

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

TACOMA

Transcript of the Louise Ray Turner and Bernice C. Canada
Interview

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by

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Since this is an autobiography, shall we begin with the origin of your parents, grandparents, or as far back as you have information? Do you know any data on your parents, grandparents or great grandparents? Starting with your great grandparents first.

Ms. Canada. I don't think we have any information on our great grandparents. We hardly knew our grandparents. They didn't live--well one of them lived here. My mother's mother lived in the South and we never got a chance to see her.

Ms. Turner. We know about our dad's mother, because when they came here from the South they all came together. My dad, his mother and a group of people came from New Orleans.

What year was this Ms. Turner?

Ms. Turner. That was the turn of the century.
Do you have any of your grandparents birth dates?

Ms. Turner. (Silence). No.
Place of birth?

Ms. Turner. My mother was born in Bay St Louis, Mississippi and my dad was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.

How many sisters and brothers in their family?

Ms. Turner. My mother had many sisters and brothers, but dad only had one brother. They all came here together at the turn of the century from the Southland. And my parents landed at Vashon Island when they came here. They came to a college. There was an old gentleman-preacher who was the instigator for getting all these people to come from the South to the Pacific Northwest. He found jobs for these people, because there were no jobs in the South. There were a group of people, there must have been 10 or 12 of them, who came by train to Vashon Island. My parents found a job there at the college. It was a college with both boys and girls. I think it was 1902. My brother Fred was born there, in 1905, on Vashon Island.

Do you recall the name of the college?

Ms. Turner. No. I don't remember the name of the college.
Once they arrived here, do you have any knowledge of how they made their living?

Ms. Canada. Weren't they caretakers, so to speak, of the college?

Ms. Turner. Yes, they were caretakers. They did menial work, they cleaned up. That's what their job was--I think, if I'm not mistaken my dad's

mother was the cook. They took care of the whole college. Cleaned and did whatever needed to be done. But, they stayed there for only a short length of time because there was a lot of prejudice there. And one of the college students was very busy calling my parents bad names and my dad had a very very bad temper. So, since he had a temper and his temper flaired up they didn't stay there to long. Pretty soon they came to Tacoma.

Are there any memories of stories your parents told of their childhood?

Ms. Canada. The only one I can remember is my mom talking about one of the boys they were going to lynch. I don't remember his name. But--

Ms. Turner. The one who vanished?

Ms. Canada. Yes.

Ms. Turner. His name was Geronimo. He left home and we never knew whatever became of him.

Where did this happen?

Ms. Turner. In Mississippi. Bay St Louis, Mississippi. They were very prejudiced and they used to go through the people's houses looking for people. They called them names and did all kinds of terrible things. There was so much hatred and animosity there. Anyway, Geronimo was one of my uncles and he was the youngest one. He went away from home and we never did hear from him.

Do you have any information on your grandparent's adult life, marriage life or religious life?

Ms. Turner. Well, my mother's parents were Paul J and Augustine Beoyt. They were Creole people. They spoke nothing but Creole language there--or dialect. The first time I went to Mississippi was in 1948 and I had never been there before. I never knew what they were talking about, because they spoke French or dialect, or whatever that language was.

You're Catholic, were your parents and grandparents raised as Catholics also?

Ms. Turner. Yes.

Ms. Canada. But my father was Baptist.

Ms. Turner. Yes, my dad was Baptist, but all of us kids were raised Catholic. And all the folks back there are Catholic. As a matter of fact, my sister and I used to travel, after we lost our parents, back and forth to Louisiana, Homer, Louisiana especially, where we would go to the Catholic Church. It's a funny thing, remember when we would go to church there was no segregation? We could sit any place we wanted to.

Ms. Canada. I didn't feel that you could sit any place you want to, you didn't go that often. When I went-- you could just feel the tension. It was still there.

Anyway, when my dad and mother came out, they had just gotten married. Let me tell you a little humor story about my dad. When my dad and mother got married, (laughter) my mother thought he was Catholic. (Both sisters really laughing).

Ms. Turner. He was the biggest liar. (More laughter). And they had a big wedding too! In St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. We still have her wedding gown. She was a beautiful bride, her waist was about this big (indicating the smallness with her hands). We even have her wedding veil and the whole bit. And my dad was a big liar (lots of laughter). He wasn't about to tell anybody he wasn't Catholic, because if he did, why, my mother wouldn't have married him.

