### Transcription of "Interview with David A. Gass"

Interviewer: Rob Widell

Length: 36:55

#### Abstract

On Monday, September 29, 2014, fifteen veterans of the Freedom Summer Project residing in New England arrived at the University of Rhode Island to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of the Freedom Summer Project and record interviews about their historic social activism for posterity. This is a transcription of an interview conducted with David Gass, a community developer, Lynn, MA. To access the full video of this and other URI Freedom Summer Project interviews, visit <a href="http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/freedom\_summer">http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/freedom\_summer</a>.

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G: David A. Gass W: Rob Widell

W – I'm Rob Widell in the History Department here at the University of Rhode Island. I'm with David Gass, I'll let him introduce himself. This is another of our continuing interviews in the uh, uh, series looking and talking with folks that were involved in both Freedom Summer and other activities in and around Mississippi and in the South during the Civil Rights Movement. David if you want to introduce yourself?

G – Yeah I'm David Gass and I'm from Lynn, Massachusetts, a city in Massachusetts, and uhm, I went off to college in 1962 from Moses Brown School, which is a Quaker school in Providence, to a school, a co-op school called Antioch College in southern Ohio, probably 30 minutes from where youth met before they went to Mississippi. And I had been brought up, my father had been as part of a Jewish family in Russia during the revolution. He was, he became a uhm, an aid to the Revolution when he was a little kid, sending messages. And he got the sense of justice and injustice because his village would be destroyed by some Cossacks, etc. And he came here in the 1920s and he, uh, infused in our family the idea of fighting for justice. And growing up, uh, uh, I felt that way but had no way to deal with it because it was a probably all white city, now it's a majority minority city. But uh, I went away to college and, and I got involved in 1963, in a uhm, a sit-down that blocked the highway in southern Ohio, which is where the Klan originated in the 1920s, right in that area, Fairborn, Ohio. And we blocked, we were protesting the fact that a white barber would not cut the hair of a black person. And so, uh, that was my first time with tear gas and all that, I got the feel that, that uh, there was a fight going on in the country and a friend said, "Let's go to Mississippi." I said, "Why?" He said uhm, in the

summer of June '64, he said, "Because, uhm, there was about 1,000 people in this lackson County fair grounds that had been arrested. They were mostly the white students who went down from the North to, for voter registration, And, uhm, and they need replacements." So I said, "Okay." We drove to Mississippi and went to lackson and was assigned to, uhm, West Point, Mississippi, it's north of Tupelo, the northeast corner of Mississippi. And it was uh, probably the second experience I'd had with, with the, level of poverty there. I'd been in the coal mining area in Kentucky and visited and helped the coal miners one time. Uh, but this was completely different cause you had a visible enemy that would chase you around. So we were assigned to uh, to work with the, uh, to work at a Freedom School, which was set up and to get books together and work in the office at a little ditto machine that you know, get the ink all over yourself, it's nothing like they have today. And uhm, our school was functioning up and running, and then uhm, one night it was burned. And we had a rally of uhm, the neighbors, the Freedom Singers came and vou know "Ain't scared of your jail cause I want my freedom. I want -." And they taught us all the songs that were just wonderful songs you know, really good songs. And an older lady with a sharecropper hat gets up and says, "I want ten men and none of you cripple to get your guns. We're form a Deacons for Defense and Justice. We're gonna protect our school." And that's what, very, what uh, impressed me was that people, the poorest, most downtrodden people in the country, were willing to die, and or, sacrifice everything, they had, their jobs, their home, for the right vote and for freedom and it impressed me.

