32:39] Mrs. Murray is here with us and she's shaking her head and I want to know why.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:32:44] Well, I think I really think he was a sincere man and that he wanted to make things of a more equal nature. I think he believed in relatively the same extent, but I still think he was enough of a realist to know that he was only going to get through to a certain point and that he had no intention of jeopardizing his status and in politics.

**Murray** [00:33:20] He can't be a mayor and think of civil rights as the end be. You can't be a president. You can't be a governor.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:33:34] You can't just concentrate on one group, you know, in order to—or you won't get elected. You have got to be able to think of all of the people and then concentrate, if you possibly can, on trying to right some of the wrongs that have been committed.

**Paul** [00:33:59] What would you say was his greatest contribution to civil rights?

**Unidentified** [00:34:02] Who?

**Paul** [00:34:03] Mr. McKeldin. Can you think of anything that stands out?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:34:14] Well, I think— (unintelligible, technical issue).

**Paul** [00:34:20] Okay it's back on. You said appointments were important— (unintelligible, technical issue)

**Mrs. Murray** [00:34:28] —make many appointments of blacks that hadn't been done before.

**Murray** [00:34:37] To action—although, at that time you wouldn't get too influential a position, but you would get to—halfway to power. I mean see some would—and of course, that trend actually worked—has worked through. Because he had—Although even Mandel's appointments have been something unheard of in, say, Mayor Broening's time.

**Paul** [00:35:11] And you said you were on the Human Relations Commission, Mr. Murray?

**Murray** [00:35:18] No, I was— it was my joke.

**Paul** [00:35:20] Oh (laughs). Do you know anything—

**Murray** [00:35:23] I said I belong to the human race.

**Paul** [00:35:28] Oh, (laughs) that's a good organization too—a large one. (laughs)

**Murray** [00:35:32] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:35:34] Do you know anything about the Sidney Hollander Awards?

**Murray** [00:35:37] Yes.

**Paul** [00:35:38] Could you tell me a little bit about that? What you remember about it?

**Murray** [00:35:45] Yeah. Well, I—as I said, there again, Mr. Hollander, Sr., was very (unintelligible) in civil rights (unintelligible). And I'm sure he and his organization espoused my cause to some degree. And I'm sure that—I know that they espoused the NAACP.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:36:26] I know one thing that Sidney Hollander's—isn't he the one—no, that's not the right one. He's not the one that you (unintelligible; background noise).

**Murray** [00:36:27] On what?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:36:27] You know, uh, there was one of them that you used to go (unintelligible). Was that Sidney Hollander?

**Murray** [00:36:49] Oh no, that was \_\_\_\_\_(??) (unintelligible).

**Mrs. Murray** [00:36:53] Oh, that was it.

**Paul** [00:36:56] Do you remember things like the hiring of the Black bus drivers and the firemen and the policemen? Do remember those—

**Murray** [00:37:04] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:37:04] Did people like McKeldin—well McKeldin specifically—did he have anything to do with that?

**Murray** [00:37:08] Now that I can't—I'm sure he did, behind the scenes.

**Paul** [00:37:13] You think he used his power behind the scenes to help out?

**Murray** [00:37:16] Yeah I say—yes. These powers come and—yes.

**Paul** [00:37:37] Would you say that there's been tension within the black community, say, between educated and uneducated Blacks and poor Blacks and middle-class Blacks? This is what I was sort of getting at before with the issue of how Lillie Jackson felt about poor people. Has there been tension in that aspect?

**Murray** [00:37:59] Of course, you can't (unintelligible) be in any—haven't had (unintelligible). But tension, actually, tension, I don't think. And I think people like Mrs. Jackson and McKeldin helped in that.

**Paul** [00:38:30] What kind of—Well, have you seen any major changes in the attitudes of races since—Oh, I'd say since—well, how about since you went to law school? Since your suit to get into law school?

**Murray** [00:38:42] Oh, yes. Well, I can only speak of U.S., Maryland law schools. Although, that attitude was seen—I mean has been changed since the city—

**Paul** [00:38:57] How about the city of Baltimore, though, the people who live here. Have their attitudes changed, really?

**Murray** [00:39:02] Oh, certainly, you can see change. In other words, you have groups who are operating, that never would've cooperated, say 40 or 50 years ago.

**Paul** [00:39:12] So there's some real progress there?

**Murray** [00:39:15] Yeah.

**Paul** [00:39:15] Not just the little things, but there some real—

**Murray** [00:39:17] (speaking at the same time) Yeah.

**Paul** [00:39:17] —basic change.

**Murray** [00:39:20] Now, Mrs. Murray, can remember when you couldn't go to white teacher's meetings.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:39:21] Oh yeah.