Ms. Canada. Anyway, they came out here to find work. After they left Vashon my dad worked at the biscuit company. What was the name of that biscuit company?

Ms. Turner. Tacoma Candy and Biscuit Company. He worked as a janitor.

Ms. Canada. Was that the only one he worked at? Then he worked for the city.

Ms. Turner. Before then, he also worked as a smelter. When we were little kids my dad worked at the smelter because jobs were so hard to come by and he worked there as a scab. He was a common laborer and didn't have that much education. I can remember when he would go to work and my mother had us on our knees praying up a storm, hoping that he would get home and nothing would happen to him. Don't you remember?

Ms. Canada. No. (laughter)

Ms. Turner. Maybe you weren't even born.

Ms. Canada. All I remember him talking about is working at the biscuit company and then finally working for the City of Tacoma. That's when they had people sweeping the streets.

Ms. Turner. For 25 years he worked for the City of Tacoma. That's where he retired from. This was a Civil Service job. Twenty-Five years he was a street cleaner.

And his age when he retired?

Ms. Turner. Sixty-seven.

Ms. Canada. He died when he was 67. He retired long before that--possibly four or five years at least.

Ms. Turner. Was it that long?

Ms. Canada. As far as education, I don't remember--how far did they go in school?

Ms. Turner. Our mother graduated from the eighth grade. But I don't know about our dad. He was kind of self-educated. He was a man who read continuously--worked cross-word puzzles and read the Bible. That was his hobby. He wasn't that much educated.

The majority of your extended family-aunts and uncles, did they travel to the Northwest?

Ms. Turner. Yes, they all came. My dad's brother came.

Ms. Canada. He lived in a place called Summit. Out in the country. Of course, he had to work too. He worked for West Coast Grocery Company. **What was your uncle's name?**

Ms. Canada. Sylvester Ray. We used to go out there every summer and he had pigs and things. So he would put a pig in the ground--what do you call it when the pig is cooked that way? I'm not sure. But quite a few summers, I don't remember how many years, he would cook a pig like that. **Was the family relationship a very close one? Since there were probably few other black families here at that time.**

Ms. Turner. Yes, we were all very close. As a matter of fact, there were only a very few black people here. That's why we all stuck together. Of course, since we were Catholics, we didn't attend the Protestant Churches very much. So we were--what would you say--we were out here in South Tacoma and going to Visitation Church where we had gone all of our life. It was a little different than if we had been with the other black folks that were Protestants downtown.

Ms. Canada. Most of the black churches were in town, compared to out here. There are some out here now, but they are new. When I was a teen I would visit some of the kids from the churches and I'd go to their church now and then.

Ms. Turner. We both did. As a matter of fact, I can remember (I don't remember how old I was), but my dad's mother was a widow. When she got to be 50 or 60 years old, she remarried. She married a man by the name of Rufus Turner. The same name as my name. I can remember when they had the wedding

here at this house. And they had what they call a shivaree (laughter by both sisters). I can remember all that banging and making noise and carrying on. Then every summer, I would go down and live with them. They lived down in the Hilltop area. I would go to church with my grandparents--who were Baptist. This is how I knew as much about the Baptist folks as I did the Catholics. (Silence). Education wise, there was not much education at all. I can remember when I used to try to help my grandmother and her husband read. They didn't know how to read and we would all try to read the Bible together. I would try to teach them what little that I knew.

During this closeness that you experienced I would assume there was a lot of support for each other during the good time as well as the bad?

Ms. Turner. I remember when I was a little girl, my mother made a sacrifice and brought a piano for me. I was able to take piano lessons for a while. We used to make our own fun. We would play the piano and sing as a family group. That's the way we did. We didn't have television and all other sorts of things. So we had all the neighbors come sit on the porch and we would all sing. We just made our own fun! The family relationship was a very close one. When we had grief, we all grieved together. My parents lived by the "Golden Rule" and did what they were supposed to do. They were just good folks. They always tried to live right and do right and that's about all you can do.

We've covered quite a few things so far. What was it like for your ancestors traveling from Louisiana to here? The distance must be at least 3000 miles.

Ms. Turner. Yes, at least. My sister and I have been upset at ourselves because we didn't know more about our parents and what their life was like. As I say, our mother didn't talk a great deal about the conditions in the South. For instance, I know that my mother's folks had a farm and they raised collards and all those sort of things. Had animals too, but we never talked about it as much as we should have.

Can we now start with some reflections about your life in Tacoma as an African American? Can you start with your date and place of birth and the names of your sisters and brothers, please. (Both hesitate - as they look at each other).