And I was there probably only two or three weeks, and what was growing in the Civil Rights Movement, was uhm, the notion that the whites should go back to the North and work in poor white neighborhoods. And that was always the split in the SNCC. So uh, after about three or four weeks, I went up to work, join an SCS project called ERAP in Trenton, New Jersey and we worked in the black community, we did a study of the housing situation, we, and by the end of the summer we marched people down to city hall to demand better housing. That was my experience there. And, uhm, then I worked at a school in Philadelphia, "Miss Penny's Peace School," where we went around to teach, uhm, we used dolls like Mary McLeod Bethune, Gandhi, King, and went to teach peace in the black community. And at the same time, I was reading a book by Robert Williams called *Negroes With Guns*, so I was split between one, you know, the self defense concept and a nonviolent strategy. So uh, I went from there to uhm, work in the anti-war movement. I stayed in Ohio, went up to Cleveland, Ohio and I joined a group called "Youth Against War and Fascism," which was an anti-war group and I was married then. And then I worked in the unions, we organized anti-war marches. We, in 1968, we shut down a George Wallace rally at Public Hall and about 800 of us, they tear gassed us, they beat me up and dragged me and charged me with riot and we mobilized the community, got the, uh, charges dropped. And I was involved in many things there including, uh, I was at Kent State the day before the shootings with the family and people who, the fellow who held the girl when she died came running to my house and said they're after us. So we hid them and helped them. We shut down Case Western Reserve University, right by, uhm, uhm blocking Euclid Avenue, the main street. And when the police

came on their horses, we knew from the nonviolent tactics not to be, uh, to stay in the streets. We said "Get up." And we, we retreated and took over the campus and that was in the early 70s. And you have to remember that as a student movement, which was the only viable student movement in the history of the United States unlike Japan and other countries, was fueled by the Civil Rights Movement. And most of, a lot of us were trained by these tactics in the south and then when the black movement, the Civil Rights Movement itself was crushed by the government whether they shot people, they arrest people or whatever they did, the student movement also died in 1970 after the shootings at Kent State. There was, couldn't get the students to do much of anything. And then I was in the labor movement for about 10 years. I carried these ideas over to organize people and power has to come from grassroots because all the major reforms in this country have been done by outside the system putting pressure on the politicians saying "this is what we want, this is what we want" and having enough people to demand it. And uhm, such as Social Security, eight-hour workday, all these things. Free Speech, you know, you go back to the Wobblies, all these things that, uhm. I was starting, uhm, I was working on. But uh, after a major strike at our plant, I was a union official, uhm, uh, the plant closed and I got a history degree. And wrote a thesis on the history of abolitionism in northeast Ohio because that was the second-largest abolitionist movement in the country next to Massachusetts was northeast Ohio. And then I moved back to uh, Lynn to build houses. My father built 40 houses, subdivisions and then I said this is it, I want to build affordable housing and I built housing in Boston. Lately in the last few years I have, I've worked at a, uhm, school building, uh, an organization, it's called the Highlands Coalition and it's in a neighborhood where the uh, 95% of the kids get free food and three-quarters of the people maybe 80% of communities of color, whether it's Cambodian, Hispanic or Black. And we teach the same values. Trying to teach and tell people how you've got to empower yourself and you can make change. And I live in a city that is the third minority majority city in Massachusetts. But uhm, the problem is that City Hall is 90% white. And uh, I was, what struck me the most was going to an MLK breakfast about five years ago with about 400 people at the college, sitting next to a man who was uh, you know a black firefighter for 28 years and he said "Guess what? We just won a case in federal court about opening up, uh, the firefighters." And I said, "Why?" and he said, "Because 75 had been hired in the last 15 years, 6 Hispanics and no blacks. And the judge ruled in our favor against the mayor," and he said to us, "How about the police department?" And I said, "Well why aren't you telling this story to the audience here?" "Because they don't want me because this group happens to be the civil rights group in the city, it's paid by the City Hall, certain amount of money to keep going, and they don't want that known." So I, I said, "Instead of going to the MLK breakfast," I said, "Let's, our group form what you call an 'equal rights forum.' Every year groups working on an equal rights issue, whether it's economic equality, gender equality or ethnic equality and tell us what you did last year and what you can do next year for equality of various types." And that we have every year. So the idea to carry these, all these uh, things that I learned from this woman who said, "Lets defend ourselves" to the people who ready to die for voting essentially. And I think that, that is uh, what I carry with me my entire life. Did that answer your question?

W – So I mean there's a lot, there's a lot to unpack in there and, and you've been involved in so many things that have grown out, uh, of your involvement in the movement and your work in Mississippi. I curious, uhm, so your father was a very big influence on you in terms of –and you said you went to Kentucky as a high school student?

G – Yeah as a high school, and uh, as freshman in college we went, there was a stike of coal miners in eastern Kentucky, uh, Hazard, Kentucky. And uhm, we went and raised funds for that and sent clothing, and then when I went back to school I informed a group who support the miners, we went down there and got a tour of the uh, of Hazard, Kentucky coal mines and what was going there.

