

Lafayette: Terry, what do you think about the Negro leadership here in this community?

Shaw: I think we have two leaderships in this community. That's Reverend Anderson and Mr. Bartikin. I think he was the best because he statred all this. And if he hadn't died, I think we have...we'd at least be further than we are now. Lost a great thing when he died. I think ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{Rev.} Anderson has taken over where Mr. Bunsey? left but not doing a better job than he was. I think he doin' about the best that anybody else can do. And I think that he is doin' _____ more than Mr. Bartikin did. And I think the white people know because what really happened was when he ~~had~~ an accident and ran over this man, they throw it out of the court. They tryin' to ^{start tamperin' and} think of something big because they can get him out of the way, we have a leader, but we won't have no one in his category, to take over. I think that they doin' us ~~waxing~~ wrong because when we have free meals, the white man ~~wax~~ ^{won't} feed us and stuff like that if ~~we~~ give him noise. For instance a lady was uptown one day, in line with her daughter. And this man told her she was too old. And she told him she wasn't goin' in, that was with her daughter. And he snatched her out of the line and ^{hit her and} she hit him back. Then, this policeman, who was white. Everyone in Selma know him and he's supposed to be bad. They call him Goodman. And since Goodman is real bad and he's get more than anybody else, he have a little racket goin' on of his own. And he -- this little racket that I was ~~waxing~~ talkin' about, Crae When Crae got put in jail for shootin' a boy, ~~wax~~ had a car and Goodman bought it from his Mama for \$40. And when it came, Goodman asked did he buy ~~it~~ this car, he denied that he bought it. During the time I was passin' out leaflets, white man asked me ^{messed with me. They asked me} what I was passin' out for and everything. There was a certain white man. He wanted to help me. I will not give his name because I do not want him to lose his job. He passed some out for me. And the colored people that ^{accept} ~~take~~ them from him. You know how we are.

we take a leaflet from a white man and won't say nothin' to him, but look at him funny. And they looked at this man funny and walked off. And he told me 'bout it the next day. Told me 'bout it the next 15 or 20 minutes. And we laughed about it. And he said that he would like to help the drive. He know lots of some more white that would like to help it. ^{And} You know, I think we stand a better chance in this community than they do in Birmingham. To say more about livin' conditions. My house ^{is} ~~xxxx~~right in front of a ditch. And after the ditch go out, it right in front of a creek. We sits in the backyard. At ~~xxx~~ least ^{1 do} ~~try~~ to sit in the backyard sometime, at least I sits in the backyard sometime with the dog. And any time I don't have anything to do, I just sits in the back. I always sits in the back. And wait. And about 15 minutes later, here comes some action. And we kill a snake. He crawlin' through the yard like a chicken or either a rat or something. One night, I was in the bed sleep. Brother told me he heard an old funny sound at the foot of the bed. So I thought he was jivin'. I turned over and cut the light^{on}. And there the snake was -- lookin' dead at us. And we killed him. And we didn't want to say nothin' ~~xxx~~ to the neighbors about it because we would disturb them. And we go down the creek, go down the creek huntin'. And it's just like walkin' in the woods or somethin'. We go down the creek. 'Bout 10, 15 minutes dog run at a rabbit. The dog done catch the rabbit. He's comin' back runnin'. Coon or 'possum or somethin' that scared him to death. We have fun down there because every time we turn around, we see a water moccasin or either we see a green snake. Anykind of snake just come right in the house anytime they get ~~xx~~ ready. Just like one of the family.

Woman's voice: Tell what type of snake came into your ^{bed} room.

Shaw: type of snake that came into my bed was the water moccasin. He was lookin' at us kinda strange. Fact, I say he was lookin' at us like a white man or somethin' cause he was tryin' to figure out what was we doin' in bed.

