Q: Now MER where were we?

A: Well, you were gonna ask me a new question.

XXX Q: And now I'veforgostenxwhixi what it was.

A: Well, we were talking amx as you may recall, about continuing to be an identity among Negroes.

Q: Yes, my question was this. That over and over again one reads and hears that the cutting edge of the present movement is b ased on new conception of self, the self as Negro, if that is true, how do we square that with the prospett of the loss of this identity -- the new image of the Negro's self, as Negroes.

a; Well, in the first place, I don't believe in a new Negro with an image as Negro. Therefore I have no problem, in reconciling these two views.

A: This surprises me to some degree.

Q: Swept it like a brush fire.

A: But I believe the daily actions of these people, who respanded to that, would support the joy. And you watch every action, the, I think if it were to be, to say ita different way, there is more tendency toward being involved.

Q: You say you're going to Peru next week.

A: Yes, I am. I'm a member of the Board of Trustee, s of the ITsti-Institute of International Education. And I'm one of the delegates to the Council for High Education of the American Republics, which will be meeting in Peru, xxx from Feb. 23 to Feb. 29 of this year. I'm a looking forward to this with a great of enthusiasm. It will be my first opportunity to visit see Peru, something, I hope, of the remainder of the civilization of the Incas. But I mustn't take this time to be presonal.

Q: I want some personal things before we start, I want to come back to matters of personal experience and personal history, in a , but to cut back to the question of the identity as Negro, that is a problem, apparently , to some people, and the thing reported on, as you well know, by eellegeand--psychologits and sociologists. And it's a key question.

A: Le tme make one othercomment on it. It's unreasonable, I think, for children to be born in a culture who are exposed to its every aspects, who have very little, of their own, to become anything otherthan, a product of that culture. There isn't enough by way of study devices, techniques, and teaching, sikeex resident in the culture in which we are a part, for any long period of time, to maintain the identity of Negroes as Negroes. I'm mindful of the fact that so long as color is a factor in this country, that there will be something

which will set people apart, but there will, that willnever, I think, be regarded as anythikng--anything except a barrier, farx to participation in the culture.

The color is a Q:-Otheretain a barrier.

a; That's right. The culture makes what is striven for, in the example you give, I think, impossible.

q; I find some thing abhoring in them a way, when I think of being the whole world im exactly alike in all ways. Small differences and big differences, yet \_\_\_\_alike. Difference in all types of personalities. Next We're not robots. How can you square this desire for variety of all sorts, with a concept of evening out.

I'd have a world where the variety is there, wi thout the variety being invidious in any way. And personal freedom for personal preferences of all sorts. I suppose, what the personal personal preferences, you move towards some wiping out of theline anyw ay.

A: Mr. Warren, This doesn't bother me, I want to tell you why. In thefirst place, there are different cultures in the world, that do, as a matter of fact, produce people with very different outlooks on life, and very different senses of values. The children who are reared inthose kindsof cultures, are going to inevitably be different from children reared in a culture whix like the a newsf--one of which we are spart. That's one thing. Then there e-ia--is a concept that John Dewey had, with which I completely concur. And it is that no environment, is identical to any two people.

Q: Even in thesame family.

A: Even in the same family. Now there is one other <u>little</u> thin g, that is consistent with the thing, I think, likesx that lies at the basis of all of these things. And that is that to the

extent that this world becomes a one wo rld, xwkx wi th instant in communication, and the finestmeans of its-kind,-wil--the term, will differences in the world, tend to decrease. So this, in my own view, is a very long way it off.

- Q: It is a long way off, \_\_\_\_in my time, a
- A: And in mine.
- Q: In fact, ther's too much variety \_\_\_\_.

  So I was not concealing an ærgument for defense of the race, that isn't my point at all, because

xxqxx A: No, I certainly didn't react to it.

Q: I dont think you did, I just wanted to make that specific.

