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Significant African American Public Figures of Texas

POLITICS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

Interviewee: JOHN WILEY PRICE

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JOHN WILEY PRICE

Danielle Ayers: Good morning Commissioner Price

Commissioner Price: Good morning

Danielle Ayers: Welcome to the University of Texas at Arlington. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to meet with us. Today is the 24th day of October, 2002. And this is Political Science class 4318, African American Politics class, and today we have Camile White, she will be one of the interviewers, and Brad Rollins. So we thank you for being here today. And your interview will cover three phases one will be your biography information, phase two career and phase three: your views on contemporary political issues.

I will be turning it over to Camile White.

Camile White: Thank you. Good morning, Commissioner Price.

John Wiley Price: Morning.

Camile White: What is your date of birth?

John Wiley Price: 4-24-50, April 24, 1950.

Camile White: Were you born and raised in Forney, Texas.?

John Wiley Price: No, I grew up in Forney, Texas. I was born in San Augustine, Texas which is San Augustine County in East Texas, but I was reared in Forney, Texas in Kaufman County, in Kaufman County, Texas.

Camile White: What are your parent's names?

John Wiley Price: My dad was Holman, H-o-l-m-a-n, Holman Price and my mother was Willie Fae McCoy, and they are from San Augustine, Texas as well.

Camile White: Are they still living?

John Wiley Price: My mother is 80 years old and still living in Forney and my dad is deceased.

Camile White: Did either of them hold a political office?

John Wiley Price: No, never heard of politics when I was growing up.

Camile White: Well, how, how did you get the hyphenated name of John Wiley Price? Is that your middle name or ---

John Wiley Price: That's my middle name. It's nothing hyphenated about it. But my uncle's name is John Wiley Price. My granddad's name was John Wiley Price. So I guess it was easy enough as the eldest of six children, the first one to [be] named John Wiley Price.

Camile White: Speaking of children, how many siblings do you have?

John Wiley Price: There were three boys and three girls. I was the eldest of six and I'm the only surviving male. My father is deceased and my two younger brothers are deceased. And I have three sisters who are who are living.

Camile White: What are [the] names and ages of your sisters and brothers?

John Wiley Price: My brother next to me [was] Holman Earl Price and my sister next to him was Shotzie , S-h-o-t-z-i-e, it's German. We usually get that look. Shotzie Price? My sister next to her was Vanessa Marie Price. My brother next to her was Kevin Earl Price, and then, my sister, who resides with my mother presently, is Elizabeth Renee Price.

Camile White: Do any of them hold political office, by chance?

John Wiley Price: No.

Camile White: They don't.

Camile White: How was it being raised in Forney , Tex.? Did you experience a great deal of racism ?

John Wiley Price: Ha! Was there anything else? We had split school systems. I grew up primary in a segregated school system. I attended Booker T. Washington, a school [which] I now know was all twelve grades was on less then an acre of land. I attended Booker T. Washington until my sophomore year at which time we desegregated. We never integrated. I don't like the word integrated. We desegregated Booker T.

Washington and I stated, began to attend high school and needless to say [at] Booker T. Washington, we had split school years all the way through. Split school year basically means... I guess that the Forney Independent School District terminated all school in May. They [the white students] were all , were out for two months and two weeks. And in [that time] we went back to school in the summer months. So every summer we went to school in Forney. So we went to school in June, July and August. When we would terminate [the] school [year] at the segregated Booker T. Washington, then Anglos would go back to school in Forney High School in September. And we, we would basically terminate school. So that, that you know.... We were rural. We were agrarian. So that we could chop cotton , pull cotton , haul hay, combine the maize. And when all the crops were finished, we got a chance to come back to school. So, we, we had split school years. We, we basically went back to school usually about the first of, I guess November because [in] October, which was the Fair, Fair time and we were always in the cotton fields. So that's, that's, that's my relentless test [for remembering] what schools were like back....

Camile White:

Did anything or anyone influence --- influence your decision to enter the political ring?

John Wiley Price:

Yeah, there was a couple of guys, and one is still living, in the Dallas County Community College District. I came to Dallas and basically entered El Centro College. And there was a professor by the name of Jay [unintelligible] who did history and John Chandler who did English, and they

thought I should some how be involved in politics. And so I got involved in the student government there. And there I began, I guess, everything from my interface with politics to my interface with protest. My first protest was at El Centro College. It's where.... I had never heard of a protest before that.

[Laughter]

Camile White: Are you married?

John Wiley Price: No, I'm not. I'm single and divorced for the past 30 years.

Camile White: What was your former wife's name?

John Wiley Price: Vivian --- Vivian Pauline. And the last name was S-a-l-i-n-a-s, Salinas.

Camile White Can you tell us a little about her?

John Wiley Price: She was from the Dallas area and I met her when I came to Dallas. Unfortunately...I don't know a lot more about her other than the fact that I married her, we had a son. Well, I married her we had a son. And at that time, keep in mind, I was nineteen and she was twenty six. She was a little older and we had one biological son.

Camile White: Was your son's name ---

John Wiley Price: It was or is...It's John Paul Chandler Wiley Price.

Professor Gutierrez: *Es parte Mexicano?* Is he part Mexican?

John Wiley Price:

Yeah.

Camile White:

Do you have any other children?

John Wiley Price:

Yes. I have, I have two other children. I have a seven-year-old, John Nicholas Price, and Angelina Monique Price.

Camile White:

So are you with their mothers or...

John Wiley Price:

No. I ... John Nicholas and I within three months went... I was a foster parent. And John Nicholas and I went to the Million Man March. In three months... and I inadvertently adopted John Nicholas. I don't talk in terms of adoption... [But] because I adopted John Nicholas, and I... Angelina since, Angelina was four days old. She's been basically there with me. She's now 4 years old and John Nicholas in now seven. So they're my children.

Camile White:

So was Angelina adopted as well?

John Wiley Price:

Yes.

Camile White:

Ok, this completes this phase. We'll move on to the next.

John Wiley Price:

I stopped procreating years ago.

[Laughter.]

Brad Rollins:

Commissioner you've, you've obviously been a groundbreaker in a lot of ways with, with the black community in Dallas. What is it like being the first and the only black person to hold the Comm...a seat on the {Dallas County} Commissioner's Court?