W – So was that, you know, was that for you your first you know, entrée into, to activism or had you, you know, just from a very young age been involved in different efforts?

G – That was my first really because there was nothing in the city of Lynn there was really nothing. There was a General Electric plant had a very, probably the strongest, most progressive union in New England and , but other than General Electric there was nothing happening in the city of Lynn. But ideas were carried over, my father, my uncles telling stories about hat happened to them in Russia. And of course the family was lost when Hitler invaded the area, nothing was heard. So, uhm, and those I had read about the Holocaust, but nothing in the Holocaust said why, how did Hitler come to power? Because it was given over, you know the history, it was because people did not resist on the ballot but he won by an electoral vote, essentially turned over to him. But, uhm, but when I heard that the people were, were demonstrating and saw the pictures of uh, of the dogs, you know, attacking the young people, my peers really, I said something should be done and uhm, that carried over.

W – So yeah that was, I was gonna ask how you decided upon uh, or were drawn into doing black freedom struggle, civil rights, the kind of work as where you were direct your energy when you, when you decided to involved in movement activity.

G – Well there was, that was the only thing happening early sixties. There was notavery beginning of an anti-war movement, only Quakers were picketing in silent protests, you know, and the only thing that was really fighting for in this country was in the civil rights in the South, not even in North was there much. So uhm, like I said my parents had been involved poli-, radically in the labor movement and that influenced me. But I went to a Quaker school, was very conservative, then went out to Antioch. When you get out to Antioch, there's 101 picketing, 102 protests, so you couldn't... And right away we picked a target, which was a barber shop, the only place in town because Antioch was a, was a, uhm, was founded by a Robert Owens community, Yellow Springs, and was founded by Horace Mann, ok, as one of the first integrated colleges in the country, so it's very liberal. But when I got there and I

found out that it wasn't so liberal to its workers, my wife and I organized a labor union of the college workers. About a hundred people, they were only getting less than a dollar an hour and we struck the day before graduation. So that's when I left the college and went to Cleveland, but was always uhm, my feeling was always a feeling of uh, had to extend what happens to all the immigrant groups whether it's the Germans, the Irish, the Jews, to other groups coming into the country. And uhm, so that was my feeling. And as a matter of fact, the first meeting of Hispanics was at our house in the late sixties. There were 10 Hispanics in Lynn. Now there's 40,000. So that was the feeling that, that I was encouraged to do that. Uhm, my brother became a doctor and he worked as an alternative service uh, Apache Indian Reservation and that was his contribution.

W – So you went, so you then went to Mississippi, you said for the first time in '64.

G – '64, the first and last time.

W – And so uh, if I'm remembering correctly was uh, someone just approached you and said there's stuff going on in Mississippi and we need to go, so it was sort of impromptu?

G – Two people got up and spoke at meetings in Antioch before then. One was Larry Rubin, who has become a well-known person and had stayed there for a number of years and still today represents unions, and Joni Rabinowitz. The two had been in the South and they reported back on what it was like at the, at hundreds of people and at the college. So I got a sense of what it was like, but I didn't know how to tie it into my life and uhm, then there was a sit-down at the uhm, in the tear gas, we were tear gassed for no reason. Well, we were blocking the street you know, what else would you do to avert the cars I mean. So uhm, and there was a Klan member there that ran the barbershop it turns out. So we began to learn about that and then when 200 people were arrested, they were marched to the jail and the Dean, liberal Dean in the College said, "You can't picket. You're gonna get expelled." And we marched—700 people marched. We joined with Central State students and Wilberforce students, and we had a mass march. So I learned that really, the change comes of the, can come from the bottom. It's not just someone giving you something, but something you work for.

W – So then, they uhm, for you, when you went down did you go through SNCC's training and that kind of thing or did you just jump in the car and show up in Mississippi?