Ms. Canada. She's the oldest; she should go first. (lots of laughter)

Ms. Turner. I was born and raised in Tacoma, Washington, in downtown Tacoma, next door to the building which is the old telephone company on Fawcett Avenue, on December 5th, 1907. My mother had 10 children, five boys and five girls. I'm the oldest and as the oldest child in the family I would say that I was sort of like the mother because I had maternal instincts--more or less. That meant that I was like--my dad always called me "His big girl." I was more or less a great help to my mother and dad since I was the oldest child. I had to wash many diapers. I can remember that I had to learn to bake bread at an early age because my mother needed me to help her. When my mother had two children, one child was stillborn and she had another child that died several days after it was born. What I remember most is this little girl here, my sister Bernice. When she was born, I was six years old and she weighed three pounds. My mother had a little white satin pillow that I carried her around on and I called her "my baby". And I still call her "Babe". (laughter from "Babe").

Ms. Canada. I've already told you that I was born here in this house--on the 28th of December, 1913. I have lived in various parts of Tacoma. When I first got married I lived with my husband's mother on 68th and Fawcett. That was the first time I ever went to an outhouse (laughs), except when we were picking berries when we were kids. Then I moved to Salishan. That's over on the east side. Stayed there for a while. My husband was a gambler and a womanizer, which got him killed. Then I moved back in this vicinity, to a little house next door. After my kids were grown, I decided to marry again--another mistake. We lived uptown, in the Hilltop area.

Ms. Turner. You forgot to say you went to school.

Ms. Canada. Oh yes. After my husband got killed, I was on welfare.

Ms. Turner. For a hot minute.

Ms. Canada. I got so tired of those people coming--oh they made me so mad I decided to go to vocational school. I became a licensed practical nurse. After I married the second time, my kids didn't like him and it ended in divorce. I took my first husband's name back. I helped my daughter raise her kids for about 10 years. Then I decided I had enough of that because they were getting to the point where I couldn't handle them and their mother was working. So I decided to move back here. I've been here ever since. I will say that when we were coming up as kids around here (even though there

weren't many other black families) I never felt out of place. I figured I was just as white as the next person. Skin color just wasn't mentioned. Until 1942, when the second World War started. All the people started coming in and it was terrible--it was terrible. You couldn't buy a house out here after that or in the North end or Lakewood, or whatever. But it has changed now.

Ms. Turner. Yes, because when we were coming along as children, we never paid any attention to our color. We went to wherever we wanted to go and did whatever we wanted to do. We were affiliated with the Catholic church in South Tacoma where we were the only black family. There was no prejudice there and so we never paid much attention to it. But after the war, when all those people came in here from all over the place the attitudes of the people changed completely. You see, there was so much discrimination, so much fighting carrying on. You couldn't go here, you couldn't go there. Believe it or not, even out here in South Tacoma you couldn't buy property out here. You couldn't buy property in this area even. **That was in the 40's. Now when it lead into the 50's, did the attitudes remain the same?**

Ms. Canada. Yes. Just within the last 20 years, I guess, there has been an influx of black families.

Do you think also that was influenced by the military and wars and possibly with Ft Lewis and McChord being here and acting like an embarkation or debarkation point?

Ms. Turner. No doubt about it.

Any social activites as being a teenager and adult?

Ms. Canada. Yes, we used to go to movies and dances. (laughter)

Ms. Turner. We used to go to dances and movies and we never paid attention, as far as color was concerned. We were just a part of them because we didn't know any differently. We had never been to the Southland. We didn't know the differences and we just fit right in. There was no segregation in schools. I went to public schools and I was very popular in public schools because I was musically inclined and I belonged to the choir in the school, the band, and the whole bit. I never felt out of place at all. Because I didn't know that much about discrimination, having been here all my life, being born and raised here; it makes a difference.

How did your parents encourage you to prepare to become responsible and independent adults (black culture, being courteous, family unity, religion)?

Ms. Canada. Well, we had all of that. But most of all, I think we learned these values of being courteous and all that, by example. Because my mother and dad didn't talk all that much. But they treated everybody with courtesy.

Ms. Turner. They were well liked by folks because they were really wonderful people. They had values. They were not all that much educated. They were very courteous and people loved our mother and dad because they shared the little bit of education they had and they emphasized their love for their neighbors. And for that reason, they passed it on to us. Our parents taught us to love one another and we had to be polite to one another. We were not allowed to call each other names or anything like that. I can remember one time, I think I called my brother a liar or he called me a liar and I'm telling you we weren't allowed to do that. We had to respect one another. We had to have that love for one another.