But that's not thepoint, because, on that matter, I would have

every man's personal question, how \_\_\_\_\_private life, any man's

private life, he can do what he wants to do, \_\_\_\_\_ business isnot

mine.

A: This is my own view.

Q: This is always the basis of human individuality and human liberty. Anything less than that, I'm completely against, intersering ximmxxwith personal prefereces, association, marriage, anything and else.

A: I feel the same way.

Q: That infringes on basic liberties. This, in Jackson Mississippi, I discovered I can't w ride a taxicab with a Negro, without being pulled out by the police, and fined for my having ridden in the taxicabk. That's max not a question of say, \_\_\_\_\_, it's an infringement on my personal liberties. My personal liberties.

A:

That's right, you're absolutely correct.

Q: I t's my liberty that they attacked. Not the Negrox man

man sitting in the cab with me. xxxx His liberty is being attacked too, but it's mine I'm concerned with there.

- A: That's right.
- q; First, you have to defend your own.
- A: Agreed.
- q; And I believe this is the key in the whole business.

  That the white man is being penalized by the system as well as the black man.
  - a; This is an inevtiable consequence.
- Q: An in evitable consequence, and that, I think, is the

  to go after getting the thing, in a way, the white man
  is being penalized. kkix Let's change the subject to something else
  for a moment. We were talking earlier about social process,
  you talk about the time element in social process of all kinds.
  I find that when thetime element ismentioned, I sometimes encounter
  emestimm——sometimes overt, sometimes hidden, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_concept
  of timexxeexx in the process. Thisk is, I mead a queeks quotation
  from a Megro historian on the question of civil rights, and he

  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_this matter of social process. And there's no absolute
  or m immediate soltuion ever to social process. An immediate.
  - A: He's correct.
  - Q: I read this to
  - a; He sounds like a sociologist, thought.
  - Q: Yes, a very brilliantyoung Negro student, a very brilliant guy -- what do you think of that.
    - Q: Well, where we me we again.
    - A: I'll try not to be so \_\_\_\_\_
    - Q: That's not thepoint at all \_\_\_\_\_the wangxxxisux xysugxxx

young maxman -- here again, theidea of the social process, historical process and the notion of Freedom Now. How do we put these two things together.

A: I think this is the real problem. There has been so much said and done, with respect to the whole question of rights, as related to Negroes, about their-b-there being sufficient time, and encouragement to look forward to its ultimate solution, without any real reference to program to get it done, that there is an impatience with anybody who says, that this will take time. It has beenxeeex associated in my own mind, with an intention to do nothing. I think there isn't a student twxx of the problem in the world, who doesn't realize that it is going to take time. But there is one makeraki other thing, and I think it's part of the strategy, and that is, in order to get anything moving, you have got tohave a NOW approach to it. But this is a xxxxx starting situation, and me-in-wakk not, in my opinion, engaging in the illusion that what is samex hopped for is going to occur. next . In samex my opening address forour convocation, this fall, I spoke on the topic that I called, Beyond the March on Washington, in which the very point that I'm making now, wasmade, and I called the attention of the students, to the fact that the problems that confronted the group as Wegroes, were going to take a long time, and a great deal of work on the part of very many people, including them, because certain of the things are not gonna happen inour lifetime.

Q: Iwonder what relevance this has . I was acquainted once with some Italian par tisans justafter the war. Life had become nothing to them, because that was over. Does this have much of adent, do you think, of the young Negro who's committeed deeply to this, fivexpersx years from now, ten years from now. His vocation is over. Is there some possibility of some

casualties there?

A: Only for those who are making civil rights movement a career. And I don't think any organization in this area ought to make theperpetuation of the organization, a career, the object of their efforts. It is a thing which theorganization seeks to achieve. For the overwhelming majority of these youngsters, I see no real danger, because they will go about kghair their life's work. I think they will be more sensitive citgizens, they will know when a problem is important, I think, a great deal better than they would have known before. They will tend to be more active in the political processes in community efforts to get things done, but I don't believe that this is going to provide any problem for the overwhelming majority of people.

