The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project
Labor Series

JOE GLAZER

Interviewed by: Morris Weisz
Initial interview date: March 31, 1992

TABLE OF CONTENTS

London, England

Performed labor songs for USIA sponsored event
Thailand

INTERVIEW

[Note: This interview was not edited by Joe Glazer.]

Q: Today is Tuesday March 31, 1992. This is Morris Weisz interviewing Joe Glazer for the Labor Diplomacy Oral History Project. Joe was never a labor attaché but was very active in the totality of the labor diplomacy field. Joe, could you give us a little bit of information about your family background and education?

GLAZER: Well, I got out of college 1938, Brooklyn College. Believe it or not I was a major in physics and mathematics. I don't think I ever took a labor course in college but I was active in politics. I wasn't a socialist but I was friendly. You might call me a fellow traveler of the Socialist. I was busy fighting the Communists on campus. That was one of the big things to do. At any rate I wound up in Wisconsin. I'm not sure how I wound up in the labor movement. During the war I was a civilian instructor in mathematics and in physics at the Army Corps in Belleville, Illinois. I was rejected by the Army because of a heart murmur that I had. So I wound up in Madison, Wisconsin at the big air base there, Truax Field. My wife was taking—

Q: What do you mean you were rejected by the Army? You mean you were rejected for active service? They kept you in the service.

GLAZER: Yes. I was rejected for active service but I was a civilian instructor.

Q: I see.

GLAZER: I was rejected for active—so I was on my regular job teaching in the Army Air Corps, it was called. Then I was transferred from Illinois up to Wisconsin. This was in the early 1940s. I was fortunate because my wife was at Brooklyn College and she was able to go to the University of—

Q: Were you married already by the way?

GLAZER: Yes. We were married. We got married when I was transferred. We got married in 1942 after I had been working for about six months. I started in 1941 just before Pearl Harbor. At any rate, she was studying at the University of Wisconsin. She was studying labor economics. I got interested in that it turned out. I was taking the masters degree in statistics. I said, "I'm not really interested in that." I really was interested in the labor economics, labor history so I got really deeply involved in it,

started sitting in on courses and taking some. Then towards the end of the war when they were closing up the operation, I decided I wanted to get into the labor movement because I wasn't a union guy. My father had been an active—not a leader—an active member of the garment workers for—

Q: Ladies' garment workers?

GLAZER: Ladies' garment workers.

Q: Which local?

GLAZER: The cloak makers. Cloak maker. So we got the union newspaper.

Q: We will be interjected occasionally by Mrs. Glazer but she has to get closer to her microphone.

MRS. GLAZER: You officially changed your major. It wasn't just that you sat in on courses.

GLAZER: Yes. Well, I took some courses.

MRS. GLAZER: You went toward a masters in economics.

GLAZER: Yes but most of the courses that I took later on at NYU (New York University). I didn't—

MRS. GLAZER: That's true.

GLAZER: But I started out—

MRS. GLAZER: If we had stayed in Madison you would have had your masters degree in economics.

GLAZER: Because Wisconsin was well known. We had Selig Perlman and Ed Whitty and so on so we got to be deeply involved in that. When the operation I was in was closing down—

Q: Let me interrupt for a minute and say that one of the things I want to do, because Mrs. Glazer was involved in work as a Foreign Service spouse later on, for purposes of the spouse oral history program, they will be getting and I will ask Mildred to sign the release also. They will be getting a transcript of this including what I hope to conclude with which is an interview with Mildred.

GLAZER: So anyway, I decided I wanted to get into the labor movement. I don't know if you ever knew Myrna Siegendorf?

Q: Oh. Sure. In Chicago. Yes.

GLAZER: She was one of Mildred's teachers. She was getting her PhD then as was Ben Stephansky and a lot of other people. Kaiser was around then I think. So she gave me the name of Larry Rogan. What's interesting, I didn't know anything really about the—I knew a lot about reading the labor movement. I read John Commons' four volumes and I read all of labor history about the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) and the (inaudible) but I'd never really been involved in the labor movement except at that point that I had earlier, that my father was an active union member but he wasn't a leader. He wasn't a business (inaudible). He was just a good solid union member. When they were on strike, he was on strike. When they worked, he worked. He read the paper. This is on the side, but it's a cute story.

After I went to work for the turnstile workers union, he complained to me. He was getting the ILGW (International Ladies' Garment Workers) paper. He got it in Yiddish. He used to read it thoroughly. One time he calls me. He says, "You know all those guys?"

I said, "Yes."

He says, "There's a big problem." He's getting two papers now. So that if one—They screwed up. He said, "You should straighten that out. It's a waste of money. I happen to know how inefficient their mailing operations are."

I said, "Pop, forget about it. Just read one."

He says, "No."

Sure enough I called up and talked to somebody and he stopped getting either one. It took a long time to straighten it out for him to get one. But at any rate, among the names she gave me was Larry Rogan. I didn't know Larry Rogan from a hole in the wall. He was the education director of a textile workers union, one of the best of the labor educators. This is kind of interesting. He interviewed me and he was looking for an assistant so that worked out all right. I thought I'd impressed him with my knowledge of labor history and I told him about John R. Commons. Turns out he didn't think very much of John R. Commons and Selig Perlman because he thought they were too conservative, too much business unionism. Larry still had a strong streak of socialism in him. At any rate, he hired me and years later I found out the reason why he hired me was not because of all these books I had read or he was impressed with my knowledge of labor history. During the conversation, it turned out that I had done shows in college—music kind of thing later that became famous for—and totaling and skits and so on and he was impressed with that because the textile workers had an active program of summer schools and they went in for singing and a show at the end. He thought that would be useful, which it turned out to be useful. So he hired me. That was one of the key reasons he hired me.

So I worked six years for the textile workers as assistant education director with Larry Rogan. That was very good because then I really learned a lot about the labor movement.

First thing you did—I figured I would start work. First thing you do is spend a month in New Jersey where they are organizing and handing out leaflets at 6:00 in the morning. I remember the first place we went—one of the first places we went to visit—which I had organized. It was a JP Clark, old Scots thread where a 1,000 workers—old Scotch ladies. Knock on this door. "Union get out of here!"

I said to myself, "Boy Glazer, this is going to be harder than I thought!"

But any rate I spent six years with the textile workers and learned a lot about the labor movement, did a lot of writing, teaching, so on. Then an opportunity came up in 1950.

MRS GLAZER: Did you want to mention your NYU?

GLAZER: Oh yes. Meanwhile—that's true. During that period I took courses at NYU towards a masters degree. I had enough courses I guess but I had never wrote a thesis. Bookie was in a couple of my classes. I took classes in business cycles and Lois McDonald on social security, Manuel Stein in labor law. So I got some pretty good—Collective bargaining, I forget who we had for that. So that was pretty good of course, except that I had to travel a lot so I missed a lot of classes. That was a useful kind of thing. In 1950 the rebel workers union out of Akron was looking for an education director. Somebody had recommended me. I took that job. That was in Akron, 1950–1961. That was 11 years, just about 11 years. That was very good because it was a completely different union. Different type of union than the textile workers union. It was a much higher wage union. It was mostly men. It was people heavily from the south, very few Jewish immigrants as they had—well the textile didn't have Jewish immigrants but in New England there was heavily immigrants.

Q: In any event, it was a union in an industry that was going up rather than down like the textile industry.

GLAZER: That's exactly it. And it was similar to the auto industry for example and it was completely differently run. I don't want to get into that. I don't think you have to get into that. So it broadened me and I was able to get to a lot of places around the country where I hadn't been able to—with textile it was mostly New England and South. With the rebel workers it was very heavily Midwest and I got to California, Canada—do

Q: I don't remember meeting you until you were with the rebel workers except for one time in New York while you were still with textiles. But am I correct in remembering that your first involvement in the Washington activities was with rubber rather than textile?

GLAZER: Yes. Yes.

Q: I remember your coming to Washington a few times, running programs.

GLAZER: That's right. But when I was with textile I didn't get to Washington much at all, hardly at all. But when I was with the Rebel workers I set up a whole series of

legislative institutes. So we've got three of them every year. So when I come in and set them up and get speakers—

Q: Was it in that connection that you first met Humphrey.

GLAZER: Yes. Well I had actually met Humphrey and Max Kampelman earlier in the 1940s in Minneapolis. That's a long story. I was going to Minneapolis in 1946, 1947—something like that—for Larry Rogan for the textile workers. We had about 3,000 members there. We had a problem. There was a lot of communist activity. There was a couple of guys who got in, Jacobson and some others—that were very close to communism that were giving our unions a hard time there. So Larry asked me to go out there and see what I could—run some programs, see what I could find out. Talking to Jackie Barber, she said, "There's a young fellow teaching at the university a Kampelman. You ought to go see him because he knows his way around."

I went to see Kampelman and that's how I met—Humphrey was just coming up. He was I think mayor.

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: I taught a few classes for Kampelman. We wound up putting up Max on our payroll as a part time teacher, which he did. It was legitimate. He taught classes and that made him eligible.

Q: He mentions this in his biography.

GLAZER: Yes. And he became a member of the central labor union that way. That was the beginning. We got some sophisticated people in there that were able to put the Communists—

Q: You say this isn't important for our project but one of the objectives of the project is to build into it an appreciation of the background that people come into the—

GLAZER: Oh right. So maybe it is important. That's right. All in all I got a pretty sophisticated, and in depth as they say, knowledge of union activity, of different kinds of unions, political activity inside the unions and so on. So it was important for trying to explain unions overseas. One of the problems is, I don't have to tell you, the labor movement is very complicated and very easy to oversimplify and in effect not tell them the truth about, not deliberately. Every question has a lot of nuances. Everything from why is there an old labor party to corruption in the labor movement.

Q: How about labor and politics?

GLAZER: I remember reading one of the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations) international lines. I think it was the AIFLD (American Institute for Free Labor Development). One of their guys in one of the

Caribbean countries or something was attacking one of the unions that was active. They had their own labor party. He was attacking the idea of a labor party and in very primitive terms as if he was in the United States. It was completely wrong for that particular country but he did not understand it. At any rate, I wound up with a pretty fair background on the theory and the history and also the practical operations of unions, of different kinds of unions too. The rebel workers—I had the good fortune—by then I got to be pretty well known doing labor songs. I was lent out to a lot of different unions just out of brotherly consideration. The clothing workers have called me, the auto workers, and generally they pick up my expenses and so I got to know a lot of other unions and that helped to broaden me. I traveled in almost every state and I even made a couple of trips, this was interesting, overseas. The first one was in France during the Marshall Plan days. That's when I met you over there, 1951 I think. It could have been 1951.

Q: This was May and June 1951, my first trip there.

GLAZER: Yes. That's right. We were both in France. We were walking around and we went to the restaurant trying to figure out how you say rare on the meat. That was a big, big problem. "saignant" (bloody) he said.

Q: That's bloody.

GLAZER: We were looking in the dictionary. But at any rate I spent a month—I think close to a month—a month in France, or maybe three weeks in France and a week in England singing and talking about the labor movement. Then later on—

Q: You were brought over there by our labor mission and—

GLAZER: Labor Missions. Yes. Of course at that time the Marshall Plan was a big operation. What was interesting to me, the ambassador for the Marshall—I guess he was called ambassador? He lived like a real big ambassador because he probably had more money to spend than the regular ambassador. It was a real powerhouse operation. I got a taste sort of, of overseas, experience working with the unions. Then I did another trip for the Histadrut to Israel for a couple of weeks. I guess that was all then.

Then we get to 1961. By then we had two things happen. We had a brand-new president, relatively new in the rebel workers, that was (inaudible). I was getting tired of breaking in union presidents. This was an ok guy but he was quite shallow. I'll give you a good example

Q: He succeeded a guy who was so wonderful.

GLAZER: It was Buckmaster. There was Joe Childs. Buckmaster was the president. He retired. The guy who was supposed to replace him was Joe Childs, the vice president. A magnificent guy but he died of a heart attack just before he was—

Q: As I recall your spirit at that time was sort of low because you looked forward to

Childs.

GLAZER: Yes. This guy Childs was sort of like a regular (inaudible), a great guy. A lot of vision, good strong rank and file guy. A wonderful guy, easy to work with. That was a terrible thing when he died suddenly. He was like 50 or 48 or something like that. His place was taken by a guy who kind of rose very fast and really limited, George Burton. Just to show you his limitation, he's probably dead now too—but at any rate, Buckmaster was a very honest guy. When he retired from the rebel workers, he also resigned from the Executive Council. A lot of guys don't do that.

Q: By Executive Council, you've got to define—

GLAZER: The AFL-CIO.

Q: AFL-CIO Executive Council.

GLAZER: He was on the AFL-CIO Executive Council. There's a lot of people, it's two separate things you know. You go on the council normally because you're the head of a big union but that's not necessarily so. But if you retire as president of your own international union, you still have your job as vice president of the AFL-CIO, which has a lot of prestige. In time they ask you to leave or you leave on your own. But most people leave reluctantly.

Q: By the way what's with the AFL-CIO vice presidency that goes to the teamsters?

GLAZER: The guy, McCarthy has already resigned, Bill McCarthy, and Cary has taken his place. So that was worked out. It was a little bit of a to do. Cary came there the first day of the meeting and McCarthy is sitting in the seat. The theory was—the reason he was elected at the previous convention—Cary had already been elected president but he hadn't taken a seat yet. The understanding was McCarthy would step down, but he shows up at the first meeting. But he just stayed a day.

Q: This is an aside from our—

GLAZER: This is aside. You'll have to do a lot of editing.

Q: So at that point—

GLAZER: But anyway, just to give you an idea, Buckmaster resigned anyway. He's a very honest man. He said, "I'm not president, I don't belong."

This guy Burton who became president writes a letter to George Meany as follows:

Dear Mr. Meany, I am president of the Rebel Workers and Buckmaster has resigned therefore I am ready to take over—

Q: That's what he thought.

GLAZER: He obviously didn't understand how Meany operated.

Q: And his educational director did not educate him on that.

GLAZER: Well, if he had asked me, the first thing I would have told him, "George, don't send that letter."

He said, "What do you want me to do?"

I said, "Next time you're in Washington, go see George Meany. Introduce yourself so he knows who the hell you are, you know?"

Who's George Burton? Second of all the seat doesn't belong to the Rebel Workers. It's elected by the convention as Meany tells him. He says, this seat does not belong to him. The AFL-CIO convention elects the proper because they elect whoever at that time Meany told them to elect. But he didn't understand. He never got on the board. Never. The Rebel Workers had about 200,000 members, close to, and so he never got on the board. Anyway, a couple other things I figured I'm getting tired of this. So then Kennedy came in and it was big excitement with Kennedy, especially they talked about a big labor program and at that time they talked about the Alliance for Progress of Latin America and they wanted to reach labor. I had had some Spanish in school. I said, "Gee this sounds interesting." I went to Washington. This is interesting, to try to work through the AFL-CIO. Couldn't get anywhere with them. How do you get a job you know? Finally, this is interesting, I almost forgot, Dave Burgess who I went to see, was then— I don't know if he'd come back from India already?

Q: Yes. He came back from India in '56.

GLAZER: He was with the State Department. I think he was in the Corridor Brigade. He might have been working on a job.

Q: Also, he might have been working with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) already.

GLAZER: I don't think he was. And I asked him if he had any ideas. He says, "Well, there's a guy named Wilson over at the USIA (United States Information Agency). Don Wilson who is the number two guy. Ed Murrow, he's a friend of his." He says, "I'll give him a call."

I said, "Don Wilson. I think he was in the Kennedy campaign." I worked with Humphrey and I met him, you know, ran into him a couple of times.

Q: I think you should spend a minute or so describing your work for Humphrey and the nomination facets. Your closeness to Humphrey later becomes very important.

GLAZER: Well, when I was with the Rebel Workers, Humphrey—of course I knew his number one guy Max Kampelman very well—and I knew Humphrey very well. He used to speak almost always to our group in Washington when we had him there. He'd always make room for us. I'd work him into a schedule. I always got him to speak to our conventions. Max Kampelman came out. We had a meeting of politics in Akron. He came out there. He came to our institute. We were pretty friendly.

Q: It's interesting when you wanted a job you didn't go to your political—

GLAZER: That's interesting? Yes.