G – My, my friend Ben said, Ben Ovshinsky, his father was, he's a designer I think of the electric car, very inventive guy, the first car to go from Boston to New York on one fill. That was Ben Ovshinsky's father, very inventive guy, his son was very inventive. And I said, "Ben," said, "Let's go!" And jumped and planned, and got into Mississippi, and as soon as we got in there, cop stopped us and said, "Welcome to Mississippi! Stop in, this is the 100th anniversary or something or other, you stop

and have a Coke." We said, "No, no, no thanks, no thanks. We're goin to dinner." Didn't wanna tell him we'd Ohio plates. And then we, it was just, was joined the, the uh, we know, for, we heard about what was going on, that they were uhm, spraying kids that they arrested in the, in the county, I think it was the Jackson County Fairground, they kept them. In the morning, even pregnant women, they was sprayed with DDT, it was just terrible. They're treating them badly and they needed volunteers. And so I didn't think of the danger, uhm, and then the three men who were killed were in the ground. I went to school with David, uhm, with Goodman's brother, David Goodman. And uhm, with Schwerner's brother, was the dean of the college later on, so I met him. And um, those got to be very personal, but I didn't uh, we were chased around but the warmth there was incredible from the people. The fear was there, but the people would welcome you, say thank you basically, especially young people wanted to change.

W – So, walk me through that a little bit because you show up and you're greeted, and you're trying to get away from--So where did you go when you first got to Mississippi? Did you, you know, have someone that you were trying to find to connect up with, or how did you go about you know, enmeshing yourself in some of the stuff you ended up doing?

G - We went to Jackson and uhm, there was, I guess they call it a [...] it was an office there. And we were told, was oriented, then we were assigned to go to West Point. And uh, we got a little tour around Jackson, but uhm, and we were told, you know, stay in the black neighborhood, the white neighborhood you're gonna be very suspect. And then we went up to West Point and got to the office there and there were rooms to stay there. It got to be so hot. Part of the reason I left was it was so hot, oh I could take as much cold as you give me, but heat I can't. But it was very hot and uhm, I don't remember that much about it. I kinda blocked it out because there are so many other things that happened to be in that period, many things that are far more violent being in the middle of the Glenville Riot in Cleveland and having friends had shot and things like that. Uhm, and being in middle of anti-Nazi march in Cleveland and we busted up a Nazi group. There was a lot of things going on that were much more powerful images than Mississippi for me. But that was where I learned that the people there, uh, are good people and need some help getting organized, not to take away their power, but to give them more power and that's what I carried my whole life. So, uh, we met Cleveland Sellers, we met people who gave talks about what they were doing, and uhm... And then they'd said, the move was go up in North and organize, you know, we have enough people here. So I left.

### W – So how long were you in Mississippi?

G – I think about, I think 3 or 4 weeks at the most in July of '64. By August I was working in the slum of Trenton, New Jersey ... Where Tom Hayden was working in Newark and he organized some incredible things, we were in Trenton, New Jersey. So that was, uh... And what we learned to do first is you got to get the facts first. Got to be as scientific is possible, you get the facts. What are people earning? Or what

are people-- what's their rent? What are their living conditions? Don't just get subjective stories. Find out this and put it all together and then you can determine, because a lot of problems come from economics. People who wanted to vote, "Why you want to vote in Mississippi?" "Because the County Commissioner will determine how much we, how much crop I can grow." It wasn't just a vote for candidate, but it was voting to keep uh, some food on your table. So voting was power, more power than we can imagine and uh, you have to do it. So I tell young people, "Look at the, let's look at the facts, how are people living. If they're comfortable, they'll act one way, if they're not unhappy find out why, find out the level of the problem. And that's what I learned in the labor movement too. You gotta find out the wages, working conditions before you even start to organize.

- W So, uhm, uh, you were then in uhm, in Trenton for, for how long were you there?
- G It was probably a month, four, five, six weeks. Something like that.
- W Uhm, then, then it was back to Antioch?
- G Yeah back to Antioch, yeah.
- W And from there to Cleveland?

G – And then we went to Cleveland. Yeah. We had, and I was in a group called "Youths Against War and Fascism," which was a Marxist organization. They called themselves "Trotskyist," but I was never a Trotskyist, I didn't want to go backwards in time. But I liked them because they would, they would go to a demonstration, they weren't afraid of chanting and being strong and we...and if we were messed with, we could break up with opposition. So, that was my goal, and then they were a little stronger than most groups, but they were uhm, interested in being public about their opinions. And we worked with GI's. I got busted once for handing out a GI newspaper, uh, called *The Bond*. The fella who ran that, Andy Stapp, just died two weeks ago, who organized a union in the army on all the bases. So we sent out an, an anti-war newspaper to all the bases in the world and they busted me at the airport. And so, uhm, that was the kind of routine you expected to happen.

