

Gordon Hall:

Let's begin, Richard Bayer, by asking you how old you are.

Richard Bayer:

Well I'm 28 years old this past June 8.

Gordon Hall:

You are a native New Yorker as I remember a question that I directed to you informally yesterday, are you not?

Richard Bayer:

Well – well I had been born in Jamaica, but I've traveled around quite a bit. And then I spent some time in Florida.

Gordon Hall:

Would you mind telling me, since I'm pretty familiar with the Long Island area, just generally what part of Jamaica you were born in, because I know that's a very changing scene out there. I'd be curious to know what part of Jamaica you're from.

Richard Bayer:

Well I was born in Queens General Hospital.

Gordon Hall:

And did your family live in – in that area at the time?

Richard Bayer:

Yes.

Gordon Hall:

I see.

Richard Bayer:

For about one year.

Gordon Hall:

And you – well then you were not raised in Jamaica I take it.

Richard Bayer:

No. I spent some time also up in Northern part of Long Island. I moved about quite a bit.

Gordon Hall:

Tell me just a little bit about your parents. To begin with, are they still living?

Richard Bayer:

My mother is not, my father is still living. I have a step-mother now and I have a younger sister and a younger brother by my step-mother and an older sister by my first mother.

Gordon Hall:

I see. Your father was engaged in what kind of work? What did he – or what does he do I should say since he's still living?

Richard Bayer:

After he came out of the army in 1947, he took up carpentry as a trade and he's been doing that on and off now. But between 1950 and 19 – actually I should say 1949. Between 1949 and 1958, I believe it was, he was working as a security guard at Republic Aviation Corporation.

Gordon Hall:

Would – would – before we get into the discussion of your party activities and the rest, can I ask you did your father, or had your father ever expressed to you the feeling that he thought he fought on the wrong side in World War II?

Richard Bayer:

No. No he didn't.

Gordon Hall:

So I would gather then that if your parents, or your father in particular, knew of your political activities he wouldn't necessarily be approving then?

Richard Bayer:

No I don't believe so.

Gordon Hall:

Does he know about your political activities?

Richard Bayer:

Well I haven't seen my father for some time. I can cover that more in detail if you like later on.

Gordon Hall:

All right, fine.

Richard Bayer:

But if my father does know about it, it would be as a result of your Newsday article out in Long Island. Or perhaps the televised program that you'll be making in the future.

Gordon Hall:

I don't recall now whether I mentioned you by name, because I do so many pieces. Did I mention you by name in that piece?

Richard Bayer:

Not in the article, no.

Gordon Hall:

All right, fine. Well now, how about schooling, how much schooling, formal schooling, have you had? I know you read a great deal, but aside from – from that, how much schooling have you had?

Richard Bayer:

Well originally I had 11 years, but I finished my high school as a result of courses and examinations in the Navy. So I've put in the equivalent of high school and about one semester in college.

Gordon Hall:

What – what years did you serve in United States Navy?

Richard Bayer:

Well I enlisted August 22nd, 1957. And I was in the Navy until May, late May of 1959.

Gordon Hall:

So then your service it is taken care of, out of the way and there's no problem there as far as the draft goes, unless of course there's an all out war which would affect everybody, correct?

Richard Bayer:

Yes. There is no commitment of course of the draft. Although I think I should mention for the sake of record, and I'm speaking only for myself now this is nothing to do with the Party policy, when I did go into the Navy I originally enlisted for four years, which would have carried my term until 1961. But for reasons perhaps I'll explain later on if it's pertinent to our discussion, I left before 1961 of course.

Gordon Hall:

Well just briefly, how do – how do you leave service? Were you – did you get a – a special kind of discharge, or?

Richard Bayer:

Well, I have a general discharge. That's the type of discharge a person would receive if they leave prior to the fulfillment of their enlistment or draft period, whatever the case may be.

Gordon Hall:

Am I correct in saying – saying that discharge generally applies to people who find army life incompatible, Isn't that the general ruling on that, something like that?

Richard Bayer:

Well that is one – that is one reason for it. There are others, but in my personal case I think you could use that word, incompatible. It was short of the expectations I had and after a certain period of time I felt that it was no longer advisable for me to stay in the service since I saw nothing that become [inaud 00:06:00].

Gordon Hall:

I see. Tell me about the way that you earn a living; how – how do you earn a living? Without telling me where you work, I'm not interested in that, just a general –

Richard Bayer:

Well over the past few years since 1959 in June, I've been engaged in commercial work, although I have done other work as well. And at present I'm back in the commercial line only doing like office work.

Gordon Hall:

And what other kind of occupations have you had? You say you've done other kinds of things.