Q: I would have—

GLAZER: I suppose.

Q: If you ever asked me at that time, I'd say forget about anybody.

GLAZER: I don't know why I didn't go to Humphrey. He was Senator then.

Q: Yes. He was Senator.

GLAZER: That's true.

Q: On the Foreign Relations Committee.

GLAZER: But at any rate, I was secretary I guess we called it, of the Labor Committee for Humphrey. How'd he become secretary? You know Joe Rout and Max, they were talking to each other. They called me up. They wanted to get some labor support. I remember going to Joe Rout's house and sitting there. We had to set up a labor committee, so I had the job. You know how you do. You call up guys, you make a letterhead. We had Joe Carth who was a Congressman, former staff representative of the OCAW (Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers), the chemical workers. He was from Minnesota. He was the chairman. Of course he didn't do anything. You know I sent out the letters and the requests and set up meetings and did what we could. We were operating on a shoe string then. But it was to get labor support for Humphrey.

One time at one of the big IUD (Industrial Union Department) meetings—that was the Industrial Union Department—we set up a very nice reception for Humphrey. We got hundreds of people. Humphrey was so good. He was standing—there was no platform or anything—standing on this table. You know those banquet tables that you pull out the legs? Jesus, It's rickety. He says, "What is this the Republican Platform I'm standing on?" You know just quick as hell.

But at any rate, that's how I got involved with Humphrey. When Burgess mentioned Wilson, I said, "Jesus, this guy he was working for Kennedy when I was working for

Humphrey." Even though we beat each other over the head, we still ran into each other.

Q: Ok. Joe would you continue?

GLAZER: You want me on the politics?

Q: Yes. Just continue with your political background, which establishes really what you did—

GLAZER: Well, as you know in 1960, there was a big battle for the presidency. In the primaries, the two big candidates were Kennedy and Humphrey. They were two of the leaders anyway. I worked very closely with Humphrey in Wisconsin. I'd go there almost every weekend. I'd arrange—you know how you can do it. We had three or four locals in Wisconsin so I'd arrange a meeting in La Crosse with the local on Friday night and then Saturday and Sunday. I'd be able to work on my own time and come back Monday morning. So I did that quite a bit, working with the unions there.

Q: Did your union support either Humphrey or Kennedy at the time you were working on your own?

GLAZER: This is interesting. Of course, Joe Childs, who was the number two guy, he was crazy for Humphrey. Buckmaster was the president. He was more proper.

He'd say, "We'll stay out of this until—" He was a very—

Joe Childs, said, "Screw it. We're going." So he would let me go anywhere.

But I was always careful to do it within the bounds of propriety. I just wouldn't go running around for Humphrey. For example, when they had the big primary in West Virginia, I took a week off. An absolute week off because I don't think we had any locals in West Virginia. I spent the whole week running around West Virginia singing, talking, organizing and so on. If Humphrey had had any real funds, they could have put me on the payroll. I could have taken a leave for three months or four months, but they just couldn't do it. That was his big problem. He learned about these things. He had this guy working, director of Wisconsin. He was a lawyer from Minnesota.

I said, "Where is this director?"

"Oh, he lives in Duluth and he comes down whenever he can."

I said, "What the heck kind of director is that?"

He said, "Well, he's got a job."

That's the way. Whereas Kennedy had guys planted in every city. He had a whole Irish Mafia. They were good. They were in there early. You could be sure they didn't have to

send in any expense accounts. He had cousins and uncles and relatives—the brothers and the brother-in-laws—all there. A lot of factors too.

Q: What amazes me, with respect to your Foreign Service, that it didn't occur to you at that point to go to Humphrey when you wanted a job in the government when you finally decided—

GLAZER: Yes. I don't know. To tell you the truth, I don't know. I'm trying to think of why I didn't? Or to Max or somebody.

MRS. GLAZER: Because you were trying to get in on your merits and your ability.

GLAZER: I suppose. And maybe—I wasn't desperate. You know I was—

Q: But Burgess knew less about your abilities than Humphrey does.

GLAZER: True. Yes. I did have to go to Humphrey one time. I don't know if I should mention it now or later after Mexico? That's when I should go to it.

Q: Yes. Let's keep that in time then.

GLAZER: Yes. I'll keep that in the time element. Anyway, so when I went up—this is how things work. Not just in government but almost anywhere. I went up to see Wilson. He's the number two guy you know, very powerful in the USIA. I was able to see him. We talked. He interviewed me. We talked mostly about the campaign. Kennedy, Humphrey. Of course when Humphrey got beat in West Virginia, he was very smart.

He says, "We've got to go Kennedy."

Kennedy had spent so much in West Virginia, it was almost obscene you know.

Humphrey said, "Look, if we had the money, we would have spent it." West Virginia is the kind of place where you can use endless amounts of money. It's corrupt from top to bottom. It's part of the system. It's all in the day's work. So you know, you don't even feel like you are doing anything wrong. I could tell you stories that would make your hair stand on end that I learned about. So his guys, when Humphrey got beat in West Virginia, which they had hoped to win, some of his guys wanted to put out a statement blasting Kennedy for spending all that money. Humphrey wouldn't let them. He congratulated him and so on.

"Kennedy's going to be the candidate and we've got to work with him."

Q: Did you read how Max covers that period in his biography?

GLAZER: Yes. Yes.

Q: Very interesting.

GLAZER: Yes. I'd been in West Virginia.

Q: Did you immediately turn to helping Kennedy or were you so bitter that you didn't want to help him?

GLAZER: No. As a matter of fact, I did a record for Kennedy. I sang at a couple of his rallies. I sang at a rally right here in Arlington. Was it in Arlington? A big high school rally. That was a fun remembrance, 10,000 people. It was in the early days. He remembered me from—well, we had him speaking to our legislators. I didn't like—we had a fair membership in Massachusetts but I didn't like to invite Kennedy because he was a lousy speaker in those days. This was the 1950s. I remember. He was also hard to get, hard to pin down. I remember one time, we had some guys from Massachusetts so I said, "Well, we'll get Kennedy." He came right away even though he was busy. The way he talked. I said, "Jesus. Boy this guy's obviously—" He was shaking everybody's hands.

Q: He had something in mind.

GLAZER: I said, "Maybe this guy's really running for president." This was after '56 when it looked like you know he should. But at any rate, where the hell was I?

Q: You were talking to Wilson at the USIA.

GLAZER: Oh yes. So we're talking mostly about the campaign. I mentioned this crazy rally. They were waiting for the candidate. You know how it is. They were always late. He was in a motorcade which was stuck. I'm up there—

Q: Was this the one in Arlington?

GLAZER: Arlington. I'm up there.

They said, "Stall and lead the singing."

So I really had to jump and stall for Kennedy. I had all kinds of stuff. Then they started passing around buckets for money and I worked up a ditty right there.

"Put a buck in the bucket for Jack."

He comes in and they're all razzing and singing and swinging. I sat down because they were introducing Kennedy. Kennedy says to me because he knew who I was, "Joe, boy you should go to all the rallies."

I should have followed up on it but telling it to me is no good. If he told it to one of his guys—but then I went to one or two others but I never pushed to get in on it.

The guy introduced—and this is kind of funny in politics—he's a state senator or assembly man or whatever just as 10,000 people present. He starts talking, "We have with us the man who—He graduated from—He was in the Navy—" He tells this whole PD. He was in the House."

And the people were—I could see Kennedy sitting there. This guy was going on forever. Finally a roar came up from the people. "We want Kennedy!" They drove this guy right off the stage. That was the funniest thing. This jerk, he just didn't know when to stop talking.

But any rate, back to Wilson. He picks up the phone. I told him what I was interested in getting. He picks up the phone. He calls a guy, Bill Websby, the personnel director—

Q: Whom I knew well, later in India.

GLAZER: He's the personnel director there. Very fine fellow. He says, "Bill, you got a minute to see a fellow I got here? I'd like you to talk with him. I think he'd be a good man for your labor program."

I could hear him say, "Oh yes."

What was he going to say? "No. I don't have a minute for you."

Q: Now you say for your labor program?

GLAZER: For the USIA Labor Program.

Q: Then under Weiszman?

GLAZER: Let's see. I don't know if Gouseman was there? This was specifically for Latin America.

Q: I see.

GLAZER: So it wasn't under any one head. Bernie Weiszman I think might have been gone by then. and Bill Gouseman might have been—I think Gouseman was the labor advisor then. So I went down to see him. He starts telling me about this program. They have Mexico, Rio De Janeiro, (inaudible). That's when, I don't know if you recall, I came over to see you. I had to fill out one of these forms. The problem was they wanted to give me a four see, at that time. An FSO (Foreign Service Officer) four—

Q: FSR (Foreign Service Reserve) or FSO?

GLAZER: FSR four I guess. I don't know why I came over to see you? Because somebody told me you were an expert on these things.

Q: Well, I don't deny I was the expert, but I don't recall. I knew who you were.

GLAZER: We went over the thing carefully because one of the problems was they said because of my salary, they couldn't give me a three. But then you figured out number one and with the Rebel Workers, I got a free car every 18 months that was worth $2,000.00 or whatever a year, that I had free health insurance where they contributed at both ends, they paid for lunches, they paid for this and that, and a non-contributory pension.

Q: Gee, this is smarter than I thought I was.

GLAZER: By the time you fixed that up, damn, I got the three.

Q: You got the three?

GLAZER: I got the three.

Q: Did it ever occur to you to give me some sort of a commission?

GLAZER: Ten percent. You forgot about that. I remember. You were working for Esther. Would you have been working for Esther then?

Q: Esther Peterson? Sure.

GLAZER: '61. Anyway I got assigned to Mexico and I went as labor information officer. Now we get into the program. But this was a very interesting—

MRS. GLAZER: I don't know if you want to mention this but you were actually given the choice of Mexico, Buenos Aires, or Rio De Janeiro.

GLAZER: The best choices.

MRS. GLAZER: We sat down with an encyclopedia and read up on the three cities.

GLAZER: Well, Rio we figured was Portuguese.

MRS. GLAZER: We decided that—

Q: You also would have gotten the post report I hope?

GLAZER: I don't know if I got it that early.

MRS. GLAZER: I don't think we knew about post reports.

GLAZER: Maybe. I'm not sure if that early I got it?

MRS. GLAZER: No.

GLAZER: Maybe later on we got it?

MRS. GLAZER: We decided it would be more beneficial for the kids to learn Spanish rather than Portuguese. Also that family and friends would come to visit us more readily in Mexico City and we heard and you know we read that (inaudible) was more of a European type country so we went to Mexico.

GLAZER: I went to school for, what was it six months, here in Washington?

MRS. GLAZER: It was like sixteen weeks.

GLAZER: Sixteen weeks. What is that? Yes, that's less than six months. I went back and forth to Akron every other week on the train, on the night train. On the night coach.

Q: You mean you were still working for the textile workers?

GLAZER: No, no. I quit. The family was still there finishing school and selling the house and all that kind of stuff. So I was still living—Of course, see they didn't pay when they bring you to Washington. They paid maybe for—I don't know a few weeks of per diem or something—I can't remember what, and that's all. They didn't pay for the family.

Q: Where did you live?

GLAZER: I had a good deal. You know Marvin Friedman?

Q: Oh yes.

GLAZER: The bachelor. He lived in Georgetown. I used to walk across the bridge. He had an extra room, wouldn't take any money. Originally I was going to stay a few weeks with him and think about something else but he enjoyed it.

Q: So you were living here temporarily with Marvin.

GLAZER: It worked out very well because the Spanish was very intensive all day and at night you were supposed to study. But it was good for Marvin because I took him around every time there was a party or a dinner. I said, "I've got my friend here, I'm staying with, ok?" And I brought him around so he enjoyed that kind of thing. And then I wound up in Mexico.

MRS. GLAZER: You might mention I don't know if it's important, you had a lot of friends in Washington who worked with the labor movement, who invited you to their homes and so it wasn't really like you were thrown into Washington. So many of the Foreign Service folks hated the Washington assignment.

GLAZER: No. I enjoyed it, except you did have this financial problem. Then we sold the

house.

MRS. GLAZER: Did you tell him how you sat up in the coach a couple times?

GLAZER: I'd go back Friday night every other week, Friday night and come back Sunday morning. Not Sunday morning, Monday morning. That was tough, but you know, that was life. I have one funny story. When we drove down to Mexico and we—

Q: This was your first trip down?

GLAZER: First trip. Yes. I'd been once in Tijuana you know as a tourist. This was the first trip. We stopped in New Mexico at a friend's house—this was Morris Friedman—as a part of the trip. When we get there, there's a message from my sister, "Call the office."

I said, "What the hell's going on?" Call the office. Murrow's office.

This guy says—Murrow's assistant—, "You've got to come back and talk to Murrow."

I said, "What?"

He said, "Well something's happened."

I said, "Jesus Christ. What the hell is going on here?" I was really upset. I said, "When?"

He said, "You've got to come back right away. Get on a plane. We'll pay for your fare."

Q: Where were you at this point?

GLAZER: I was on my way to Mexico.

Q: Yes. Where?

GLAZER: I was in New Mexico. Albuquerque.

MRS. GLAZER: The furniture was crated and on the way.

GLAZER: I said, "Geez. Something must have happened. I thought maybe they were canceling the thing." I remember having to take a plane to Denver and flying in. We set it up for Monday morning—it was a weekend—to see Ed Murrow. I couldn't imagine what the hell was going on. I thought something was screwed up. In a way it was good because it was my only chance. I never had talked to Murrow. So in the morning I go down and see Murrow. Nine o'clock in the morning, go in the office. First thing is he's tall, taller than I was. I never realized that—6'3", skinny. Ashtray is already full of cigarettes. That's what killed him you know, smoking. I don't know if he called me Joe? I guess he called me Joe. He was a little—looked kind of surprised that they brought me. You know a guy says, "I've got to talk to this Glazer." He was surprised that the guy—

Q: —that they went to the trouble of getting you back. He probably—

GLAZER: He wanted to talk to me on the phone. He had a problem. I'll tell you in a minute. He was surprised that they brought me in. He said, "They brought you all the way back?" He thought it was crazy, which it was.

I said, "What was the problem?"

It seems before—now get this—Well you know—he was worried about it—before I had been going to Mexico, there was a program in one of the restaurants, one of those talk shows, where somebody said I ought to go on there and sing songs, so I went on there. A little bit of promotion. I wasn't selling records then or anything.

"Where you going?"

"I'm going to Mexico."

"What are you going to be doing?"

Talking about Murrow, I made some crack about smoking cigarettes or something. It was kind of funny at the time. I thought, "Geez. Maybe he's worried about that, that I made a crack about him?"

Anyway it seems that somebody had heard this program, called his congressman and said, "they're sending agitators down there to start strikes."

The congressman got hold of USIA and it came to Murrow's office and he wanted to be sure that I wasn't doing anything wrong down there. He just wanted me to be careful in effect. That's what it really was.

Which I said, "Look. I understand."

He said, "That's ridiculous. You know if you've got any sense at all, you don't go around leading strikes in Mexico." But he just wanted to be sure. They were watching.

MRS. GLAZER: As you told it to me you hit some of the need for labor unions and you talked about some industries that still had some very bad conditions and it probably was a congressman who was not very pro-labor.

GLAZER: I think he was talking about why are the unions so powerful and corrupt and this and that.

Q: The point is the different reaction of Murrow to this, which was I'll be happy to talk to the guy and set him straight about what he's supposed to do, whereas under different circumstances in the McCarthy period before and even later on in the post Kennedy

period, that would be a mark against a guy.

GLAZER: He was very friendly. He just wanted—Don't get him in trouble, you know?

I said, "Don't worry about it." He was assured and I'm grateful in one way. It gave me a chance to get a real close up of Murrow, which I never would have gotten, and then he died a little bit after that.

Q: But that's well within this question of the reaction of the agency, the USIA or the State Department, to criticism that comes from outside.

GLAZER: That's right. Well you know how congressmen or senators, they are very sensitive to that. But Murrow understood our role as labor information officers which I'll get into and that it was important to reach working people in these countries, and labor leaders and so on. Not just the top businessmen and government.

Q: Before you arrive in this discussion, before you arrive in New Mexico, say a word about how you were trained for this job aside from your language training.