John Wiley Price:

Well, probably lonely. I'm, I'm, I'm not one of those people that still talk about wanting to be the only and the first, you know. My position is that there probably is a lot of people in that position, and so I'm not unique. I just happen to be, as my daddy said, the first person with an opportunity versus ability. There have been a lot of people with ability. I just happen to have the opportunity. And so it's challenging, it's challenging. Every day, [even] before I came here today, the fact that we have some what some 60 million dollars in construction that is part of queing up in, in terms of our procurement process; everything from building the George Allen expansion Courthouse building, to [the] Henry Wade expansion Juvenile Facility. I mean the fact of the matter is, I still have to be in the forefront of forging opportunities for individuals. And, as I explained to a gentleman this morning, the fact that African Americans graduate from Harvard does not matter in [county contracting for] architecture. They do not get into the process unless I advocate for them to get into the process. The fact that Trevino does mechanical engineering does not matter if I don't forge opportunity. That's what it [the job] calls for me to do every day.

Brad Rollins:

How have you done that in your role as commissioner?

John Wiley Price:

Well, I advocate. I'm very, I'm very clear about what my position should be. I mean, in the final analysis it has to be that. That. That is the only gradation that I get in terms of my own report card. I got to grade myself long before my constituents grade me in terms of any accountability. So when they ask... The old adage of what kind of bacon did I bring home, I've got to be able to look at the bottom line and say to these people, "This is what it looked like last year before or the last 18 years." That's when I became a county commissioner. African Americans had done \$50,000 [in business] with Dallas County, and Latino's had \$110,000 worth of business. And they weren't even keeping records on white women.

Brad Rollins:

Do you know what those numbers are now?

John Wiley Price:

Oh, yes. They're upwards of about 32 million dollars

Brad Rollins:

For the black....

John Wiley Price:

For African-Americans and/ or Latinos and.... That was, those are old numbers. But, but they're about [unintelligible]. Because if you just look at, just, just... You talk about the [Manuel] Trevino of Aztec contract, that's a \$40 million dollars contract. And so... So when we don't have constant projects most of what a county commissioner does is we have our own. We have a Road and Bridge district system which the law says... Some, some counties in Texas have what they call a pay way system. You... They have a unified system in Tarrant County. We don't. So we run our own Road and Bridge

and district crews. And as such, we build most of our own roads and bridges with our in-house crew. So these projects [like the Trevino contract] are basically out-sourced projects.

Brad Rollins:

I know you have your radio show. And there's various things you do to, to develop public opinion, to support the causes you push. What is it like working with, working in the in the all-white Commissioner's Court to, to accomplish your goals?

John Wiley Price:

Well, there's one, one issue and that's for me not to be confused while I'm there. Understand what my objective is. People always say... I'm glad you said "all-white" opposed to four Republicans and one Democrat because, you know, we get confused about that. Whether it was four Republicans and one Democrat or whether it was three Republicans and two Democrats, it's always been four white people and me. And I need two votes to be able get any issue across. I do reparations and it passes by a three-two vote. That's the margin of victory in the court. And so I don't see my colleagues in terms of, of being any more in the vanguard of the system than I see me trying to penetrate that system. So I'm very clear when I go forward every day prepared. I understand what it is that I need to do in order to change that institutional system. So that's the way I look at it every day. So that the fact that it four, four, four Caucasian, four Anglos, and me, you know... I'm not intimidated.

Brad Rollins:

You came to the Commissioners Court in 1985?

John Wiley Price: 1985, January 1, 1985. I took office, that's correct.

Brad Rollins: You were appointed your first term?

John Wiley Price: No. Believe me I definitely ran. There was five of us [candidates].

Brad Rollins: And how many times have you been re-elected?

John Wiley Price: This is my fourth term. There are four-year terms, and I'm really getting, really hopefully, to getting ready to go into my fifth term.

Brad Rollins: What... How did you go about doing that [getting elected]? I mean, where did you raise [campaign funds] for it?, Where did you get your money from? Who were your supporters?

John Wiley Price: I think, I think I was basically the kind of candidate they basically call a grassroots candidate. In fact, it came down to a couple of us. Elsie Fae Huggins, who is now deceased, a former City Council woman, you know, and a mentor of mine... and I. We happened to work for [election to] the same office. But, you know, again, I always tell young people, one of the things I did. I did a lot of preparation work like Dr. [Jose Angel] Gutierrez. See, I worked on a lot of reapportionment [issues]. So when I got ready to run for that office I had already basically constructed the district and so [unintelligible]. But I was active, I was active in the community. So it wasn't really a [unintelligible]

issue for me when I ran. I think the landscape has changed somewhat, but I'll never get the kind of dollars and the kind of support my colleagues get. I'll never have that kind of war chest, if you will. And so it's imperative that every day I understand the issue and give an accountability on every basis. My colleagues don't have to be at the office every day. I do. My colleagues don't have to have the kind of activism that I do. And so, understand that.

Brad Rollins:

What...How much have you raised for this election cycle?

John Wiley Price:

I haven't raised anything. I do an [unintelligible] . I've probably raised about \$60,000, and I'll probably loan my self [campaign] probably that much. But there's really not an election cycle. Keep in mind: I run on a four- year intervals. We all do, [County Commissioner] districts one and three across the state of Texas run in Presidential [election] years. Districts two and four and the county judge run in the what we call the "off presidential years," this year, gubernatorial years. And so, my cycle comes up in 2004. I'm constantly, you know, trying to raise money, but money is not the issue.

Brad Rollins:

Since you've taken office obviously the landscape has changed somewhat, but what do you thing the greatest change as far as the welfare of the black community has been ?

John Wiley Price:

Well, again, hopefully that in Dallas County in terms as trying, of trying to change institutionally, you know... They understand that whether I'm there or not... The greatest compliment I was given was when I was in jail during the billboard campaign... What some people call white-washing billboards; I call beautifying my community. But, nonetheless, I still was sentenced to 75 days [in jail] a couple of times... But nonetheless, [while I was in jail] I read the Minutes of one of the Commissioner's Court [meetings] and one of my colleagues basically said "If commissioner Price was here, he would ask this question." And he proceeded to ask the question which means somehow, we somehow [have] begun to prick the conscience of, of your colleagues. That's probably to me one of the greatest compliments. Because at least, whether I'm present or absent it's anticipated by staff what I'm going to ask for. It is anticipated by staff what I expect. And if you don't want a public thrashing, staff will ensure that some of that, as you guys say, that they represent ...