And he was in there with us. Found a snake in the house and havin' 12 kids in there is kinda strange. Especially, I have 5 sisters of my own. I have 10 sister and brothers. Tens in all. Not 10 sisters and not 10 brothers. I have 10 in all. Five of them are gone. And my sister has 7 kids at the house of her own. And so we only have 4 rooms in the house. And we sleeps, as I say, we s~~leeps~~ in stacks. We have all gir~~as~~s, I think it's all girls...it's 11 gir~~as~~s in there and one boy and that's me. And I have to wake up in the morning and it ~~o~~ look kinda strange for a young man to wake up in the morning and see a whole lot of girls walkin' 'round in housecoat and he get up in his pajamas. And f~~eel~~ kinds funny. I have to, for instance, I say ... But anyway, I gets up in the morning sometimes. I help my mother cook. When I go to school and think about it, I be thinkin' about whether or not I'm still a boy or girl. Just havin' 11 girls in the house feel kinda funny. And findin' snakes ~~in~~ⁱⁿ there and things. I don't think it's right. And I think E. Step or I Step -- ought to fix them houses or either do in with the snakes. E. Step and Hi Step is the mens that we rent from. ^{And their} they don't seem to care about our living conditions, ~~in~~^{like} the houses is nothin' like that. I mean because they stays in houses, air conditioned houses. They don't worry about nothin'. I doubt if they let their own dogs sleep in their houses. And we have to sleep in the house with snakes and things. I think least they ought to do ~~is~~^{talk to} ~~try to~~ speak to people about cleanin' out the creek back there. Or either do in with the snakes or either we have to move. And if we move we still move in one of their houses, because they own about half the houses in the vicinity, in the town. And we don't have nowhere else to move. But we move out of that one house, we have to go to another E. Step house. ^{And} the colored peoples that own houses in the city _____ . And they can't hardly can't. Make the rent w~~nough~~ for one E. Step house that he rent. (Blank on tape) ...it's too old.

Terry Shaw Interview:

Lafayette: Terry, why do you think the people ~~here aren't~~ ^{need to get} registered to vote? (Or, why do you think that people should register to vote)

Shaw: Well, first the reason I joined this place and really wanted to register ~~to vote~~ ^{voters} was because, my mother's a housewife. She makes ~~xxxx~~ \$13 a week. And she have 7 kids to support. My father and her is separated. And we don't get a chnace to get exactly what we need. We have to look upon somebody else to support us. My father -- he give^s me a third of what he makes. I give it to ~~my~~ mother and she have to supply the seven kids of it. And my brothers -- I have two brothers out of town -- they sends a little bit but not too much. Before they were making \$13 a week, they were makin' \$10 a week. And they started makin' \$13 'round about in '61. We have a family of so many. We have relations ^{and} in every thing. And my sister is not exactly...she married. But her husband not exactly straight and my mother got to buy the groceries for two families -- hers and my sister's. We don't have a _____. Our community's not straight. The houses we stay in -- they leaks. And the man that we rent the house to -- we tell him about it. And if he fix the place, the rents will go up. And the rent go up, then we won't be able to pay rent. So if anything happen to the place, we have to have the responsibility of fixin' it back again. That's why I think people should register to vote. Another reason is because our bathroom is not sanitary. It has rusty ~~pa~~ pipes. We have to go outdoors. If it rains, we get wet goin' to the bathroom. Then when we get in there, we still get wet. We get wet comin' from the bathroom. And if anything happen to the house, we have to pay more for rent. For instance, last year -- the year before last, exactly -- I was flooded. The house was damaged. Rats came out the creek. Roaches and stuff. So we told the man about it. He didn't have the house sprayed. We had to have the house sprayed. After we sprayed our house, the lady next door had

to spray hers because the rats would go over there. And so everybody in this section had to spray thier rats, and roaches and everythin'. And we tell the man we want to fix the place where the water damage the house. But if we fix that, our rent would be \$14.50 for regular rent. And if we fix the place, the ^{place}rent would go up to \$17 and \$18. When ^{it}we get cold is when we really catch our problems. We have to buy wood from the woodman for a dollar and fifty a half load. And \$3 a whole load. And after we buy the woods and put it in the heater, stuff, and get the house kinda warm, there come a cold breath of wind and come inside the house blowin' _____.

