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**Rosalind Terrell**

Melissa Brown  
Jerome Deinlein  
Kon Kim

**TRANSCRIPT**

Jerome – All right, first off, Let's get some background information. What's your name?

Ms. Terrell – Rosalind Terrell

Jerome – All right, what is your date of birth?

Ms. Terrell – [PAUSE] Twelve....

Jerome – Well, I mean, you don't have to, it might help you remember your age a little bit easier. Considering the riots were in six.....

Ms. Terrell – O.K. I remember my age.

Jerome – That's fine, you don't have to tell us your date of birth. Where were you born?

Ms. Terrell – I was born here in Baltimore.

Jerome – What part of Baltimore?

Ms. Terrell – I was born in West Baltimore. I know there is a big divide there, but my family is basically from East Baltimore. You know my older sisters are all from East Baltimore, my mother they, you know, they moved to West Baltimore right before I was born, right after I was born.

Jerome – All right, were you born at home, or were you born at a hospital?

Ms. Terrell – Oh no, I was born in hospital. Johns Hopkins.

Jerome – Where do you live now? Do you still live in West Baltimore?

Ms. Terrell – Oh, no, I live right there at Mt., oh yeah I do still live in West Baltimore. Mt. Royal and McMecken. Right here in Bolton Hill

Jerome – O.K. Is, where, did you still live in West Baltimore at the time of the riots.

Ms. Terrell – Is that West Baltimore?

Jerome – Or, what...

Ms. Terrell – Yes I did, I lived on...During the actual time of the riot I lived on Whitelock and Brookfield.

Jerome – Can you describe how things were prior to the riot? As far as your daily life?

Ms. Terrell – Well, I was a young mother. I had one son. I was about twenty years old. I had just moved out pretty much on my own. And I was, was I, yeah, I pretty much moved out on my own. Things were kind of hectic for me. I, you know, was a young mother, and I was working. So, I had a babysitter. So, you know, the course of the day I would get up in the morning, take my son to the babysitter, and I would take public transportation and go to Timonium. I worked in Timonium at Rite Aid. So it was, you know, things were kind of all right. Slow moving, kind of, just trying to get my sea legs about being a young mother. My son was, I think he was about eighteen months old.

Jerome – You said that you took public transportation. Did you face any discrimination or segregation on the bus, bus system or anything like that?

Ms. Terrell – No not during that time. No, no there wasn't any discrimination or anything on the bus, but, well, I was right in the city so, if you know much about the city, most black people took public transportation. So it was, I was right on North Avenue line. Took the 13 over to the 8 line, and I took the 8 out to Timonium. So mostly public transportation was used by blacks going back and forth to work

Jerome – O.K. When did you hear that Martin Luther King had been shot?

Ms. Terrell – [PAUSE] [SIGH] I think immediately. I think that maybe when he got shot I was watching T.V.

Jerome – Do you know where you were at watching T.V.? Were you at home?

Ms. Terrell – I was at home, yeah.

Jerome – O.K. And you said you were about twenty at the time of the riots?

Ms. Terrell – Yes.

Jerome – How did you feel when you first heard that he had been shot?

Ms. Terrell – [PAUSE] I felt like a member of my family had died. I, I, really did. It was a terrible feeling. It was personalized. Since then, members of my family have died, and I can't differentiate the feeling. I actually felt like it was a member of my family. My father so to speak.

Jerome – Do you feel that it was necessarily his death that caused the riots, or well, I mean, was it the anger of the people because he had been shot or, how what do you feel really caused the riots?

Ms. Terrell – I think, how should I put this? His death, the feeling among the people, among black people, behind his death, it was as if, taking hope away. For us, Martin Luther King marked hope. A, an actual chance at equality, I guess it is? Yeah, a actual chance at equality. And when, he had done so many positive things, and so many things had changed around him, and the fact that it was a nonviolent movement gave us the feeling that it changed white America's perception, you know, of who we were, and him, him being killed like that. It was as if any chance for equality, you know, that internalized feeling, that chance for equality was taken away.

Jerome – Do you know exactly when the riots had begun? When the first outbreaks of violence occurred?

Ms. Terrell – Immediately. It was like the news came on, and I don't know. It's like, it was like that day. It was the news report, you got the news report that he had been shot, that he was killed, and then you know how they do the updates and that kind of thing. As information trickled down, that he had been killed, then the news media began to talk about, you kept hearing reports of rioting in this part of town, and rioting in that part of town. It was like a snowball

Jerome - Did the news say anything about [fumbles for words] rioting in Baltimore itself, but did they say anything about rioting in other cities across the nation?

Ms. Terrell – Oh yeah. Yeah it was, was, and I'm learning now that media is very powerful. You know, and the exchange of information it was like "O.K. they're rioting someplace else about this horrific thing that had happened, so let's join in. Let's put numbers and power." You know, let's put numbers behind this movement. It was almost without thought.

Jerome – Do you have any recollection of how long the riots actually lasted?

Ms. Terrell – Oh, it was a while. My initial, it was a while. They, they were going on, because in my neighborhood, I guess that at that time I lived at Whitelock and Brookfield, in that area. And during that time, I was like a half a block off of a strip mall so to speak for lack of a better word. And that area on Whitelock Street, it was like a shopping area. Was a markets, and different little stores. There was a drug store on the corner, cleaners, and all like that. And then once the rioting start, right in that area, it was, you know, they were just tore down. The whole area, the market, the, I want to say for lack of a better word, the five and ten cent stores. All of those stores like right in that area, they immediately went into them. The cleaners, all of those stores like that.

Jerome – What role did you play in the riots? I mean were you an active member, or where you one of the people more or less trying to stay away from it, or how did you participate?

Ms. Terrell – I don't think I was, I was consciously trying to stay away from it. I want to say that maybe I did participate. I did participate in it to a certain extent. I had a friend, a male friend at the time that was out there actively, you know, rioting, and, and breaking down things. And they were bringing things into my apartment. So I guess that is an active role. I wasn't in, out there, you know, breaking in stores, going in stores, because at the time I had a young son. So, you know, if he wasn't at the babysitter, he was with me, and I just didn't, you know, have my son out in that. But out, I could look out the window and see people up and down the street running up and down the street with things and children and that kind of thing, it just wasn't feasibility, feasible for me to be able to do that.