Q: Yes, but for the few casualities that arebound to occur in any

A: In any battle, any strugle, right.

Q: Do you remember, in your life,/reading about, the opposition to the appoint of Judge Parker to the Supreme Court by Hoover, who, I've read into the great watershed case, in organizing Negro political pressure, the first time it has—aver-affected—was ever effective. Itwas effective, Judge Parker m was not confirmed. The attack on Judge Parker was that, as a southerner, he would not be an impartial judge.

XXXXXX A: I remember the case. I didn't read about, I remember it.

q; Well, anyway, subsequent events, apparently Rubert --that he was
prove d / was a very impartial and decent judge.

A: That is absolutely correct.

Q: Now, agaika --- again, with Black.

a; xq; Has been one of the most able jurists, the Court has ever had.

Q: But there was a vast amount of opposition to him , on the grounds he was from Alabama -- he was a Ku Kluxer.

A: Right. I remember that case.

Q: Now those are stereotypes, on the part of Negroes, onthe part of certain white people who are-lib--xxx have liberal views.

Do you think, now, if there were such a case, man from Alabama, man from Mississippi, on the Supreme bench, you'd have this automatic stereotyped response?

A: No, I don't think so. I think there would be a tendency now to look at the man's record. Thisxisx Jus as I think there is going to be a great deal of Negro support for President Johnson. I certainly intend to vote for him. And not only intend to vote for him, but inten to work for him, within the limits of my little time, make my little financial contribution to the \_\_\_\_\_.

I think that there are many southerners who have demonstrated beyound any question that they can be as impartial and fair as any human being. The thing that I wish formula for myself, as much as I wish he—T—— for anything in the world, is to be treated as man, and as an individual, and this I hope for, for other people as well as for myself. I think this is becoming to be, a very real part of the Negro attitude.

Q: There;s been a real advance in destroying then, the
Negro's stereotype of the white man, and the white southerner, even in
the present moment ofthis friction and\_\_\_\_\_

A: There is no question in my mind, for example, I think that Kefauver, games in Tennessee, could have run for any office, had he lived.

Q: Yes, yes. And had theNegro vote.

a; And had a large part of the Negro vote, he would have certainly had the Negro vote in Tennessee. And much of the south.

Q: Well, speaking of stereotypes, we know sixms, we know pretty well, what the white stereotype what-theof the Negro is. How a would you describe the Negro stereotype of the white man, forgetting southern white, but just white man in general.

A: That's too wagner big. Too big. I think the Negro tends,

I better say, tended wax, more acturate way to put it, to divide

white man people generally into two classes. Southern whites.

Northern whites. New This is not easy, I might also add, because

were

prejudiced human beings, / northerners, and some of xeex the

I've ever encountered

most liberal men/in-eur-seuntry were southerners.

I think that the stereotype of a white souther ner, was one
who not only thought of Negroes as being inferior, but who was prepared

--buppe-to support that, by any way, or means at maxx his dispossal.

the innner conflict, reflected

this as you asked the questions of Negroes back in 1955, '56.

## ITARK

where the southern white person was concerned. I think he thought secondly that the northerner maxx, while not willing to be that devoted to the segregation principle, was a great deal more liberal merely person, committed by virtue of the place in which he was born and lived. But that didn't keep the Negro from having some reservations about theoverwhelming majority of white people, irrespective of their place of birth. But there was a vast difference in the degree.

This would be \_\_\_\_\_ my answer \_\_\_\_.

Q: I was talking the other day to a very prominent lawyer in a southern city, a Negro, high intelligence and good education,

fine educations. He's very active, is an attorney for one of the organizations, with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nonviolence. Identified with tht.

Hesaid to me, desits despite everything, I find myself drifting toward the position where no white man seems redeemable. There might be some individuals \_\_\_\_\_\_ He said, \_\_\_\_\_\_ He said, \_\_\_\_\_\_ I'm almost a Black Muslim, I'm actually reading their literature now.

a; Ithink it's nonsense.