Richard Bayer:

Well I've done everything from running IBM machines to manual labor; I've done just about anything I could to keep myself going over the past few years.

Gordon Hall:

How did you first hear about the National Renaissance Party led by **James H. Madole**?

Richard Bayer:

I have a roommate, a friend of mine whom I've known for about three years, and I heard of the National Renaissance Party last year in the month of June I believe it was, I can't give you the specific date, but it was in June. And at that time this individual, I won't mention his name because I don't think he would want me to,

Gordon Hall:

Right.

Richard Bayer:

But he did tell me about the NRP. In fact, he is a member of the SE, he is a section leader. But at that particular time he did not belong to the SE, but he was going to meetings. And through our general discussions I heard of the NRP through him.

Gordon Hall:

And then you on your own then started also to attend meetings, would that be right?

Richard Bayer:

Yes.

Gordon Hall:

Now tell me your first personal reactions to the Party aside from the description given to you by your – your roommate when you – for example, did you first go up to Mr. – to headquarters, Mr. Madole's place, or did you go to a meeting such as the one that was held this past Friday night in Public School 169?

Richard Bayer:

No, I went to see Mr. Madole personally. Of course it was a Thursday night and that's the evening of the SE meeting. I met some of the SE officers. I spent most of my time discussing opinions, political and private, with Mr. Madole in order to understand the Party policy more fully.

Gordon Hall:

Now did you come away mildly interested, or did you come away very interested?

Richard Bayer:

Well I wouldn't say that I was fanatically interested or very interested. I had decided then and there that I was interested enough to give the NRP a trial, but I did not want to commit myself until I found out more detail and saw the Party in operation.

Gordon Hall:

Now what happens after something like this, and I ask you because I'm curious to know how a person becomes as involved as you now are involved, whether it's a succession of meetings in which your – the intensity of your interests heightens and increases, or whether it's they sort of push you into joining because they are very much in need of members? After this first Thursday night meeting what was the – what was the next step?

Richard Bayer:

Well I'll have to answer this in two ways. First of all this decision to join the NRP I mentioned the NRP not for any particular reason for the – for this reason: my dissatisfaction with the political deterioration in the United States had been coming on for some years. I mentioned before that I left the service prior to my fulfillment of four years. That contributed to the beginning of it as well as personal observations made in normal life. But the years had been going by and I had done some traveling in Europe. With the greeting that I had engaged in, plus the European experiences, I became very dissatisfied with the present system, I saw many shortcomings and many moral dangers. So I would say to the first part of this question that my decision to join a political party was not spontaneous, it was continual growth over the years. Now after I met Mr. Madole June of 1967, that Thursday night, and I heard what he had to say about the political policies of the NRP, and we discussed other things as well outside of politics generally, I decided as I said before to find out more about the NRP. So I did so by returning to successive Thursday night meetings and, also on my own, Sunday evenings.

Gordon Hall:

Could we go back, **Richard Bayer**, just a little bit and talk in a little more detail about your general dissatisfaction in service life? Because as you have very articulately pointed out, your joining the Party was not a spontaneous overnight thing, but it was a, as you put it, part of a continuing growth process. What just generally caused you to be dissatisfied with service life; was it the service itself or what it the being in the service of the country that you no longer felt affectionate towards?

Richard Bayer:

Well for this I have to make a – I have to make an admission, I should say. I could not say in all honesty that my decision was based entirely on political or social dissatisfaction. Of course I joined the service for the poorest of reasons, which was more or less to get away from the broken home like that I experienced. And over the years moving around, having no mother, I did not learn the proper discipline. So I would say that in part I would have to blame my undisciplined nature for my decision. But on the other hand, I would have to include in order to be complete and honest, that when I did go into the Navy I was expecting that in the Navy perhaps I would find some sort of development of myself as an individual coupled together with perhaps finishing my education. Because at that time that was tantamount in my mind, going to college. And since 1957 in August, I began to notice that there was no lack – or I should say no true unification - no identification with a [spirited cause? 00:13:37], a National spirit.

People were in there for a variety of reasons. I found no people who understood political nature or who had any deep patriotic feeling; they were in there for a number of reasons. Most were in there to get the service done, as I was. Others were in there because some were drafted, a special case at that time as far as the Navy's department is concerned. But at no time did I meet anyone with any strong national convictions, save a Greek immigrant who could not speak English. But as soon as he got off the ship, taking him from Greece, as soon as he arrived in the United States, I believe it was New York City, he felt so grateful to this country he enlisted and served out his term. Now I can trust this spirit of a Greek national comes to this country and from what I found out in Europe I understand that the Europeans have some misled ideas about the United States, but nonetheless he puts his national feeling above his personal feeling. The American on the other hand, and I include myself, did not do this. We were in there simply because it was the matter of events, it was the course of things, and for no other reason. And perhaps this was only because peacetime makes one lack one national attitude. But I would say that this is more the case, not so much in peacetime as it would be even in wartime.