GLAZER: Of course, the big thing was the language, which was the technical thing, then you just have to go at it. In addition to that, we had some pretty good training on Latin America. They'd bring in experts. I remember the one thing that somehow sticks out in my mind, even though it wasn't Mexico. They brought a guy who was an expert on Brazil. I remember him talking about the three kinds of Brazil, the black polar, the European, the German and the Italians and the Japanese, so we got some pretty sophisticated lectures on the culture and the history of Latin America so that was good. They also had some interesting things on American culture. They had a guy do jazz for instance. What else did they have?

Q: When you say "they" have, is this the Foreign Service?

GLAZER: USIA.

Q: Oh this is the training at the USIA? Not the Foreign Service or the State Department?

GLAZER: No. Well the first part, the culture, was—

Q: FSI (Foreign Service Institute)?

GLAZER: FSI. That was FSI. Some of the other things were USIA.

Q: This is general cultural stuff?

GLAZER: Background of the area.

Q: But as far as labor, you didn't take the labor courses?

GLAZER: No. No. I didn't take any of that. No. I was in with a group of young FSOs who were being broken in.

Q: Ok. We left you at New Mexico.

GLAZER: Anyway, I ended up in Mexico City. There were a couple of things. Number one, of course this was the first time we'd been overseas with a family.

Q: You had all three children with you?

GLAZER: Yes. No. Two. Did we have Daniel?

MRS. GLAZER: Well, the third one came right after he finished his school.

GLAZER: Yes. He was in Akron finishing high school.

Q: Right.

MRS. GLAZER: No he wasn't. Just a semester, junior year.

GLAZER: Oh yes. Junior year. That's right, finishing the junior year. So anyway, the big problem—and I think this is fairly general because once you have more experience it's a real hell of a shock you know—for the family, you've got the language problems, the customs and a place to live. You've got a lot of things. Millie can get into that later, about finding a school for the kids. I don't want to get into that. Millie would probably be better at that than I am. But that was a hell of a thing to get settled there. But at the same time it's exciting and so forth. The other thing was—and this was interesting—this was the first time that we had a labor information officer. Now this is of course very (inaudible), so I'm attached to the USIA and we had the labor attaché who was attached to the embassy. The labor attaché was Bill Taylor. Not Bill Taylor. Was it Bill Taylor?

Q: No.

GLAZER: Before Bill Taylor. Taylor that used to be with you—

Q: Barney Taylor—

GLAZER: Barney Taylor.

Q: —who served with me in France.

GLAZER: Barney Taylor. It was obviously very, very early. I made one big error, which I didn't know about. Before going down there, I ran into Dan Benedict, who had been in Mexico for the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), and it was his apartment. He had a house there that he was leaving. He said it was a great house, a lot of

room and so forth—[End of Side A Tape 1]

I made one big political—one of the key things when you have information officers or labor attachés, you really have to work together because you are covering basically the same field. The theory is the information officer does the publicity and contacts labor where there is information or public relations involved and the labor attaché presumably is handling the political and the legislative and he's the direct voice of the embassy. But you have to work together otherwise it doesn't work.

Q: Now Barney Taylor left in '57. He left Paris to take a cut in salary and become a regular FSO in another Latin American country. Honduras or someplace like that.

GLAZER: Was that before Mexico?

Q: Before Mexico. Then he was sort of promoted and sent to Mexico. Now we're picking Barney. Barney has died.

GLAZER: Yes. He's gone. He'd come from the UAW (United Auto Workers) newspaper guild. He was an able writer, but kind of a big ego.

Q: Enormous ego.

GLAZER: I say big. You say enormous. I won't argue with you. So Dan Benedict, I don't know how, I met him somewhere through (inaudible)?

He said, "I got a place down there, a gorgeous place." He's going to be leaving.

I said, "Fine." So I talked to Millie and we sent some money down there. I guess we paid rent.

MRS. GLAZER: Several months' rent.

GLAZER: We paid two months' rent. We come down there. Ah. He says it's a big this, big that. It was just very ordinary, right Mil?

MRS. GLAZER: And we had three kids.

GLAZER: We said, "That's not for us."

MRS. GLAZER: We liked to garden.

GLAZER: We tried to get out. Did we ever get our money back?

MRS. GLAZER: No. He was sort of insulted. I guess he still holds it against us that we turned our noses up at it.

GLAZER: But more important, that's just an aside. I didn't realize that Benedict and Taylor were political enemies. You know the whole story. I don't want to get into that. So right away Taylor has me plugged as I'm a Benedict man or an anti-Lovestone guy. I don't know what the hell. I would have had trouble with him anyway, but he was very noncooperative.

Q: He also flouted himself as an information specialist because he was—

GLAZER: That's another problem. He, for example when they had the big national convention—it was only every five years, it was coming up very soon—he didn't tell me about it. I was just green. Normally what he should have done is say, "Glazer, let's go down." He's going down to the meetings and he didn't tell me at all about it but fortunately I had some other contacts there. Remember Fernando Mergosa?—

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: —who was the UAW metal workers guy down there. I got to know him, maybe through Benedict, I don't know. He got me a ticket or a seat or whatever the hell it involved. Anyway, that was not too good a situation there. Fortunately for me, Taylor left fairly early. He was there about six months or so.

Q: Did he go off to Vietnam?

GLAZER: Yes. Maybe he did. I can't remember.

Q: That's where I next—

GLAZER: Maybe that's so. And his place was taken by—

MRS. GLAZER: Irving Statler.

GLAZER: Irving Statler, who was quite a character. The one thing about Irving for me was he depended a lot on me to write a lot of stuff and we traveled around together.

Q: Say a word about Irving.

GLAZER: He's a real screw ball.

Q: He's from the ILGW?

GLAZER: Yes, right. And the Jewish Labor Committee.

Q: And the Jewish Labor Committee. A longtime labor trade union employee and activist on the AFL side of AFL-CIO disputes. Right?

GLAZER: Well, he was once with the CIO war relief committee in New York.

Q: Is he still living by the way?

GLAZER: He may be.

MRS. GLAZER: I think he's in retirement.

GLAZER: I think he's in retirement but for years he was right out of the service. What do you call them?

Q: Selected out.

GLAZER: Selected out. He wound up in Florida not doing very much. I don't know where he is. But anyway, so that was kind of interesting. That was better for me because we worked very closely together.

Q: He had a better sense of his limitations.

GLAZER: Yes. He would like to brag and bullshit. I'll tell you a funny story. He had a good deal. He spent six years or seven years in Brazil, about five or six years in Argentina then he goes to Mexico. He spoke terrible Spanish with an Argentine accent, with a little Portuguese thrown in.

Q: How is your Spanish by this time?

GLAZER: My Spanish was quite good. I made speeches in Spanish down there. I studied, worked at it hard. That's a very important thing, the language thing. People should not underestimate that. Every day I was at the embassy for months. I had an hour a day and I used to read the paper every day, mark all the words and so on. So I worked at it all the time. That's real work, like when you go out and you interview and you're talking. You come back and you have a goddamn headache. You're under pressure all the time, if you go to a party, if you're doing Spanish all the time. With us it's an acquired thing. We weren't born with it. You're talking about politics and labor and the economy so it's not just—

Q: The nuances of language.

GLAZER: Very important. You don't want to miss stuff. If they figure you know Spanish they are rattling away. Boy you have to work all the time. When you are in a Spanish setting or if you're at a meeting. If anything is important. That's really working. It's like lifting buildings all day.

Q: Well, describe your day to day activities as labor information officer.

GLAZER: Well, among the major things that we did, we had a monthly publication called El Obrero (The Working Class), which I edited, but I had a full time Spanish

assistant so that we got it into the proper Spanish. I either wrote most of the articles or we got stuff from Washington—

Q: You used to get a packet every—?

GLAZER: Yes. At that time the USIA was really active on the labor front. There was a full-time guy named Norm McKenna, very fine fellow. I don't know if he had a lot of labor background. He was more of a journalist but he had some. I guess he was active in the union. He'd send out all kinds of articles and literature. Some of it was useful and some wasn't. It was news reports and so on. You could pick out stuff from there. We also had a press wire and there'd be occasional labor articles.

Q: You had a translator?

GLAZER: Yes. I had a full time—

Q: Or did they send them out in Spanish?

GLAZER: No. They were mostly sent out in English. But I had a full-time guy work for me. He worked full time for me. He was my translator.

Q: How large of a staff did you have?

GLAZER: I had this guy, I guess a secretary. What was his name? I can't even remember his name.

Q: An English-speaking secretary? An American?

GLAZER: Yes. Bilingual. Francisco Relalial. I didn't have an American assistant or anything. Now the labor attachés generally have an assistant. We had a couple. Some were good. Some were not so good. We had this one guy. What the hell was his name? I can't remember his name, who tells me—he says—oh, no this is Shay, Jim Shay.

Q: Jim Shay?

GLAZER: Jim Shay was fine. He wasn't there but he tells the story about the kind of guy Saler was. We always kid about Saler, this was in Brazil I guess, when Shay was there. Some guy would come in to see Saler. Saler was tired of him. Saler would go out to see Shay and says, "Hey give this guy some books—"

Q: Was Shay his assistant?

GLAZER: Yes. In Brazil. Saler, if I remember the story right, Saler would say, "Give this guy a couple of books and get him the hell out of here." But at any rate—

Q: And for those of us who feel that a labor background is very good for labor attaché, a

trade union background, we have to note that there are disadvantages if they are selected improperly or if they don't have the—

GLAZER: Oh, yes. Right. Right. It's important to know about the American labor movement so if you are interpreting it or trying to interpret it, you know what the hell you're talking about and also you understand how it fits in and how it may not fit in where you are. That's very important. As far as an information officer, you have to have some information about his PR abilities and so on. You have to be able to work with the labor attaché. The USIA is in effect at the disposal of the labor officer. For example, I remember, this is years later, I am getting something from a guy in New Zealand or someplace. He wanted a certain labor book, how could he get it? He was the labor attaché. He's got USIA guys right there, who can get the books for him but he had nothing to do with them, you see. I tried to put the two of them together, but the USIA guys—

Q: This is in your later capacity which we'll be discussing?

GLAZER: This is in my later capacity as labor advisor. It's a different thing. The labor information officer, if you have one, is very important to make in effect the labor attaché much more effective. One of the programs we had was when there was a hall opening up or some kind of meeting, I'd supply Saler, he's the labor attaché, so he'd be official representative of the embassy as far as labor. I'd put together a group of books, which we had or we could get, and he could make the presentation. So it was a joint exercise.

Q: This is important in understanding problems that we had later on in Great Britain or simultaneously or even before in Great Britain. You looked upon yourself, not as under the labor attaché, but serving the interest of the labor attaché's operation.

GLAZER: At best, it's a real tricky business.

Q: But it's far different from the problem that Bill Gouseman had. Gouseman being unwilling to serve the interests of a labor attaché with whom he disagreed so much.

GLAZER: That was a bad—

Q: That was in London, in the 50s. Even before that.

GLAZER: One of them should have gone, you see. Which one I don't know but they obviously were—

Q: The answer to that situation is both of them should have gone. It was impossible to have two such directly opposite types of people and types of interest because one was so pro CIO and one was so pro Lovestone. Ok. I appreciate—

GLAZER: I didn't have that kind of problem at all with Saler. I guess he wasn't too smart or I don't know what the hell it was. He had a big ego. In many ways, he wasn't a nice

guy. He was a bit of a bullshit artist. Just one of the examples, one time Humphrey was coming into town and—was he vice president then? I don't know if he was vice president or senator?

Q: He wasn't vice president until '68.

GLAZER: No. No. That's right. He was Senator. Senator. He was very powerful, big. The ambassador, I guess, somebody who was in charge, knew that I knew him and asked me to go out to the airport to meet him.

I said, "Fine."

Saler came out. Meanwhile Saler had been telling me how he and Humphrey when Humphrey was in Argentina—

He and Humphrey— like they were buddies, you know? We go out to the airport, Saler says to me, "Hey Joe, introduce me. Introduce me."

He didn't know him from a hole in the wall. All of a sudden the truth came out that Saler was just bullshitting. You know he might have met him once, but he gave the impression—

"When I was in NYU—"

Turns out he spent a year or six months at NYU.

"When I was state director for the CIO in New York—"

"When were you state director?"

"Well, I was director of the CIO Community Services Committee in the State."

That's quite a difference. He had a tendency to bullshit his way—

But sometimes I have to say, it would work out. We used to travel around the state or Mexico together quite a bit. He could have done it himself, reporting and so on, but he liked company. I was useful to him because I would generally do the reports. So we'd stop at a big GE plant up north and we'd go inside. We were in the personnel director's office. Saler has his pipe. The first question is, "What kind of wage do you pay here?" Real diplomatic.

"Well, we pay a pretty good wage."

He says, "I'd like to know what your rates are?"

He said, "Well, that's hard to tell."

Saler says, “Well don’t you have a rate book here with all the rates?

The guy is kind of floored. He says, “Yes. We do.”

“Well, I’d like to take a look at it.”

I said, “Geez” I’m embarrassed like hell.

We’re only there five minutes, Christ the guy pulls out the book. I mean he can get sometimes—he had so much hutzpah. He’d get away with this goddamn stuff.

Q: You wouldn’t have reached that for two hours.

GLAZER: Jesus Christ. So I don’t know. Maybe—

Q: You might need both types, in case you don’t feel that great by the way.

GLAZER: He got himself into a lot of different kinds of trouble too.

Q: You were more diplomatic than he was.

GLAZER: Christ. Oh my god. I tried to be. One time the AIFLD or the ORIT (Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores) (Inter-American Regional Organization), would have Mexico as a stop. They’d bring a group up to the U.S. and they’d stop in Mexico on the way down. Irving generally would talk with them in his broken Spanish and this was a group of Argentineans. The next day he talks to them. The next day there’s a story in the paper which is kind of a pro-commie, some new sheet it was, friendly to the commies. “American diplomat insults Argentineans. Calls them corrupt and so on.”

Somebody from the group had quoted Saler. I heard Saler—

Q: Was there a germ of truth in the—?

GLAZER: I had heard Saler say 100 times about Argentina, if they had a few thousand honest people in that day, they had a great country, they could make a real country out of it.

Q: The irrelevant truth?

GLAZER: Yes. Probably right about it. Anyway, the ambassador called him up, gave him hell. He said, “They’re misinterpreting me.”

Q: How long did you stay in Mexico?

GLAZER: Three and a half years.

Q: Generally a pleasant experience?

GLAZER: I would say overall yes. Overall probably the biggest thing you learn—I remember we went down there with the Alliance for Progress—you remember that was going to be a big program to end—I don't know if I heard Humphrey or somebody said, "End poverty in 10 years." Thirty years later, we still have some in the United States.

Q: That was supposed to be the Marshall Plan adapted to that—

GLAZER: Well, the one thing you learned, especially if it's a non-European country, the first thing you learn after a few years, you learn humility. You learn the problem of translating from the outside into a whole different kind of world of making any kind of really serious impact.

Q: The problems of adapting experience elsewhere.

GLAZER: Exactly. I always thought of India—We had quite a good program, had a good USIA program, good labor program and all that when we tilted to Pakistan. My question was how many millions of pamphlets would we have to put out saying that the USA is a nice country to counteract this tilt of power? You'd have to have pamphlets up to the moon. It just shows how so much is not within your control.

I suppose maybe this is a good time to get into this thing. I'll tell you this story about corruption. You learn about the Mexican labor movement. You hear it's corrupt. Well, what the hell. That didn't phase me. You read about corruption in the building trades and the hotel and restaurant workers and Jimmy Hoffa—no, he wasn't around—but Beck went to jail. You find out the differences in the kind of thing that you are trying to reach.

One time there was a restaurant, the Canarita Restaurant, dramatic kosher, a Jewish delicatessen. We got to know the guy, Goldance, who was half Jewish. It was kind of a weird thing. Two guys came in. He talks to them. They go in the back.

He says, "You know who those guys are?"

I said, "No. Who are they?".

He said, "They're my business agents."

I said, "Oh. You got a union here?"

"Oh, yes. We got a union here."

"Oh yeah, what were they checking up?"

"They're coming in for their pay."

I said, "What do you mean their pay?"

