

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS -AMHERST  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

Oral History Project – Fall Semester 2004

**AfroAm 297A: Black Springfield: Revisited**

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**General Topic of this interview:** Dr. Lockley discusses his personal experiences in Springfield as well as spatial issues of race and class inside the city. This interview was based largely on Dr. Lockley's personal experiences in Springfield as a well-educated Black man. He discussed what it was like to have a doctorate in a community where few Blacks even went to college. He has spent many years in Springfield and recalls the flood of 1936, black relocation from the North End to the Hill, and instances of local racism/police brutality. Although some of the interview was lost due to interviewer error, his views of programs such as the Springfield Action Commission and knowledge of city politics were discussed in detail.

**Date:** **December 5, 2004**

**Interviewer:** Kenneth Simpson

**Place:** (The residence of the interviewer's parents, William and Michelle Simpson)

**PERSONAL DATA**

**Interviewee:** Dr. Leonard Lockley

**Birth Date:** October 30, 1931

**Background:** Born in Ohio, Dr. Lockley came to Springfield when he was around 4-6 years old. He stayed in Springfield until serving in the armed forces during the Korean War. After this, he left Springfield numerous times and attended Lincoln University (a historically black college) where he received his Bachelor's degree in biology. He then attended American International College in Springfield and finally the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he received a doctorate in education. For a brief period of time, Dr. Lockley attended the University of Delaware. He has worked in Springfield at Springfield Housing Authority, the Micah Corporation, and Springfield Technical Community College. He also has worked at Roxbury Community College, Wyatt Labs in West Chester, Pennsylvania, the New England Accreditation Committee, and ran a program out of Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee for young people in the Springfield area. In addition, he worked as the Vice President of Student Affairs at Lincoln University.

**Current Occupation:** Retired, but he works part-time at Springfield Technical Community College.

**Length of Interview:** Approximately 45 minutes

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Leonard Lockley has contributed much to the city of Springfield. After spending his childhood and adolescent life in Springfield, he served in the armed forces during the Korean War in a unit where he was the only person of color. He served four years in the military and attended Lincoln University, one of the oldest black colleges in the country, where he received his bachelor's degree in biology in 1961. There he played on the school football team. After graduating from Lincoln, he worked as an assistant chemist at Wyatt Labs in West Chester, Pennsylvania. In approximately 1965, he returned to Springfield and worked as the Relocation Director for the Springfield Housing Authority. From 1968-1971, he worked as the program director for the Northern Educational Services, a local social service agency with five centers around the city where kids participate in various activities, including tutoring. During this time, he also worked for the Micah Corporation, an organization that bought old houses and fixed them to help out lower income families. In 1971, he became the first black counselor at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) while he also worked on his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. In 1974, he became assistant dean, then assistant to the president, and then dean of students at Roxbury Community College from 1976-1980. While at Roxbury he also served on the New England Accreditation Committee which concentrated on re-working the college itself. In 1980, he became Vice-President of Student Affairs at Lincoln University and stayed there from 1980-1990. He served as one of the three deans at STCC, Roxbury, and Lincoln University throughout his accomplished career. In 1990, he began working at Delaware Community College where he ran various programs and acted as a principal at a parochial school in Lincoln, Delaware. After this he returned to Springfield and became a vocational counselor at Massachusetts Career Development Institute and worked for the North Star Charter School as a superintendent. Dr. Lockley has lived in many areas of Springfield including the North End and the Hill. In a time where it was difficult for a black man to get a college degree, Dr. Lockley not only got one, but also received a master's degree and a PHD. He currently resides in Springfield, and although claims to be retired, he works everyday at Springfield Technical Community College.

## **INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS**

A portion of this interview was lost and contained some key information about Springfield. Dr. Lockley discussed how the flood of 1936 was partially responsible for the relocation of people from the North End to the Hill. He explained how rats that came with the water destroyed many houses and retreated when the water went back down to the river. This is important because although urban renewal was imminent, the rats' destruction of houses made the process an easier one for the city.