[Laughter]

Brad Rollins:

You've spoken about appropriating money for people of color to build roads and such in your district, your precinct. What inroads have you made as a whole, county wide contracts, things that don't fall under your specific...

John Wiley Price:

Well, they're not. Those are not within my purview. Those are within the purview of the entire Commissioner's Court. It's just that when I attend a Court [meeting], I take the position that if I am not the ambassador, if I am not the advocate, then who will be? You know, it's one thing for

them to understand and set the framework that I've help coach. It's another thing for me to craft it in such a way that, in the final analysis, I get results. So none of that is within my single purview; that is within the purview of the [whole] Court. I'm sure that when I go into that courtroom, that I want my colleague to understand, you know, what are...The issues are.

Brad Rollins:

Can you cite any examples where...

John Wiley Price:

Schulemberger. We just out-sourced \$60 million. That's why I say those old numbers don't count. They came in with a procurement of almost 25 percent for African Americans. I.T. [Information Technology] firms procurement. The prior firm had no participation like that and, as such.... As I said this morning, with an expansion I make them go back and get [unintelligible] 25 percent of the engagement of the... By the way, a brother for Schulemberger happens to be an Latino brother who is running the issue for Schulemberger. So my position with Schulemberger, who I never heard of, will.... Did the I.T. for the Summer Olympics. A premier runner for this I.T. out-sourcing was EDS, ACS and, you know, those who were more knowledgeable. I had never heard of Schulemberger. They came and put together... They assembled the kind of team that I like. Every body thought they didn't have an ice cube's chance. And in fact, when we made the first cut they said, "We're going to cut them all out. We're going to cut them all out but three." And I said, 'No, you're going to keep Schulemberger in the loop,' And

once they kept Schulemberger in the loop, Schulemberger emerged. And, as such, when you create those kinds of ventures and co-ventures locally then you can export them, you can export them into Fulton County, Georgia, export them into Miami Dade [Florida]. Because what you do... That's the way the boys have traditionally done the work, you know, institutionally. They assemble the team and the team gets exported into Parkland [County Hospital] outsourcing, into D.I.S.D. and other places. So that is my most recent example of a 60 million venture.

Brad Rollins:

Ok, How long have you been doing your radio broadcast?

John Wiley Price:

I did KKDA [104.5 FM] at night, nine o'clock, "Talk Back" for twelve years. And I've just been doing, "Liberation Nation", one day a week, for the last year.

Brad Rollins:

How does your radio broadcast fit into the bigger picture of what you're trying to accomplish?

John Wiley Price:

It's about information. It's about no nonsense. It's strictly about how do I engage a kind of social, critical thinking in terms that fit my objective and my goal.

Brad Rollins:

What is your involvement in... How do the Warriors [Comm Wiley's support group] affect the broader picture of what you're trying to accomplish?

John Wiley Price:

The Warriors are basically.... Serve notice that there are some other people out there who are no nonsense and are willing to move to the next level in order to ensure that they

advance the position. And think. So many of us talk a good game, but we're not willing to stand in the rain and do the game.

Brad Rollins:

How do you do that in practical terms as far as...How do you use the Warriors, you know, to drum up public attention?

John Wiley Price:

You have to bring attention to the issue. But by the time we get to the Warriors... Now the Warriors are work. I tell people all the time that protesting is work because once you get out there... They've never been out there for a day. And, as I tell the Warriors, you have to be there in the rain and in the cold because people have to see you as serious. And so places we have protested, we, we, we have been there for an average of 13, 14 months. We've been there. So they've got to believe that you're serious, but by the time the Warriors get out, get out there, that means we've tried to go through the negotiations. We've tried to come to some resolution.

You're looking at someone who truly really doesn't like picketing, because we get there at seven in the morning and it's seven days a week.

Brad Rollins:

Non-stop ---

John Wiley Price:

Yeah, it's non-stop. We do that before we go to work. Sometimes we come back on our lunch hour. Sometimes we're there in the evening. And again it all about

strategically how does it impact what it is were trying to advance.

Brad Rollins

Ok, for the record can you just give us a, a short description of what the Warriors are?

John Wiley Price:

The Warriors are a collective group. Individuals who are very concerned about the direction of our community from all avocations. So, we have nurses out there. We have teachers out there. We have sanitary engineers. We have everyone. And we are a open group. And as long as you're serious you come on and join us.

Brad Rollins

How many [Warriors] are there?

John Wiley Price:

Well, it depends on what day it is. And it depends on what strategy we're trying to deploy. One of the things I understand, and I've been told often times, "John ,why don't you just stand back and be the general and don't try to be the on-sight tactician?" And one of the things I understand, especially from my people, is that if you're not willing to give it up [the effort], why should I? And so I want them to understand that I am willing to give up everything. So it depends on what day and so on. As a tactician, you know, it's imperative that I do not utilize, not use up all of my forces and so I schedule them [strategically], if you will.

Brad Rollins:

You have been critical of Ron Kirk while he was Mayor of Dallas. Just this morning, I heard you on the radio endorsing him [for U.S. Senate]. How do you reconcile that?

John Wiley Price:

I am Ron Kirk's probably biggest fan. That does not stop him from having accountability in terms of certain issues. There are no permanent friends and there are no permanent enemies, there are permanent issues. And that would be like saying Jim Jackson is my permanent enemy on the Commissioner's Court because he has an ideology, political ideology, that is extreme to the right. Jim Jackson voted with me on reparations. Hello! So my point is... If I took that position I would always be isolated and would quarantine myself in terms of real issue. No permanent friends, no permanent enemies. So, Ron Kirk and I disagreed when Yvonne Gonzales was the Superintendent [Dallas Independent School District] in terms of issues. My position to him was... You're over at the city, you got enough problems over there, you stay over there. But, now, if you want some of this, I'll give you some. And what I need to do is send a message that you're not immune. Because you have a black face, you're not immune. I will come after you. Ok? And so, when we understand that... But since then, like I said, you know, I'm his No. 1 cheerleader. And not only did you heard the ad this morning, you heard me all through the [election] Primary and I'm running all over this state for him

Brad Rollins:

When Kirk gets elected can we expect the Warriors in Washington?

[Laughter]

John Wiley Price:

I told him just that...I told him the fact that distance doesn't matter to us. And the fact of the matter is that if he

doesn't get there and do the right thing in terms of voting, we'll find his house in Washington.