Q: He said, I'm forced into it by my experience, in the marks south, in the last few weeks. It's against my principles, and against my human values, I'm being forced into k it.

A: Well, my own experience is very different. And I wank don't emt-th---want this to sound holier than thous, but I'd like just a second to tell you a little bit about my own background.

Q: I wish you would.

A: I grew up , having been reared in the main, by a grandmother.

who had been a slave, who had a basic distrust for most white people,
I remember
and-thisse-this-is one of the things that she is told us children
Feed
on many occasions. Trank all white people with a long spoon. Keep
them out of your busikness. Be polite to them, but stay out of their
I
way, anddon't expect you to bow and scrape. But this is the way our
making family has to live. And we survived. I went to Hampton
Institute for high school because there wasn't public schools for
Negroes within 150 miles , I finished elementary school.

Q: Where was that?

A: This was in \_\_\_\_County, North Carolina.

And my teachers in that school, in the Academy at the Institute,
with kwax a few exception s, were all white teachers. My first
real face to face contact on a day by day basis, with people who were
kwx beyond any question, interested in my welfare and teaching,
and who did everything they m need to do, to inspire me to be a man,

to develop a character, to be a good student, and to aspire for a a career of service. And they themselves, demonstrated what they were talking about, themselves. I'm sitting herenow, and--all-through-the ----in the office of the Priesident of the University, which is a product of that same kind of gax concern, and I know that almost every one of the major institutions for Negroes and than I'm speaking of the private ones, were built by people who believed in them. I wo rked with them. I wo rked with them here, interracial faculty, our board is interracial, many of my friends, and his-se---thous-seu--this sounds like the old thing, that we hear so much, but I know numbers of white persons as individuals, \_\_\_\_\_, nothing that has happened in these four years, has shaken my faith. On the contrary, ithas confirmed it. And I think that I can document it if it were necessary. The mere fact that so much has been deegrea -- desegregated in the south. The mre fact that the southerners didn't cax really put up a fight against thecivil rights bill int he House, not a real fight, is in part, an admission tht they couldn't dak do anything about it, and I think it also represents as one of the men said, \_\_\_\_ that this is a time to look at this Problem dispassionately. If I assumed for one moment, that all white people, as he put it, are in this category, I couldn't say one blessed word, if all white people put me in the same category

Q: Recently Adam Clayton Powell, talking about the N.A.A.C.P., and Jack Greenberg.

AxR: No , I worked with Jack Greenberg, in one case, as one

P-his--of his expert witnesses. And I was one who wante him a letter

nd said that he was a superb choice to rept succeed Thurgood Marshall.

I still think so. He's an able lawywer, and if the N.A.A.C.P. is

going to be successful, it's going to involve repair people of

\_\_\_\_\_\_, not in these aspects, but if the aspirations that

the Negro minority have, are going to been be realized, because the people get concerned, not \_\_\_\_\_.

Q:XX In Mississippi\* I was tel,dby--told by several working with the civil rights movement, Negroes, thes are all there's been realydifficulty in getting acceptance of white volunteer workers who came and worked with the Negro group in Mississippi. That they'd had to , we very delicate about this.

Severalal-Several facets flowed into this. One, and another, ordinary envies, jealousies, not of power, but

A: Could be power.

Q: Sometimes power, right. \_\_\_\_ I was thinking beyond that, simply human axx envy. This man comes, he can go ggain when he wants to -- I'm stuck. Envy his mobility.

A: I know.

Q: Another thing -- that the attempt of some of these young white college students, or slightly above that age, who have fallen love with the idea of entering items into the Negro wo rld. Who wants appropriate the language, certain attitudes, which are supposely--supposedly Negro's. For instance, the language of jazz, the language of certain exclusive Negro expressions, this hasxesk causes a real resistance and a contempt. For these whites, what are they trying to do, move in on us, and \_\_\_\_\_. A real resistance, and Robert Moses told me, that a man said he's blow front up the table in a conference, right in/\_ two of these people, l5 minutes of blind \_\_\_\_.