His discussion on economic class was different then the concentration on race which many people discuss when talking about the era of the 1960's. I was not aware of how people who lived on the Hill did not like people in the North End because of the kind of jobs they worked. People often concentrate solely on race as the issue in the 60's, which,

although it played a huge role, also involved the issue of class. Dr. Lockley believes the amount of money one had, who they were around, and what political figures you were associated with all had strong effects on how one was looked at. This seems to have had an interesting affect on Dr. Lockley's life because of his unique situation as a very well educated black man in a city where this was not very common. He said people did not know what "team" he was on because of his educational background.

The interview did stray from the guide of questions I was using because I was nervous. This was the first serious interview I have ever done. I asked Dr. Lockley, as someone who has had many experiences in Springfield, to tell me about them and I did not want to interrupt him during the longer passages. While transcribing the interview I learned much about how it could have been better on a professional level.

In another lost portion of the tape/interview, I asked Dr. Lockley if he had any affiliations with black churches or organizations in Springfield. When asked, he promptly said, "No."

This interview had a great connection to what was discussed in the course because of Dr. Lockley's first-hand knowledge about Springfield. Although he was well respected by many whites in the community, even police officers, he still experienced violent encounters with law enforcement. In these encounters, he was arrested and attacked even though he had committed no crime. He was falsely arrested and attacked because of the color of his skin. This oral history gives further insight to the relationships of people in Springfield throughout the civil rights era and complements course material well. This interview was an excellent experience and truly gave more meaning to the term "Black Springfield".

## INTERVIEW

Ken: So just give me a little background information, maybe uh when, when did you come to Springfield, or were you born here?

Lockley: I uh, I, you know was born in Middletown, Ohio, and my mother uh, came here with my sister, who is ah three years older than I am and, ah because her brothers lived here... she had two brothers, Augustus Leonard, who I was named after and um, John, and uh, so they came here to Springfield, they worked here in Springfield and uh, we stayed there at their house and his wife, my uncle Al's wife was home she didn't work. So my mom worked and my Aunt Lil (Lillian) took care of me while my sister was in school and ah both of them had ah come up from uh, Virginia, to West Virginia, to Ohio, and ah they had been to school, born in Richmond, and all that... school and college and stuff they finished. But that was way back, they were born in uh, way back there and so... (Ken chuckles). They ah, their family raised them ah to ah move on in life, so I always knew I was going on to college, I always knew I was gonna do something after watching them...

Ken: Yeah that was the goal probably (**Lockley:** Yeah, Yeah) from the beginning?

Lockley: Yeah, yeah, cause they had books, and you know, read all the time, and my mothers' sister, ah my Aunt Marion, before surviving, ah she was a nurse, she was one of the first black nurses in ah New York, visiting nurses in New York, (inaudible). So they all went on and so my first college, I finished high school in 1950, Tech High. And ah, thought about going into college (at) Springfield Tech, but the war had started, the Korean War had started and none of my buddies' families talked about college so I went into the service. Stayed about four years, went to Korea, and went around the world and did all this stuff and I came back home and started ah, ah... Charlie Acres, who was my buddy who I grew up with me, he went into the service with me, and uh we got back and went out to Monsanto for a job and took the test and they sent us telegrams, [that] we had this job, got out there, no job, which was kinda racist at the time (**Ken:** Uh huh.). And, so we uh, started working on the streets in engineering and cutting construction and so uh...

Ken: That was around here? Around here?

Lockley: Yeah. Charlie was driving trucks, cause he was a motorcycle guy and stuff, and so uh, uh he said "Lock ah, why don't you give, why don't you drive a truck," and I said, "Well, I don't know how to drive a truck," so he took me out on the truck and taught me how to drive. Next day I went down and got the job driving trucks and uh, (thinking) but, before that... well anyhow I started Springfield College and played soccer and everything... trying to do everything at once.

Lockley: Was that truck driving job like one of the few... were there any other options really at the time?