He said, "I pay them every month. They get paid."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "They're on my payroll."

I forget. It wasn't a lot of money, but just a regular thing.

I said, "You have a contract or something?"

He said, "I guess so."

The union was these two guys getting paid. I don't even know if he had a contract. If he did, it was just with these two guys. The workers (inaudible) had nothing to do with it.

Q: What if he stopped paying it?

GLAZER: Well if he stopped paying it—

Q: Then there's trouble.

GLAZER: Right. Next thing. Another business guy I talked to. This guy I knew had a lot of dealings. He said, "Is it true that all the unions are corrupt in Mexico?"

He said, "No. No. Not so. Not all the unions." He said, "Only about 95 percent."

Then I had my ultimate experience. There's a little union, packinghouse workers. RASTRO. The big RASTRO has a few thousand workers in Mexico. It's government owned. They have a few around. I think altogether the union might have had 10,000 or 15,000 members, national union. This guy was the secretary of the union. He has a party. We knew one of his assistants. We get invited. Big goddamn house. Boy really nice. Jeez, this guy lives. Got a big car. Couldn't figure it out too much. When I got to know—this was Oogle O'Torio, we got to know him pretty well actually. I said, "How do these guys do this? It's a small union. Where's the money?"

He says, "Well, you don't understand. Number one because he's the secretary of the union, he's a deputy of PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) (Institutional Revolutionary Party) party. That's number one."

Q: PRI?

GLAZER: Yes. PRI. "He's on the list and he's automatically a deputy."

I said, “That doesn’t pan out.”

He said, “Well that pays something.”

But the most important thing about a deputy—the things you have to learn, you don’t read these in the books—he has the rank to import a car every year, refrigerator, TV, you got it?

Q: Well that explains it.

GLAZER: A car at that time, let’s say, cost $8,000.00. Somebody would pay $16,000.00. He gets it right? So on and so forth.

We were talking about the (Inaudible). That was his name. Nice guy. Head of the packinghouse workers.

Q: He had the authority to bring in a car. That’s enough for me in India.

GLAZER: You know what that means. I mean that’s a lot of money. And of course televisions, radios, refrigerators, what else? How much he could bring in for other people I don’t know. Ok. So that was one thing.

I said, “Now I get it.”

He says, “That’s not the whole thing.” In addition he’s got a job in the RASTRO in the packing house,” which I went through. It’s a big packinghouse plant.

Q: Which he doesn’t have to perform at?

GLAZER: He said, “Well that’s the kind of job you should have, supervisor.”

I said, “Does he go there?”

The guy looks at me. “What kind of stupid question is that? He never shows up.” He said, “It’s a 100 percent no show job but he’s on the payroll and he gets a pretty nice—”

Q: Well as an old American trade unionist, he knew about no show jobs.

GLAZER: But I said, “Now it’s all clear.”

“But the main thing is—”

I said, “What is the main thing?”

Q: Now we’re getting to it.

GLAZER: He says, “The main thing is he’s got the contract from the RASTRO for the entrails and all that stuff.”

And in Mexico that’s a very big thing. They have special stores that sell that stuff. He’s the guy that’s got the contract from the RASTRO for all this stuff. It’s absolutely like having a gold mine you see and he’s in charge. I don’t know if he does anything, but that’s a big money maker. It’s like getting—you remember in Detroit the Mafia, Bennett had some guys getting who had the contract for the scrap iron. So there you are.

Then later I learned about the oil workers which was quite a story. One thing after another. When we get time, each one has its own story. So you can learn how—Jesus, this is not simple.

Q: From what you read in the papers, is this opposition to the PRI party a little bit different in terms of levels of honesty and propriety?

GLAZER: Well I think it’s probably some improvement. The PRI has been in so long and so pervasive. For example they’d have, if I remember the figure, 60 centers out of 60. They had 60 out of 120 or 200 deputies, the other side had 20, which they were allowed to have. Out of 40 governors, 40 would be PRI. So you get an idea. Sixty or 70 years like that, they were quite corrupt. They were quite corrupt. They were very clever at co-opting but it’s starting to crumble around the edges a little bit.

Q: Well, thanks Joe. I’ll catch you after you do your job for Harry Fleishman.

GLAZER: Harry Fleishman and I’m also doing a job on WQXR.

Q: Ok. Thank you very much.

Q: Mrs. Mildred Glazer has her own background in the labor field, which she’ll be describing and she accompanied Joe Glazer and the family down to Mexico City where he served as the labor advisor to the USIA mission there. Mildred, why don’t you begin by giving or supplementing what you already said in the interview with Joe about your education? You were the labor specialist I gather originally in the family. Go ahead.

MRS. GLAZER: My father was a union official. He worked for the joint board of the clothing cutters local of the (Inaudible) clothing workers. He used to run for election. He was always on the executive board. He was a reasonably powerful man. He frequently got more votes than the manager, who was really the head of the local.

Q: That created some problems I guess.

MRS. GLAZER: Yes. It did. But he was brought in by Sidney Hellman. There’s really quite a background. In growing up I always would hear of these elections and union strikes and I know that he was brought in by Hellman when he physically threw out what

he called the guerillas or the gangsters, like this Bugsy—

Q: Seal.

MRS. GLAZER: Yes.—who had grabbed control of the union. My father was very idealistic about what labor could accomplish and that sort of thing, and that rubbed off on me.

Q: Was he political?

MRS. GLAZER: Yes. He was always the captain, at first it was the Democratic party then it was the American Labor party, then back to the Democratic party. He would drive people to the polls. He was very political, very interested in politics. Never, I shouldn't say never—in his youth, before he married I would guess, before I really knew about it, he was a Socialist. But in my knowledgeable years I just knew him to be a Democrat or a follower of the American Labor party when Hellman played around with the American Labor party. So yes he was very active politically.

When I married Joe, and went to live in Madison, Wisconsin, I had two more years of schooling for an undergrad degree. I had had one course in economics at Brooklyn College with Theresa Wilson, who is a well-known economist, but I really hadn't hit on a major. The first two years at these city colleges, they required Psych I, Philosophy I, Sociology I—

Q: You had to fill the required courses.

MRS. GLAZER: Right. So I hadn't chosen—

Q: So you had two years in—

MRS. GLAZER: —at Brooklyn College.

Q: —Brooklyn College.

MRS. GLAZER: I was quite a snob about the city colleges of New York. I thought they were the best in the country. I had won a scholarship to Cornell and I said, "No. I am going to one of the best in the world by going to Brooklyn College."

Then we talked about getting married and Joe knew we could get stationed in Madison, Wisconsin. I actually went to the library at Brooklyn College to be sure that the University of Wisconsin was properly accredited. I wasn't so sure. It was only then that I said, "Yes, I'm willing to marry," because to me getting that college degree was very important.

Q: You could have asked Theresa Wilson. She knew all about Wisconsin.

GLAZER: That's true, but I didn't ask her. Anyway, I get there and we get introduced just before registration to Myrna Siegendorf, whose name cropped up before. She was working for a PhD in economics with Selig Perlman and she said, "You have to major in labor economics. It's the only major in this place. This place is known for it and it's the best program. What else would you major in? History?" She denigrated all the other subjects.

Q: I should interrupt at this moment because this is going to go into the spousal program, to mention the fact that in the labor field, the authoritative source of academic training for people in the field was the University of Wisconsin under the head of the economics there and Professor Commons and his protégé, Selig Perlman. A large group of people and the great value of this school in the labor administration field was that it was closely associated with the progressive party's dominance in the state legislature. As a result, the people trained there and got a very conservative labor training, but also had got good practical experience serving in secretarial and other capacities for the administration or the state government. As a result, subsequently, in the New Deal period, large numbers of academics and their professors went into the New Deal administrative organizations of Franklin Roosevelt.

MRS. GLAZER: Including Foreign Service.

Q: Including the Foreign Service. Yes. About which the labor diplomacy project has a whole lot of detail. Go ahead Mildred. I'm sorry to stop you.

MRS. GLAZER: It was only after a while that I realized Joe was looking at my books and he announced to me he was getting a degree in statistical probability no less. He was working full time, three different shifts around the clock as they changed every six weeks, at this Truax Field for the Air Corps teaching the physics of radio and code for the Air Force. He said, "I'm changing my major next semester."

I said, "What are you changing to?"

He's changing to labor economics because that interests him much more.

"Ok."

So then we had some of the same Profs. I would have them on the undergrad level and he'd have them at the grad level. Like Professor Perlman, but others as well.

All right. When we came back to New York when the job folded, we had won the war. The Allies had won the war against the Nazis and the war was sort of slowing down. All there was was Japan and we were making progress there.

He lost his job. It was a question of since he had started on a masters and was really into it and I was into it—he tried to get a job then with the AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) which had its headquarters in Madison, WI.

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Joe Murray was then with the union. Joe interviewed him and said, "No. There's no job here."

So we said, "We're going back to New York.*"*

And you heard about—maybe no one will read that part. Joe was then referred to someone with the textile workers union. What is a sort of side thing is that at the same time when Joe was looking for a job, he applied for a job with the Office of War Information. They locked him up in a room for two hours and he had to put out a newspaper for the overseas GIs. It was a Mrs. Van Doren, who was, I think the mother of Ms. Van Doren on the $62,000.00 question. The writer turned out to be a phony, who interviewed him and actually offered him a job at that time with OWI (Office of War Information). What is interesting to me is that, you know, that became USIA and years and years later, he did end up working for USIA. What was also of some note was that they offered something like $20.00 or $25.00 a week more pay than he was offered with the textile workers union.

He came back from that interview when he was offered the job, very despondent. Now maybe this has nothing to do with all this—

Q: Proceed.

MRS. GLAZER: All right. He walked in. It was plain he was very blue.

I said, "What's the matter?"

He said, "Well, they offered me the job.

I said, "Well, is that bad? You were offered the job."

He said, "Well, the trouble is it pays $25.00 more a week than what I could make at the textile workers."

In my youth and my naiveté and my idealism, I said, "Well, money isn't everything. If you want to work for the labor movement, you go ahead and take that job."

So that's really how he started. But I just found it intriguing that later on he wound up with the USIA which I considered I guess it was an Offshoot or a—

Q: Successor.

MRS. GLAZER: Yes—the OWI became when Joe decided to take
this job in Mexico and we talked it over, we hit on Mexico City rather than the other places. I was teaching. I was teaching full time and there were the kids.

Q: You were teaching full time in Akron, OH?

MRS. GLAZER: Yes.

Q: In elementary schools?

MRS. GLAZER: No. Secondary school. High school.

Q: Teaching what by the way? Economics?

MRS. GLAZER: Well, there wasn't much economics. I taught Economics where they had it but I taught civics. I taught social studies and I had had a minor in English so that I taught English as well. You had to have a major course of study and a minor to fill out a full program.

Earlier when the kids were smaller, and this is quite relevant for what I did in Mexico, and I didn't want to leave them with babysitters and that sort of thing, I waited until the youngest was attending kindergarten before I went to work full time. I found myself teaching several nights a week under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Women—that is they paid for this—and I taught English to beginners using stick figures, teaching them what a nose is, and an eye is; they knew no English. Most of them were very recent immigrants. Interestingly enough I don't think any or very few were Jewish. We had Greeks, Italians, all kinds, but the Council of Jewish Women paid for this.

But I also taught the questions and answers that you needed to know to become an American citizen. I found working with these adults very rewarding. More so ever than anything with students, the usual students age, as much as I liked to teach the bright ones. Later that came in handy when I was down in Mexico.

I stayed back and had to help sell the house and take care of the kids. Joe came home only every other weekend. So I had to—

Q: This is while he was studying Spanish?

MRS. GLAZER: While he was at the FSI and living in Washington. There was a good deal of strain attached to that. I had to be sure the kids didn't mess up. You'd have open house on a Sunday and I'd get upset if the towels in the bathroom weren't in order because I wanted the house to look at its very best.

I had had just two years of Spanish in high school. French was really my first love and I had had a good deal of French. I didn't have any of the courses that they have for briefing wives on diplomacy and making calls and that sort of thing because while he was there I was in Ohio. Then I paid a visit to Washington. We were staying at mutual friends, at the Dodys', and there was a phone call from the real estate sales person saying, "I have an offer."

Well, it was a pretty low offer.

Q: That's for your house in Akron.

MRS. GLAZER: For the house back in Akron. It was at least $6,000.00 less than what we had paid for it and everyone had said we had gotten a lot of value when we built our house, custom built it, but Joe said—and out of hand I said, "That's ridiculous."

But Joe said, "Let's think about it. We could hold out for a few thousand dollars more, you could be all alone still with the kids in Akron and I'll be down in Mexico because I'll have to get to work. The other way, we could drive down together and make a bit of a holiday on the way. We could both be there at the same time. You could go look for a place and get the family set in a place to live and so on, get the kids set."

I said, "Ok." We'll take this low offer." The first offer and we just accepted it.

Driving down I had the worrying of the wheels in my head yet. We had arrived at a motel in Mexico City when I got a call that there was a woman, it was a Mrs. Balenarasco—

Q: May I interrupt a moment?

MRS. GLAZER: Yes.

Q: At this point you have had no diplomatic training?

MRS. GLAZER: Absolutely none. Ok. I get this phone call from this Mrs. Balenarasco who is a true Foreign Service wife, that she was about to make the calls with another woman and would I like to accompany them. Calls being introduction to the agricultural attaché's wife and the—

Q: DCM's (Deputy Chief of Mission) wife.

MRS. GLAZER: Yes. Everyone on the list. Well we had just arrived. As a matter of fact I had a suitcase, we had come with suitcases in our car, but I didn't even feel I had proper clothes. I didn't have white gloves with me.

Q: How did you know you needed white gloves?

MRS. GLAZER: Well I was told that that's what you had to do.

Q: You were told by whom? Was this a book they gave you to read or oral?

MRS. GLAZER: No. Orally. Orally I was told this. Yes. As a matter of fact, I didn't have shoes that would match the outfit that I would want to wear, a pair of beige shoes. I remember going into a store in Mexico City to buy—even though packed up with our clothes that were coming down I had shoes that would work. I felt I had to get it sooner. I also remember that they tried to rob me at the store. They thought I was a tourist who

didn't know the value of the peso and so on. They didn't get away with it but that's neither here nor there. My first concern was getting the kids set in school. Secondly to find a place to live. We looked at this place where we had paid about three months' rent for this apartment that had belonged to Bennett who we knew—

Q: Benedict.

MRS. GLAZER: Benedict. Yes. We decided—we were used to a garden. The kids would like to play outdoors. Even though we had given away our hoses and garden equipment and ladders and so on, we decided no, we really didn't want an apartment. To us it felt too much like a jail and to the kids it certainly would after the freedom of having a private house. So there was that to contend with and I also wanted to learn as much Spanish as I could. They had the binational center where I could take Spanish training. I also still had the worrying of the wheels in my head. I said to Mrs. Balenarasco, "Sorry that I cannot accompany you. I have these important tasks first. I must see about the kids and school," and she was very put out.

Q: She was the wife of what sort of an officer?

MRS. GLAZER: He was with USIA too. A very able guy and she was a very fine woman and all that.

Q: Was he above in the hierarchy, was he above Joe, below Joe, same level?

MRS. GLAZER: I don't know. As far as I was concerned, they were at the same level. He was not the PAO (Public Affairs Officer) or anything. I had to turn her down I felt. I said, "I just wasn't up to it." I gather that she never quite forgave me for that. Not only was she put out at the time, but there was always a coolness where she was concerned. My own feeling was I had to do what I had to do as a mother and a spouse and that came first before being a Foreign Service wife.

Ok. The, of course call subsequently came and I was told which corner of a card you fold down. When they're home you fold down one part and when they're not home you fold down—I don't even remember any more, right or left corner and you leave that for the person that you called on.

Ok. On the business of adjusting, the kids were to go to the American school we felt. They were then in third and fourth grade, our two daughters. Our son was going to go into his senior year at the American school, the high school. We were taken by taxi to the school, which was in a godforsaken part of town. Someone had donated a very big pot of land to them and of course it was completely (inaudible) like a lot of the Mexican stuff was, but it was not near the tourist area or where the hotel was that we were staying in, near the embassy, but I knew that. I have always been good at looking at landmarks, not necessarily remembering the names of streets or route numbers but the greenhouse or the church over there with the steeple and so on. And I thought I had the route memorized. The children were registered the first day when we came with the taxi. The following day

they were all dressed up and they had their little notebooks and their braids all in place ready to start school and I'm driving them.