Jerome – How did, well, earlier you said that when Martin Luther King died, it felt like you lost a part of your family, how did his death affect you personally.

[PAUSE]

Jerome – I mean that sometimes when people lose a member of their family, something profound happens to them. Not necessarily a change of life, but they see things differently. And that you said a loss of hope. Can you expand on that any?

Ms. Terrell – Well, to the black community, Martin Luther King was a leader, and I guess it's like, with any person that's a leader, when you lose your leader, it's like the group kind of disintegrates. So I guess it was the fact, the feeling of we're never going to have equality now. We're never going to be judged by who we are rather than by what white America sees. And it was as if, I guess it was as if going a step back, because during those times for me as a young person coming up, they weren't really that good, like I said I worked in Timonium. And I, you know, in Timonium I worked at a Rite Aid in Timonium. And I experienced racism out there. It was like, it was O.K. for me to work out there, but if I left work and went to another store, or I went, or I tried to shop there, it was as if "O.K. you don't belong here", you know, "But its ok for you to work here, and to serve us, and to wait on us and to help us here." And actually I worked behind the food counter because no blacks worked as cashiers and that kind of thing in that area.

Jerome – Do you know if there was any type of racism or segregation during the time, like actually between the rioters themselves? Did you know, do you know if the black, if there was a black group of rioters that would move in their certain way, and then there was the white rioters, or were the rioters more integrated to be black and white people both damaging the city to the same extent?

Ms. Terrell – O.K., I didn't see any white people damaging the city. I didn't see any whites, if there were, I didn't see any on T.V. The media didn't show any. It was like a completely all black thing as far from my perception of it, of what I saw. I didn't see any white people rioting.

Jerome – Since you weren't actually on the street, you were more or less in your house for the majority of the time?

Ms. Terrell – I was on the street a little too.

Jerome – Well I mean, do you recall any chants that the crowds might have been saying while they, because I mean, we were given an outline of the riots and during the course of the outline it was quoted like they'd say "We shall overcome", or a couple, they had, they were, the crowds were actually chanting as they were rioting, and I was just wondering if you heard?

Ms. Terrell – I don't remember hearing...

Jerome – You don't remember anything? All right. You said that you worked behind the food counter at the Rite Aid?

Ms. Terrell – Mm Hmm, in Timonium, the Rite Aid in Timonium.

Jerome – Do you know if the weather affected the riots at all?

Ms. Terrell – No, I don't think it did because it was over a period of time. And if I'm not mistaken, I think it was, one day it did rain, but I don't think it had an effect on it. You know it may have decreased the activity, but I really don't think so. It was, you know, actually I just can't think. I think it was just a snowball, it was so, the atmosphere, people were so enraged, and so hurt, and so devastated, until the weather really did not play, play a big part in the activity. It was as if you didn't even feel the weather. And I do believe it was in the winter time, I'm not sure if it was in the winter time. I do remember it was raining though.

Jerome – Yeah, in the outline we were given, it said that in early April was the time of the riots, and that it did actually rain one day.

Ms. Terrell – Yeah, I do remember that it was raining. In our neighborhood the National Guard came in because it was, because I lived so near a shopping area, that the National Guard came in, and that was very, very devastating.

Jerome – It was devastating the fact that the police couldn't control it, or how exactly was that devastating?

Ms. Terrell – I, because I, well you know, you see police with guns and holsters, these were military men with rifles. You could not be in, they initiated a curfew, if I'm

not mistaken, and I do remember. And in order for me to work I had to get a pass from work to let them know that I did work. In order for me to be able to come in and leave out of my neighborhood. And for me that was really humiliating. It reminded me of slavery. A pass for slavery. Although I knew that it was a security issue, but it to me, it was really a humiliating kind of thing to have to show a pass to come in and out of my own neighborhood.

Jerome – Did the riots affect your actual home any? I mean, did you have a single home, or an apartment?

Ms. Terrell – Oh, I lived in an apartment. On the second floor.

Jerome – Was your apartment, did anything happen in or at your apartment building regarding the riots?

Ms. Terrell – No. No. There was no fire and in our, in our area, I know that there were places that they bombed and that they fire bombed and that they set on fire, but it was really kind of selective. I think maybe that fire bombs was in retail areas. Fires mostly happened in retail areas and like I said that my neighborhood the, the rioting I came first hand in contact with was sort of in a residential neighborhood and people lived over top of these stores. Where people went in and looted and tore up the first floor, the stores. They didn't set fires or burn because I guess they knew because it was neighborhood people that went in there. They knew that it was neighbors that lived over top.

Jerome – You said that you took public transportation. Where did you, did you shop in those areas close to your home?

Ms. Terrell – Oh yeah. I did.

Jerome – Did you have any problems? Were you able to walk, or did you have to take public transportation to get there?

Ms. Terrell – O.K. so after the riot there was nowhere for me to shop for food, for anything right in that neighborhood. O.K. I didn't drive at the time, so that did create a problem because as you know, you probably know that the areas that were devastated, that were looted were areas right in the neighborhood. And I think that that was mainly because of location of availability. You know, people were outraged and they couldn't get out of their neighborhoods, and there were white retail owners that ran businesses in their neighborhoods. So it was a lashing out at them by tearing up their businesses right within the neighborhood because at that time there weren't foreigners that owned businesses. At that time there were mainly whites that owned those businesses in our neighborhoods. So it was like a lashing out at them so to speak. I don't think it was even thought of that we're really hurting ourselves, that we are not going to be able to buy food, and we're not going to be able to have those, the drug store because in our

neighborhood it was a drug store that was looted, was tore up. There was a grocery store that was looted and tore up. Everything along that block of Whitelock Street was completely destroyed. Every business during that block was completely destroyed. So yeah, buying food and that kind of thing was difficult during that time.