[Laughter]

Brad Rollins:

At one point, you hosted the Leadership Luncheon is that still going?

Do you still hosting it?

John Wiley Price:

No. It took a lot of energy . We did that. We did the Dallas Community Leadership Luncheon to make Saint Luke Church, [of] which I'm a member, a lot more accountable in terms of being seen as a collective in the community. Where people could come in and discuss issues on a weekly basis. It's a lot of energy and production. And I did not see those kind of results. It gave me another Sunday morning format to disseminate on things. But when you're working for 52 weeks out of the year, and you've got to put a production together each and every week and keep the interest and try to gather....After 12 years, I had to make an assessment that it no longer yielded what I consider to be desired results. And so I had to take that energy and shift it elsewhere.

Brad Rollins:

Ok. Can you expand a little on the criticism you had about the rapper L.L. Cool J?

John Wiley Price:

You head of that. Well, you know, my thing in the term of L.L. Cool J ... I find it interesting that he could be with [New York governor] George Pataki in terms of his, his position in the state of New York, given, given Pataki's ideology. I just find it interesting when I see a Russell

Simmons and the majority of brothers that I think who understand that [New York Comptroller and Pataki's Democrat opponent for re-election Carl] McCall.... And why McCall wants to do it I have no idea. If I had the chance to be the Comptroller of New York and most people, probably even in this room don't even know that McCall was a brother. You know, here's a brother who was a Comptroller of New York. I mean, in charge of some hundreds of billions dollars. Here's a brother in control, you know. They don't let us control too much money. And here's a brother who is in charge of the money, and why in the hell he wants to go cut some ribbons and be governor, I have no idea. But he made that decision. And we have the Russell Simmons of the world who put together a \$6 million PAC [political action committee], and looked at the Pataki record and said, you know, 'Hey we've got to support this brother.'" And for L.L. Cool J to come out and talking about "we've got to have somebody on the other side." I've got a real problem with that. And a lot of times if you're out of your element, you know, just sit your ass down. You know, if you're out of your element, you know.... I don't try to rap, you know. I ain't even going to repeat some of that stuff, but I can't rap. And I don't expect him to be veering over into politics strictly not understanding the ideological problem where African Americans and Latinos in the state of New York find themselves. 'Cause you get us out of New York and that's it for us.

Brad Rollins:

What role do think the black church plays in the political and economic function of the community?

John Wiley Price:

Too much and not enough . They get all the money coming into the storehouse. So that "There may be meat in my house," thus say somebody. But my problem is, my problem is I'm not seeing it: The meat in my house. I'm seeing beautiful edifices being built. I'm seeing plenty of churches. And I ain't seen nothing else that gives employment to the community, that does a kind of training into the community, that is consistent over and over above our individual kind of classes. So my challenge really is to the African American church. That's what I was talking about the collective a few minutes ago for Saint Luke's. Because I saw that kind of advocacy in Rev. [Zan] Holmes, but I still see the Methodist Church.... Especially the lion's share of African American churches, have this independence and are not usually connected as Saint Luke is to the Methodist structure. And so when you look at those Baptist churches, they have a lot of latitude, if you will, you know, even the AME's [African Methodist Episcopal] and CME's. I've seen the *Black Enterprise* articles, I've seen where they're now getting into some of the franchises and so forth. Should have been there already!. You know, I always tell folks...Every time I tell one of them brothers, "Every time you pin on one of those Rolex's you're supporting the Catholic Church." See, you really need to understand what's going on. Who owns Rolex, you know? I'm not confused. So I understand the tie-in. So when you look at the African American church, what do you really see other than the brick and the mortar?

What do you see? What is the legacy? And the legacy is got to be about liberation. And I'll tell preachers in a minute, "If I don't hear no liberation, hell I'm out of here." As the kids say "I'm rollin." 'Cause I've got to hear that. I think that's the position: The development. And that's the berth of the African American church.

Brad Rollins:

I'm sure this isn't the first time you've heard this, and come under criticism from other black leaders for supporting Caucasians over black candidates in both the case of Maxine Thornton-Reese and Eddie Oakley. What do you say about that? What is your defense?

John Wiley Price:

Well, in the Maxine Thornton-Reese case, I did not make an endorsement even though I favored Larry Duncan. I did not make an endorsement primarily because I had made an endorsement in the Ed Oakley-Dwayne Caraway race. Now, I had made an endorsement prior in the Larry Duncan-Marvin Crenshaw-and-some-other-people race. My position is... See... And, by the way, when Larry Duncan was on the Dallas City Council, he was the best, black city councilman we had even though he was Anglo. My position is: How do you vote? And when you look at issues again: no permanent friends, no permanent enemies --- issues!, you see. I think it's awful hypocritical to say what you believe and then do something else. And for me to have knowledge of individuals in the community and their MOs --- their *modus operandi* --- and not to come forward and say something, I think sends a conflicting signal, you know, to the community. So the fact that Ed Oakley is not black has not given me any pause because if I

had to issue a report card today, I would take and place his report card next to any African American on that council. So he has voted progressively and correctly. You see, you have to be very careful about that. I always tell people that black County Commissioner's there are 1,018 of us. I mean there are 1,018 County Commissioners in the state, 254 counties, 4 per county, only 32 African Americans, most of us in the Northern East Texas area. Two hundred fifty-four County Judges, only 2 African Americans, only three since Reconstruction [1860]. So you have to be real carefully on how you count. You can have an agenda, and you can even have a black agenda, you just can't count on it. That's just strictly how's it's done. I mean, how do you make allegiances? And so, when I reached across to Ed Oakley, I reached for the best person that I could forge an allegiance with. And that allegiance has been best in terms of our mutual constituents. I'm unapologetic for that. And as Nelson Mandela said, "If I had my life to do over again, I would do the same. And so would any man who dare call himself a man."

Brad Rollins:

Do you have any plans to try to be the third African American County Judge?

John Wiley Price:

No, No, I'm not confused either. I keep telling y'all that I'm in Dallas County, 2.2 million people, and, and only 1 million of them are in the city of Dallas, you know. And those suburbs, you know, you just.... Unfortunately, they still have a very mad dog image of me in terms of the [*Dallas*] *Morning News* portrayal of John Wiley Price. You know my colleagues tell me the No. 1 questions they

get asked, even our Chief of Staff for the Court says the number one questions they get asked is "How in the hell can you work with that John Wiley Price?" And they said, they always say, "Number one, he's always prepared. He represents his people. He's passionate about what he believes. He'll go all the way." And I can be reasonable if you let me be reasonable, but I've got a Ph.D [doctor of philosophy] in acting a fool.