Courtesy of Springfield History, MA

Lockley: (Shakes head) No. (Ken: No?) And ah, rubbish and garbage and ah also construction, and ah then I started out at Weaver-Rise, Finkler and Sanford and [?] so a lot of guys come with their fingers missing, I said, "I don't wanna do this for the rest of my life," so I applied for ah college ah, I didn't want to go to UMASS, and I applied to college, this college someone told me about, at Lincoln University, I didn't know where it was, but I heard my mother and my aunt and my uncles talk about Lincoln University, one of the oldest black colleges, 1854, so I said lemme apply for it. That was it... one of my uncles had gone to Virginia-Union and the other one had gone to Hampton and so I didn't wanna go that far down. So, I think I applied in January, they sent me something in March and I started getting on the ball trying to get my money together to go down there and... took the train down there, and ah didn't know where it was, rented a car and drove out to, 50 miles, and drove out into the school and ah I was 26 years old, uh, all boys school, and ah, predominantly all male, just about, and Chaney, which was 25 miles closer, was a girl's school. So I said that could work out, but I said it was right around the corner, but it wasn't. So anyhow, I got down there and I started ah to (inaudible) hang out with the veterans and they said, "Lock, why don't you play football?" I said, "I don't play football, I play soccer," (Ken: hahaha) [inaudible] he's out of the service and everything. He said, you'll feel better [?], we'll teach you how to play. So the veterans guys, the first year I was, you know, down to tackling dummies and the next year, cause most of them graduated, I started ah playing ah first string because I was pretty fast, so I started halfback. I was a biology major so we had to (pause) take our uh, most of us were biology majors, so went to school, went to classes in the labs and then we practiced and then we ate by ourselves with the rest of the team after everybody had eaten. Finished Lincoln in 56... '61, got married, worked at Wyatt laboratories in West Chester, Pennsylvania, as an assistant chemist as a, (inaudible) penicillin products. Started working on my master's in bio-chemistry at the University of Delaware, and my wife was teaching. Then we stayed there about four years, then we came back to Springfield. I had an offer to be ah, the uh Health Department in Springfield with Dr. Robellin [?] and that was ah... 64-65, and stayed there for about a year and got an offer to go into the Housing Authority as a uh, as the ah, as the Relocation Director for the Springfield Housing Authority for the North End.

Ken: Oh really?

Lockley: And I uh, did that for business(es), for families, and single families, single people, and so I inspected the houses cause I knew the article and the code for housing and I uh... ah Mike Caranza [?] was the guy who got me that job, and I started working there, and uh...

Ken: What kind of stuff did you find like working that job, I mean, what was the situation in general for people? I mean...

Lockley: Well Springfield, see Springfield is a funny town, ah, Springfield has changed a whole lot in terms of race relationships. Down here, we lived in the North End, I grew up in the North End, I lived on Dwight Street (clears throat) that's where we first moved, my uncle and my Aunt Marion, and my Aunt Lil.

Ken: Was that after or before the highway..?

Lockley: That was before (**Ken:** Before the highway?) That was back in the 30's (**Ken:** Oh, oh, okay.). So we moved there, then we moved to Essex Street, to Essex Street and that block was integrated (with) Polish people, Irish people, and black people and so we slept over, we ate over everybody's house, you know and, everybody knew everybody. Everybody was basically poor, so it was a good situation. We went to Hooker School, and the flood came in, the flood of 1936, and we had to move out, and went to ah, they took us ah, my mother waded out in the water up to her waist and carried us up, my sister and me out, um...

Ken: That whole area was just....

Lockley: Oh yeah, from the from the railroad station all the way down to Dwight Street people were in row boats going to work and stuff.

Ken: Wow, I never even heard about that actually, that's....

Lockley: '36, the flood of 36 (**Ken:** Wow.). And then we moved to this house on Holyoke Street which looked great, but the rats had fallen in and all over the place was rats running through your place. So, then we moved up on the Hill, on Walnut Street, and uh, uh finished Classical Junior High, then I went to Tech. But, ah coming back from the service, like I told ya, I, I, I went through all those decisions about whether to go to college or whether to try and get a job, and couldn't get a job, took me some menial jobs, so I said, "I don't wanna do this, I can't do this." And I was a core man in the service and uh, so, ah, I was on a ship with thirty-six thousand, ah thirty-six hundred guys. My division was, about thirty people in my division, I was the only black guy in my division so you know. We did pretty well, went around the world and stuff, but getting back, one of the issues in, in the North End at the time was uh, people were basically poor, so it was a common denominator. There might have been some racist issues, but people were just basically poor and they gotta come together as... and then it seemed as, as, as people moved out, black and white people moved out, they started trying to assimilate with the people that they were moving out with, white people and stuff, and so some of the relationships kinda disintegrated. Ah, ah, guys in the service, we still hang out, we still see each other, my class, my class would meet, we still hang out with the Italian guys and uh, the guys from the South End, we still hang out together and their families and their wives we know each other, and we still keep in touch a little bit. Um, so I came home and took the, the Health Department and Redevelopment Authority and then ah, Micah Corporation said, the Micah, a housing corporation, they approached me about coming to be their uh... their ah, ah development manager, and so I (thinking), no before that I went to NES, Northern Educational Service, I was the uh, the third director, the first one was Bob Hughes, then Andy Griffin, then me, and I was there from uh, oh until '71, 68 to 71, and ah, we had five centers in Springfield where kids would come down from U-MASS, A-I-C, Springfield College, and tutor the kids at the private centers (**Ken:** Okay.). And ah, they had buses come down from U-MASS and all that