What was the relationship with your extended family like (aunts, uncles, cousins)?

Ms. Canada. I don't remember getting reprimanded by my uncle, but there were people who--even a non-relative would come and tell my mom or dad if we did something wrong. But people can't do that today. We'd be in for it.

Ms. Turner. Did everyone support and encourage each other? (In times of happiness, as well as difficult times?) Oh YES!

Can you reflect on what it was like attending school in Tacoma?

Attending school was an experience, because I went to a public school. I never went to a Catholic School. I went to Edison and after graduating from there I went to Lincoln High School. But I never graduated. I stopped in the 11th grade because I wanted to get out and get a job to help my folks. I always felt that I needed to help my folks. I kind of felt like it was my job to help them. I don't know why. I've been that way all my life. When I came out of school, I can remember the first job I had even. It was taking care of a little redhead boy. And my dad felt like we should help him, so I did all I could to help out. I never had the opportunity to go to college. But I went back to night school--two semesters--then I had enough credits to graduate from high school. There wasn't very much employment and I remember I had a hard time trying to find a good job. I never did find that good of a job.

What were some of the types of jobs you had?

Ms. Turner. Domestic work. I did domestic work for many many years. Then, at age 50, I went to school to become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) but I never took the board. I did have many jobs working as a practical nurse after that. I earned lots of money. That was the extent of my employment.

And some of the jobs you had, Ms. Canada?

Ms. Canada. Well, I went to Visitation, which is right down the hill. I started out at Edison, but--in 1928 Visitation School was built. After graduating from there, I went to St Leo's High School--downtown on 13th and Yakima. I graduated from there in 1932. There weren't very many places that hired a high school graduate. In fact, I had thought about going on to being a nurse, but that was kind of impossible at that time. I guess it was shortly afterwards that I remarried. In school there was no discrimination. The good part about it then, was that you had to wear a uniform. There wasn't all this fuss about buying name things, like it is today. In fact, I wished the whole board would go back to uniforms. I remember one experience I had--I wasn't a very talkative person, either. So I came home one day and told my mom, "So and so didn't say Hi to me", and she said, "Did you say Hi to them?" (laughter by both sisters).

Ms. Canada. About the Dr. Martin Luther King riots? There were some people who wanted to stir up a lot of mess. But not very much. Up around where I lived--I lived in the Hilltop at that time and it was hard for me to keep my two boys from trying to go along with the rest of these kids that were trying to cause something--it didn't last very long.

Since I neglected to ask you about your own individual families can you reflect on that part of your life? (Your sons and daughters).

Ms. Canada. Well, I had seven children. I had my first child in 1935 and I didn't have another one until 1945. After that, it was every other year (laughter) almost. From those seven children I have 21 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Ms. Turner. I didn't have any.

Ms. Canada. She helped me raise mine. When we all get together they all say "Aunt Louise taught us how to set a table or wash dishes, or iron clothes".

Ms. Turner. They're just like my very own, except I just didn't have them. They couldn't be any more dear to me or any closer to me--all seven

of them. We're just that close. When my sister moved in here, when we got together, this was kind of like home to them, too. They were all born around here. It's most unfortunate that I didn't have any but--I guess God knew what He was doing when He didn't give me any.

Ms. Canada. What happened when King was killed? I think there was the same atmosphere when King got killed as when President Kennedy got killed. There was a lot of grief.

Ms. Turner. Oh, my, yes.

Ms. Canada. I don't remember how the media handled it, because I can't remember what I read yesterday hardly (laughter).

Ms. Turner. I don't remember either except I just know there was a lot of sorrow and hurt when both Martin and the President (Kennedy) were killed. People were just grief stricken. It was a terrible thing when they were killed.

During the 1960's when they were having the freedom marches and riots did the media give it very much information here in the Great Northwest on that or was it one of those situations where since it's not happening here as much then it was played off? (Everyone speaking at the same time)

Ms. Canada. I suppose they were--what's the word, they wrote it up, but I don't think--I can't think of the word I want to use.

Ms. Turner. Yes, I think there was a lot of tension. I can remember when he (Medgar Evers) was killed, in Mississippi wasn't it? Yes. But you know all during our life our parents were not the type of people who would raise their voices and raise Cain like a lot of people do. Once they came out of the South their attitudes changed considerably. They didn't have the attitude like a lot of the people I knew who came from the Southland.