Brad Rollins: We interviewed judge, Justice of the Peace [Charles] Rose here earlier as far as part of this project...

John Wiley Price: Bless you.

Brad Rollins: ...and he brought up the issue of redistricting. And what he said was that you bore the blame for cutting out an African American justice of the peace. In fact, he said, "That you had gone stupid on the issue."

John Wiley Price: Well, I would expect that from him. You know, bless his heart, but away, you know, my position is that, again, I am charged with the construction of the county coffers. And when you look at the guy and you make a determination... After you listen to me and you listen to Judge Rose, tell me what you think. Well, anyway, I'm in charge of the county coffers. And the state legislature says no county in the state of Texas can have no more than eight precincts and sixteen judges. I don't care if you're Harris County, the largest county in the state, or if you're the smallest county in the state. You cannot have no more than eight precinct and sixteen judges. Well, Dallas County which has not over 2.2

million, and prior to this had 1.8 million [population] in the last 1990 census, had eight precincts and fourteen JPs. Harris County has eight precincts and sixteen JPs. Harris County has over 5 million people; Dallas County had 1,800,000. How was I justifying that? We continued to look at the numbers, and we said we can't justify it, we have too many. And so we began to compress, because there's got to be a value in terms in the kind of work product that's coming in. And so we argued it, went to the [U.S.] Justice Department, because, as you know, Texas is, is still under the Voters Rights Act, and they approved it. Judge Rose and others, Judge [Cleophus] Steele, [Luis] Sepulveda, Judge [Thomas] Jones, who are all African Americans. Judge Sepulveda and Judge [Juan] Jasso did not come in and complain. They sued us. The three African American judges sued us. Judge Sepulveda and Judge Jasso complained, that they thought it was retrogression, which means that, after you do the demography, you cannot have less opportunity in terms of African Americans and some of our protective clout that you had after you finish doing it. And they tried to plead retrogression; it didn't work.

Brad Rollins:

How are you dealing with the political flack of having him [Judge Rose] running around the district obviously, adamantly opposing you?

John Wiley Price:

That doesn't bother me at all. He's the one up before the Commission on Judicial [mis]conduct [charges] to be removed from office within less than two weeks.

Brad Rollins:

Are you grooming anyone to assume your office after you move on to other things ?

John Wiley Price:

I hope, I'll always hope... There has been a number of people who have utilized my office as a lunch pad. Betty Culbreath, who ran for school board unsuccessfully, former chair of the airport board, former chair of the planning commission was my, my administrative assistant, my first administrative assistant. And, of course she is going into retirement. So, she, she's very well qualified and has been around the town. She is now the director of Health and Human Services Representative [in Dallas]. Yvonne Davis was my second administrative... She is now state representative. She might decide to do this [county commissioner]. She might decide to do Congress. There are...I've got a young brother in my office named Clarence Shepard, in my office as administrative assistant who is very capable. So there's a number of people who I think are definitely prepared to move forward. People say groom. I give everybody opportunity to come. I just put you to the test as to whether or not you're willing to do the "C" thing: The commitment. Are you willing to commit to the point of sacrificing to understand what it takes to do this job? And back to what you said earlier, that's back to the hard question with Judge Rose. Keep in mind, I want history to reflect when George Allen Sr. was in the sunset of his life, in feeble health, on his way out, and I appointed Judge Rose. [Who] having battled for office a number times against Steve Williams, felt he had paid his dues, you know. I think sometimes, you know, my prayer daily is not only for... to do liberation and justice so that we, we...

the Kingdom Come, but God, don't ever let me get comfortable. I don't want to be comfortable with nothing.

Brad Rollins: Right. And with that what do you think your legacy will be in Dallas County?

John Wiley Price: That I wasn't comfortable --- I was never satisfied with nothing. I don't want to be satisfied.

Brad Rollins: That completes this phase[two].

Camile D. White: I know that the commissioners have the ability to appoint people to various boards. How many of people of color, have you appointed to the various boards that you have the authority to appoint?

John Wiley Price: All of them. All of them have been people of color. They've either been Hispanic or African Americans. We usually use the joint appointments to appoint Latinos and most of time I appoint African American so.... One of the things that I brought to the court is that while there is not a Latino County Commissioner, to make sure that that population is represented. In terms of the board we use our joint appointment to at least appoint one. I haven't been able to get an African American out of the other appointments but it's always, at least, one Latino and the others are usually Anglo.

Camile D. White: How do you define leadership? What is leadership?

John Wiley Price:

Leadership is the ability to take risk and sacrifice regardless of...It's not about followership. It's about taking risk and that was my position earlier. Whether you're talking about Ed Oakley or Charles Rose, or when you're doing a redistricting, it's about leadership. You don't worry about a fall out. You let , you let, as Malcolm... I always say about Malcolm X's life, you let history take of the electrical work, the light work. You go ahead on and do what you're suppose to do.

Camile D. White:

Who is the most effective African American politician today?

John Wiley Price:

Oh, I don't know if you can ever get into the singling out. I think, again, you're back into collectively. It depends on where you are. You know, if you're in the Legislature, who's chair of what committee? And the results of what do they produce? I think that is what we've got to do. I mean, we've always got to look at the end. And I've always challenged the [Black] Chamber [of Commerce] and various black periodicals, newspapers [like] *Dallas Weekly*. You've got to do a report card.

Camile D. White:

So there's, so there's no one person that you basically...

John Wiley Price:

No.

Camile D. White:

Which is the most effective African American political organization that you know of today?

John Wiley Price:

I think that's a tough one. I think that's like asking which is the most effective white one. I, I, I don't know how anyone does any singling out of who is the most effective. It depends on what day it is, what issue it is. And some people can forge it a lot better. [Commentator] Juan Williams yesterday on NPR [National Public Radio]...And I didn't know if that was the interview you were referring to, the one I did about Kirk...But I said, you know, he said, "Kirk and you are almost the same generation, but people say Kirk has moved on and your standing still." And my position to him was "Hell I'm OK. I'm minding the store," you know. "I may be there so Kirk can step on my back and go across. I'm OK with that." And, you see, I think that's what we've got to understand. So I don't get excited about who is the most... At the end of the day it's who produces, who delivers.