stuff, and we had one in Chicopee (inaudible) Our Lady of the Elms. We had staff there doing stuff, then Model Cities came and the Housing Authority. We did a study center, ah we did ah, ah a childhood center and put that together with Model Cities money. Then I said I had an opportunity to go to the Micah Corporation.

Ken: Where's that based out of, is that, is that... local or is that ah?

Lockley: (Thinking) No, I went to Micah Corporation before I came back. That was a... they were a housing corporation, they would buy old houses and fix them up (Ken: Oh, okay,) for families with sweat equity. And then in 68, in 71 rather, um President Garvey over at STCC, he was the president at STCC, offered me the job as the first black counselor at STCC, at Springfield Tech. And I came over there and worked there, (thinking) and ah did some things prior to that, I was doing some stuff with the ah programs at NES, at Westover Field, and kids come from all over Chicopee, Holyoke, and West Springfield, out at the base at Westover. And because of that, ah Rudy [?] McCoy, Dr. McCoy, who was at the Education Department up ah, ah Dwight Allen at U-MASS, the Education Department. Rudy says ah, "Lock, why don't you try to get your master's, doctorate?" But meanwhile, I was working on my doctorate at ah A-I-C too, counseling. And uh, he said, "Why don't you come up to U-MASS, get your doctorate." I said, "I can't get in." (Ken chuckles.) He said, "You're running one of the largest programs outside the public school system," he said, "Why can't you get in?" So he worked his magic and got me in there and that's how got in U-MASS doctoral program. Gloria Joseph was on my dissertation committee and a, ah whole lot of guys I forgot now who, and ah, so, like I told you before, I'm up and down for three years, about four, well I said '74, so I started in '71 and I finished up in '74, and from that, had some kids, and ah, (thinking) ah moved from, after I got my doctorate, became Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Assistant to the President, and got divorced at that time, and went to Roxbury Community College as Dean of Students at Roxbury Community College. After doing stuff for ah, the ah the Council of uh, the Accreditation Committee for, the New England Accreditation Committee, trying to get Roxbury back together, and a couple years there, I went up there as Dean of Students for four years and then an opportunity came about for me to uh become Vice President of Student Affairs at my alma mater, Lincoln University. So I went back to Lincoln University in ah, in '80, and stayed there from '80 to '90 as Vice President of Student Affairs, and ah, left there, see you serve with the president when your on a staff, when you're the vice president and dean and stuff like that, so, I was with three deans at Springfield Tech, I was with three deans at Roxbury, and I was with three deans over at uh Lincoln.

Ken: You've put your time in eh? (Ken chuckles.)

Lockley: And I got ran out, the last dean, she said, "I want (inaudible) a whole new team." So I stayed out for about, ah I thought was gonna be retiring, I stayed out (and) did some consulting, and then a thing came up for me to run a Trio Program [?] at Delaware Technical Community College, up at (inaudible) and Support Services and uh, did that and acted as a principal at a parochial school in Lincoln, Delaware. Had an opportunity to come back to Springfield with the Redevelopment Authority, not the

Redevelopment Authority (thinking), I became a vocational counselor at M-C-D-I, and then uh, left there and became the president at the uh (inaudible) schools at North Star Charter School before it folded.

Ken: Where was that?

Lockley: In Springfield, and it uh, stayed there for about four years. We had a fire down on ah Columbus Avenue, we moved to ah, a church, we had... we couldn't get our numbers together so it folded and then ah, an opportunity came for me to do what I'm doing.

Ken: Excellent.

Lockley: That's my end.