Q: This is the American school?

MRS. GLAZER: This is the American school. I got so completely lost. I started to go around in such circles. In Mexico, the custom is as maybe in other countries, when you ask directions, even if they don't know, whether it's a case of losing face or whether it's because they want to show they are helpful, they will direct you even though they don't know where you want to go. We drove around and around. I didn't want the children to know that I was very upset about this.

Finally they asked, "When are we going to get there? Aren't we there yet?"

I'd say, "No. No. We'll be there soon."

Finally I gave up and somehow I blundered upon the Reforma. It's the main street, the main drag of Mexico City and our hotel was located right off it. [End of Side B Tape 1]

Q: Ok. Joe. This is the second tape with Joe Glazer. We don't exactly remember, because the first tape is already inventoried, how far we got. We know we covered some of the relationships with the labor attaché and now we are going to proceed in the actual day to day work of the labor information officer at the mission level, that is at the embassy level. Later on Joe will be talking about his experience after Mexico, his experience back in Washington when he was operating as the head labor officer did they call it?

GLAZER: Labor advisor.

Q: Labor advisor at USIA Headquarters. So we are going back to Mexico and we've covered some of the interpersonal relations. You didn't cover anything about the, I don't believe Joe, about your relations with the ambassador and the political staff. You were in the sort of semi-independent agency, the USIA, but administratively under the ambassador, so how did you get along with the people in the embassy? What problems existed, et cetera? If any? I'm talking about not the labor people which you've already covered but the overall—

GLAZER: As you know sometimes there is tension with the USIA and the embassy but in our case it worked quite well. Talking about tension, I remember when Pat Moynihan was ambassador in India. We had a very strong—I don't know if you were there then. Were you there?

Q: I wasn't there.

GLAZER: We had a very strong PAO who had his own ideas of how to do things but you know who won.

Q: Yes. I know who won.

GLAZER: He went home. The ambassador is the boss after all. At any rate, first of all we were in the embassy which was kind of nice. A lot of the USIA posts are outside.

Q: Physically in the embassy.

GLAZER: We were physically in the embassy.

Q: This by the way was one of the problems in India. The fact that the USIA had this separate thing all the way downtown.

GLAZER: It was separate. We were—

Q: Wait a second. Having mentioned that, let me get in something that I assume will be—

GLAZER: I'll get to India later.

Q: Oh good. If you are going to cover India and USIA.

GLAZER: I'll cover India with the relations there with (inaudible)—

Q: Right. Ok.

GLAZER: All right. We had good relations. Of course the labor attaché was upstairs. He was the direct line to the ambassador but our PAO, we had several there, they got along well with the ambassador. We didn't have any guys that thought they were number one so it worked out quite well. We in effect, the USIA, as you know, is the public relations arm, the public information arm, the cultural arm and I as labor information officer specialized in the labor end of that. So it worked out pretty well. For example among the things we did, we had the whole printing and press operation so it made it easier for us to get anything if the labor attaché wanted something out. For example we put out a monthly magazine, little magazine, called El Obrero (The Working Class). Something like you did, not as elaborate, but a nice little magazine. We had a whole printing establishment and distribution system. We sent out thousands.

Q: You only had one language. Spanish.

GLAZER: Yes. Yes.

Q: We had at one time more than 10.

GLAZER: Ours really wasn't that elaborate. So whenever there was anything major that we were pushing as far as labor, a labor angle or even as far as an embassy angle, we did it. For example when Kennedy died, we were down there. That was a very, very big thing in Mexico. He had come down there. We had a special issue dedicated to Kennedy's visit

when he came down there with pictures tied in with the labor angle. It was really exciting. We had a very good layout guy. It was sort of a first-class publication. I put a lot of effort into it. We got stuff from Washington. Later on when he died we did a very special issue of Kennedy, always with the Mexican angle. We showed the line up at the embassy of people signing the book. So in effect, this was a way to reach labor people with the U.S. message.

At that time, Castro was riding high in Cuba, we worked some stuff in there. If I remember right I put in some stuff one time that was pretty strong anti-Castro; a set of cartoons that had come out somewhere. They were pretty funny but very, very strong. I got a call from the ambassador's office. They said, "Take it easy." They were worried that since the Mexicans—

Q: That it would have a negative effect.

GLAZER: —the Mexicans were kind of playing a neutral game, that the Mexicans would be upset. They thought the stuff was nice but a little too "strong" for the Mexicans to swallow. So you got that kind of thing. Then we had a regular news service that went out and whenever there was something with—

Q: You mean the labor service?

GLAZER: Labor news service. This was the general news service sent out by the—it came out of USIA. We had a couple of veteran Mexican press guys. It went out in Spanish to hundreds of papers and radio stations.

Q: But you had a labor segment of it?

GLAZER: Well, whenever—we didn't have a regular labor segment, but I could get in whenever I wanted. I remember for example when Arthur Goldberg was appointed to the Supreme Court, that was a big thing. So I did a story about him being a prominent labor lawyer. That kind of thing we kind of worked in. That made it something. I remember Walter Reuther, George Meany, whatever, all were labor visitors that came in if there was something usual or unusual or interesting we did something on that. I remember one time a member of the meat cutters union came down. He had won our prize for selling the most hope tickets—political action. He was from California, butcher. He won this prize to Mexico, came down with his wife. We were notified about it. I did a story about him and his union and what he made and we took them to a meat packing plant. That kind of thing which can make connection between the Mexican labor people and ours. We had—that was one of the roles of the information officer.

Let's see. What else can I tell you? The role of the ambassador? No problem. The labor attaché is the official voice of the ambassador on the political front but we did, the USIA, did all the press work for him. There was one kind of cute thing I remember. There was an English language paper, The Mexico City News, which was widely read of course in the English-speaking community and the diplomatic (inaudible). Tens of thousands of

Americans down there and they did a story about me one time with the guitar; a big story, Joe Glazer. They labeled it—they called it "Joe Glazer, Ambassador of—" Something. They used the word ambassador. I remember getting a call from the ambassador's office. I don't think it was the ambassador himself. I'm sure he told somebody to call me.

Q: "There's only one ambassador."

GLAZER: There's only one ambassador here. Lay off. Of course I didn't write the headlines. You've got to watch it a little bit so you don't steal too much of the ambassador's thunder.

MRS. GLAZER: Hey Joe, did you tell them about the folk song angle?

GLAZER: Oh yes. This is a separate thing. It doesn't—

Q: This voice from the background which doesn't have a microphone was Mrs. Mildred Glazer.

GLAZER: I don't think this fits in with the labor information thing but it's kind of an interesting aside. I started at the U.S. Cultural Center there which had thousands of people learning English. Also they taught Spanish, but the big thing was teaching English and other things. They had art exhibits and speakers and movies and so on. I started a small folk song club for—mostly English folk songs—to learn in a way to supplement their English. Each time I'd have two or three songs with the expanded English and the Spanish translation. We started out with about 10 to 15 or 20 people. I thought it would be a small thing but this thing started growing. We wound up moving to bigger rooms. We finally wound up having it weekly in the auditorium.

Q: Really?

GLAZER: Yes.

Q: Was this a concert of yours or just a participatory—?

GLAZER: A folk song club where we'd learn songs and then I'd sing some songs and we'd have people from the audience singing songs in English and in Spanish.

Q: Why do you say this has little to do with the labor? This was illustrative of the type of participation by a guy with any sort of background in the work that was being done there. We had labor attachés with other backgrounds who—

GLAZER: I suppose, but at any rate, this was probably the most successful thing I'd ever think of. We'd get 150, 200 people, standing room, big crowds every week. It got mentioned in the—Mexico being a great tourist town—Things to Do, and they'd list this thing every Wednesday night or whenever it was.

Q: Needless to say the embassy nor the USIA didn't pay you extra for that.

GLAZER: Oh Jesus. As a matter of fact it used to cost me extra. It would end up late at night and then I'd have to take a cab back to the house. Our house being a little off the beaten track, they didn't like to go there. I still remember today, "Yo pago doble" (I'll pay you double).

You learn the Mexican tricks. It was cheap enough. So instead of costing 60 cents it cost double.

Q: Ok now we're continuing after that.

GLAZER: Usually there's an English, not just English, but American culture. I'd do cowboy songs, some railroad songs, whatever. Labor. I worked in labor songs each week that explained. We had hundreds of people there. A lot of them were students studying English at the cultural center. People from all over the city. I remember one time a couple comes in, obviously tourists. They sit in and they sing and enjoy. Then they come up to me later and they said, "Oh we enjoyed this Mr. Glazer. This is better than the pyramids."

Q: Well, Joe, do you know anything about the degree to which that type of thing continued after you left?

GLAZER: That's a good question. I don't know what happened afterward. I had a couple young guys that I was sort of training. And there was a young Mexican guy who was good in English who knew a lot of American folk songs and Spanish folk songs, and when I was out of town, I had him fill in for me. As a matter of fact, he wanted to go to the states. Later I got him to go the states where he became a guitar teacher and he married an American girl. But I don't know if it continued much. Even though we had really institutionalized it, I guess we should have tried to figure out a way to do it. Whether they could have done it without me—

Q: It requires somebody who is not American to continue the work because the continuity cannot be supplied. The next labor officer may not have been as—

GLAZER: "By the way do you play the guitar?"

MRS. GLAZER: The cultural affairs guys—

GLAZER: The cultural affairs guys could have figured it out, could have worked it out although I didn't—probably I should have tried to see what we could do with it. I remember one time we had, believe it or not, Scotty Reston came by. We had a chat with him. All kinds of people came by.

But at any rate, again back to the labor thing, among the other things we did we had quite a good staff. We had a guy, bilingual guy, who did our radio work. We had a big movie operation. Later on most of that was scaled down some.

Q: Oh yes. Sure.

GLAZER: I remember running With These Hands and some of the other movies. The shops—

Q: I used up at least two prints of With These Hands. On the other one that the amalgamated put out was really better in some respects.

GLAZER: This was an interesting point. I'll make it because I might forget to mention it. Particular in The Inheritance when I was in the Philippines on one of my tours, I remember running The Inheritance at the embassy for a group of people, Philippine labor types, labor educators—

Q: This was after you were in Mexico or before?

GLAZER: This was after when I was already labor advisor and I was doing trips around the world. I hit the Philippines several times. What I remember is when I was labor advisor there was the question of whether we should send The Inheritance out you see. It was too radical. It showed a lot of anti-labor activity.

Q: Right. It was a rather sharp critique of the early period.

GLAZER: So we had a big argument. I remember at the USIA we had to approve these. We could send out anything for our own guys. I made the point, I said, "Look, this is a labor history and any intelligent labor attaché or labor guy at the embassy can handle it."

So they said, "Ok."

Then we ran the thing at the embassy. I asked them, "Well, what do you think of it?"

The first guy pops up, pretty sharp fellow. He says, "I want to say something. The thing that impressed me most—"

I said, "Did you like the film?"

He said, "I'm not talking about the film." He said, "The thing that impressed me most was that you would show a film like this in the American embassy. In the Philippines we would never do a thing like that." He said, "The fact that you would show it is most impressive. You're not afraid to show something which criticizes the government or the bosses."

Q: That is the reaction we got a number of times to things we did at the embassy. We had, I'm sure you'll remember this labor song thing on Labor Day when I was not there and we got Mrs. Bowles to run it. This will be in my statement. She was the one who was on— They formed a chorus and she was in the chorus. It was very remarkable that at that

point the labor attaché—I guess I shouldn't make this an interview with me but let me since you recalled—

GLAZER: Yes. You interview yourself—

Q: The labor attaché of Great Britain was sitting with the labor attaché from Sweden and the labor attaché from Germany and my wife Yetta heard them talking. One of them said to the other two, "You know each of us has a labor government in power now in our home country and none of the embassies would throw a—would have a—"

GLAZER: That's interesting.

Q: This only because you had come and started labor singing.

MRS. GLAZER: Tell them about some of the songs you sang. Some of the labor songs—

Q: —that were revolutionary. It was part of our history.

GLAZER: You try to set it in the proper context so that you can make the proper points. Of course, being in Mexico, we had a lot of labor visitors coming and going. U.S. labor visitors for one. I probably shouldn't put this on the tape but Saler could be a real jerk. One time I remember we had the head of the newspaper—

Q: If you're willing to put it in the tape, it's on tape. That's all. Go ahead.

GLAZER: What's his name, Chuck Perlong? Remember Chuck? It's not Perlong—

Q: Perlick?

GLAZER: Perlick. Perlick. I remember he came in and what's his name—

Q: Saler?

GLAZER: He didn't treat him right. He wasn't a big enough shot.

Q: He was the head of the newspaper wasn't he?

GLAZER: Yes. But he wasn't on the executive committee. He wasn't helpful. Perlick was trying to get some information.

Q: Perlick was an old CIO man and Saler was an old AF of L man. It's as simple as that.

GLAZER: I remember walking around with Perlick. He was pissed off. He said, "That son of a bitch. I'll never do anything for him." He was really, really upset with him. Perlick—what's his name?

Q: Saler.

GLAZER: (Inaudible) I don't know if I mentioned—did I mention the Argentine thing? I don't know if I should mention this on the tape, what Saler did?

Q: Do you want me to turn it off?

GLAZER: What?

Q: Do you want me to turn it off?

GLAZER: Yes. Let's turn it off.

Q: Ok.

GLAZER: I don't know—

Q: Ok. Joe. Anything else about the sorts of things you did there?

GLAZER: Yes. I'm trying to think. The main thing was as I said—

Q: Did Humphrey visit you while you were down there?

GLAZER: Yes. Oh that was another big thing. Since I happened—He came down for about a three or four day visit. I helped arrange his schedule. I was the guy. It was interesting. The ambassador knew that I knew him and asked me or the PAO, I can't remember now, asked me to meet him at the airport. We took a cab. I arranged a special meeting with labor leaders for him. That was very good and he had all kinds of receptions and so on. That was very useful. We spent several days together there.

Q: But all during the time you were there, either Kennedy or Johnson was president?

GLAZER: Yes.

Q: So that we don't get a feel for how it changed when the change of administration—

GLAZER: Right. We had friends. People there obviously interested in labor. Arthur Goldberg came down there and we had him over to the house. We had a chance to (inaudible) and talk with him about it. There was a big thing—was—Goldberg was there when the—?

MRS. GLAZER: For the inauguration.

GLAZER: Inauguration of the president.

MRS. GLAZER: —of the new president. But there was a difference in ambassadors.

GLAZER: Oh yes.

MRS. GLAZER: The first was very conservative.

Q: Mrs. Glazer has indicated that although there wasn't a change in administration from democrat to republican, there was a change in the outlook of the ambassador. Do you want to describe that?

GLAZER: Yes. Johnson appointed I guess it was a friend of his named, Tom Mann who was—

Q: Oh yes. I know him.

GLAZER: A Texas guy. He was quite conservative. He was some business-related type. Then we had a professional ambassador, Freeman, who died later on.

Q: Yes. It wasn't Matthews? There was a Freeman Matthews?

GLAZER: No. His last name was Freeman. What was his first name? An ambassador in Columbia, spoke good Spanish—So you had that kind of thing you had to worry about. But basically the directions from Washington, were you knew you could be friendly.

I had one funny thing, I'm not sure if I mentioned this or not. Ed Murrow—

Q: Yes. You did.

GLAZER: Yes. Did I tell the story about Ed Murrow where they called me back—

Q: Right. That's before you were appointed, before you actually started work.

GLAZER: Where a Congressman had heard me on the air and he was worried. There was one other thing. (Inaudible) would put this on the record. One good thing about Ernie Saler, he didn't like to travel alone. He liked somebody to talk to. So I used to do a lot of trips with him, which was good. I never did that with Taylor. So we really could cover the country then do the reports. I used to write a lot of them. As a matter of fact, then I would make reports for the USIA or for the embassy staff.