Camile D. White:

So there's no one that you can even recall who is delivering?

John Wiley Price:

Well, I think all...Everyone is giving, so deliverables, again, when you talk about legislation agenda, it depends on who's forging that agenda. Who's carrying the legislation? So when I look for people to carry the legislation. I look to the [State Representatives] Jessie Jones, the Helen Giddings, Yvonne Davis. I mean, I look to the Terri Hodges, [state representative]. If your talking about people. When I can't penetrate this penal system, this prison system, Terri Hodge is on the Department of Corrections [House committee]. So if I've got a problem with Jesse Dawson, which is a state jail, or a Hutchins,

which is in my Road and Bridge district [headquarters], which is [another] state jail, and I've got a problem, I got a problem I go to Terri Hodge. She'll penetrate that system extremely well. I go sit in there. So it depends.

Camile D. White: Ok, so what is the most pressing, pressing issue facing African Americans today?

John Wiley Price: Waking up. You know they just need to wake up.

Camile D. White: So, are you saying waking up because they're not using their one vote?

John Wiley Price: Yea, precisely.

Camile D. White: I mean, I'm not trying to put words into your mouth...

John Wiley Price: No, no you're fine. The power that they have in their hands, you know. Again, one of Juan Williams' questions yesterday, of course, and I did a whole [unintelligible]. He said, "Can Ron Kirk bring in Latinos, African Americans to the polling place?" The fact that we still got to ponder that question is an affront to me. It's an affront to everybody that died. Latinos, I think, have not had the opportunity to vote for African Americans. And, therefore, the Henry Cisneros' and others of the world understand but my problem is those yellow dog Democrats, white folks in East Texas who will vote for a yellow dog but will they vote for a black man?

Camile D. White: Ok, on that note: What are the underling tension between African Americans and Hispanics today?

John Wiley Price: They're false. And I'm glad you said that because I did that this morning on my Liberation Nation [radio program]. I think that, you know, they're [Latinos] the ones people continue to put up. Because, historically, African Americans have not historically understood the whole transition from the institution of slavery and if... And the call this morning was, "They're taking over Texas." I said, "Hell they're not taking over Texas. Hell, Texas was taken from them!" But you need to understand that whole G.T.T., Gone To Texas, in terms of our history. You know, the reason, part of that whole reason around the Alamo and some of the other fights was about the fact of slavery. They [Mexico] would not allow them [U.S. settlers] to bring blacks into slavery...

Camile D. White: So do you think this is another tactic used to divide a group?

John Wiley Price: Sure.

Camile D. White: Because we all know we have the numbers when it comes to people of color?

John Wiley Price: Who has the numbers?

Camile D. White: When I say people of color, I'm speaking of African Americans and Hispanics...

John Wiley Price:

Oh, sure, Sure yeah.

Camile D.White:

...to take over Texas when it comes to casting votes. It doesn't necessarily... You don't necessarily have to have a million dollars to run. You have to in the way it's set up now, but if you got the people organized and out to vote, you wouldn't have to run a \$3 million campaign to run for senator or a \$16 million campaign to run for governor. Do you agree?

John Wiley Price:

No, not quite. I think we don't quite have that. While Latinos have the numbers, they still traditionally have more people under the age of 18. And there's still, unfortunately, a citizenship issue. So it's still an issue that is evolving but it's going to get here...

Camile D.White:

The numbers are still there it's just the techniques of being able to vote.

John Wiley Price:

It's being able to vote and then being able to mobilize and manage. But I want us... If we don't do nothing else to get past this issue, get past this story, that there is [not] a real a problem, anymore of a problem between African American and Latinos than there is between African Americans and African Americans or Latinos and Latinos. There is going to be factions. But I not ever going to let... I wouldn't let the people this morning... And I'm not ever going to let anybody forge that issue. I'm telling us to study the history and understand what the history is. Real leadership says you'll go do the research. You'll do the critical and social processing, and then, you'll come to the appropriate

conclusion. That's what leadership says. And then, once you come to that conclusion, you take a position, you take a position, the position you know is right. My favorite quote from doctor King is not, "I've been to the mountain top" or "I have a dream." That's not the legacy of Dr. King... And I had Martin Luther King III on this morning. We were together last week end in Beaumont, Houston, and all those areas, and... But my favorite quote, and it's on my website in terms of the measure of a man. And I say a woman, "It is not where they stand in the times of comfort and convenience, it's where they stand in times of great challenge and controversy. Cowards are going to continue to ask the question: Is it safe? Expedience is going to ask: Is it politics? Vanity is going to ask the question: Is it popular? But conscience is always going to ask the question: Is it right? And there comes a time in the life of any man..." And any woman. "When it's neither popular, nor expedient, nor political. You do it because it's right!" And that's what sets real leadership apart. That's the real definition of real leadership.

[The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Cowardice asks the question, "Is it safe?" Expediency asks the question, "Is it politic? Vanity asks the question, "Is it popular? " But, conscience asks the question, " Is it right?." And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right. --- Martin Luther King, Jr.]

Camile D.White: How much...or shall I say, how do you make annually as a county commissioner?

John Wiley Price: As a county commissioner? A hundred thousand dollars.

Camile D.White: Even?

John Wiley Price: \$104,000.

Brad Rollins: What... Jessie Jackson recently came under a lot of fire from the mainstream press for saying that democracy started with the Voting Rights Act. Do you agree with that?

John Wiley Price: I agree with it. I definitely agree with it.

Brad Rollins: Do you agree with efforts from the homosexual community to draw parallels between that and the civil rights struggle?.

John Wiley Price: There, there, there is no parallel.

Brad Rollins: You don't think there is?

John Wiley Price: No there is no parallel. Your sexual preference... I'm not going to let you wedge you're sexual preference with the civil rights movement. You know, you don't know whether I'm homosexual or heterosexual, you don't know. But at a hundred yards long, before what language I speak, long before you know whether I'm Democratic or Republican, you've already classified me in this country. And I'm not

going to let you wedge those two issues. And I won't let anybody wedge... If somebody wants to deal with gay rights, that's fine. What somebody does in the terms of preference in the privacy of their room, I could care less. You can go public to some degree, but I have a problem when it comes to dealing with children that's a whole another issue. OK? For me....

Brad Rollins:

We have some questions from the class.

John Wiley Price:

Ok, sure. Fine. Identify yourself, please.