Ken: So going back to um, as far as, as far as Springfield and what-not, I mean how have things changed um, you know, as far back as you can remember, maybe uh, decade by decade and what-not, I mean, I know your saying at one point, generally, you know most of the people we uh, say got along pretty well cause they were mostly poor and what-not, so kind of the same situation. Now when that changed, like, how did that, I mean how did that effect...

Lockley: Well, see, a lot of that I missed because I was in and out of town, (**Ken:** Right) but, each time I came back I noticed a little difference in terms of what the relocation thing was like, the relocation thing was going on all over the city, all over the country. They called it Urban Renewal but it was black people removal (**Ken:** Right), moving black people from an area, ah, down in the North End to the Hill, and once they got everyone there, a lot of the amenities that people used to get, ah, kinda faded. It seemed like the black people were all in one area and they were treated in a very different way. Now at that same time in 19 ah let me see ah, 1964, '65, ah, the charter was changed in Springfield. We used to have ward representation, then it changed to at-large.

Ken: Plan A? That the...

Lockley: Plan A. Charlie Ryan... now here (is) the kicker, is that McCarthy, ah, he had an alliance with ah St. John's Church and ah Rev. Charles (pause) Cobb was the president, was the minister there, and Deberry who went back to a lot earlier than that wanted to, ah, prepare people to go to work in kitchens and do stuff like that, he was the broker in terms of jobs on the Hill for black people. I suspect Cobb wanted to be the same thing and if he could strike a deal with the new Mayor Charlie uh, I think that's his name came in, and when the referendum was on to go from Plan... what was it, Plan A, he would be the broker. But what happened was, the referend, referen, (pause) the reparation (referendum)... ah passed, but the wrong mayor got in. Charlie Ryan got in, and so the deal couldn't be submitted with Cobb.



Ken: Who was the other guy who... Cobb was... was Cobb hoping to get in or was (he) hoping another guy would get in besides Charlie Ryan?

Lockley: He was hoping that uh, I forgot who the mayor was at the time (thinking), ah, Charlie O'Connell I think his name was (**Ken:** Okay.), he wanted him to get in, but he lost and Charlie Ryan got in, and a whole different type of dynamics started taking place. He didn't have anybody to broker this. Um...

Ken: Did Cobb have a... what kind of relationship did he have with Charlie Ryan, like...

Lockley: (Shakes his head) None.

Ken: None at all? Okay.

Lockley: Bad relationship, ah, couple things started happening... then you started seeing Octagon Loun-, Octagon Lounge (**Ken:** Right) came just about during that time and so you could see the, the disintegration of a lot of these things in terms of ah relationships, in terms of black/white relationships kinda deteriorating. Ah, Cobb (clears throat) had some people in his church, Andy Griffin, was a good person, and um Ben... Ben, and ah, ah, they were in, you know, CORE and all that, so, (clearing throat) Charlie Ryan saw them as rabble-rousers and so he wasn't going to make any kind of deal with Cobb (**Ken:** Right.). And for a long while things stayed at a stand still. At the time also (clears throat), young white kids, the Italians, Irish... let's see the Italians and Irish were really (inaudible), the kids were growing up and moving away, becoming, moving from poor to middle class, the values had changed, friends had changed, and some of those relationships kinda left. And ah so now there was a strong group of black guys down at the North End in terms of Mo Jones and, who were close to Charlie Ryan because Charlie Ryan had a, a ah father and a drug store down in the North End, and these guys worked there and cleaned the place and all that stuff. So he, he [Morris Jones] established the Young Black Democrats, so they got involved in terms of, in terms of the, the ah the spoils of that election in '60 something. And there has always been a rift between black people who lived on the Hill and black people who lived down in the North End. They [those on the Hill] thought they were a little better...in terms of, you know they, you know they, most of the people up on the Hill worked in ah houses as maids, butlers, drivers, chauffeurs, cleaned the banks and stuff like that, Mass Mutual and stuff like that... worked in the mail rooms and stuff like that. People down in the North End worked in the factories, you know grunt work, so people used to even say, "I don't want you going to the boys up there," (**Ken:** Ha, ha.). No really, it was bad, it was really bad. (**Ken:** Wow!). Parents didn't want, black parents didn't want their kids hanging out with them. And uh, I dare say, I don't know what happened in the white community, but a lot of (pause), I don't think that there was any kind of fraternization in the white community with kids from the North End or kids from the Hill.