It was important because in the embassy, as you know, there is a tendency to—you're in a cocoon and you travel in the same circles, in the diplomatic or the business or the government circles. When we got out, we went to union halls and we went to working class areas. We saw all levels of union activity from the top all the way down to the bottom. We'd get a picture of wages and when we'd come back and talk about it—I remember Zacatecas. It's the capital of one of the areas. Jesus Christ. You know guys were making 20 cents an hour and all the laws are being violated left and right. So one time, I don't know if it was the PAO, one of the top guys said, "Boy it's a good thing that

you and Saler are here otherwise we wouldn't know what's going on out in the country."

Q: What about the travel expenses? Were you limited in any way in the amount of travel you could do?

GLAZER: It didn't seem to be a problem. We didn't overdo it you know, but every month or so—

Q: What did you have? Aid money or cultural money—?

GLAZER: No. We'd generally use an embassy car. At that time you see there were plenty of cars. We wouldn't take a driver. We'd take an embassy car. Since it's not as big as India, you could drive around most anywhere. We would make a 10-day tour or one-week tour and cover three main areas. We'd hit the main unions. I was getting to one point where in one of these small towns somehow we got with the central labor union. Somehow we got to talking to the guy who was organizing the department store workers, I think retail workers. Obviously green, didn't know anything about what to do. He was complaining about how they violated their minimum wage laws, and fired people, all kinds of stuff. We started talking to the guy and before we knew it, we stepped him aside and we were giving him a lesson in organizing, what kinds of leaflets to put out, how he should go about it, how to organize a committee and so on. Of course we were crossing the line there. We just got so caught up in it and we were so moved by these terrible, terrible conditions.

Q: Now it can be told how you violated the United States.

GLAZER: No. I won't say that. We shouldn't have done it. But at any rate. I'm sure that happened once in a while.

Q: I don't know if you had told an official career diplomat ambassador, he might have objected to it, but normally the political ambassador would have seen—Besides, if you do it intelligently, there's no objection to it.

GLAZER: One of the big things we had down there, we had a very active AID (Agency for International Development) program with the Alliance for Progress. There was the AIFLD, the beginnings of it I guess.

Q: Oh had they already begun there?

GLAZER: Yes. I thought they called it a different name, but they worked closely.

Q: Oh. ORIT.

GLAZER: ORIT. Yes. ORIT. They built the big housing project called the Robert F. Kennedy—I guess it was the Robert, no, John F. Kennedy with the printing unions and so on. But there again—

Q: Did they have a man down there or woman?

GLAZER: Yes. They had an office.

Q: Who would that have been? Do you remember?

GLAZER: This is the AIFLD?

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: I don't even know if they called it AIFLD. I'm trying to think what they called it down there. It might have been part of AID at the time. It was a guy who was an ex-Navy guy, older guy, who was a sort of building type. He was down there. I think it was Jack—

Q: McMillan?

GLAZER: No.

Q: Jesse Freeman?

MRS. GLAZER: Was it Paladino?

GLAZER: Paladino was there with ORIT. He was the ORIT man. He was the go-to guy next to Harrogat, so he was down there.

Q: One of the things that we cover in the courses that we give at the Foreign Service Institute is the relationship that has developed over the years between the Institute representative, non-governmental but with government funds, and the labor attaché. Bill Dougherty, who is the head of AIFLD, sometimes lectures to the group, frequently lectures to the group, and covers the issue of each of us, the AIFLD, and the embassy, has a different function in the labor program of the federal government. He talks a little bit about how to resolve the issues between his man and the labor attaché. But you had none of those—?

GLAZER: We didn't really have that. I think this was more of an AID, tied in with the Alliance for Progress.

Q: The AIFLD work is AID financed.

GLAZER: I'm not sure if the AID (inaudible) was set up. Maybe there—

Q: No. No. It wasn't yet strong enough to create these difficulties. Ok. Anything else on your—

GLAZER: I'm trying to think of what else—I don't know—

MRS. GLAZER: Did you tell him about the monthly news—

GLAZER: Yes.

MRS. GLAZER: Very attractive. Very—

GLAZER: Other than busy with the—worked closely with the labor attaché, which is important, but always had to watch this thing because the labor attaché was the official labor representative and the representative of the ambassador. The political guy from (inaudible) even though I got to know Fidel Velásquez Sánchez, the head guy. Irving, his Spanish was really terrible, would be the official guy there.

Q: Your Spanish by this time is—?

GLAZER: It was quite good. Three plus four something. My accent was pretty—He had a terrible mixture of Portuguese and Argentine Spanish. Portuguese from Brazil, he spent six years in Brazil and six or seven years in Argentina. Argentina has kind of an odd accent. At any rate, he was a pretty good operator, but being somewhat obnoxious, he got into a lot of trouble there. I told you the story of him and the GE (General Electric) plant where he walks in and says, "Where is your rate book?" Guts he had plenty of.

There's one funny story—I don't know what the hell this is going to do with your tape here but these are human interest.

Q: Fine.

GLAZER: We went down to Yucatan. Yucatan used to be the big producer of henequen. Henequen is—

Q: Beer?

GLAZER: No. Henequen, which is hemp. It's kind of a hemp made out of agave plant type thing. That was their big, big thing. We were down there. By that time they had developed in the U.S. and it was used for binding of a big, big amount for the harvest when they tied up the hay—

Q: Sheaves.

GLAZER: Yes. Sheaves. They used that stuff. But then they used nylon. Put thousands and thousands of these peasants really in terrible shape because the whole henequen business went under. They had some kind of a coop system which wasn't working too well or social system. Whatever the hell it was. But here we were in the middle of one of these plantations giving them a talk. I don't know if we were trying to encourage them or what. We couldn't really give them much aid. I guess I talked in Spanish. I don't know if

Irving talked. With these Mayan farmers there the talk was translated from Spanish into Mayan and they handed us Pepsi Cola. That was like a gift, treating us right, like instead of champagne (inaudible). Irving is smoking his pipe. He nudges me. "Hey Joe, a long way from Brooklyn hey?" That's the type of character he was.

Q: Well, he was right. It was a long way.

GLAZER: It was a hell of a long way from Brooklyn wasn't it?

Q: So you had problems in which you had to be translated to a third language? One of the Indian—?

GLAZER: That was very rare.

Q: Really?

GLAZER: That was in Mayan land. Most of the time—I'm trying to remember where else. Very rare—

Q: One of the Indian dialects.

GLAZER: This is where you were really out in Indian—

Q: Indian language or Indian dialect?

GLAZER: No. The Mayan language.

Q: A separate language.

GLAZER: They had a regular Mayan language. I remember being once up in a different part of the country where we were talking about—they actually didn't make a speech but I was talking to one of the leaders there about how did he and the people feel about Mexico City. There was some tensions. He says, "Hell, they don't know our language." They're so isolated. You get some of these Indian tribes in some of these areas where they are completely isolated groups.

Q: How long did you serve there?

GLAZER: It was three and a half years altogether. Then we came back—

Q: You came back on home leave after two years?

GLAZER: Yes. I guess we came back after two years.

Q: What about the kids? They were with you?

GLAZER: Well we had two kids. That was a big problem. Millie could talk more about that. We had the two young kids with us and my son had finished up high school. These are the kinds of things—

MRS. GLAZER: (Inaudible)

GLAZER: He had one more year to go. He finished I guess his third year in high school then he came down for the fourth year. That was a real problem. It was a big change for him. He had a lot of problems. Even the kids took a while to get adjusted.

Q: You mean the girls.

GLAZER: The girls. They were tall. Of course in the beginning they didn't know the language. We put them in the Spanish school at first. That turned out to be a disaster. These little family problems.

Q: Oh serious?

GLAZER: Very serious. You could tell him some of the stories about the kids. Then we finally put them in the American school. The American school turned out to be—it was interesting. It was too, they said, too undisciplined and too noisy. It wasn't really a very good school. Partly because the majority of the students were kids from business people and other Americans living down there. I guess mostly business people and they just weren't—It wasn't a high intellectual caliber.

Q: I think when we continue the interview with Mildred, I want to go into that a little bit because for the—

GLAZER: Do you want to go into that now maybe?

Q: No. I want to do it after we finish with you but let me just say with your mentioning the businessmen, reminds that I have not asked you at all about your relations with the business community? Any problems because you were on the labor side or not? Were you ever called in by the ambassador to look into an issue involving an American businessman who had trouble with the labor situation or is that all the labor attaché?

GLAZER: It would be with the labor attaché would be the guy involved there. Let me just give one other thing. We've just been reading in the paper about the PEMEX (Petróleos Mexicanos) (Mexican Petroleum workers), that's the national petroleum—

Q: The explosion.

GLAZER: When they took over the oil fields, they set up their own company called PEMEX. It's a complete monopoly and developed a very strong union which became stronger than the company and I guess very corrupt and very powerful. I remember once visiting; I guess I was with Mildred then. I don't remember her ever being with me. I

don't know why that was, in the headquarters down there. I remember they put us in a guest house. I said, "Wow, this is really neat". When I look back on it, of course later on I realize these guys owned everything and controlled everything. They got a cut I guess out of every gallon that was sold. They had millions. I remember they had all these coop stores. It was very impressive for the workers. Then of course later on I found out they were buying jobs, a tremendous amount of corruption. A lot of—what did they call them, parachuters or something? They had a name for them, no show jobs.

The head of the union was very powerful. I don't think it was the same guy that later on went to jail. They busted in and busted them up. For the people that were in the union, it was a great thing because they had a big slice of the pie but it was absolutely a corrupt situation. Later on this new president what is his name, Madeira [Mateos], the guy here? He busted up.

Q: You mean the president of Mexico?

GLAZER: Yes. He busted this thing up.

Q: But today we see in the newspapers that—

MRS. GLAZER: Salinas.

GLAZER: Salinas. Yes.

Q: —there's some problem with whether or not this company, PEMEX was responsible for the explosion?

GLAZER: Oh yes. That's another thing yes. But what was interesting, and this reminded me in a way of Tammany Hall where Selig Perlman used to call it the illegitimate social work. The coal and turkeys on thanksgiving and coal at Christmas.

Q: Tammany Hall—?

GLAZER: This was a real super Tammany Hall where the people in the Ciudad Madero, now they claim it has 800,000. When I was there it had maybe a couple hundred thousand. But it's a big industrial capital of PEMEX on the coast there, where the people are complaining since they busted up the union. All these deals are over and a lot of guys are out of work because they tightened up. I'm sure they had twice as many people on the payroll as they needed. They closed up the stores I guess too, which I'm sure were heavily subsidized. The average guy was being hit by this. They said, "Bring back the old Tammany Hall guys or the equivalent." Of course there they used violence and whatever. But that was one—I remember when I was there they treated me pretty good. Now I realize what was going on there.

Q: Well you served there over three years.

GLAZER: Three and a half years then I came back.

Q: When did you come back?

GLAZER: I came back in—I went there in ’61; I came back in ’65. I guess it was summer of ’65. Did I go in ‘62 could it have been? Kennedy came in when? In ’61? I might have gone in ’62, I’m not sure. But the middle of ‘65 is when I came back.

Q: You came back to what?

GLAZER: I came back to Washington. This was interesting. At that time my son, Daniel, was in Columbia and he was having a lot of trouble.

Q: You mean Columbia University of New York?

GLAZER: Columbia University. We were really concerned about him. He had never made the adjustment down in Mexico. That was really a traumatic experience for him. He left all his friends up here, came down there as a young teenager. He was a young kid. He was a little ahead of his time. What was he? Sixteen maybe. He had no friends. It took us a while to realize that he really was having trouble. We took him to a psychiatrist and so on. It was a very, very tough time. Then up in Columbia he didn’t seem to be—he was majoring as I said, in chess and in jazz. We were paying a lot of money for that—

Q: I’m going to get into a couple of details about that with Mildred.

GLAZER: Anyway, we thought if we could get back it would be very good. At that time there was an opening for the labor advisor to the agency.

Q: Now was Bernie Weiszman in the job at that time?

GLAZER: No. What’s his name was in there. Goldsmith. Is it Gold—?

Q: Don’t know him.

GLAZER: You know the guy. Socialist. What the hell is his name? He was in England for a while as a labor information—

Q: Gouseman?

GLAZER: Gouseman. Gouseman.

Q: Yes. He was there? Oh.

GLAZER: He had replaced—

Q: Oh yes. I’m beginning to remember. Yes.

GLAZER: He had replaced Weiszman. Bernie Weiszman had been in there for years, then he became active in the union and I guess he retired. Gouseman was the labor advisor. He had come in from London I guess. I don't know where Gouseman went. Maybe he went to—No he didn't go to London after that. I don't know where the hell he went from there. Did something else.

Q: I'll tell you where he didn't go. He didn't go to India although he wanted to.

GLAZER: He wanted that badly.

Q: Yes. I forget where he went. He went to some job in Washington.

GLAZER: Anyway, there's a little bit of political byplay here with this.

Q: Please go into that because the whole AF of L CIO, and within the CIO the disagreements. Bernie Weiszman of course was an old AF of L'er with a pro AF of L cast to his work. He was conscientious and all that. He concentrated on working within the union, the AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees) employees union.

GLAZER: He was president.

Q: Yes. Then either retired or went into full time work. I gather there was a vacancy and pressure on the CIO (Chief Information Officer) resulted because the CIO had been in charge of the labor aspects of information, Harry Martin and all that, which I'll go into in my testimony.

GLAZER: They were able to get Gouseman in.

Q: They were able to get Gouseman in in spite of the fact that he had had this strong disagreement with Datson. It's one of the reasons I go into the problem of labor attaché, labor information differences, because Gouseman could not adjust to the fact, as you did much better, adjust to the fact that the embassy labor attaché

GLAZER: —was the boss—

Q: Yes. Without being his boss had the—how do you refer to it as administrative thing?—had the administrative responsibility for representing the embassy. Bill felt that—

GLAZER: He didn't like it.

Q: No, he didn't like that.

GLAZER: He was over in England, with this labor information guy and this guy Datson, who was the labor attaché, very close to Jay Lovestone and the AFL. Anyway an interesting little byplay.

Q: So Gouseman has the job—

GLAZER: Gouseman had the job—

Q: And now you're going to—

GLAZER: I can't remember where the hell he was going. He was going somewhere.

Q: They eased him out. (inaudible)

GLAZER: Anyway it was supposed to be all set. Then I guess I got the word from Gouseman, maybe a call or letter, I don't know, that there was trouble. The AFL—they must have been combined then.

.

Q: The international department of the AFL of CIO.

GLAZER: Jay Lovestone didn't want to be there.

Q: Right. Join the club.

GLAZER: So I figured, well I happen to have a few connections here. I'm trying to remember who I talked with. I talked to Gouseman or whoever, whether I should use whatever. He said, "Use whatever you can."

I remember sitting down writing a letter to Hubert Humphrey. He happened to be vice president then. This was after Kennedy was gone so this must have been '64, he came in. I remember sitting there at the typewriter, the funny things that stick in your mind. I don't remember anything much about the letter but I remember wondering whether I should call him "Dear Hubert" or "Dear Mr. Vice President". For 20 years I called him Hubert. To this day I can't remember what I finally decided. Because I wanted to be proper, but I didn't want to be too stiff. I told him the story. I said, "I'm supposed to be getting this job and I've got to get back because my kid is having a lot of trouble back there but there's some problem with the AFL of CIO."

At that point, the other thing was that Carl Rowan was just appointed, who happened to come from Minnesota. So I said, "Perhaps you could speak to Mr. Rowan," I didn't know him at the time, "and straighten it out."

"No problem." It was all straightened out. When I came up Rowan had just started taking over. There was a reception line for him and I introduced myself and I said, "I hope I didn't cause you too much trouble." He said, "No. No. People were just trying to tell me who I should appoint to these jobs."

Q: But the interesting thing is you picked up a couple of your chips from Hubert and he used Rowan. It wasn't enough of an issue, I'm assuming for Lovestone to go further than

that. He knew he was beaten so he stepped out of it.

GLAZER: He was smart enough. He could have gone to Meany but Meany, ah—nobody was going to fight with Hubert Humphrey.

Q: And this is what annoyed him in that same time in '65 with respect to my appointment to India, which I'm going to cover in my testimony.

GLAZER: What was interesting, I never could get—when I came up I figured I ought to see Lovestone, but you know he was real mean. He wouldn't see me.