Jerome – And that was after the riots?

Ms. Terrell – Yeah, after the riots, during that time, because you, I think that, if I'm not mistaken, we were on lock down for a while.

Jerome – Did you have the need to actually get out and get anything during the time of the riots? Like while the riots were actually occurring, did you have to go shopping or get anything from the drug store?

Ms. Terrell – No. I do believe my son was sick, had a cold during that time, but it was, it wasn't a, the medicine that I used for him, I got from the hospital. Having taken him to the hospital. So the medicine I had for him, I didn't have to get medicine say from the drug store. I did have to get food.

Jerome – As far as getting food, considering the stores around you were damaged did you have to go across town or out of town to get the food?

Ms. Terrell – I'm, I'm, that I know I went to Lafayette Market on Pennsylvania Avenue, and also Lexington Market.

Jerome – Considering you said you had to get a pass to go to work, did need any type of document, it would be hard to get, but did you have to say "I'm here to get food, I'm not here to tear things up." or anything like that?

Ms. Terrell – No. No, I think, I didn't need to go out until, and I, those places that were able to open up, that weren't in the neighborhood, they were able to open up and did open up, and, but during you could maneuver, and go back and forth between curfew time. So that's pretty much how I did that.

Jerome – Did the, the actual, I mean you said that you had to get the pass to go to you work, but is that the only way that the riots affected your either job or your commute to your job?

Ms. Terrell – Yeah that was, yeah that was the only way, because yeah, like I said, I worked in Timonium. It wasn't nothing, you didn't, you leave Baltimore City and went to Timonium, and it was like night and day. It was nothing happened. Nothing happened to Timonium. It was like life as usual.



Jerome – Did the people in Timonium look at you differently during or after the time of the riots considering that they might have known that you were coming from the City? Did they look at you any differently?

Ms. Terrell – Oh, they definitely knew that I was coming from the city, and I don't think they looked at me any differently, but they looked at me suspect anyway.

Jerome – Because of your race?

Ms. Terrell – Because of my race, they, you know I was suspect anyway. When I went to work, they knew that I was coming out there to go to work. That was not a place blacks shopped. It wasn't like it is now. You go to Timonium, its like mixed. It was nothing like that. It was all white. Patrons was all white, the people that shopped there were all white, and the only people that were in their neighborhoods were people that was working, that was cleaning their houses, or that worked. And, and like I said, at the Rite Aid where I worked at, all the cashiers, all the people, the pharmacist, all of those people were white. The two black people in that store were me and another woman that worked behind the counter and the maintenance guy to the store. So they, they knew when you came in there what you were doing, and I was viewed suspect anyway because I was black, when I, it was like a red flag, you know, when you went out into that area during that time.

Jerome – You mentioned the curfew. Do you know by chance if the violence increased or decreased after the curfew? If things were worse during the day, or if they got worse after the curfew?

Ms. Terrell – By the time the curfew was enacted, things had really settled down, and I think the curfew was enacted to kind of keep it calm. But by the time the National Guard came in, in our neighborhood, things had pretty settled down. Everything had already been destroyed. You know so, I, I, guess they came in to keep people from setting on, setting the places on fire. I doubt very seriously that they were going to set places on fire, but to, you know, to alleviate the moving around of things because, O.K., you know, anything that was taken, O.K. after the riot, then it was like the movement of stuff. You know, between the community. Of the, it was taking it, and it was, you know, it was the back and forth movement of the things that were taken. The selling, the exchanging, oh, I have this, you need this, that kind of thing that went on.

Jerome – And that's the stuff that was taken during the looting.

Ms. Terrell – Mm, Hmm. During the Looting.

Jerome – Did you have a telephone in your apartment?

Ms. Terrell – No.

Jerome – Do you remember where you, you said that you were home watching T.V. when the riots first broke out or when you first heard that he was shot?

Ms. Terrell – Mm, hmm.

Jerome – And the riots ensued after that?

Ms. Terrell – Mm, hmm.

Jerome – Do you know what the attitude of law enforcement was towards the rioters? Like did they look at them like, “Aw, you’re bad, we’ll beat you and then arrest you?”, or were they just more worried about getting people out of the way, and in their homes, or do you know how they reacted to those people?

Ms. Terrell – I don’t, I don’t think that law enforcements attitude towards blacks, I really don’t think has changed very much. The attitude is basically the same. I mean they, they, they, operate out of the guise of protection so to speak, but I don’t think that they looked at us any different from what they had always looked at us.

Jerome – And is that from, you think that’s from white and black officers, or just from white officers? As far as the attitude toward black people.

Ms. Terrell – Well, during that time, there were few black officers. I’m almost willing to, there were very few. Those that the police department, and the fire department, was just beginning to be integrated into during that time. Most of the police were white, you know, most of the fire department, those kind of people. Those kinds of jobs were white people had those jobs.

Jerome – Do you know if there any conflict between local police, and then the National Guards themselves, or you’re not sure?

Ms. Terrell – I’m really not sure, because once the National Guard, we didn’t see police in our neighborhood. And I guess once the National Guard was called in, I guess to keep peace, or you know, calm things down, they, and now they were during the riot. Honestly I didn’t see any police.

Jerome – And do you think that that’s because you were in a predominately black neighborhood?

Ms. Terrell – Yeah, I was in a predominately black neighborhood, so I think the police were in the major areas, like Lexington Street, downtown. Downtown was very, it was, you know, downtown was a major shopping district. So as far as I know the major police was downtown protecting, you know, that, that, retail district. And those, because that’s where the fires, and that kind of stuff was going on.

But in the little neighborhood shopping areas in black neighborhoods, I, I did not see any police.

Jerome – Do you, did the people in your area when they saw the federal troops were they grateful to have that protection come in or were they like “Aw, get out of here. We can handle our own.”, or how did they react to federal troops?

Ms. Terrell – Oh no, they were afraid. Well, these, like I said these were military people coming in with the great big rifles and, and military gear, and that kind of thing. And I really think we were afraid, I think the, the impression that we were afraid. And like I said when the National Guard came in ,our neighborhood had already been devastated. So it was pretty much over by the time the National Guard came in. And I think they just came in to enforce the curfew.