And if we tell ^{E. Step or something like that we have to have} fix that or something like that and we gotta have the place fixed, the rent will go up more. And if we fix it ourself we still can lose more money. Plus we got the \$13 a mama make and that don't help but a little bit. Half the time, we gotta cut our own wood. And after we cut the wood, go outdoors, the pipes done froze. Can't get no water. If the pipe busts, then we have to pay for the pipe ~~xxxx~~ bein' bust. And we just catch it during the winter time.

Lafayette: Terry, how do you feel bein' a Negro and livin' in the South?

Shaw: Well, I think bein' a Negro and livin' in the South is just like a dog and a cat bein' ^{in a pen} together. The dog just _____ anything the cat can get. For instance, we walk down the street, two in a group. If three white girls walkin' down the street. We have to stop to one side, let them pass. And if three white boys walkin' three in a group, if two white girls come in a group, well, we have to get completely off the sidewalk and let them pass. Or we go uptown, they ~~xxx~~ have the best of everything. And we go in the movies, they have the best. We have to go on the outside the movies to go to the restroom. They stay on the inside. We go up to the white movies, or up to the Wilbert, the same things happen. We had a colored movie, the Roxy's. But ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{weren't anybody} went to the Walden and Wilbert so they started showin' the pictures, showin' the same pictures, but they started showin' it a little bit cheaper than the Roxy theater. Run this man out

of business. Now we have to carry our business up there. We just don't have no rights. If the police be standin' on the corner of ^{our} the high school. And we go across the traffic light. These white boys comin'. Light on yellow. They goin' to waid till the ~~light~~ light come completely on red before they can stop. They'll come by, throw cherry bombs at us. Police don't say nothin' to 'em. We hollar back at 'em, well, we have to settle that with the principål of the school. He'll get at us. I think colored people don't have too many ^{legal} right in the South. kzk

Last year we had a picnic over to the school. Boys havin' a good time. So we had got, _____ I guess we did. Anyway, someone slipped some liquor in the school. Myself and 4 more boys -- we had the liquor. The principal -- instead of ^{ett} stealing with us, he went and got superinetendent Pickett. And Pickett came. And we thought the school were run by the schoål board, but it wasn't. We had to go downtown and talk to Mr. Seymour, Mr. Eagles and this man on industry, Larry Thod and Balston Baron. We had to talk to these men to get back into school. They told us we couldn't come back to school in lessthan a month. We stayed out of school for about a week. They came by our house and they talked to our mothers. ^{I don't know what they did.} And they wanted to know what we did. Anyway, we returned to school. And we went to school every day, but we didn't go to no classes for a whole week. We just worked and worked and worked. After we finished doin' all the janitor's chores and ~~everythings~~ like that, we went out of 6 period class. We went to all our classes. We just got the assignment, and came right back down to the auditorium and started workin'. We had to build a shelf. And clean the tops of the lights off on this side of the place. When we finished cleanin' that, we had to go on our side and clean up after the kids had ^{finished} eaten' lunch. After we ^{had} finished workin', we was on parole at school. We couldn't get in no more trouble for least than a month. We stayed in school. Didn't nobody get in no trouble. At the end of the

month we had to go back down to the office. And Mr. Geller, he did not talk to us. We had to wait till Mr. Pickett come over to our ^{school} ~~side of the road~~. And Mr. Pickett began to throw the book at us and told us what all we shouldn't do. He started talkin' about how the student over in Parish High carries on. Said they never did anything like this before. We didn't get a chance to tell him how the liquor got over to the school. And that he told us be quiet and listen. And after he finished talkin', he told us we could go back to class. We returned to ~~saiz~~ class. 'Bout 2 weeks later we had to go back down to the auditorium after we had had a great assembly. We had a Career day. After that was over, we went back down to the auditorium, we had to mop the floor and wax it again.

Lafayette: Terry, how do you like workkin' in the movement?