Ken: It was just like, as far as the white community was concerned, I mean was it just, there is no... uh, did it matter whether, whether its was the Hill or the North End or would they (pause) act a different way toward people from the North End or the Hill or,

... (**Lockley**: Well...) Was there uh, I mean was there more um, see the people you said that [were] on the Hill would they, the kind of jobs they had as opposed to the kind of jobs the people in the North End had, were either one of those kinds of jobs like the kind of jobs that like the white folks around were having at that time?

Lockley: Oh no, oh no, oh no (**Ken**: Nothing? Nothing like that?) See then the other thing is that the, the, see (pause) there was a strong Republican influence at the time, in terms of Yankees and (inaudible), and then the people really felt, you know, if you were Irish you were, you were, you were a couple steps above black people, but you were...and so there were cops and things like that... you got, you know, grunt jobs. Then the Italians, they were up on the Hill, they were a different group, see, and they didn't associate with the, um, the um, with the Irish that much and the Polish down in the North End. The Polish, Irish, Black, Jews, um Portu [Portuguese], and the uh... ah (pause) French (**Ken**: Uh huh.), and see, and that's where you see you were moving into Chicopee and Holyoke, that's where some of the lines are divided that way too in Chicopee and Holyoke. So over the years then when the army came, the war came, (and) people started working and making money and started moving out and buying houses and everything and then this class sys..., the class thing became more prominent and ah that's when you started seeing things kinda veering off and people taking different stands on things. And if you notice how the different mayors came in, you had an Italian mayor, you had an Irish mayor, you had an Italian mayor, (and) you had an Irish mayor (**Ken**: He, he, he.), and that's how they took, you know, people took over the city. Um, Charlie, Charlie was Irish but he was lace-curtain Irish, he was different. The Irish guys on the Hill really didn't like him, I mean they were just (inaudible), cause his family had a little bit of money and so he was little bit suspect.

**Ken**: Alright now um... say from like, I don't know, call it decade to decade or what-not, I mean, what what was like the attitude of like say the mayors and what-not say towards the black population you know going, what is like, um, you know like, I know a lot of things like um, a lot of different um, say like things that were supposed to give aid say to people and what-not came into effect like uh, like Springfield Action Commission and all that stuff, Model Cities all that what-not? Was that like, say at a time when that was going on how was like that different than like it was say a decade before, was it like um, going from like, maybe you know, looking at the black population one way to go to try to like help them afterward, help the black population afterwards or was it like ah... like how did the attitudes change, like from the city politicians towards you know...

Lockley: Well, well what happened was, as I see it is, is the, when everybody was moved to the Hill, black people moved to the Hill, the inner... I think some inner things happened in terms of the black community. I think the white leadership down at City Hall still wanted to deal with black people from the Hill in terms of leadership positions and so they had their special people that they dealt with up here, they got certain jobs, certain positions, you know, in terms of ah shakers and movers. With me they weren't sure, I was one of the few black guys that had gone to college and came back so they didn't know how to deal with me (**Ken**: Ha, ha.). They really didn't (**Ken**: Yeah.) they don't know whether I was with them or against, was I on the team or off the team? Yeah,

I think, and I think that also happened within the black community, people didn't know how to really take me in terms of whether I was gonna become part of the problem or, you know, part of the solution in terms of of ah joining on and joining in and agreeing with a lot of things... which I (inaudible). And so these agencies sprung up ah and began, but they were always (contemplating) kinda tilted in terms of who was in charge like the Green Amendment... you might wanna look at that.

Ken: Um, could you explain that a little bit?

Lockley: The Green Amendment was ah, when ah Model Cities, not Model Cities (thinking), the poverty program started. A thing came out called the Green Amendment which said that on the board, (such as the) Springfield Action Commission, or any action commission all over the country, you had to have one-third, one-third had to be represented by the city government, one-third had to be represented by ah the city fathers or the business interests (**Ken:** Okay.), and one-third by the black community, but you can't win that, it's two against one. And that's how the boards were set up, so anything that went down had to go through the ruling, you know, majority population and that's who was elected, ah, directors of each program, ah how money was/came in and out of the city and all of that, and I suspect a lot of things happened, ah but you know I don't think anything, I don't wanna say anything you know, but jobs were given to certain people (**Ken:** Okay.), and certain people didn't get jobs.