W – So one of the things that I'm curious about is, you know, in the midst of doing all this, we often hear stories about folks that'd been active and then they, uh, go on to get married, they have children, they settle down, they have other concerns and go on. But it sounds like your trajectory was never in that. So did you ever have a moment in there when you thought "I'm getting worn down. Uh, I, I don't know how much longer I can continue to do this" or was it... how were you able to keep yourself refreshed and active?

G – If you're part of a group that is really, very political group that has an agenda, you can do it. If you're on your own it's difficult. But in the early 70s, I was, uhm, we marched down with a thousand people in anti-war march against Spiro Agnew. And

we had a child and uhm, we had an effigy of Nixon and we threw a rope around a tree down in the public square and burned the effigy and the cops chased us. My wife said, "That's it. You got a kid now. You got to be more civilized. Can't get busted." So that backed me off a little bit. But it was uhm, always get refreshed by some victories. You can't keep beating your head against the wall, you have to have some victory. At the end of the labor movement period I had ten years in the shop organizing plant clothes, everything's resolved, I came back to build houses. So that was refreshing to me, to go in another field, to build houses for people and then work with nonprofits, which I've done for probably 15 years now. To build first, to take up something and make it into something new, to develop,... We took a building in the worst area in Lynn, got some money from the government, formed a CDC (Community Development Corporation), and we built out 10 units of housing and business in the worst area to turn around that area. And we planted trees, 60 trees, and led me up to a school where the principal said, "Come on in. I want a community school here." And I said, "What do you mean?" "Well a community school works with adult education, it works with a community group to solve social problems." I said, "Fine. We'll deal with the social problems and you educate the kids." So we built a garden there, a community garden, on hot top, the first one in Massachusetts about six years ago. And we uh, grow vegetables, the kids come out and learn nutrition. And it's a pathway out of poverty, which is just what voting is, it's the same thing. And half the kids are overweight or obese because they eat USDA food twice a day and it's all full of fat, sugar, and salt, even though it's improved a little bit. Uh, and we get the kids, teach them that you wanna really, you want, how many have diabetes in your family and half of them raise their hands. Well that comes from the food you eat, and lack of exercise, what are you doing you know. And so that invigorates me because you're working with children and they really want to know how things can change cause when we, when we had just opened the garden a woman had just been murdered and we were able to take her four children, who were adopted and we were able to bring them in the garden to heal because we, they were growing food. We got them an apartment across the street and we brought them into that. We were able to close drug houses because of the garden. So it was, you have to refresh yourself with some victories. You just can't keep on yelling and yelling and yelling. You get a sore throat from that.

W – And where were you working when you were in the shop uh, doing organizing?

G – I was working in a place called Warner and Swasey, which is a big machine tool company, in the shop, setting up jig mills milling machines.

W – And what union was it?

G – IAM, machinist's union. It was when Winpisinger was elected, he was from Cleveland and he said when he got elected president of the union, million person union, "There are going to be changes around here, by the way I'm a socialist." No, No, you're not a socialist at all. There was a kind of... the union was dissolving because all the jobs were being moved overseas like ours was, and he didn't protect

the people, he just talked. And we had a pretty violent strike, which we led and uhm, they tried to fire me and I got the job back. So, uh, but I learned how to make things, which is what I always wanted to do with metal, and then how to work in the unions with the discipline you need because if you're not disciplined, you're not going to get anywhere with your ideals at all. And then I went from there to building houses and worked as a carpenter for a number of years you know, framing carpenter and finish carpenter. So that was my experience and then tried to pass it on to my kids. I took them to every picket line I could, but they wound up, well one went to URI as a matter of fact 20 years ago graduated. And um, they didn't follow that because the generation was not going that direction. And I think that is important because kids, by the time they get to be teenagers in college, they follow the generation. Like we had a march last week, two weeks ago, 300,000 people in New York, half of them were college kids or younger, at least half. That's what's happening.

### W – The, the climate change –

G – The climate change, yeah. And if Obama does not, and Democrats could win the election if they raise that issue in a strong way, they could win the election. Because he was elected with 55% of the electorate, that's not even 55% of the voters, uh potential voters, and those were young people, those are minorities and women who voted in turn and made the difference between his and Kerry's loss. And he's losing those people because he's not listening to them. So that's my spiel for the moment.