Jerome – Can you describe the amount of damage that the city, how badly damaged the city was by the riots, or?

Ms. Terrell – Oh, it was terrible. It was terrible. I think, I don't know if you know, what you know about North Avenue. North Avenue, right there below where I live, between Eutaw and I guess Park Avenue, that was a shopping area. There were restaurants there. I think there was a bite there. All of that, that stuff was gone. Movie theaters, I'm like O.K., that, that, I know that area right down in there was gone. The area on Whitelock Street was gone. It was no, there was no point, you know how you go around and you see people put up, where somebody has broken a window, or gone in and, and you'll see where people put up boards to keep other people from going in, that happened way after because in, in that strip mall, right there, Whitelock Street, the window, you could walk past there and look straight through the stores. Was nothing in there and there was no, nobody. O.K. the City didn't come around and put wood up to stop people from going in because there was nothing left. It was complete devastation, tore down, glass, frames, doors, it was terrible.

Jerome: So it was more or less empty shells of buildings?

Ms. Terrell: It was like a war zone. It reminds me of what I could imagine a war zone looked like. It was broken glass all over the place things that people dropped while they were running and looting and stealing was all in the street stuff was trampled goods that people had dropped was just trampled all over the streets filthy, it was trashy, it was terrible and it stayed like that for a while.

Jerome: Do you have any idea how long it took before...

Ms. Terrell: They cleaned up.

Jerome: Yeah.

Ms. Terrell: I want to say like about three or four weeks.

Jerome: Before they started boarding up windows or before they actually came in with the trucks and were gutting out the buildings and repairing and all

Ms. Terrell: Oh before they started boarding

It was like three or four weeks before, maybe three or four weeks before they started boarding up and sweeping up the glass and cleaning up the streets and I'm quite sure that my neighborhood was not a priority kind of thing it was like because if you um because its not visible. It wasn't a visible shopping district those places that were not visible, that weren't really known big department stores it was little people little entrepreneurs that was really I want to say really devastated by it. Big business as usual you know they write it off they were able to write it off. Places like down town, because immediately once the riots start the police moved to the main shopping districts and blocked them off. I do remember the Civics Center or what they call the arena now they use the Civics Center Arena as a jail. That's where they were putting people that they arrested or they had caught looting in different parts of the city all of those people were there. And they had those people in there with the stuff that they were stealing, TVs and all it was all kinds of stories about what was all going on down there. So that area, the downtown area, was protected was cornered off, they were using as a jail to hold people down there.

Jerome: Um like how long did it take? Was there any like social disturbance or like how long did it take after the riots? Were people looking at each other differently like their getting ready to riot again or how did the riots change like during and after the riots socially between people?

Ms. Terrell: Well socially we socialized among ourselves so you know integration is not like it is now where people mix its you know its ok you can go in and see people of different races and ethnicities socializing together. It was not like that then. We socialized, um, among ourselves. So it wasn't a fact of people looked at you any differently. White people always looked at black people differently. You know it was just a way of life for us it wasn't that they thought that we were going to jump off and riot or anything like that. I don't think that it was that type of looking at us differently. It's just during that time it was just the way it was.

Jerome: Did uh, do you know if black people looked at each other differently considering their participation in the riots or their lack of participation?

Ms. Terrell: No. I don't think so.

Jerome: While the riots were happening did you ever think about getting out of the city? 'Cause you said your family moved from east to west, like do you know if the violence was any different from east to west

Ms. Terrell: The violence um the looting was mainly in retail areas those areas of the city that had retail areas. I think in East Baltimore because um probably what you don't know is we shopped in our neighborhood. So people in East Baltimore shopped and bought clothes and things on Gay Street that was a big shopping area there, that area was looted and stripped, um that's like in East Baltimore different little like for lack of a better word I want to say like strip mall kinds of areas that's all over in the city. Those are the areas that were looting and destroyed and burned. It was, and white people often say why did they destroy their own areas? They only hurt they self, and we did, but it was out of, I think convenience. Because you couldn't get out of your neighborhoods. You were right pretty much in your neighborhood. Everything that's pretty much done in the neighborhood. So and like I said, white people came and they owned businesses and those kinds of things in our neighborhood and it was a way for us to strike out or to quote I guess "hurt them," by destroying their businesses, their ways that they made money from us.

Jerome: Did you think of leaving the city during the time of the riots? Because you said that you were in fear of the National Guard; well like before the Guard got there were you ever in fear for you or your child to where you thought you might have to leave the city at some point?

Ms. Terrell: No. I didn't never, you know I didn't fear for my life or anything like that. I wasn't afraid that they were going to burn our apartment building down or anything like that, I didn't have any type of fear, I didn't fear my people. I didn't fear that they were going to hurt me or destroy me or do anything to me in any way. Because I don't know in a neighborhood you know everybody, everybody knows you, you're coming in and out. They might not know you personally or one-on-one, but they know you. People see you coming in and out they see you up and down the street with your children and that kind of thing, so they know you live in the neighborhood. And it's quite obvious that I belong there. (laughing). You know what I'm saying? So it wasn't a thing that I was afraid of them in any way.

Jerome: Considering that your sense of community in your neighborhood, did the sense of community change any after the riots?

Ms. Terrell: I don't think so, no. I really think it was stronger.

Jerome: How so?

Ms. Terrell: Um... (pause) I think it was like a commraderie kind of feeling. It was that we share in this hurt, that we share in this experience. Whether you participated in it or not, you shared in it because you were black, and you knew how the people that were rioting felt. You know because you shared that feeling. It was like a personal kind of connection between us.

Jerome: Uh, do you know if there was an age range for the people actually participating in the riots? Like do you know like if it was young teenagers, or if it was teenagers or young adults or like middle aged people, do you have any idea?

