

JW-4, "Union Steward at G.E. – 1940's"

Transcript: p. 4

Text portions for pop-ups/audio alternatives

Time-Line: Labor Time-line, 1947 "Local 203 UE-CIO at GE drops 26 members for being alleged communists"

I What made you get involved with the union and become a chairperson, a chairman?

JW I wanted the people to learn something, I wanted them to earn some money that's really good. I was doing things that people were afraid to do and I was aware of the fact that they were afraid and so I would help them not to be afraid. And I would say to them "if you're afraid I'll talk for you, I'll talk for you, but for God sakes talk! You talk!" and that's how it worked and they fought after awhile. It became a very, very interesting fighting place in that area.

I What were some of the things you fought over with management?

JW Well, with management I fought. They did turn me up, they did turn me, but I don't remember what it was, something that I didn't want to stay there anymore. I found out that I could do things that are better and make more money for the people. Never, never, did I fight for my money, I fought for their money and that was a joy. It was a joy to do that.

I So you became a, you were a steward at GE?

JW Yeah, I was a steward. I was everything. I was everything and I fought.