One of the guys said, "You ought to go see Lovestone." One of his guys—Larnigan. You remember Ed Larnigan?

Q: Oh yes.

GLAZER: He said, "You ought to go see Lovestone."

I said, "Look, I tried to see him. He didn't want to see me. I said, "screw him." That was it.

Whenever I ran into him at conventions, sometimes he'd go, "Um."

I didn't really know the guy from Adam particularly. We never sat down and talked or anything. He had me listed as a Luther man enemy, which was ridiculous because I worked with all those guys.

Q: Join the club. He had me listed as a Luther man too. Which I wasn't. So you came onto the job.

GLAZER: So I came onto the job.

Q: Did this history in any way affect your relations with the field? [End of Side A Tape 2]

GLAZER: —one guy in the USIA, the advisor for the whole program. At that time, we had a relatively extensive labor program. You mentioned if I had any problems. I didn't have any problems with any of the labor attachés except maybe guys like Dan Gout, you know. But I don't think any—

Q: I don't mean with the labor attachés. I mean with AFL-CIO. For instance you nominated a guy to take a trip and lecture on labor. I mean any participation on their part?

GLAZER: I was always careful—

Q: Conscious.

GLAZER: —conscious of it. (Inaudible) I remember an affair with Poland. This was before solidarity. (inaudible) People wanted a Polish speaking UAW guy, you know man in the booth talking. I thought that was a great idea.

Q: Why a Polish UAW guy? Why not a polish speaking miner or something like that?

GLAZER: For some reason, I don't know why, they wanted a UAW guy. I suppose it didn't have to be a UAW guy.

Q: It did not.

GLAZER: Maybe that was a mistake.

Q: Yes. That's the point I'm making. That raises the—

GLAZER: But anyway the (inaudible). I guess that was through the State Department. I had other problems with these things. I had two other big main problems with Lovestone. One time Al Hinseng, you remember Al?

Q: Yes. Very well.

GLAZER: He was the PAO in Germany. They had a big Labor Day thing in Beirut. He sends this wire. He wanted me to sing at the rally. Can you imagine that? Solidarity forever. I said, "Great." I don't know if I had my tickets although I was all set when word came down I guess through State Department. It was probably through Dan Gout or one of those guys, that Lovestone was going to go and they didn't need me over there.

Q: Oh does he play the guitar?

GLAZER: Yes. He plays the guitar. What's his name, Hinseng sends another wire, (inaudible) saying if Glazer can't come, we'd like to get somebody of equivalent stature like he mentioned Pete Seeger or Joan Baez. He put some names that would be absolutely impossible to send.

The final thing as long as we're on the same thing, one time a wire comes in from China. Do you remember who was ambassador of China?

Q: Leonard Woodcock.

GLAZER: Leonard Woodcock.

Q: Former president of the United Automobile Workers.

GLAZER: They want Joe Glazer because they're going to have a big Labor Day thing there. They were inviting, this was their mistake in the paragraph, they were inviting

people from the Chinese labor movement and so on. This was going to be all set. Then the State Department and the AFL said there's no Chinese labor movement over there. We can't approve anybody going over there. That killed that. He made a mistake using Chinese. He should have just said there would be a labor thing.

Q: He wanted to teach them about Labor Day. Well how come, Joe that—

GLAZER: I was toying with the idea of getting a note to Woodcock and having him (inaudible) it but I said, "Screw it." It didn't interest me.

MRS. GLAZER: You didn't have any trouble going to England on the regular (inaudible).

Q: That's later on. We're going to get to that because I told a number of people about that. Now you moved in there in '65.

GLAZER: Yes.

Q: As soon as '66, December '66, you were with us in India.

GLAZER: Yes.

Q: No objection to your going there for that thing?

GLAZER: No.

Q: Oh you attended the labor attaché conference. That's the reason.

GLAZER: So I was able to get to—the labor attaché conferences were being held. I didn't have to—One time I was having a little difficulty in getting an "invitation" or something then George Weaver straightened it. He invited me. I don't know who was doing the invitations. At any rate, George Weaver put my name in and it was ok. I didn't run into too much trouble. There was always this tenseness. You remember different problems which in retrospect turn out to be kind of ironic.

I got a call one time from Bob Senser. You remember him?

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: He says, "There's a guy from Australia coming in here." He had served I guess in Australia and, "The AFL CIO won't 'receive' him." Remember that kind of thing? "I'm trying to set up appointments for him."

I said, "I'd be glad to." I called up Jerry Royce for him. I think I even got him to see Al Shanker.

Q: Was this Hawke?

GLAZER: Yes. Turned out to be the prime minister for 10 years, Bob Hawke. He comes in and he says, "We're going to have a little thing at the Australian embassy, (inaudible) five or six people."

Q: Just to identify, at this point Hawke is a very radical type of trade union leader in Australia, who was anti-Communist, but of a different sort of anti-Communism than Lovestone and that immediately turns him off. He was also very pro-Israel and—

GLAZER: That should have been good with Meany but I don't think Meany ever got to it.

Q: Lovestone.

GLAZER: It was Lovestone.

Q: He was not reliable from Lovestone's point of view. Whereas if any labor leader came from there, it would be another guy who was also a former Lovestone-ite who was a trade union leader in another part of Australia, Short, Loy Short. If Loy Short couldn't be the guy who (inaudible) he'd be goddamned if he's going to let another guy named Hawke.

GLAZER: Yes.

Q: Go ahead.

GLAZER: The funny thing is I remember we had this little reception at the Australian embassy. It couldn't have been more than six or eight people. Senser and Hawke were grateful that I visited a few labor leaders, then we had dinner and then we went to Georgetown. We walked around. I remember he said, "I've got to get something for my daughter." His daughter was in Israel. I remember at the time he said something about that and I was kind of surprised about that. Later on he becomes prime minister.

Anyway, let's talk briefly about the work. That was a good job. Anyway, as labor advisor, we had a full-time guy at the Voice of America. We had who was it Pollock? What was Pollock's name?

Q: Oh, Harry Pollick.

GLAZER: Harry Pollick. Of course he was close to Lovestone again, but we got along pretty well.

Q: Mr. Noke, was he gone?

GLAZER: Mr. Noke was just about gone. Then we had Charlie Mett afterwards.

Q: Oh yes. Charlie Mett.

GLAZER: Then we had a guy, Norman McKenna, a very nice guy, who put out a monthly labor packet, who was pretty good. Then we had Chris Sholes at that time who—

Q: Was he on your staff or was he on Africa?

GLAZER: He was on Africa but he worked close to labor for Africa.

Q: Was he in Africa or was he in Washington?

GLAZER: No. He was in Washington.

Q: Covering Africa.

GLAZER: Sending textile materials to Africa.

Q: Right. He had been trained. He did not have a labor background. He had been trained to be labor officer, I think.

GLAZER: Yes. But he didn't come out of the labor movement.

Q: Right. (Inaudible) information officer.

GLAZER: We had one or two other people that were involved with labor.

Q: McHale?

GLAZER: No. McHale wasn't around then. He was either in England or—

Q: Oh. No. Australia.

GLAZER: So we in effect serviced the agency on labor matters. So for example when America—One of the problems is, we had so many things going on you had to let everybody know if there was anything dealing with labor we should be in on it or else they could screw things up. Most of the people knew who I was and they would be in touch with me. For example, I remember America Illustrated magazine calling me. They wanted to do a big major article on an American worker. Well the question is what kind do they want? They wanted a steel worker. Do they want black? White? Well they'd like one with a Slavic background. Labor—so you have to figure it out. They don't want a top labor guy. They want a guy active in the union. Do they want a guy with a family and so on and so forth. So I called the steel workers and got hold of one of their directors and we found the right guy for them and checked him out very carefully and they did a marvelous story. I checked the story out. They had a couple—since they weren't labor

writers—errors which we corrected. It turned out to be a beautiful story. That type of thing.

Q: Movies?

GLAZER: We had a big movie operation then. Finland wanted to do a movie. What's interesting, Billy wanted to do a movie on the life in the day of an American worker. This guy said auto worker in Detroit. Then they wanted to do one on crime in the big city. But I guess I got a lot of votes because I was doing urban affairs so I helped set the whole thing up.

Interesting in Detroit, we talked about what kind of worker. I asked, "Do you want black or white?"

No. They didn't want black because that was a little unusual. We got a white worker again with a family and working one of the big auto plants. It turned out this guy was a southern guy and he preached on Sunday. He was a lay preacher. I said first, "Oh, that might be interesting."

"No. No. That's too unusual. It would take too long to explain."

There was a lot of interesting bits. I remember they came out early in the morning. They wanted to get him—

Q: These are the Fins who did this?

GLAZER: These are the Fins. Yes. Very sharp. They wanted to get him getting up in the morning. We had to get up at 5:00 in the morning or something like that.

Q: You mean they came here to do the film?

GLAZER: Came here to do the film. Yes. They did a one-hour film. His wife was up making his lunch. They asked the wife—they interviewed his wife. They asked his wife, "Do you mind getting up?" The kids got up later to go to school. "Do you mind getting up?" Women's lib was just coming in. It hadn't got to this house yet I tell you. "Do you mind getting up to make lunch for your husband?"

She looked at them and said, "What do you mean?"

They said, "Well, you're going to have to get up early even though you are not going to work."

She said, "Well that's—He's got to have his lunch and I'll make his lunch."

They were trying to promote—

Q: This was the influence of the Swedes who had advanced very much further.

GLAZER: Yes. These guys, movie guys were intellectual. You couldn't get anywhere with them. It was in the Chrysler plant. There was a lot of blacks. What was interesting in the plant was how dirty the plant was compared to the standard (inaudible) plants. The guys ate—you know how in a plant they ate in a little goddamned corner? So noisy, dirty. They had a lunch room, but they don't have time to go to lunch rooms way the hell over there.

It was a plant in Emil Mazey. 212 was it? The Local 12? The Local 12 maybe?

Q: I think it was 212.

GLAZER: We went to the union hall. It was called the Emil Mazey Hall. We went to the Hall. It was fascinating. This kind of stuff, you can't buy this kind of stuff.

Q: Did they interview Mazey himself or was he gone by then?

GLAZER: I'll get to that. We get to the hall. Who's the president? Black guy on the picture. The big thing on the wall with Martin Luther King. Obviously blacks running this union there. Go and see the secretary. White secretary, token, just leftover. That's very important in the interview. Later on I got him to see Emil Mazey. He told about the beginnings of the—

Q: Who was then in the national office.

GLAZER: Yes. He was in the national office then. He was a secretary/treasurer I guess. I don't think he had retired yet. He was probably still secretary/treasurer. He told about the early days when they first brought the blacks in to work in the plant. I think they had some "woman's" job. It might have been a sewing job? It might have been as part of the equipment. The white, if I'm not mistaken, I might be wrong on this sex thing, the white women were going to walk out because they had brought these blacks into the plant.

So this guy says, "What do we do?"

I told him, "Walk out, the union won't protect you."

They didn't walk out of course. So that was a nice contract.

MRS. GLAZER: Did that appear ultimately in the film?

GLAZER: Yes, they had (inaudible). And I saw the film finally. It was a hell of a film. I always used to say, "Why can't we make a nice film like that over here?"

Q: Did you try to get that film exhibited in other countries as—?

GLAZER: I don't know if we did much with it. Of course it was in—

Q: Finnish.

GLAZER: It was in Finnish. Of course I knew what was going on. It probably would have paid to put an English—

Q: Subtitles? Or English track.

GLAZER: I didn't really push that. It took a while. It took maybe six months before I got to see the film. I might have even seen it in Finland possibly. I can't remember the next time I was there. That was a hell of a nice production. Better than anything I have seen around here. All the interviews, the Ford guy, the company guy, (inaudible) they showed guys on the line. It was just an average day of a worker in America.

Now what's interesting to me when I start thinking about it, for Finland—oh this is great for us. I start thinking, well why don't we do something like that in the U.S.? Why do the Fins have to come here and do a film? So I started thinking about it. For Fins, a day in the life of an American worker is exotic. All they know about it is Hollywood stuff. Americans, while they also watch the Hollywood stuff. They know (inaudible)—

—union stuff. Fantastic. They had a strike there. All very pro-union. Very realistic, which you normally just don't get. So anyway, that gives you an idea of some of the kinds of—or Voice of America stuff, scripts are generally—checkout the scripts. You felt you did a useful tour over there. Or request from or the field for—

Q: Do you have any budgetary responsibilities for increasing or suffering the decreases of money available to bring foreign labor people here or to send American labor people abroad?

GLAZER: No. I didn't get involved in the budgeting. That was a separate thing. For a while that was with the State Department

Q: The Educational Bureau. Cultural.

GLAZER: The Labor Department was involved. I just got involved with it—I didn't get involved with it as far as the budget even though it ultimately came out of USIA money.

Q: In the early '80s—

GLAZER: The cultural exchange, it was a separate part of the cultural exchange.

Q: In the early '80s you were still there and you had something to do with trips that I took abroad.

GLAZER: What I had to do was very important on sending people overseas. As part of

our—I don't know if I was labor advisor then. We had the section where we sent people overseas and I was the labor guy for that.

Q: What was the relation between you and McHale?

GLAZER: I moved over to this other job and McHale came in as labor—

Q: You moved over to what other job?

GLAZER: Had something called.

Q: Oh yes. PT something.

GLAZER: In there I specialized in the labor job.

Q: I see.

GLAZER: McHale came in as—

Q: —and he took the other part of it.

GLAZER: I think that was a part of a push on a problem with Lovestone in there.

Q: Yes. There was a split there because as I pointed out on in some other things I've done in this series, the AF of L was split between the Catholic orientation and the ex-Communist orientation.

GLAZER: Well McHale's father was a big guy in the letter carriers and close to Dougherty and very lose to Meany. He was a buddy of Meany's. So that's where he was coming from, McHale.

Q: But McHale himself was subject to an attack when he tried to send me someplace to fill a request and they said, "Why are you sending Weisz down?"

GLAZER: He died I understand?

Q: Yes. He died. Well what else on this assignment?

GLAZER: This is interesting. One time I did a piece when Caesar Chavez was getting big. I did a piece for one of our magazines. I used to occasionally, even though I wasn't in the writing end, but I would do occasional writing pieces on labor. I did one on Caesar Chavez. He was hot stuff and he was rising, and it was the Spanish angle. I thought it was a really good story. It showed the migratory workers, democracy in action and so forth. Geez, I got a call from the number two guy in what they call Policy. I can't remember his name now. He was from Texas and he was appointed I guess through Johnson. He was a friend of Johnson or somebody there. No. No. Nixon was in by then. He was appointed

by Tower you see.

Q: Oh yes. John Tower.

GLAZER: Yes. At the time—It must have been after Humphrey was defeated by Nixon. He called me down. He says, "This is a puff piece."

I said, "What do you mean? It's the truth."

"Well I come from Texas. I got a ranch. I know all about these guys." He said, "They could make plenty of money if they want to work."

But he wouldn't let it go through.

Q: He wouldn't.

GLAZER: He wouldn't let it go through. I can't remember his name. Lowery or Mowery. I can't remember his goddamned name. Conservative guy. Newspaper guy. He ran a newspaper for Texas. He was brought up by—I guess at one point he was an assistant to Tower. So you run into those kinds of problems. Amazingly I managed to survive through the Nixon years there.

One of the funny things when I first started out, I was at the—the guy who was going to be the PAO down in Mexico, he hadn't got there yet. Saxon. Old time, very funny fellow. Old time Foreign Service guy. He told me somehow he had heard me sing these songs. I said, "Yes."

He said, "I understand you have a song about Goldwater."

I had a very funny song about Goldwater. I was kind of naïve I guess. I said, "Yes. Would you like to hear it?"

He said, "No. No." He says, "Just don't sing it."

Q: You wrote that for the '64 campaign.

GLAZER: Yes. The '64 campaign. Barry Goldwater. He's the head of—something about 19th Century Fox is going to make a movie about him and all kinds of stuff. He puts on this clock and goes tock tick tock tick. One damn thing after another. It was funny as hell. I don't know if I have it written down anywhere. I haven't sung that for years. But anyway, I managed to survive. I was able to travel around the world a half a dozen times and visit all kinds of countries. Of course you have to use your sense. That's the main thing.