Ms. Terrell: Everybody, everybody that could walk, it was old people, young people, children, everybody it was like the whole community. It was older people out there, there were younger people, there were teenagers, and there wasn't any particular age group or anything like that. Like I said I was twenty and I saw people with grey hair out there moving TVs. (laugh) You know what I'm saying. It was every body, I saw little children. It was every body.

Jerome: Do you think that the age of the rioter would of influenced exactly what they did or where they did it as far as what the violence was? I mean like do you think that an older person would attack, because they have been around longer, they would attack a certain aspects of white retail or like a younger person might say "Hey I want to, I might need this so I'm gonna go attack this area?"

Ms. Terrell: Ok it was, you're putting too much thought into it.

Jerome: Oh, I'm sorry. (laugh)

Ms. Terrell: It wasn't that much thought, you know it wasn't that much thought put into it. It, um, I don't want to say that it was a young... I kind of think that it was younger people that was burning, I don't think that it was, it had anything to with the fact that you experience discrimination any longer then a younger person. Discrimination is terrible at whatever age you experience it, and whatever age you are you know about it. You are taught about it, your children, we taught our children about it, because it was a way to protect them. So we were taught at young age. You teach your children at young age different kinds of things about discrimination to protect them. To you know, the things that we taught them about police, you know if a police said something to you stop you don't talk back, you know you keep your hands in view at all times those are things that I taught my son, you know when he was a little boy. So its, it's not a degree so to speak to say because older people because they were discriminated against longer were a main part of it or anything it was a collective.

Jerome: Did you hear anything about like snipers in the city?

Ms. Terrell: No.

Jerome: All right, 'cause in the, in the outline it said that there were actually like riot snip... well not like army snipers but the rioters with rifles like trying to snipethe police officers, firefighters, and guardsmen.

Ms. Terrell: I don't know I didn't, well uh maybe I missed that but I didn't recall hearing about snipers. There probably were though, I'm not going to say it wasn't.

Jerome: Uh, was anyone, well you said you didn't have a real active role, but uh did anyone you know get arrested?

Ms. Terrell: Yes.

Jerome: Anyone close to you?

Ms. Terrell: Yes. My nephew, nieces, my boyfriend was arrested. Um I grew up in a house with my nephew and niece the both of them were arrested. My um, I have uncles that were arrested. And like I said everybody was at the Arena. They arrested them and put everyone at the arena.

Jerome: Would you like to take a break? We have been going for about an hour.

Ms. Terrell: Oh have we?

Jerome: Yeah, do you want to take a little break?

Ms. Terrell: I'm fine.

Jerome: All right,. Well did you, was anyone that you knew injured during the riots?

Ms. Terrell: No. I think somebody sprained their ankle. I think that someone that I knew sprained their ankle, but it was like you know from running, carrying, something, or slipping, or that kind of thing. But injured per say I know that people were beat, you know in rioting. What are those sticks that they call that policemen have?

Jerome: The Billie clubs

Ms. Terrell: Yeah those Billie clubs, people were beat with Billie clubs and you know you heard of things like that and you see people when they were released from jail coming back with big hickies and you know bruises and things on them. So you know it was a believable kind of thing, but as far as really hurt or anything like that, not that I know of. I'm sure they were.

Jerome: Do you if your friends and family were treated, not necessarily equal, but were they treated well when they were arrested or were they?

Ms. Terrell: Ok. Have you been to the Arena?

Jerome: Yes. But I have been there since it's been Baltimore Arena. I wasn't there when it was the Civics Center.

Ms. Terrell: It's pretty much the same it really hasn't changed, so what they did is they had everybody like on the floor, everybody was there on the floor. Um I guess a good example would be the Superdome during Katrina.

Jerome: Yeah.

Ms. Terrell: But those people in the Superdome had beds and all that kind of stuff. If you had any, have you heard anything about um central booking?

Jerome: A little bit.

Ms. Terrell: Was that central booking kind of, it was just people were herded in there. It was a holding place. People were just there. It was treated; I don't think they were treated too good. It was a bunch a people being treated like animals down there. Because I mean it was so many of them, they didn't have any place for them to go, they just put them there. You know they just put them there. As far as you know food and all that kind of stuff.

Kon: Without any medical treatment or anything for the people who got hurt?

Ms. Terrell: No. I guess if they were dying, you know if you were really dying and that kind of thing. But you got to know that the people who were put in there was running up and down the street going in peoples stores stealing and that kind of thing. So they pretty much weren't sick people down in there. Like with Katrina they had everybody, older people and sick people from hospitals, and all that kind of stuff. But these people were people who they were people who were running up and down the street going in people's stores and stealing that kind of thing. They pretty much weren't sick peoples down in there. Like with Katrina they had every body, older people and sick people from hospitals and that kind of stuff, but these people were people that they caught running down the street with a TV. They put them down in there, it was the Civics Center. You know it wasn't a medical, I don't think it was a medical issue. It was a quick turnover. You know they were pulling them down out of one part of the city and hold them there for 24, 48 hours and let them go.

Melissa: There was no other court system or anything they just held them and let them go?

Ms. Terrell: It was too many people to put in court.

Jerome: If they held them there and then processed them to some degree or did they just hold them there to keep them out of trouble?

Ms. Terrell: I think they just held them there to keep them out of trouble and keep them off the street. I don't think that they processed... some of them may have been prosecuted, I guess people that got caught with bigger things or I they saw them



setting a fire or that kind of thing, but mostly it was just a holding pin. Keep them off the street to deescalate the crowds because it was crowds of people moving from one place to the other and they were growing. They would pick them up and put them down there, they saw them running with TV's or whatever and put them down there to hold them to deescalate the activity.

Kon: Sounds like the riot broke out purely based on devastation and anger.

Ms. Terrell: It was anger. It was a feeling of hopelessness. For lack of a better word that feeling of hopelessness. You know how you feel when you have your last chance; your last chance has been taken away from you it was pretty much that kind of feeling. There is nothing else for us; we are never going to receive equality.

Jerome: Did you ever experience anything like that feeling either before or after Martin Luther King has been shot?

Ms. Terrell: Ok. I'm thinking that before that, that feeling was when Kennedy was assassinated. Wasn't it before?