Questioner:

My name is Monica Esquivel. I live here in Arlington and I have lived in Dallas before here. And my opinion of you for, before having heard you today, was negative. Do you have, of course, you changed my opinion having heard you. Do you have some sort of P.R. [public relations] system? Because the media portray you in a very negative, negative light?

John Wiley Price:

It's to their advantage, Monica. It's to their advantage. That's what I said earlier. Because I talked about the Mad Dog theory, I talked about the fact my colleagues spend a lot of time trying to vouch for my character. You know, my work ethic. And historically that's what they do. I mean, they did the same thing to Malcolm X. What makes me immune? They did the same thing to Martin Luther King. What people don't realize.... If you study Dr. King, Dr. King didn't become popular until he was dead. You know, J. Edgar Hoover said he was the most dangerous Negro of the 20th century. I mean, if you keep in mind...

If you go back and look at some of those articles.... And so, the press is never kind. The press is never kind to you. It's usually history that began to reveal the facts. Thank you, Monica.

Questioner: [Kelly Willis] The question is you mentioned Fulton County in one of your examples ---

John Wiley Price: Right.

Questioner: Did you just pull that out of the air or was their a reason or...

John Wiley Price: Well, I think I pulled Fulton County primarily for reason that Martin Luther King III use to be County Commissioner down in Fulton County, Georgia, that's No. 1. Number two, because there is some out-sourcing on the table down in Fulton County and some of them have to work again. Taking and exporting. What we consider to be a good joint venture.

Kelly Willis: I'm sorry. One more quick question....

John Wiley Price: Sure.

Kelly Willis: Is that... You kind of derived your ideology out of the Civil Rights activist also Black Liberation [activism].

John Wiley Price: [Affirmative, nod].

Kelly Willis : Can you tell us why?

John Wiley Price:

Keen observation. Because I think there is good in both. And really truly it's interesting, Kelly, that you talk about that because at some point in time there was a merger and a marriage. Again, you've got to study the movement. So when you understand even the Black Panther Party... See, most people want to give the Black Panther Party credit for coming out of Oakland, but if you never done you history, you don't understand the Black Panther Party came out of Mississippi. Hello! And see... And so, so you need... If you do the studying you'll understand. What my boy [Black Panther and founder of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee] Kwame Ture, a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael, you know on the S.N.C. C. group, met up with Dr. King. So you got to get on that. There was a marriage. There was almost a wedding of that, but most of us wanted to separate: Dr. King was over here. No, Dr. King understood. And he understood what those young brothers, and all, was doing. They just had a different style in which they wanted to pursue [civil rights].

John Wiley Price:

Yes, madam

Questioner:

My name is Anteria Barrett and I just have a curiosity question: Why don't you like the word integrate?

John Wiley Price:

Because integration means you bring something to the process. That means that they took something and brought it into the pot. We didn't. They just desegregated. And there is a marked difference [between desegregation and integration]. And that is my challenge to you: Find out the

difference between integration and desegregation and see what we talk about. See, we use that word very loosely. We co-mingle that word, but, no, we have desegregated [not integrated] in this country. This country, still.... When you look at Dallas, you know, the housing pattern is still very racist. You still know where every body lives. You still know. And based on income, based on zip code based on census tracks, you still get a difference in terms of... I don't care what kind of agency interacts, you get a difference in terms of where you live. It's still a very segregated community. If you ask 99 percent of the people, they'll say Dallas is integrated. The fact that I can go where I want to go in terms of..... doesn't mean it's integrated. You have not integrated the dollars They're definitely not integrated when you look at that [unintelligible]. Money is strickly still about, you know, you might get a Williams Chicken shack here and there, but what does it take to get a Home Depot in South Dallas? "Well, John they ain't buying at no Home Depot." You mean to tell me black folks ain't showing up in Home Depot? You know, we're not showing up in Lowes? So watch your community. And one of the things you have to be really careful about is when the community is in transition, watch how they transition. So we're still desegregated, not integrated.

John Wiley Price:

Yes, Madam?

Questioner:

My name is Emian Williams And I just have a question about the future of African Americans. And, as far as you know, I feel like you hold a really powerful position and

guess of you I'm asking: What are you doing as far as going back to me and the kids? And it starts with our youth. What kind of programs are you trying to or trying to influence, to go back to the small things? And getting them when they are two, three and four and teaching them reading and all of that other stuff?

John Wiley Price:

I think Miss. Williams, young people emulate what they see. And, you know, we used to have a saying, "If you don't see it, you can't be it." And so they emulate what they see. I spent some time this past week in Mansfield doing a "Youth Explosion." I spent a lot of time with Hip Hop Summit Action Network. I was definitely a part of that. I see how they tried to come down on the [rapper] D.O.C. and those guys with regards to Ron Kirk and the "Rap a Vote." You know, you know, "I want to be the black man in the black rain, trying to do the right thang, with his right chain, drivng the man insane...."

I'm clear about what I am. So I spend a lot of time, in fact, I get told sometime, I'm the "Hip Hop Commissioner." My point is, I spend time with the young people. And I try to emulate and create. But I can't, you can't be it if you don't see it. And if I don't create those opportunities institutionally for you as architects and engineers and all, it doesn't matter where you go to school. You're still going to be black at a hundred yards, you know. They still ain't going to know what language you speak. They still don't care whether you're Democrat or Republican, but you're a black. And you are characterized in this country. And so, it's imperative that while I try to penetrate the veil of the

system institutionally at the same time I go back [to the community].

John Wiley Price: Let me get her please.

Questioner: [Unidentified] In your opinion, do you feel a multicultural curriculum could benefit our society as a whole? If you start from first through 12th grade?

John Wiley Price: Yea, you know, it's like anything else: You know, whose driving that coach? What's your name? •

Questioner: Dana. I'm sorry.