Ms. Canada. My husband was one who could not stand a white person. He had people who, I guess they would call him his friend, but he just didn't like white people.

You elaborated earlier on your being ministers, would you tell how you got started? What are some of the things you do?

Ms. Canada. Well, for a long time--I should have said this before when I was talking about my life. There were no Catholic boys, black boys around, so you had to marry whoever. My husband had to sign a paper at that time that you would bring your children up Catholic. He didn't balk about that. He was pretty good about it. But then for a while I didn't have--I don't

think I had the faith that I have now. They (children) all went to Catholic schools. I think one or two of them dropped out--and went to public schools in their later school years. But at that time I wasn't--I was just a lukewarm Christian, I'll say for now. Then when I moved up and started going to St Leo's, it was such a--I don't know if you have ever heard about St Leo's. It's a diverse group of people. Some are well-to-do, some are poor and some are mentally ill. It's a conglomeration of a whole lot of different people. The priests we've had up there were very good. The last priest we had was there for 10 years. He really made my faith come to light. So that's why I got interested in doing something for others. That's why I'm a Eucharistic Minister. I go to Alter Society meetings and we have Senior Citizens Day. That's what I've been interested in now for about 15 or 20 years.

Any particular indoctrination or training required?

Ms. Canada. Yes, but it's not all that much. You do have to have a little indoctrination. My indoctrination came when I used to drive the pastoral minister around to her rounds. That's how I learned to do it. Otherwise, you had to have a class, more or less. I bypassed that because I knew what to do after driving her around.

Ms. Turner?

Ms. Turner. I'm also a Eucharistic Minister. I had to go class in order to be able to--I had to be trained to become one. I have been one now for about four or five years. I had to have special training to be able to know how to minister to the sick, the home bound, and the shut-ins. It so happens that I don't drive. I have to be driven to places when I go to take communion to the home bound. I'm also a member of the choir at Visitation, a member of the prayer circle--as a matter of fact, I am the coordinator for the prayer group--which occupies a great deal of my time. I'm the one who keeps track of all the sick people who are in the parish, and other parishes as well. They call me to have prayers said for the sick and the ones who have passed away. I'm also a member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Of course, I'm quite involved with the City Association of Colored Women's Club. I belong to four clubs: The Asberry Cultural, the Stafford Study Club, and I'm President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). So with that and my church work, I'm kind of a busy person.

I feel very honored to get a few moments of your time today.

Ms. Turner. You're lucky, because ordinarily we would be too busy. As far as your present activities, is there anything else you would like to add?

Ms. Turner. Don't you think that's quite enough?
I was thinking possibly that you may have had family reunions each year or other such events.

Ms. Turner. We have that too. As a matter of fact, as President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, every summer I have the whole crowd from the WCTU out here--all the children, all the members and everybody else. My sister always helps me out. We have a big Bar-B-Q.
Based on your experiences throughout your life, can you make some comparisons with the present times?

Ms. Canada. It ought to be like it was when we were kids. The kids today get away with murder. I don't mean that literally.

Ms. Turner. That's the truth!

Ms. Canada. It is terrible. Even my kids, with their kids, they are not raising them right.

Ms. Turner. Tell Preston about what Alberta [one of Ms. Canada's daughters] called and told us about yesterday

Ms. Canada. Well, her youngest loves to write. She wrote this story--I think some of it's fiction and some of it's not. It's about her grandmother--I can't recall the name of it right now. Anyway, I guess that her school (Bellarmine) entered it into a literary contest. Out of more than a 1000 kids, her piece was chosen. So she is going to be honored at TCC (Tacoma Community College).

Ms. Turner. You imagine that! Out of that many her story was chosen. Can you beat that? Alberta was so excited about it yesterday that she had to call us last night. Boy, she was just beside herself. Sierra is 14 years old and in her first year at Bellamine. That's her baby child. She has three children. Alberta is a single parent.

What's your thoughts on family life now? What's missing?

Ms Turner. Well, for one thing, the children get away with murder. They can do things that--the kids tell their moms what to do, rather than the other way around.

They're showing a lack of respect?

Ms. Turner. Yes, absolutely! I'm sorry to have to tell this to you

but--maybe I better not say that. (Both sisters laugh).

That's quite alright, I don't think it would be anything I haven't heard already.

Ms. Turner. Children now a days, they just "cut loose", as the kids say.