**Paul** [00:39:27] Why don't you tell us about that?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:39:30] Well, I'm trying to think—Let's see, we first started going when the \_\_\_\_\_ (??) came. Uh—is that thing on?

**Paul** [00:39:38] Yeah.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:39:39] We first started going to integrated meetings when Lamelle (??) or Lamel (??) became the superintendent. Before that time when the state teachers had their meetings, the Blacks met up at Douglass High School or at a church, but the white ones always had their meetings separately. Now before the Supreme Court came down with the educational equalization laws and so forth, Lamelle (??) or Lamel (??)—William Lamelle (??) or Lamel (??), I think that was his first name—came here and he started, long before (unintelligible; background noise), integrating meetings and—not only the meetings, but trying to make sure that the curriculum in the whole city of Baltimore was the same, because up until that time there had been differences in what was being taught (unintelligible; background noise).

**Paul** [00:40:56] And up until that time, you had separate meetings?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:41:00] We had separate meetings.

**Murray** [00:41:00] You are young!

**Unidentified** [00:41:00] (unintelligible)

**Paul** [00:41:05] (laughs) You were also telling me before, when we were talking about the department stores, and the experience you had there—Do you want to repeat that? Because I think that's really interesting.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:41:15] Oh, I told her that I remember going to Stewart's one time to get two dresses for my sister who was graduating from Coppin. And I'm light-skinned. And usually, if I did go down to get something, I wouldn't have any problem. But on this day, I picked out the dresses for my sister—we were approximately the same size—and I was going to try them on when a floor-walker called the salesgirl aside, and I don't know what she said to her, but she came back almost in tears and told me that I couldn't try the clothes on. And I asked her why. And she said that they knew that I was black. They had my name and my address, which means that somebody—that they evidently were employing black people to find out black people who came in the store. I walked all through the store trying to, you know, just see the person who had done this, because I was—I guess I was (unintelligible; dog barking) with the—

**Unidentified** [00:42:39] The snitches.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:42:39] The snitch—

**Everyone** [00:42:39] (laughs)

**Mrs. Murray** [00:42:39] —than I was with the—I wasn't at all—

**Unidentified** [00:42:44] (unintelligible)

**Mrs. Murray** [00:42:44] I wasn't at all angry with the salesgirl, because she really was in very—she wanted to let me try those things on, but she had to hold her job. It was just a very bad system, a discriminatory system against Blacks. And that's just one incident. There were hundreds of them, that happened.

**Paul** [00:43:13] We were talking about Lillie Mae Jackson before you came into the room. I wondered if you could give me your opinion on Mrs. Jackson.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:43:20] Oh, I think she was a very courageous woman. I think she was a woman who was determined to get things done. And she did, she became a sore, a festering sore because she just kept worrying the people, the high officials, and got to the place where, when Lillie Jackson said something, they'd start paying attention to her because she organized the churches and she organized the young people—I forget the name of that young people's forum that she had—

**Paul** [00:43:55] City-Wide Young Peoples forum.



**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:01] Yes, that right then was—the purpose of it was to make us a way out of the things that you had to do in order to get your equal rights.

**Paul** [00:44:13] Did you participate in that?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:14] For a while. I did for a while. And, uh, she—

**Murray** [00:44:15] Now you've aged.

**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:23] Well, I'm sorry.

**Murray** [00:44:23] (laughs)

**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:23] Now, I know I'm old.

**Everyone** [00:44:24] (laughs)

**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:26] (laughs) And she—sometimes she might get on your nerves because she used to get on my nerves sometimes, she really did. But I had the greatest admiration for her and I think that you couldn't say too much in praise of what she did for the Black people in Baltimore.

**Paul** [00:44:49] And she used to pressure you, was that why she got on your nerves?

**Mrs. Murray** [00:44:52] Oh, she pressured me. Oh yeah, she pressured me, because I guess that's the way she got things done. (unintelligible)

**Murray** [00:44:59] \_\_\_\_\_ (??) pressured people too. (unintelligible)

**Unidentified** [00:45:05] (unintelligible; speaking at the same time).

**Murray** [00:45:05] \_\_\_\_\_ (??) and \_\_\_\_\_ (??) Holloway.

**Unidentified** [00:45:11] History, ain't it?

**Paul** [00:45:13] That's what we're trying to get. Is there anything that either of you would like to add? For the record.

**Murray** [00:45:24] No.

**Paul** [00:45:25] No? Okay, thank you so much.

**Murray** [00:45:26] Thank you.

[00:45:26] *end of interview*