Jerome: I'm not sure.

Ms. Terrell: But that feeling, I had that feeling when John Kennedy was assassinated.

Jerome: Do you have any idea why you might of felt that way for Kennedy? Like as far as was it, was it like because he was like the first presidential figure stepping towards Civil Rights Equality, or?

Ms. Terrell: When Kennedy was assassinated I was younger. I didn't have children then, I was still in high school when Kennedy was assassinated and there was a feeling when he was elected, it was a feeling among Black People when he was elected. That there was a chance for change, I don't know if it was because he was the youngest president, but there was a feeling with in the community a feeling of hope of change. I don't know if the American Dream, that people pretty much in my economic, they did not buy into the American Dream. We kind of knew that it wasn't about us. But when he was elected there was a feeling of maybe things would change, things would get better for you. And when he was assonated there was that kind of feeling amongst our community, I don't think there was riots or anything like that, but that was devastating to-

Kon: But the devastation and the anger towards that incident wasn't as strong as Martin Luther King's assassinated?

Ms. Terrell: Yeah because he was President and he wasn't one of us, so to speak, but the idea the feeling behind him the hope that was there behind him.

Kon: During the riots, um it sounds like when the people first broke out the riot, it was totally based on, what you just said devastation and hopeless feelings?

Ms. Terrell: That hopeless feeling, that anger.

Kon: Right.

Ms. Terrell: That anger..

Kon: Through that emotional stage do you feel like during the riot having always at that level or has it changed into something else?

Ms. Terrell: What that feeling of anger?

Kon: Yes.

Ms. Terrell: I don't think it has been at that level since. I really don't. I don't think that feeling of hopelessness and devastation – I don't think it has been at that level since then.

Jerome: And do you think that because things since then have been integrated and desegregated at all or do you think that just because he was that figure?

Ms. Terrell: I think it was because of who he was because as much as we have think things have changed I'm not really sure they have changed that much. On the outside-

Jerome: Things looked like they've changed

Ms. Terrell: They looked like they changed and all that but I don't the underline kinds of feelings have changed that much.

Jerome: Did you happen to keep anything from the time of the riot like a newspaper clipping or something like that, to like not necessarily to commemorate or memorialize it but something to help you remember?

Ms. Terrell: No but I do know that in every black person's home there is a picture of Martin Luther King somewhere. I don't know if they kept it from the time of the riots as far as newspaper – I didn't keep newspaper articles or that kind of thing, because newspaper wasn't a part of our socialization. Do you know what I'm saying? At twenty you know the *Afro* – I read the *Afro* – on Tuesday, I think it came out on Tuesday and Friday, periodically it wasn't a regular kind of thing that I did. The TV was mostly where you got your information from and I have since learned that is not a good place for information. But pretty much the TV is where you got your information from. Word of mouth during that time after that

time, I'm sure any black person's house that you go in, there is a picture of Martin Luther King somewhere. He has been memorialized in the community.

Jerome: Do you guys have anymore questions right now?

Melissa: Actually I do, when you say, I wanted to go back to the shopping, you know where and how you shopped when the things were destroyed in your community like you said, was it that you were not allowed to shop, did people prevent you from doing or was it so like uncomfortable, like you know being around or in a place that where it was predominately white?

Ms. Terrell: It wasn't convenient number one. It was, we did shop at Lexington Market. I want to say that Lexington Market was pretty much integrated kind of. The atmosphere the most integrated kind and most black people did not shop there. You shopped in your own community. It was and white people shopped in their own community, but as you know white people lived outside of Baltimore City. Baltimore City has just recently you know in a couple years where white people have moved back into the city. But whites lived on the outskirts of the city. So their stores and their markets and shopping malls and those kinds of things, I do believe that we shopped at Mondawmin, think Mondawmin was just being built or had just opened. That was a black shopping mall. Security was not \_\_\_ during that time. So as far as the mall kind of thing or the availability to get to white shopping areas just wasn't convenient. We shopped Gay Street that was in East Baltimore. We shopped like I said at Lexington Market and I don't really think we shopped in the stores in downtown Baltimore, Howard Street Hecht's and Marshall's and those kinds of stores. They were just being to be integrated and you were when you went in you know people looked at you funny. You really stayed out of it, but you didn't, I don't think it was because people looked at you funny it just was that it wasn't feasible, you didn't shop, and you couldn't get there, pretty much. The transportation wasn't like it is now.

Melissa: Now with, when you said that you worked at Rite Aid at the time of the riots did you feel as though you know, you had more of I guess discrimination because of the riots, while when you went to work? I know you said like a lot of white people work there and shop there at that Rite Aid; did you feel like you know people were discriminating against you, like more so because of the riots?

Ms. Terrell: No. I don't think it was a degree, they always discriminated against, I didn't really think or see where things were really different where the situation had changed any. I didn't notice it.

Kon: Was there a fear among white people towards black people right after the riot?

Ms. Terrell: Not the white people who I came in contact with, because they were of a minority, they were the majority where I went into their community I was a minority. You know it was all of them and it was just one or two of us. I don't

think it was a fear. I mean I'm sure there was in some other area, or there was some neighborhood and they just stayed away from those neighborhoods. Because you know this city is very segregated. You can just look at it; it's just beginning to become integrated. The city has always been very segregated and the city during that time it was predominately blacks. Blacks predominately lived in the city, except for where I live now Bolton Hill that was predominately white. There were different areas of the city where poor white people lived, but it was all white people. They were all poor in the same economic, but all of them were white. Where poor black people lived they were all black. It was like you know sections of town. There were like segregated boundaries that you didn't, they were not necessarily written in stone, but people that lived in the city knew, say like Highlandtown, Highlandtown was white, black people didn't go to Highlandtown. Gay Street, East Baltimore and around in that area, Aisquith [?] Street that was pretty much black. White people did not come in that area. If you saw a white person in your area you were like, "what are they doing here?" You knew they were lost.

Jerome: Did you notice any change in political life, because of the riots? Like as far as who people would vote for or how people ran their campaign's?