And to make this much shorter, I found that my expectations of being able to make a military career was frustrated, shall I say, by conflicting rules, by people who misused their office. By unfit officers, non-commissioned as well as commissioned, and by a host of immoral activities. This coupled with my own undisciplined morale led me to make the decision I did. Perhaps at that time it might have been a wrong decision, but since that time I have not regretted it.

Gordon Hall:

It's most interesting. Now you don't have to answer this question if you don't want to, but when you do something like that in service, when you make the move to separate yourself, is it customary for the Naval hierarchy to suggest that you undergo examinations by psychologists and psychiatrists or don't you have to do that sort of thing?

Richard Bayer:

Yes sir we do – we did. As a matter of fact, about a month prior to my discharge I did talk to some psychologists. And once again I have to admit, in order to be honest and not to hide anything, that there has been a tendency because of earlier undisciplined perhaps, or some other unknown reason – I'm not a psychologist and I couldn't give you the answers anyway – but perhaps this unknown factor of instability did have, I would say most definitely did have, an important place in the decision. And it is the custom of the armed forces to examine the individual both upon entrance into the service. And if that individual is found lacking in any way, also to try to determine the cause of it; and if an unfavorable decision or – is rendered – or a decision that some outside source would be more reliable, then that investigation is brought to bear and the final decision rests with the individual, in this case, myself.

Gordon Hall:

After the time of your being separated from service and up until the time that you became active in the Party, year or so now, then is when you had a variety of occupations and did some traveling on your own, is that correct?

Richard Bayer:

Yes.

Gordon Hall:

I see. After – after your – your leaving the service. Well now, when did you first start to become impressed with what you began to see on Thursdays and Sundays up at 10 West 90th; was it after the second or third or the fourth, or was that also a growth process where a little bit little you began to comprehend the nature of the Party and the nature of the leadership and its discipline?

Richard Bayer:

Excuse me – it was a period of continual growth because at this particular time I might say that although I did have a general understanding of the breaking down process of our social society, I at that time did not have any strong, shall I say, political ideologies. I examined them in detail several of these different ideologies in some detail but only as a result of intellectual investigation. And I am speaking now personally I'm now speaking in any official capacity when I say that to this present time I have my own ideas, I've discussed this in private with Mr. Madole, which do not necessarily conform to the ideas of the Party or to other Party members.

But I think in a political movement if a group of people come together from various backgrounds, they may owe allegiance or adherence to a political ideology, which eventually may become the national government, but at the same time may still hold personal views and differences of opinion which do not conform to Party policy. Of course this in no way would mean that I would put my personal opinions in every case above that of the Party, save where I think the Party might be aided.

Gordon Hall:

Richard I want to back track just again for a minute to your service days, and you don't have to make this a long answer if you don't want to. But in light of the attitudes of the National Renaissance Party toward Negroes, we'll just – we won't discuss American Jews now, just Negroes – and in light of the fact that you went into service at a time, unlike when I went into service, the armed forces were integrated. Did you have any strong feelings at that time serving in the Navy on a basis of equality with Negroes?

Richard Bayer:

Well to begin with, I mentioned earlier in the tape that I spent some years in Florida. Now this was just after the war and at that time, of course, integration was not the case, absolute segregation was. And while I was not born and raised down there, enough of the influence remained with me through these years to the present time that I automatically accepted segregation as a necessity. I say automatic not in the sense of conditioning, although this was true when a person is seven-years-old they don't question these things. But this idea of segregation did stay in my mind and I firmly believe in it today for different reasons, not just the two years in Florida, or three years in Florida, rather. But as far as the service is concerned, I admit that I did not particularly care to serve with Negroes. I had done so because this was required and in a national organization, military service or civilian, people have to work together. This

does not only work out for the best, but at the time that I was in the service we did not have that many Negroes as we have today. I understand now from a young man over in Vietnam that, as well as some various other sources, that the Negro ratio is considerably higher than it was since 1959. And well this does not really answer the question, but trying to provide a background to it, yes to some extent I did resent working with Negroes and I did not consider them, and still do not consider them [or myself? 00:23:27] on an equal part.

Gordon Hall:

Did you actually during your Navy days work side-by-side with Negroes or not? Or was you – was your occupation in service not such that you would have that kind of contact?

Richard Bayer:

Well, as I say, there were not that many Negroes on board my ship or in basic training. I took basic training in Bainbridge, Maryland which was the southern Naval district and that might have had something to do with it. However, in the general courses of my duties, I did not come into contact with Negroes in any large way.