Shaw: I think workin' in the movement is all right until you get to some of the old people who live in ths _____. For instance, ~~2~~ Saturday I was carryin' out leaflets. This man, he satys in the bottom and he works for a $\frac{1}{2}$ white lady. And his wife irons her clothes for her. I walked in the _____ and gave him a leaflet. She was lookin' at me. And he snatched it out of my hand and throw it down and ^{told me} said: get out of this _____ and don't come back with no more stuff like that. Said he didn't have nothin' to do with this voter registration stuff goin' on. And so I left and went on down and delivered some more. And the people told me they apprecitae what we were doin'...the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. And they said that they will join us if they can. Said they would be down there Monday. And on my way back, he stopped me and he told me he had to do it because he was infront of this white lady and he didn't want his wife to loose her job. And he asked me to give him a leaflet and I refused to give him one because he had act crazy ^{the first time} in town. Went on up to the pastor...Reverend...pastor of Bptist _____.

And he told us ^{how much} ~~like he sure~~ appreciate what we're doin'. And I think they're workin' with the movement very good.

Lafayette: Jerry, what changes would you like to see here and in Dallas County?

Shaw: Well, I'd like to ^{see} changes in the way of the reactions of the people in Selma. And I would like to see changes uptown. Like for instance, Walkin' by Quik Check, you never see a colored person workin' inside Quick Check. You only see ~~xxx~~ white. And if you go on down farther, you only see white inside the white restaurant. I ~~am~~ don't think we gonna be doin' it after we got the right to go in. We won't wanna go. If you go down a little farther, you go down by the barber shop. We see a colored boy shinin' shoes. And if you go down a little ~~bat~~ further down town we see a colored boy workin' in a newstand. But if we go to a store where they're sellin' clothes, we don't see a colored boy sellin' clothes. But we see him sweepin' the floor. Or either washin' the windows off. And we see a young colored boy doin' the same -- sellin' clothes when there's an old cloored man washin' the windows. And if you go over to Kresge's or Woolworth or somewhere we hardly do see a colored person. But we know a colored person work there because he be downstairs. And if we go inside Jackson or either Miles shoe service we don't get waited on by no colored people. But we see the colored people stacking inside the boxes and things. And we'd like to see that changed. We have no park, playground or either swimming pool. I think we need a playground and we need a park. Becasue we don't have no facilities. We have one place, two places for colored to have activities. That is behind Hudson. And you can't have nothin' back there but baseball games. And over ^{to} ~~at~~ Paine nothin' but baseball games. And if you play football during the winter, we have to rent the park. We have to rent Memoiral Stadium, at night. We have to rent it. And when the white peoples go over there, they don't have to rent it. And they already

have a playground. They have a swimming pool. ^{for whites} But over in Memorial Stadium, where we rent it for one night, they ^{rent} have it for two or three months. I don't think it's right and we need a playground so the kids be more safe.

Lafayette: Terry, as you stand on your front porch and you look up the street and down the street and around you, what changes would you like to see take place there?

Shaw: I'd like to see for colored to have a permanent road at least comin' down the street. Because if you stand on the front porch and you look down the street after a car pass by, well, you won't see nothin' for about 15 minutes -- ^{not till the dust settle.} ~~cause of the dust.~~ Then you still see the same dust. I would like to see the community more cleaned up. The garbage man are come by. And if your garbage is not ^{outdoors} ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~, ^{not on} right in the front for him to pick up, he'll pass by. And if he go through the white section and the garbage can is inside the house, well, he'll knock and tell the maid to give it to him. I have seen this ~~to~~ happen. I have did it many days, sittin' on the front porch right below the ^{white peoples} ~~front porch~~. Seen the garbage man get the can from the backyard. But if I be late bringin' my can, I have to go catch the garbage truck to put it on. I'd like to see changes made in that.

lafayette: Terry, do you think there's any hope for the people in Selma, Alabama? ^{Shaw?} I think we have a better chance than we had ever before. Because I think when I was carryin' the leaflets, out about two or three weeks ago. Or either yesterday. I seen lots of people say they will vote. And I didn't know Selma was quite as large as it was. But when we was over in Selma, carryin' leaflets out we had the principal of the school, Mr Yeller's father to help us to bring over 25 or 30 peoples to town with him Monday. When his son is the principal of the school. And won't let the students be out for anything. And go up and vote. I think that Selma have a better chance.