W – So you know we don't have a whole lot of time to follow up although there's a lot there will be really interesting and worth following up on, so hopefully we have a chance to talk later. Maybe do an extended interview later as well. One thing that I do want to ask, and maybe this is a way of concluding, at least for now some of this, this -- As someone who was active through all of these years for, you know, the last 50 years, was there a moment for you when you sensed that, uhm, the environment in which you were organizing had shifted in some palpable ways? We often think about, and you speak about the generations, well, what we associate with the 60s and 1970s is things going on and things change. Was that something that you experienced in your work?

G – Definitely. Especially during the Reagan years. It was very tough after he crushed the Flight Controllers Strike, very quiet, they had the Central American, the Contras, etc. That really cooled things off and it was small groups really fighting those battles. And in the 90s I was in... basically I went to work as a carpenter, there was very little happening. And then I joined in the, you know -. What's happened is lately, in periods like that you have to go with the way the wind is going, because we had lost a whole generation to Reagan. The "Reagan Children", like my kids, I call the "Reagan Children," because they weren't involved much as far as progressive politics. But, what's happened now is what, as five years ago there was, I think, a march, a May Day March maybe a million Hispanics, and I'm working with a lot of Hispanics. And my son married a girl from Ecuador, my other son married a girl

from Taiwan. Now I'm really thinking what the Civil Rights Movement has done to allow these folks to come here and to feel free and to raise children from mixed background. And it's going to be really important to me, to fight, to continue this fight. The second thing is, I'm working in the garden, I have a group from the Congo. 75 families from the Congo, West Africa, French-speaking said, "Can we have some of the land?" That's about five time bigger than this room, six times bigger than this room. "Can we have half of your garden to plant?" And they come over, and these folks who faced a million people died in the Congo. Their stories to tell, one of them was a child soldier. So all these new stories are coming in exactly the same as my family's story, exactly the same, and I talk with them. So that kind of invigorates me. uh, because as a movement that can happen again, but there are times, dead times, where you just, you can't force it, you can't get out there and keep on picketing, you go, they probably wind up you know, taking Prozac or something like that you know. But I think that that's, you have to go with the youth, but pass on the ideas and uhm, to the people. And the new story is I got a grant from, a ten thousand dollar grant from Mass Humanities to study. And they said, "What are you going to study?" Well, first of all we had... Frederick Douglass went from slavery to talk in Nantucket at the Lyceum, hosted by uhm, uh, a woman who was a scientist-- was it Maria Mitchell, Maria? Maria Mitchell who came to Lynn with Frederick Douglass. And so every July 3<sup>rd</sup> we would read his speech from 1852 on should the negro support the Declaration of Independence.

# W – What to the slave is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?

G – Right, yeah. We do that every, we have a hundred, two hundred people. And from that we applied for a grant Mass Humanities [...] and said, "What's next?" I said, "Let's do a thing on immigration assimilation." So we got a \$10,000 grant to interview nineteen people from different parts of the world that came to the city. going back a hundred years you know, English, whatever, Irish. Why did you come here? Are you assimilating? Are you trying to keep your culture going? And we produced a documentary from that. And that's really what invigorates. You try different methods. It's not very, it's not as like what happened in the Civil Rights Movement, it's certainly not going to change a lot of policy, but that keeps people educated at a time when a movement is kinda quiet and people are not that progressive, they're thinking about consumer. What can I, you know... when people are losing ground financially. And uhm, that you always in mind is where are people at financially. Well, in our community, 50% of the people raise a family with one parent. They're working two jobs, eight dollars, nine dollars an hour jobs. So then you go into that to try to raise the minimum wage. So you have to really follow what uhm, what I learned in the South, which is to listen to the people, what they really want and see if you can organize them.

W – Well, thank you very much.

G – Thank you.

W – I wish we had all the time in the world, but like I said maybe we'll find a way to do further interviews and we can talk even more about some of the work you've done.

G – We'll do it again. We'll do it. This is on national TV?

W – Uh, I think so yeah.

G – Right. GBH will they do it?

W – We'll see, we'll see.

G – Not if the Koch family can prevent it. They'll prevent this, man, I'll tell you right now.