John Wiley Price: That's alright. You know, Dana it depends on whose driving that coach.
You know, I hear all these new fangled words, multicultural curriculum. How in the hell do you put people into the system? How do you bring them in? I mean, again, I'm back to what I said to Miss Williams a minute ago. What do you see? See, it's one thing to talk about all that curriculum if you talk about it. Since 1960 they say, "You know, John, we've had the Civil Rights movement." That's what you've been doing, too. Moving every time I get close. It's been moving, you know. It's moving. That what [attorney] Johnnie Cochran talked about the other day, "70 percent of the NFL's 400 coaches, only six of them are African American." You know, it's been moving, you know. And the thing is, again, you've got to listen to the words. And, you know, we need to understand that you can

talk about curriculum, but see what I talk about... It's been raining like hell. I'm suppose to be at the court at 11 o'clock but, see, I came today because Crystal City and .Jose [Angel] Gutierrez and what I know Dr. Gutierrez had done in terms for the community. So it didn't make any difference what the heck [else] was going on. Charlie Rose probably down there acting stupid. I have plenty to do. [laughter]. My point is...I just thought I'd throw that in. But, you know Charles is a good guy. He's a good guy. [Laughter] My point is he just don't need to be no judge. [Laughter] My point is, is that you've got to have respect for people who have made the credits. I talked about him on my show this morning. All year you didn't have anything to do, but I talked about that because I understand his history. So with his [Dr. Gutierrez's] history, so with his history comes a respect and admiration. So when, see, you know, you got to be able to.. you know, ain't no multictlural curriculum with him . I have seen what he has done with his footprints. I talked about him in terms of politics. Most of y'all may or might know, have known, or may have been engaged in his campaign, but most of my listeners probably didn't know this morning. But my point is when you see that type of footprint, when you see people trying that footprint, then you make the next step. Curriculum? OK. It's the individual driving the coach that makes the difference.

John Wiley Price:

Yes, Ma'am.

Questioner: [unidentified] My question would be that you said the most pressing issue for African-Americans is that they need to wake up?

John Wiley Price: Yeah! Wake up!

Questioner: And my question is in your opinion, why do you think they haven't woke up? And then what do you think it will take to wake up?

John Wiley Price: Oh Lord! Sixty-four.. One million-dollar question! What was the game? One million dollar?

Unidentified: \$64,000 question

John Wiley Price: Well, I know it was \$64,000. Y'all done increased it now. One-million dollar question. If I knew, I'd patent it and when they woke up, I would patent it. Boy! The evidence is all around us. The fact that we beating our brains out begging people to go vote. I mean, that's just [unintelligible]... You know, what I saying this morning. I keep telling my staff, I said, "Get Ross Perot on the phone." I have been doing this the past ten years. I said, "Ross Perot got more money than I will ever have." I really don't care. The money ain't the issue for me. He got more money than I will ever have. But guess what? On election day he got one vote and I got one vote. Let me just tell you something, check Dallas County records. I got a 100 percent voting record. I've never missed a vote since I was turned 18. I understand why Medger [Evers] got shot in the

back, assassinated. I understand why people got beat up at Edmund Pettis Bridge [in Selma, Alabama.]. I mean, how in the hell! I mean, how dare we! Everything! And that's why I tell preachers, "I am sick of sermons who say they look like giants and we look like grasshoppers." I am sick of that sermon. If I hear it one more time I am going to throw up. You know, because we got everything we need in our hands. And all we got... The evidence is that the day we use that everything is gone change. That's gonna be the day.

Camile D. White:

It has also been stated that voting is a habit. If people don't see you voting, then they won't vote. So how would you...It is now the generation that I would say...It is really my generation that's swept up. You probably heard this. It's on this show. This lady and her girlfriend are talking and her girlfriend saying, "I'm going to vote." And she says, "Takes me with you because the girlfriend didn't vote." ---

John Wiley Price:

[unintelligible]

Camile D. White:

--- and she talked her into voting. So, how would, how could you change that mindset? I understand the marketing, whatever... But what would be one thing to help change that mindset?

John Wiley Price:

Nicolas is seven years old. I have never voted with out Nicolas. He goes up in there and pushes the stuff for me. But I never saw my daddy... See, excuses! I never heard of voting before I got to Dallas.

Dr. Gutierrez: Two quick questions, Commissioner. How long does it take to be vested in Dallas County as a commissioner?

John Wiley Price: Ten years.

Dr. Gutierrez: Ok. Can you tell us a little bit about the election ballot machine problem?

John Wiley Price: Problem we are having now? They have been used in a hundred elections. We had them since 1995. It's primarily hardware. Of the eighteen voting machines that we took out...Of electronic ballots... We took out of service, we put all but three back in service. It's about calibration. It has a lot to do.... But I am glad somebody caught the problem, but we caught the problem early on. We knew about it the first day. I didn't raise a lot of hell publicly because I didn't need to do anything to discourage people. But we were working on the problem. The problem really is basically about one issue of calibration, it's one of hardware. And so the fact is we have a \$3.2 billion bill in Congress right now primarily targeted at paper ballot counties, but we probably are eligible for some of those dollars. It's an unfunded mandate right now. And it's really targeted for 2006. But we're going to replace some of that hardware. But it's not an issue. The thing is, when you punch your ballot... Hell, do you punch it and just walk off? I mean do you drop your money in the bank and say, "Don't worry about it. Don't give me a receipt. Let me go." You know, you don't look and see? Hell, I punch my ballot and I stroll through it. I didn't have any

problems. I voted on the first [early voting] like I always vote. And by the way, Texas is one of a few places and Martin King [III] reminded me again that I said this. Texas is one of a few places in the country...

Camile D. White:

Early voting

John Wiley Price:

...you get a chance to vote for two weeks. Nobody else gets a chance to do that. The brother who is the mayor of Selma, Alabams... We brought him here. And, by the way, there had been the same white mayor when Bull Conner was there until this brother just won. He could not believe we have two weeks in Texas to get it right. Two weeks! How dare we!

Dr. Gutierrez:

Quickly. The Hispanic community is fractured into three congressional districts and there is no county commissioner precinct for them. Why?

John Wiley Price:

Because they are fractured [inaudible]. Because of geography, because they are in three... But they got a commissioner district. They are 50 percent of District 4 and I authored that particular bill. So they are 50 percent of District 4. But again the same challenges/issues but, yeah, they are in the congressional. Keep in mind: He said, "Congressional districts." I only author Justice of the Peace, Constables and Commissioner districts. Congressional district get authored by the state legislature and, of course, in the last state legislature [session] they could not get it passed. It was the Legislature Redistricting Board. And until you who are wealthy with the same kind

of analysis confront them, you will never change. Nothing will. We were fractured in the 24th and 25th [congressionall districts] until a few years ago.

Danielle Ayers:

Ok. Commissioner Price we want to thank you for taking time out of your day. We really did appreciate you interview, a lot of good information.

John Wiley Price:

Thank y'all for inviting me.