Ms. Terrell: No. I was not in tuned to politics during that time.

Jerome: Is there any in particular reason why or was it just your youth or?

Ms. Terrell: Basic survival, you know. During that time I was, it was most of my time was spent on basic survival.

Kon: How about going to church? Was any of the churches destroyed or any got damaged during the riot?

Ms. Terrell: I don't think so. I pretty much hold churches sacred, I don't know if any churches were destroyed or looted or I really don't think so but do you know that Sunday is the most segregated day of the week and it still is.

Kon: Even after the riot?

Ms. Terrell: Yes. It still is. It is the most segregated day of the week. White people go to white churches; black people go to black churches. Black people that have lived in the city all of their life and go to this church all of their life and have moved out in different areas you know have moved up come back to the city to that particular area and go and attend their church and then they leave.

Kon: Was any of the church leaders and pastors and those kinds of people trying to enforce people to be involved in the riot or try to make them stay away from the riot?

Ms. Terrell: I know that they were, I'm not sure if they were pastors but there were black celebrities, they had enlisted the help of black celebrities to try and come and to get people to stop rioting, to calm people down and that kind of thing. They did enlist black celebrities in an effort, but as far as I guess church ministers in their own congregation, you know I was not going to church at that time.

Kon: What celebrities are they ? Have you seen like people from out of state coming to the Baltimore and trying to let's say make people involved in the riot during the high peak of the riot? Have you seen or heard any people actually coming out of the state-

Ms. Terrell: Coming in?

Kon: Yeah coming in?

Ms. Terrell: I don't think so. I don't know there probably was, I hear rumors that there were people traveling from state to state to initiate riots with those remaining rumors as far as I know. The people that were rioting were people that lived right here in Baltimore and the majority of the people that were rioting were rioting in their own neighborhoods. It was very little mobility of moving out of your neighborhood to a different area to riots you know I guess word of mouth. People were saying they are going in Epstein's on Gay Street or whatever. And you know people would get in the car and go over to Epstein's to see- you know I don't think it was much of that going on. People kind of think that it was but I really didn't see or think that there was much of that. It was an act of convenience.

Kon: How was the communication level between neighbors? Did they constantly talk about it during the riot?

Ms. Terrell: Word of mouth is very good communication tool in black community, it's mostly word of mouth and you can pretty much bank on it

Kon: Could you tell us any rumors any stories that you got from your neighbors other than the ones you got from news or media?

Ms. Terrell: Pretty much who has what, who took what out of the store, and where it was, where you can go get it. As far as you know, all those things that taken out of stores was taken in that neighborhood. And pretty much where you can go get it. Who had a case of this, who had case of that and that kind of things, as far as the media.. you know on TV, you can look on TV, and see them taking people into the civic center and you can look on TV and see people in other cities and states doing rioting because rioting was all over, it was everywhere it wasn't just here in Maryland, it was everywhere, you can look on TV and see the devastation going on

in other cities and that kind of thing but word of mouth was pretty much what was going on within your city what was happening in different areas of the city

Kon: During the riots, as the day passes, did you feel any emotional changes, motivational changes? Among the people? Like first when the riot broke out and then, all this hopelessness, anger and devastation were in people's mind, but as the riot goes, after the peak, do you feel any changes in that people's mind, simply, some people just like the destruction of the riot?

Ms. Terrell: I think that feeling of hopelessness permeated for a long time, motivation, I guess that feeling, you know, be motivated to do something different, to change that... it was centered around that feeling of hopelessness and I think it was a long, long time, I, I think people had a idea that it was a planned kind of thing like organized kind of thing. And I think it's a myth, I don't think it was organized, and I don't think it was planed. I said earlier it was snowball kind of thing and I really believed it, it was a snowball kind of a thing. It was a reaction to his death it was, being a negative reaction, it was a negative reaction of...to his death, it wasn't.. I don't think it was... you know how they. You hear things about bands of people going in to different states initiating that kind of thing, I think that's a myth, I don't think that's actually what happened

Melissa: About Martin Luther King, he preached non violence, so upon his death, it's understandable people reacted the way they did but was there a lot of talk of...ok maybe we need to stop or you know what could have stopped it earlier than what it did the riots?

Ms. Terrell: I think that was brought up and that was what was put on TV to remind the black community that he preached non violence but you must know that during that time, everybody did not go along with the non violence peace of it there were other leaders and other people that .. I think during that time, there were Black Panthers who did not preach non-violence. There were Malcolm X who was any means by necessary. These people had own followings and he was killed, it was, see. He preached non-violence, and see what happened to him you know it was... it was, he did he preached it... Turn other chick, you know don't react to what's being done to you, don't react, use self control. Those were things he emphasized, things that he stressed. You know, this, we are entitled to this. This is our right. We do not have to fight for this. This is what we deserve. This is what we should have. You know... that was his message. You know, but then there were people like Malcolm X, and he was preaching any mean necessary. You know, you know if he hit you. Hit him back. Those kind of things that was we never going to have this unless we fight for it then he, those, those leaders had followers. So it was you know they were all black. They didn't all ascribed (?) everybody didn't ascribed to non-violence. And then when media came, they brought celebrities. Celebrities were reinforcing it on TV reminding people that Martin Luther King was about non- violence. He would be upset to see something like this was gone down. Although many people believed that he predicted this, he knew he was going to die in his

writings, and his sermons. It was forecasted. He told people this was what was going to happen. But everybody that was black didn't subscribe to non-violence peace of it. That was a movement that was a change. That was a movement toward equality. But there was not always an agreement on how it was supposed to come about.

Jerome: How did you feel? It was more like...do you think it was more beneficial with non-violence or with violence which get the point across that you know that the segregation is wrong and the way we treated is wrong.

Ms. Terrell: I think non- violence.. I think Martin Luther King's way of doing things, the non-violence peace changed white America's perception of black people. To say it was better, I think it did a lot great deal to change white America's perception. But as far as better, I don't think you can use the word better... it's a... more effective? I don't think necessarily it was more effective. It just made them look at black people differently.

