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Archives Center - NMAH

Moses Moon Civil Rights Recordings 1963-1964: Greenwood, MS: circa November 3, 1963: Side 2

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WEBVTT

00:00:03.000 --> 00:00:07.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: Will let him come into her house. 'Cause it's a two way street!

00:00:07.000 --> 00:00:16.000

Seems to me any woman that'll let him know that these cops arrestin' us around here then invite them in through the back door at night.

00:00:16.000 --> 00:00:25.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: It's a sin and a shame! And if you know em tell em I said they ought to be run out of town! [[applause]]

00:00:25.000 --> 00:00:28.000

And here we are.

00:00:28.000 --> 00:00:30.000

Here we are.

00:00:30.000 --> 00:00:38.000

Well we uh pay 'em they can work for us, they don't have to be gettin' no dollar quarter we pay 'em two dollars a day! Work for freedom, they don't have to do that.

<i>John Lewis</i>:

00:00:38.000 --> 00:00:40.000

So we come on down.

00:00:40.000 --> 00:00:46.000

We come on down to the second World War, skip over the first World War.

00:00:46.000 --> 00:00:56.000

Well we gotta under understand this, that after the first World War primarily a lotta people began leavin' the south land, goin' up north!

00:00:56.000 --> 00:01:02.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: 'Cause the war had produced certain changes, and that's where my mama and papa went, away from the delta!

00:01:02.000 --> 00:01:18.000

Left my grandmama and all the rest of the relatives down here, and they would write letters occasionally, and you know what I'm talking about 'cause you got brothers and sisters and sons and daughters and everybody else up there in Chicago too. And I know you know what I'm talking about!

00:01:18.000 --> 00:01:33.000

And sometimes you wonder well don't they ever think about us down here. Don't they ever realize that we sweatin' and toil all these years to try to give em an education, we did our best! We know we's failed sometimes!

00:01:33.000 --> 00:01:40.000

Now they sittin up there in the cities look like they would come on down and help us, a little bit. I know how it is!

<i>John Lewis</i>:

00:01:40.000 --> 00:01:47.000

'Cause after all I'm from the soil too. And I know what you're going through, and I know what I'm going through.

00:01:47.000 --> 00:01:51.000

But in the meantime we start flooding into the cities.

00:01:51.000 --> 00:01:54.000

And we start getting a little political power.

00:01:54.000 --> 00:02:02.000

And we start electing some Uncle Tom politicians, that's right! Up there in the north they got some Uncle Tom politicians!

00:02:02.000 --> 00:02:18.000

And brother Jordan is absolutely right there's no point in everybody here coming out to these meetings being shot at, going through all this trouble to elect some Negro who's gon be an Uncle Tom to get all the money for himself! You see? [[NO!]]

00:02:18.000 --> 00:02:20.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: So we got to watch him! That's right.

00:02:20.000 --> 00:02:23.000

We got to watch our black brothers.

00:02:23.000 --> 00:02:25.000

Watch who leadin you!

00:02:25.000 --> 00:02:39.000

You see when all the fire's over I know I got a cousin used to live up there I went up to him I said why don't you register to vote? Well I'm waitin' 'til the fire goes out the thing is too hot now. And I said well man we don't need you when it cools down!

00:02:39.000 --> 00:02:42.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: We need ya now!

00:02:42.000 --> 00:02:48.000

So I would say to him and he's my cousin don't come runnin' with ya bucket after the fire's out, and you watch him!

00:02:48.000 --> 00:02:58.000

They gon all come all these uneducated teachers, and all these [??] preachers gon be runnin' when you win this battle! They gon be tryin' to get

in the front!

00:02:58.000 --> 00:03:01.000

I'm tellin you you gotta watch em!

00:03:01.000 --> 00:03:06.000

<i>John Lewis</i>: They gon be the ones that wanna go down and sit in the city council.

00:03:06.000 --> 00:03:13.000

They gon be the ones that are gonna wanna run for the city legislature, they gon say you uneducated, I got a degree from MVC!

00:03:13.000 --> 00:03:28.000

You see? And I ought to represent you. But don't you let em fool you, if you can come out here night after night in these meetings, you've got enough sense to do anything that an 8th grader got like Bull O'Connor in Birmingham, Alabama, he ain't got no education.

00:03:28.000 --> 00:03:31.399

[[No!]] See? It don't take a whole lotta stuff to run that city -



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