Ken: Was it like whether or not they felt you were part of the team then you would get a job? (**Lockley:** Yes.) Basically, I mean so it's in their best interests...

Lockley: Yeah, you know, and ah, they put people in position who would ah... you know, tow the party line.

Ken: Yeah... did any of these things like, Action Commission and all that stuff, did any of those (pause) achieve their goals really? I mean...

Lockley: Well it was, it was like, people's jobs, you know, there (inaudible) was a lot of money on the table (**Ken:** Yeah.), and Democrats say there was a lot of money was there and so, you know, they control the spickit, in terms of money, and ah, ah some things were achieved in terms of jobs. Some people went on to college, you know, bought houses and things, different housing complexes came out and came about where people made some money in terms of putting together, you know... third party ah, but one of the things that didn't happen was (pause), as opposed to the South, people... I think what happened in the North, was that people weren't sure what they wanted out of the Civil Rights Movement, in terms of what they gained, liked that's why the South has moved farther ahead in terms of of getting itself together and dealing with issues of race. (**Ken:** Uh-huh.) Um, people, I think, a lot of people in the North got caught up in terms of the, the finance of it, the money thing as opposed to the power thing (**Ken:** Okay, yep.), and ah and from that I think we suffered in Springfield from that, we don't have no power. A few people reaped the benefits of getting money and houses and things like that but, the,

ah, in terms of making political decisions and changing the culture itself... that didn't happen.

Ken: That's interesting. Now um, your saying that um, you know when you were younger and what-not it was already pretty much set in stone that you were going to college, or that was... (**Lockley**: For me, I mean, but then I'm, yeah go ahead...) but I mean how did that... obviously I'm assuming that wasn't very common obviously that mind set, so I mean how did that ah (thinking) did you feel different from, from the other people who were more thinking about either uh, you know, different goals, like if your goal is to go to college and what-not I mean what was everyone else thinking?

Lockley: Never brought it up, you just, never brought it up (**Ken**: Naw...), there was no one really to discuss it with.

(Break in Tape)

Lockley: I went to Lincoln up to ah '80, and I applied to go to the Harvard School of Management [?] for this doctorate, and so I asked my president, I said, you know I gotta have scholarship money (inaudible), and I worked my magic and they didn't give me a lot, I had to come up with something. So he said, "Well, I don't want you to do it this year in 81," so I applied, I (inaudible), drive up and told him can you save up money until '82. So I stopped out at this hotel on Dwight Street, which I had been stopping in, staying in all the time, cause my mother was living at the time and the kids were here and I'd come home to stay. So I came in, I had rented a car, flew in, rented a car from Bradley Field, came with my bags after the bar closed, and I said ah, I'd like to get a room, the woman said ah – I only had a Massachusetts license – she said, "I can't give you a room." I said, "What do you mean you can't give me a room?" She said, "We can't give rooms to people who live in Massachusetts, in Springfield." Ah, I had a Springfield driver's license, and because uh, (she said), "It's an ordinance, we can't." I said you've given me a hotel room before many times, I said, "You see I got my bags, my ticket and everything," I said, "I gotta get up in the morning." She said, "Well I can't rent to you." I said, "What are you talking about?" She said, "Well, you gotta leave." So she called the police. The police came in and I explained to them I said, "Hey all I wanna do is go to bed, I gotta get up in the morning and travel to Boston." They threw me down, handcuffed me, took me to jail. Because I knew some guys, white fellas in the Police Department (inaudible), he said we'll let you out, he said be here in the morning. After the morning, I went to court, down on, on State Street. Um, saw another white officer I knew, he said "Len, whatcha doing?" and I explained to him. And what happened was it came out in the paper that I got arrested and all this and my aunt, ninety something years old, she saw that and was worried about me. So this guy, this officer, went up and told the judge, explained to the judge, the judge says, "Doc Lockley, right?" He said, "We'll try and get these officers up here to, to deal with this," and he had some time, so I waited for some time; they knew I had to drive to Boston, and I said oh judge, and he said, "Well I wanna apologize for the City of Springfield for what happened to you up there (inaudible)." Springfield has always had some issues, (emphatically) always had some issues. Nothing happened to these officers at all (**Ken**: No?) But those are the