A real problem.

A: I wonder if I can explain the problem.

Q: I wonder if you can.

A:

had	a	lot	of	white	people	in	it,	but	it's	had	some.	
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This is a little bit different perhaps in this xxx area, because it's part of the tradition.

Q: It's a longer tradition and a longer exposure to this sort of relationship.

a; That's right. For instance, we've had in summer
program,17 white persons ##right now, from
other colleges, and more demands for this than we can supply in
numbers. So that our youngsters definitely have not taken
I remember one young man I wish I could think of now,
who was the most , perhaps the most respected demonstrator among
all the, because his courage was beyond any, and
his devotion to the cause was beyond anyone's He
www.wax was beaten badly in that Alabamax situation. I think
this was, but this young white boy was seriously beaten.
I tried to gethim, I said,
he said I made my will.
He said, "I'd make out my will before I left here. Itmx I know
that I am going to run into difficulties. I think I will.xwx "
He went. And I didn't want toor his parents

Q: I supposexhex the difference between Mississippi, say, and Nashville, is simply a longer exposure, tradition.

A: The differences go deeper than that.

Q: Tell me how.

A: First of all, the educational level is different from ours. You have , well, Tennessee has never been, I don't t hink, imx I'm including two western counties on this, first of all, it's been a more highly industrialized, more highly metropolitan state.

I t has had very many more institutions of higher learning. The level of education, I think, has had a lot to do with this. Its political leaders, and I don't know whether this is an accident or not, you know more about it than I, has not in the main, built total careers on segregation issues, as has ben the case so often in Mississimpi politicians. And you cannot preach the hatred, and the segregation in the sense, campaign after campaign after campaign, to semi-lit era te people, and expect a lot of them not to believe it. They do. Now, there have ben very few XXX campaigns in this issue. The last one, that involved the issue, was the gubernatorial, no senatorial campaign, involved Kefauver and \_\_\_\_\_ . And \_\_\_\_ beaten in Memphis, framxwh the area from which he comes, xkkex this is another, the kind . But kex thedifference I think is of thing that serious

Q: The Memphis senement the other day, he came out with strong editorial supporting the Civil Rights bill. Very strong editorial, after it had been passed in the house. Said it must be passed in the senate now, without delay, or there'all be very bad trouble. This is a mandate from the people of the United STates, and gots to be done now. This from the Memphis paper. Some pepole may say — well, local politics behind this. Maybe there is. But would this indicate some change?

A: Oh yes, I think perhaps 10 years ago, this would not have been possible. But ther's a great political change going on, in Texaxx Tennessee now, and Memphis politically.-particularly.

Q: You mean the young Negro lawyers active in politics?

A: I mean more than that. Take Tennessee as a whole, for instance. Some & x 64% of its eligible Negro voters are registered in Tennessee.

q; As opposed to 3 in Mississippi. A: I didn't know it. Q: 4, maybe, or 5. It's low xxxxxx a; 6, something of that sort. But politicians cannot ignore this, it can make a factor. \_\_\_\_\_for instance, rand on the potentiality that lies here and the inevitability of theparticipation in the \_\_\_\_\_. Also, I think there is enough statesmanship on the part of editors. in a number of state newspapers, to see that anyth ing else is short sighted politics. Tennessee is going to be a state, as politics. A make state where industry can come, with assurance that there is going to be reix racial peace, and people who as the power structure of the state and the city, who are gonna build good schools, have good relations between the racial groups and the minorities, in other words, it's a healthy atmosphere, and I think this pays off. For the entire state. ThexpeoplexThere are people now taking notice. Q: Well, here, nobody is going to Jackson, Miss., to build factories right now. A: If they do, I think they definitely should be pressured. Q: They should be locked up. Have you noticed any antisemitism among Negroes in Nashvill. a; Ihave not. Q: It's true in some places, of course, very spotty, but it's true in some places. True in Harlem. A: I can see why it would be in Harlem, but I've encountered none. We have had over the

highly repex respected citizens in this community, a Jew for the

number of votes, because he's highly respected. \_\_\_\_\_being

president of the Council, and I know he's going to get a substantial

Jewish has nothing to do withit.