Ms. Canada. They don't have the family structure, even if they have two parents. Oftentimes, the parents are fighting with each other. A lot of the parents I hear about from Alberta are using drugs. Kids don't have half a chance.

Ms. Turner. The parents are into drugs and alcohol and the whole bit. Out in the streets, out on the corners doing all kinds of things they shouldn't do. These are the parents! As my sister said, "Kids don't have half a chance." They should be at home taking care of their children and seeing that they do their homework and everything. But they're out there on the corners, selling dope and doing all kinds of stuff. It's frightening. I don't drive; I ride the bus all the time. Yesterday when I was coming home from the nursing home, there were a whole bunch of kids on the bus and the language they used! You don't know anything about it because you don't have a chance to come in contact with the children like I do. It just scares the heck out of me. There was a little boy that got on the bus, with his pants almost down to his ankles. Had his hair all curled. The bus driver asked for the fare. He dug down in his pocket and got 75 cents. Then went in the back you could hear him all over the bus. Talking about one of my relatives even. He was 13 years old--I tell you I wanted to get under the seat. He goes to a school where he got kicked out of it. Now he's in one of those alternative schools. I tell you, it's very sad. But, maybe one day, maybe God will change the kids, the parents or somebody, and everything will change for the better. The kids don't know to go to church like they should, because the parents don't send them to church and they don't know about God. So there's something in family life that is missing.

Ms. Turner. Suggestions for a better culture and society?

Ms. Canada. Of course, there are parents who try to do right by their kids and still they go wrong.

Ms. Turner. Well, like Alberta, she's given her kids--they never had to want for anything, never, ever. That's not good for kids. They need to get out, and earn their bread and butter like--maybe not as bad as I did.

Cause I'm from the "old school"; I felt that I had to help my folks. I always felt that way. But, the kids now days have an entirely different outlook on life.

So you think the parents give them too much, and they never assume the responsibility on their own?

Ms. Turner. That's true, quite true. I have a niece that lives in Seattle. She's a single parent too. Her boy, Kelton, is 11 years old. He just demands things from her and she gives them to him. She told him several months ago, that if he didn't bring his grades up in school, he couldn't go on a trip she had promised him. He didn't bring them up and he still got the trip. (Long silent moment). I don't know what we're going to do about our children. They shoot. They got guns. Did you know that? "If you don't do this, I'll shoot you." Shooting and killing each other. Like the guy said in the paper the other day, "He's tired of going to funerals." One day though, I think there will be a change---I hope. What do you think they should do to change the children and turn them around? **Everything you've said, I agree with. All of us, as parents, probably do too much for the kids. I really do think that.... The attitude of how kids grew up in "the old school", maybe we shouldn't have gotten away from that.**

Ms. Canada. I know we shouldn't have. I know when I was bringing my kids up I couldn't afford all these designer clothes and stuff. I'd go to Goodwill and buy stuff. Do you think they would do that? They'd turn up their noses at that. Paying upwards of a 100 dollars for shoes, jackets! That's outrageous! And they don't last that long.

Any other areas you would like to reflect on - either today's life, your past life, maybe how you would have liked to see things be or have been?

Ms. Canada. I'd rather remember how they have been, instead of how they are today. (laughter). It just makes your heart sick to see what's going on today. Of course, you can't live in the past. As me and my sister always say, "You got to pray about it."

Ms. Turner. Well, what else can you do? You have to place them lovingly in the hands of God and hope that He'll help them out. A lot of parents don't even know where their kids are at nighttime. They're out roaming the streets. They belong to gangs--the Crips and Bloods.

Ms. Canada. And not only that, some of the parents put them out. So they have nowhere else to go but the streets. (Long pause) I don't know.

I wish somebody would come up with a good idea on how we could resolve this. That "three strikes you're out" bit is--I don't think much of that. If it goes into law, who would be the ones affected? All the minorities.

Is there anyone in politics?

Ms. Turner. No, we're not very politically inclined. I think I am more so than my sister, because I work with the polls. I'm a Democrat, but I don't attend the meetings like I'm supposed to. But, I always work the polls. My parents weren't politically inclined, as I recall.

Ms. Canada is there anything You care to add?

Ms. Canada. No. I'm talked out.

Ms. Turner. In fact, you got her to do more talking than she ever does, because she just don't talk, period.

Thank you very much and I'm very pleased you allowed me to come into your home. Thank you for the interview and for reflecting on some of your life experiences.