little subtleties that Springfield has, you know. I didn't do anything (Ken: Right.), and see, here I am a black guy with a doctorate, college-educated, administrator of the school. If it happens to me, what happens to the poor slob who is out there with nothing? (Ken and Lockley chuckle) You know, and so, Springfield, you know, I'm not trying to, you know I don't, I don't, keep that as a, you know, and when I got beat up, you know, a lot of white cops came up to me and said, because I was running a program at Springfield Tech, ah, later on, I knew a lot of white cops and they would say, "Len, you know..." "Jeez, I don't know what happened with this guy, why he did this?" I said its not you, it's not everybody, but this is [what] I think keeps the resentment in racism, and its kinda festered over the years and that's what you had downtown. That's why the black community was very afraid to have... to allow the police go pick up truants, because they don't deal with them well. They think everybody who's black, or Hispanic, and poor white, cause you see white guys coming in court the next morning all beat up, you know, they can do anything they want with them.

Ken: Even today (Lockley: Sure.), I know a number of people, and uh, you know, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING? (mocking an officer) "Nothing." Well, pick them up, bring em over somewhere, and let them have it a little bit.

Lockley: See, and see sometimes we get confused, it's a black/white issue, but it's a status issue. And you gotta [inaudible] and that becomes a problem because when people see themselves, you know people here and people here, its easy to identify the black person, but they don't know about the white person who dresses a different way and does some stuff.

Ken: So what do you think, what do you think about Springfield now-a-days, I mean, things...

Lockley: It's broke. It's broke. In a way it's good because it's broke. Charlie's in and Charlie's doing some things that need to be done. You got a Police Department that has the Quinn Bill, which uh, which allows you, if you (Ken: If your going, if you're going to school), if you get your master's, yeah tw...I think 12,000 dollars extra, you get six, 60 sick days. (Ken: chuckles.) Your teachers, Police Department, Fire Department, (inaudible) City Hall, don't have to live in Springfield, they don't pay any taxes. In every city I have worked; I've worked in Wilmington, I lived in Wilmington; I worked in ah, Pennsylvania, I paid taxes in both places; people in Connecticut pay taxes in both places, Springfield doesn't do that.

Ken: I wonder, wondered why uh, you know even say going through high school anytime going you know, so many of the people I meet all live around you know East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and everything like that and they all seem to come into Springfield. Wow.

Lockley: So you kinda wonder if you don't have a vested interest in a place, ah, do you really look at crime in a certain way, do you look at education in a certain way, do you have, you know, do you have that vested interest? Like why, when I want to high sch...

when I went to elementary school...I remember my teachers, I remember all my teachers from kindergarten all the way up (Inaudible (naming teachers), you know Ms. Bergman, they were great teachers, they were all white. I never had a black teacher until I went to college. I was in the service now, and they were good teachers, they were concerned about the kids. I remember I came back uh, when I was in the Health Department, I came back in the 50's and went to Hooker School to inspect the school as part of my job, and I said lemme go to the second floor, I went to the second floor and my teacher was there, she said, Ms. Gussie [?], "Hi Leonard, how you doing?" she said, "How's your sister, Janice?" You know everybody, that was there [?], so you know, it was a different type of attitude... that's all. I don't know whether that attitude still exists in school; it's a job, get in and get out.

Ken: Right, but I mean, is that thing, I mean uh, I wonder if that just has more to do, I mean not more to do, but like... that's just life now?

Lockley: Probably, probably, probably, your probably right, probably right, you know people wanna get, cause I found the same thing, when I was in Lincoln, we didn't have that many kids, we had about maybe six or sever hundred students, and professors all lived around the campus, you know, 150 some acres on this campus, and they lived all around. When I came back in '80, people did the same thing, they came in and they're gone, gone, they finish their class and they're gone. So that's... that's the problem of the times, that's all. But, even with that, and they were predominately black teachers I think they, you kinda wonder, do they really wanna....do they, are they really spending all the time that I need as a student or do they spend just the time they need to get their paycheck (pause), and you [inaudible] a question.

Ken: Yeah, yeah exactly, there's no real answer to that one I guess, for the most part.

Lockley: I hope I, well (inaudible) touched on some of the things you wanted to deal with...

(End)