Q: The same thing. The Jews have been by and large, liberals in their effect on society, and have actual been philanthropists who have given money to civil rights causes, both Negro and white, at the same time, have \_\_\_\_\_\_curious split of intense antisemitism in some cities, Philadelphia, for example.

A: I can water understand Harlem, the landlord is Jewish, and they own a lot of the business in Harlem, and the Negroes hate landlords, I edmit---don't care what color they are, particularly in a situation like New York, with all its problems. I don't know as much about New York as I know about Nashville, although I've been in New York.

Q: I was talking to a very very bright, brilliant/women,

I guess you'd say, who's a law student, at law school, and secolnd in
her class in the senior year. She's a Megro. She and I had lunch.

Started ourconversation by saying, I have great hopes of the
a mangement in the south, finding some light here, after this crisis

maxax has passed, in relationship to the southern whi ss. She
said — I was born and raised on a far m inVirginia, and I've
lived in several parts of the south, and I've been in a lot of
southern jails this year. She feels that we are on the verge of
some sort of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reasonable community. She said,
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as far as the great northern cities, where there
is no human recognition. Here there's recognition, even at the
point of a gun.

A: Im \_\_\_\_\_\_ more spokesman in northern cities, in the \_\_\_\_\_ region, than has beenxike southern Magra. And I'm not sure that I know the reason for it. I know a little bit about the social situation in

a; I don't go that far.

Q: After that, there's a possibility of a human recogntion.

Chicago, Debroit, and the riots that have occurred there.

I-tre-xixtrax It remains for me to see, or I have to see, how rapidly the northern sections of the country respond to the problems that it's made, before I can make a judgment.

What is the response of the New York City Board of East, Education to the de facto segregation.

Q: Please talk about that.

A: Max What would be the responses to the problem.

But that problem, to my mind, is not serious, as the problem which gives rise to it. One of them, is segregation in housing, which is the problem,

Q: Behind the school problem.

- Q: You can't do it in Washington, anyway.
- a; My feelikg is that the job is to build in each of these a communities that school that recognizes at the outset, that you're

dealing with a problem, <u>different from</u> , a problem involving
educating middle class white children they're
terribly overcrowded, some of the teachers are bitter, by virtue
of the fact that they're assigned there in the first instance;
I've seen text book problems that are a disgrace; I have seen a
lack agx of guidance in counsellingsensitive to theproblems
of these youngsters. I've seen some of the poorest teaching I've
seen in situation like this. If you start from the
assumption, I don't care what theminority is, that this is a group
that is partially deprived, you can't assign teachers on the
same basis, whatever, it has to be interms of
enough people to get a job done, if these people are going to be
anything but dregs upon the economic system That's enough
Ive talked too long to this point.
Q:method is going to
do much good. Some Negroes in the north have told me that they
regard as a tactic, a pressure tactic, not as a
solution. A way of dramatizing theproblem.
A: Yes, but think one of the things that ought to accompany
every pressure tattic, is a clear goal. If you disagree with what
now being done, what is the proposal that you are struggling for.
You're going to articulate it. So thateverybody understands what
the objective is, because how else can you elicit
the support of people,who, if they understood it,
Q: Well, some people say that the best tactic, is gaining
a great deal of support,
view of what should be the objective.

A:

Q: Well, I'm gonna thank you. I must go

A: I know you're gonna stay for lunch.

Q: I wish & I could stay here for the lunch youoffered me.

END OF TAPE TWO

STEPHEN WRIGHT, FEB. 15.