Q: How long did you stay? You stayed through the Carter administration.

GLAZER: Yes. I left when somebody threw a party for me. I guess it was a (inaudible) dinner. They gave me an award banquet.

Q: Oh yes. I remember.

GLAZER: '81 or something. Charlie Mett was one of the speakers. He was the Voice of America guy. He was the labor information guy in Japan for a while. He knew the story. He says, "Joe Glazer's very good timing. He came in with Kennedy and he left when Reagan came in."

Q: Did you actually leave when Reagan came in?

GLAZER: Yes. Just about the same time. Yes. Just at about that time. I figured that was probably just as long as I could go without getting into trouble.

Q: Then describe your concert under Reagan.

GLAZER: Which one are you talking about?

Q: The one in England.

GLAZER: Oh in England. That was fascinating. I have to tell you this. I was already out.

Q: You were retired?

GLAZER: I was retired and I get this call from—I was talking actually, believe it or not, on the phone to somebody and I get this call from England. I guess it was a reporter. He wanted me to do something. I said, "I'm kind of busy." I said, "Wait a minute. I've got another call."

I come back and I say, "I'm not making this up. I've got a call from England and I'll get back to you."

Who was the guy there? It was—

Q: Schrader?

GLAZER: Roger Schrader. I did some stuff for him while he was in Germany. He tells me—the ambassador there was Price. Very nice fellow. A banker from Kansas I guess he was. He ran an annual Labor Day affair for the labor leaders which was very smart. He generally had oh, country music or some western angle there. You know Americana. Then he said one time to Schrader, "Is there any kind of labor music or something? We ought to do something different."

Schrader says, "Well the only thing is we've got Joe Glazer."

He says, “Who’s he?” Of course he’s never heard of me.

He said, “Well, he sings labor songs.”

He says, “Is he any good?”

He says, “Yes.”

He says, “Give me one of his records.”

So he gives him one of my records.

Q: A carefully selected record I take it. Not the one with the Goldwater song.

GLAZER: On no. Not political stuff. A good labor record.

Price says, “Well, this isn’t my kind of stuff. But,” he says, “the guy’s a good singer.” I think I’m—

The guy was smart. He said, “It will go over well with the labor guys there.”

So they arranged to have me go over there. They had in—you know the embassy over there?

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: Barbara Hutton’s old house. God—

Q: Yes. But how did you get over there? You didn’t explain about the fact that you were on the list.

GLAZER: Oh. As a matter of fact I told—that’s right. I not only was on Nixon’s list. I was on another list. See I was on two lists there. There was a USIA blacklist. As a matter of fact I told Schrader about it. He mentioned it to the ambassador. He wasn’t worried about it. It’s interesting. This guy felt secure enough that he didn’t—

Q: If that were a career man, he couldn’t have done it.

GLAZER: Oh yes. That’s right. As Schrader said, “He’s ok and you won’t have any trouble with him.”

MRS. GLAZER: Stupid business. This is a memo. We got this from Victor—

Q: We’re now reading from a memorandum from the White House and it’s a memorandum addressed to a number of people including John Deane who later became—

MRS. GLAZER: —and Pat Buchanan

Q: Pat Buchanan is on the list.

MRS. GLAZER: Larry Digby, Gordon Scott—

Q: A number of people. It's from somebody named Joanne Gordon. It says, "The attached list of sponsors of the Salute to Victor Reuther should be added to your copy of the opponents list. It's dated May 16th, 1972 and it's got Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Glazer listed in the ADA salute to Victor Reuther which was held on that day."

MRS. GLAZER: It's also got Muskey and it's got McGovern and—

Q: Anyway, the attached list of sponsors was put on the opponents list and there we are.

GLAZER: Now there was also, the USIA for a while they had—I don't know if they had—there were certain names that were blacklisted that when they were proposed to speak overseas included people like Walter Cronkite. I guess somebody had proposed me and somebody got a hold of this list. I think that's on the wall too Millie.

MRS. GLAZER: I don't have another—

GLAZER: Sure? You want to take a look?

MRS. GLAZER: I've never seen it.

GLAZER: It was a clipping from the *Times*.

Q: Well, the point is that in spite of the fact that you were on these various lists, this guy, this ambassador, a republican presumably, a powerful player, didn't feel it necessary to clear it or to change it or anything like that. Which is illustrative of the fact that there are certain areas in which politicals who may be in disagreement with you have a little bit more leeway in what to do whereas the career officer would reconsider.

GLAZER: Of course being an old hand at this, I put on a hell of a show. I have to tell you that.

I had a couple of little things I had to watch out for. At this time, Scargill had this bitter strike going on which the labor movement was split about. Most of them I guess were against it. I laid off. Originally I would normally do a coal mining song.

Q: What year would this be about?

GLAZER: This was probably 1982 or '83, something like that. It was at the height of this bitter, bitter coal strike. A lot of the labor leaders just hated Scargill's guts. So I avoided

that. I did a lot of stuff on solidarity. I brought in Samuel Gompers "born," I said, "just a few miles down the road."

One guy says, "You're pointing in the wrong direction."

Right behind me was a picture of—

MRS. GLAZER: You could have pointed also to Karl Marx.

GLAZER: There was a picture—a painting of I think Thomas Jefferson, and I brought him in.

Q: But it was a successful concert. You never got any sort of criticism of having been there. And so far as you know the ambassador didn't get any criticism either.

GLAZER: Nobody complained.

Q: No negative—

GLAZER: As a matter a fact, what I did at the end by the way, before I sang the last song, I said, "I want to say a word about the ambassador here." Roger Schrader (inaudible). I said, "I think everybody realizes that he and I have somewhat different political philosophies. He is not what we call a labor man." They all kind of smiled. "But he is sensitive to the importance of labor in this country. He went out of his way to bring me here, to bring people here so you could see one aspect of American labor.

Q: That was very good.

GLAZER: Roger Schrader afterwards said, "That was fantastic."

I worked on a couple of things. I don't know if you've ever run into this—I did "Too Old to Work, Too Young to Die"? I talked about this. Somebody had picked up a parody in England when there was a battle about Nye Bevan and Herbert Morrison.

Q: Left and right within the labor party.

GLAZER: Yes. They adapted my song. They said, "Who will take care of you, how you get by when you're too left for Herbie and too right for Nye."

Q: That was very good. Who did that?

GLAZER: I don't know who did it but somebody told that to me.

MRS. GLAZER: You didn't' tell him the following night you were invited to sing for the labor—

GLAZER: Oh yes. Afterward, what was interesting, after the show, there were people saying goodbye. They must have had 100 labor guys and their spouses there. The ambassador and his wife asked me to stay. The wife was a little more nervous. Of course she was fretting about feeding all these people. They had all the staff. It was a great, great show. It was a sit-down dinner for about 100 people. They overflowed into the other rooms. I guess she wanted to do it outside but they were worried about the rain. He invited me to stay for a drink and we had a nice chat. So obviously he was very pleased. I think we made a lot of points.

Then the next night, I was invited to the TUC (Trades Union Congress) headquarters. The guy who later became the general secretary. He was the number two guy at that point. What the hell was his name? I've got his name in my Rolodex. A very nice guy. He loved singing. He had a small group of people. He had about 15 or 20, a staff of people. I did a program there. Of course I could open up a little bit. I had some tougher songs. It was very good. We all went out to dinner. This was kind of interesting. He said, "I hope—Neil Kinnock is supposed to come and meet us but he's at parliament."

It turned out I was sitting there and who's next to me? Mrs. Kinnock. She said her husband couldn't get away. He was stuck. She's a beautiful woman. We had a chat there for a while. That was it. I can't remember this guy's name, big guy.

Q: So you retired and even after you retired you had at least one program. But you haven't been solicited for any since.

GLAZER: When I went to Asia on just a vacation, the USIA picked me up in a couple places.

Q: Oh they did?

GLAZER: I sung in Thailand.

Q: Without any flack.

GLAZER: No flack. There was no problem.

Q: Well, it's sort of disappointing to find out that there's no flack to your participation in government programs. Anything else you'd like to add about your experience? I take it this interview will indicate the fact that in spite of the fact that you left the government, your continuing to work with—

GLAZER: I continued working. I don't know. I'm sure I'll think of a lot of things.

Q: Well, you could always amend it.

GLAZER: Did I mention—this is kind of—let me mention my experiences in India. You'll probably touch on some of them. But since I hit India I think three or four times. I

don't know if you—was there somebody else there besides you? Maybe you were there all the time with different ambassadors I remember.

Q: I had Bowles and Keating.

GLAZER: Keating.

Q: But you may have come for a labor attaché conference afterward.

GLAZER: At any rate, to me the Indian experience showed the perfect set up on the use of the attaché and the labor information officer because there you had—you were the attaché.

Q: I was not the attaché. I was the direct counselor. That's very important to me.

GLAZER: Chris was the labor (inaudible).

Q: We worked perfectly together which is—

GLAZER: Very well together. I have to tell you one ironic thing. You put out this wonderful publication overseas in India in the embassy—

Q: I think you're right, but let me give full credit since somebody may be reading about this, that it was Chris.

GLAZER: Well Chris was a very good editor. They had a very good production operation there, the layout and the design. The stuff that worked into it really had substance—

Q: Most of it was stuff—you had not a qualm but you had sort of a negative tone to your voice when you said, "This guy McKenna was pretty good." But a whole lot of that stuff came right out of the packet that we used to get.

GLAZER: It was a useful packet.

Q: Chris's value was—I did a little of this—was to pick out the things that had relevance—

GLAZER: —to India, yes. Maybe he did a thing after your magazine. I guess it was before I came out or after I came out, but devoted to me and the songs and the—

Q: Oh yes.

GLAZER: It was a beautiful piece of work. I haven't seen anything as good as that in this country anywhere.

Q: Really?

GLAZER: I mean it was very good.

Q: I don't know who sent that stuff out.

GLAZER: This is interesting. When I went around I would always hold it up. It irks people that we've got their names who subscribe and so on. This shows one of the ironies of the bureaucracy. On one of these trips I'm bragging about the magazine. We come back from New Delhi and I meet, I guess it was Chris Sheldon. I meet him at the airport. He's got a big long face.

I said, "What's the matter?"

"We just got word that they canceled the magazine. It's too expensive"

In Washington somebody thought it's wasting, wasting money. That took care of that.

Q: It took a different form but it was so much less. It took a form of just reprinting some of the articles we got from Washington whereas this was a produced magazine.

GLAZER: But that was a good example of the cooperation between the labor counselor's office and the USIA.

Q: We had others.

GLAZER: Under the best circumstances that kind of thing you could—

Q: But the advantage here was English as a common language and all the other parts we directed toward the English-speaking top two percent of India and therefore we were able to produce something that was great. Of course—

GLAZER: That is true. Yes.

Q: At the same time there's a wonderful general magazine that was put out by Span which was put out by Jack Silverman. As good as we were in the labor field, he was if anything better because he had color and all those things. Span.

MRS. GLAZER: Someone told me he's retired to Florida?

Q: Yes. He's retired to Florida. We had a very nice couple of—

GLAZER: Are they still (inaudible) or did they change?

Q: I don't know. I don't know.

GLAZER: Anyway, that's about it. Maybe Millie (inaudible).

Q: Joe, there are a few questions we've been encouraged to cover. You did one of them. How the Cold War impacted on you? And of course you participated in activities which related to the disagreement over communism, McCarthyism. Did you have any experience with that?

GLAZER: I didn't have any problems with that. On the Cold War thing, I guess I touched on when I was dealing with this thing on Cuba how the Mexicans were a little—well at least our people felt the Mexicans would be a little sensitive to that, and they asked me to take it easy on that. I remember, come to think of it, in India I did a program in Bombay where I thought it was a pretty sophisticated group of labor leaders. At that time I guess I had just come out with my record on the party line. Songs about the party line. I did one or two songs from there because I felt it fit in. The person from the embassy was there. They were a little nervous about that because—

Q: —because of the neutrality of the Indians. Yes.

GLAZER: Neutrality and stuff. It was a little heavy on Khrushchev or whoever else we were knocking at the time. Now on civil rights, did you mention civil rights?

Q: Yes.

GLAZER: This was let's see, in the '60s. I remember in Mexico a number of times having discussions with union leaders and all kinds of different people. The race thing came up quite a bit. Wallace I guess was active at the time. George Wallace. That's always a hell of a burden. Nowadays at least you don't have the problem. In those days it was really embarrassing because people couldn't get a cup of coffee. They couldn't vote. That kind of stuff. How the hell do you explain that? You're selling democracy. That was one of the toughest things to explain and you just had to do the best you could. So that was always a kind of a problem. Nowadays, I would hope, even though there are different kinds of problems, but at least those elementary things about being able to walk into a restaurant or go to school—

Q: Those were the mid-60s. That was a bad problem, yes.

GLAZER: That was always one of the—we were always bragging if some black got elected to something. I remember when what's his name—was the Minnesota guy I talked to you about—I can't remember his name—

MRS. GLAZER: Rowan?

Q: Rowan.

GLAZER: Carl Rowan, was head of USIA. Boy that was a big thing, getting his picture. I remember one time there was another black guy that was appointed to be a judge or

something. We were bragging about that. He was too light. It didn't come out.

Q: Oh. Thurgood Marshall?

GLAZER: I don't remember if it was Thurgood or some other guy. It didn't come out dark enough in the picture.

Q: You can always darken it.

GLAZER: But we were very sensitive to that kind of thing.

Q: Sure.

GLAZER: I never ran into this McCarthyism business.

Q: Ok. What about—oh you didn't need any training. I was supposed to go over what kind of training did you have. Essentially the training was the training in the trade union movement.

GLAZER: Yes. That was the—

Q: Do you have any comments on the question of the sort of a background that has to go into this work? For instance we were talking about you and you're considered to be a successful example of a labor information officer. Chris Sholes, who was a wonderful labor information officer, he had no labor background. You had a labor background whereas some of the people with a labor background or even a socialist background like Gouseman, there were some negatives attached to his thing. With some of the people I interview are inclined to have a prescription; you know you've got to have a labor background in order to be successful. My feeling is it depends more on the type of labor background and his ideological focus before you can say whether a guy will be more or less successful with a (inaudible) in your background.

GLAZER: I agree with you. You can have a guy with a labor background who is not articulate. You know can't speak and doesn't know how to explain things, very narrow. You can have a guy without a labor background who learns very fast and who understands the U.S. and the U.S. culture and who is able to put that together. If he doesn't know anything at all about labor, that is a kind of a handicap. A guy like that I would hope that in the courses he gets as much labor background as possible. He's got to read a lot. He's got to meet with a lot of labor people to absorb all this kind of stuff. I think the key to this is probably—there's no magic key to this—is the type of person. You've got a guy who is a jerk, he is going to be a jerk in seven languages you see. If you've got a guy who's got a big ego and doesn't listen to anybody, he's going to be saying the wrong things all over the place.

Q: Or even with a labor background if he's got a bias that directs—

GLAZER: —ideology so that the key thing is to pick the "right type" of person.

Q: I'm going to be interviewing—

GLAZER: This is difficult.

Q: I'm going to be interviewing Chris Sholes I hope and we'll talk about that.

GLAZER: Is he still in Washington?

Q: So far as I know. I will be going into this type of thing with him, especially the training required and all that. But I'll be able to quote you, as well as myself, as saying he was a good example of a guy with a non-labor background as distinguished from some of the others—I think that that's about—

Now the relations with the Department of labor which at least was the organization that sent out these packets.

GLAZER: Yes. Well they sent out their own. We had our own, the USIA, had our own packet. They sent out other stuff. When I was the labor advisor, I was in constant touch with the people at the Labor Department and the International Affairs Department in the various areas, getting information and exchanging information with them on people that were coming here or going overseas. We were in constant touch. I remember all those guys. Bill Steen. Who else was there? Hoover and so on.

Q: Davey.

GLAZER: Avery.

Q: Davey. Well I guess I guess this finishes my list. You have covered over the AFL-CIO and selection and assignments. Ok. That's fine and that finishes you. Thank you very much Joe on behalf of our project.

GLAZER: You're welcome.

Q: I hope as a result of that, there are a whole lot of sales of your records as I always used to mention when you used to sing in India. Let's sell some records. OK Joe. Thank you very much.

End of interview