Kon: Is that because what he was preaching or because what kind of person he was?

Ms. Terrell: I think it's because what kind of person he was. And that his movement was so powerful. So many people were behind him. So many people joined in with him and it was recognized that this person has a lot of influence now I'm learning that influence is acquitted with power. White America saw that he had great deal of influence on black people when they, you know, all of this people that watched Montgomery Boycott, all of these people that didn't ride the bus. And how they came together and transported each other back and forth to work and how he said that we are not going to ride a bus and how... they didn't ride a bus. Whole city didn't ride a bus. And that was the fact that he had that influence. And that his was the non-violence method. And in order to be a part of his non-violence movement, you had to ascribe to that non-violence piece of it.

Jerome: How did other black leaders view not only his death but reaction of public to his death? If you know.

Ms. Terrell: I'm thinking that was a...I can imagine it was a... I told you so kind of thing. I think that would be the reaction that you were going to get because not everybody ascribed to the non-violence. But he had so much influence and so many people followed him. Even the people that didn't believed that non-violence would work became a part of his movement. And to become a part of his movement, you had to be non-violence, non-reactionary. You know...regardless of what they do, put hoses on you, put dogs on you, you just stay together and you know...sing... you keep one thing in mind, you not strike at no matter what they do to you. You are not going to strike out. And that was how ...and that particular part of it was how he changed the perception of black people.

Kon: What quality of Martin Luther King do you think that made him that influential?

Ms. Terrell: I think it's his background. His father was a minister. I think him being raised as a Christian, in a religious home, and being a minister and being called to the ministry, working in a church and leading a church. I think that is just a up bringing.

Kon: Other than that he was a great orator or?

Ms. Terrell: That thing always came afterwards. He was raised in a black church. He was raised as he was a minister's son. That whole socialization to that part of it. People gave him those names, as great orator which he was. But those came natural to him because he was a minister. If you've been to a black church, most ministers are great orators.

Kon: So you think after the assassination. Does it give other part of the movement like Malcolm X and other people...do you think the assassination of MLK and the Riot give the other people and the voices a boost?

Ms. Terrell: No I don't think so because the whole movement was defragging. I don't really think it's come together since. I can't see where that much power influence has come together since then. I think his death... the movement died with him.

Kon: Have you ever wondered why? I mean that much of motivation and devastation only last a while?

Ms. Terrell: I think it was a reaction. The riots wre a reaction to losing a leader. In any movement and any group when you lose the leader whole reorganization piece that comes there and when you pass on leadership you have a leader that was there that kind of that passes on a leadership that kinds of reorganizes people around ... let people know that it's ok. I have complete confidence and faith in him. It's ok to follow this person... all that was gone. You know reorganization comes... you know prime example is this school. With the new president, I don't know if you were here when new president came. Were you? Ok... when new president came, whole reorganization piece to say that it's ok that I'm passing on this leadership that the old president is here to give you little tip bits to let you know who this person is what does this person does how this person helps you all of that all those going on between the leaders... that didn't happen.

Melissa: So pretty much like a difference between Martin Luther King passing on the torch when he's ready to set down as opposed to his fire being extinguished.

Ms. Terrell: Yeah. I don't think the movement has ever been reorganized to the magnitude that it was since his death.

Jerome: Do you think that we still need the movement?

Ms. Terrell: Oh definitely.

Jerome: What aspect of today's culture?



Ms. Terrell: Equality.

Jerome: I mean in what extent?

Ms. Terrell: Equality. Racism is alive and well from black person's perspective, from my perspective.

Jerome: In what in daily life what would you change?

Ms. Terrell: You know that I've learned that because policy has been changed does not necessarily change people's action and their beliefs. Changing policy does not change behaviors. Policy has been changed but behaviors have not. Behaviors take a while, takes a generations. People are taught to discriminate. Segregation is taught in a home. Until you make a conscious effort to not teach it to your children, to not demonstrate it. You know it's ...overtly demonstrated in a home in our daily lives. Children learn what they see. More so than what you tell them. And segregation is passed on from generation to generation. Black people still teach their children, the male children about police. White people teach their children that police are their friends, but black people don't teach their children that police are their friends. It's specially if you have a black male, those behaviors change over time. The policy of the segregation has been changed but the behaviors haven't.

Kon: How well is the riot known in black community now?

Ms. Terrell: It is a generational kind of thing. So ...I'm a grandmother, so my children know it from me. The stories that I've told. My grand children know less because my children are not passing that story on. So that experiences are like any experiences you pass it on, those experiences passed on and talked about less and less. My grand child doesn't believe that she is being discriminated against.

Jerome: Until she experiences it herself?

Ms. Terrell: And a lot of times, she experiences it and she doesn't realizes it, she doesn't pick up on a fact that that's what it is. Or maybe. I'm saying that that's what it is ... maybe that's what it is.

She just sees it in different angle. I would immediately pick up on it. But I don't kind of tell her that's what it is. You keep telling is ...you keep caring it on. To the degree to that I was discriminated against, my children are not discriminated to that degree or they don't believe that they are. And if they find ways to handle it or to deal with it in their own way, then that's fine unless it becomes protection mechanism. There are different things that I teach them that I consider a protection thing. My grandson that I teach them... I don't necessarily teach them that it's ...you know discrimination kind of thing but there are things that I tell them. And I say to them you know just as a protection mechanism for them. For them to know.

Kon: How old are they?

Ms. Terrell: Baby boy is... I think he's three. I have four grandsons, and I have a grandson that's eighteen. And younger boys. To the younger boys, I kind of tell them. In a way... you know when you go to your grandmother, the way they tell you things that your mother don't. I do more so to my grand daughters, I kind of polish a little to the boys.

Kon: Do you think it's necessary to tell them about the riot?

Ms. Terrell: I don't necessarily tell them about the riots, but I do think it's necessary to tell them.

Kon: I mean not by their parents by the educational system in schools?

Ms. Terrell: I don't think schools can educate them to that. I maybe wrong but I think it's more of socialization to who you are... you know how you socialize to...